

and a large population, about 350 to the square mile, so that there may be attained a maximum of result with a minimum of effort. If the Single Taxers of the United States would free themselves from the reproach of having accomplished nothing practical to demonstrate the efficiency of Mr. George's remedy for poverty in this, Mr. George's native land, the opportunity presents itself here and now in Rhode Island.

Our city is now passing through a scandal which has developed in connection with the purchase of some land for school purposes. Early in 1906 the city was in the market for a parcel of land on which to build a school house. One McKendall hearing of this approached a member of the committee having the matter in charge, and offered a certain plot for \$11,000. The committee man was not favorably impressed, apparently, but in the course of a few days McKendall was approached by a broker who claimed to represent a Mr. Landegon, who was claimed to be a prospective customer for Mr. Kendall's lot. These negotiations resulted in the sale of the property to Mr. Landegon for \$10,000. Two or three days afterward the property was transferred to the city for \$16,500. This story has been current on the street for the last two years, but the first official notice it received was in a message from the Mayor to the city council on the 3rd instant in which the facts were recited and a committee of investigation advised. This committee was appointed, the investigation has been held and the facts substantiated, but whether anything further will come of it is uncertain.

GEO. D. LIDDELL.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.

OUR readers will regret to learn that A. Freeland, whose long and unselfish work for the cause has endeared him to all members of our movement, has lost by fire a wagon load of letters, tracts, books, including a complete file of the REVIEW—the accumulation of twenty years as an active propagandist.

#### FROM GOVERNOR GARVIN.

GOVERNOR GARVIN WRITES OF THE WORK IN THIS STATE—GROWTH OF WOONSOCKET UNDER THE EXEMPTION OF MANUFACTURING PLANTS—THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.

With Election day, November 3rd, our open air meetings came to a close. For five months on every week day evening, except perhaps four or five when the weather was inclement, the Single Tax was expounded at Cathedral Square, Providence and frequently elsewhere.

During November and December meetings have been addressed in various localities, the most interesting situation being in the city of Woonsocket.

Through the National Women's Single Tax League an invitation was extended to me by the Fortnightly Club of Woonsocket to give "The Moral Side of the Single Tax," as one of its course of lectures. This I did on November 20th, there being a large attendance of women, including the wives and daughters of leading citizens of the city. An unusual degree of interest was shown and very pertinent questions asked.

In order to understand the significance of the Woonsocket meetings, it should be understood that more than any other municipality that city has availed itself of the law, passed in 1892, permitting any town or city to exempt from taxation for a period of ten years any new manufacturing establishment. Some seven or eight of its largest concerns have therefore been exempted, two of them for a period of fifteen years, although the law does not so specify. The population of the city has increased from 20,000 in 1890 to 32,000 in 1905.

About half of the population of Woonsocket consists of French Canadians and their decedents, one of the number having just been elected governor of the state. This gentleman, Mr. Pothier, has been the most active of any one in the State in inducing new industries to come here under the ten year exemption law. Through his agency several manufacturing plants have

been built in his city by capitalists from France.

Woonsocket has a live Business Men's Association of 250 members of which the postmaster is president. On the evening of December 1st, Mr. John J. Murphy, of New York, secretary of the American Single Tax League, addressed a meeting of the Association upon the Single Tax. The attendance was large and the interest manifested in the questions very great. Besides answering many questions, Mr. Murphy for an hour after the close of the meeting was surrounded by a group of deeply interested questioners. The leading men of Woonsocket, previously much stirred on the matter of taxation, are now still more awake.

The willingness of all classes of citizens to hear of the Single Tax is shown by the opportunities given me to expound it during November and December. Beside the meeting at Woonsocket I have spoken as follows: November 13th at Pawtucket, before the South Woodlawn Improvement Society; on the 16th before a largely attended meeting of the Baptist Conference of Clergymen at Providence; on the 22nd in Providence, to a lodge of Swedish Good Templars; on December 6th before the Union Settlement of Providence; and on the 27th, the Men's Club of the Lonsdale Baptist Church.

The inauguration of the governor for one year and the opening of the annual session of the legislature occur on January 5th. Early in the session our local option measure dealing with the taxation question will be introduced. It consists of a very simple amendment to a section which has been upon the statute book for generations.

The existing law is as follows:

"Sec. 3. They (towns, which include cities) may raise by a tax on real or personal estate, or on both, such sums of money as shall be necessary to pay town debts, or to defray the charges and expenses of the town hereinafter set forth; and may include the town's proportion of any state tax which may be assessed, in the assessment of the town tax, and pay the same out of the town treasury: *Provided*, the same be voted at a legal meeting of the electors of the town."

It is proposed to amend this section by the insertion after the word "both" the following:—*or on improvements, or on land, or on both land and personal estate.*

With these few words added to our present law I feel sure that one or more towns or cities will adopt the Single Tax within the current year.

LUCIUS F. C. GARVIN.

LONSDALE, R. I.

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### NEW HAMPSHIRE.

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THE TAX COMMISSION IN NEW HAMPSHIRE—  
SIGNIFICANT ADMISSION OF ONE OF THE  
MEMBERS—THEIR COMING REPORT LOOKED  
FOR WITH INTEREST.

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During the past two years we have had a tax commission, consisting of Messrs. Fellows, Sargent and Morrill, a judge, a lawyer and a farmer, appointed by the last legislature to examine into the subject of taxation and see what possible improved methods they could discover and recommend to the incoming legislature.

This committee have had sittings in various cities of the state examining persons and conditions with this end in view. At one of their sessions in Concord last Spring I had the honor of appearing before them and was questioned on the subject of "The Single Tax" for about an hour by Judge Fellows, who seemed to be the spokesman of the Commission. I left with them Sherman's "Natural Taxation" and a few pamphlets.

About three weeks ago, two of this commission, Messrs. Fellows and Morrill, Mr. Sargeant having recently died, were present at a Grange meeting in Bow, a town adjoining Concord, and were invited by the presiding officer to address the meeting. Judge Fellows was the first speaker, and in the early part of his address, he said, alluding to myself, then occupying the Chaplain's Chair, "The theory advocated by your Chaplain is correct." He then gave some illustrations showing the justice of its application. "But," said he, "we cannot at present bring this about," and proceeded to suggest some desirable modification of the present system. This