

other thing, all penalizing industry and calculated to soak those most useful elements of society, the producer and the consumer. Yet the speculator who holds back development for future profit is allowed to go scot-free.

ANOTHER GOOD STORY.

The story vouched for by Jos. H. Newman and printed in the Nov.-Dec. REVIEW reminds Mr. R. A. Scott, of Worcester, Mass., of another with which he favors us. Mr. Scott loaned a copy of Protection or Free Trade to a man, and on meeting him several weeks later he asked him how he was getting along with the book and he said "Fine." He asked him if he had got as far as the bull tied to the stake. He said "No, he had not got as far as that yet," but "it was fine reading and he enjoyed it."

A GREAT MEETING OF SINGLE TAX PEOPLE.

The Joseph Fels Fund Commission which meets once every year at some convenient place for the people to attend, held its fourth meeting in Washington city, on the 15th, 16th and 17th of last month. There was a large attendance all three days, of Single Tax people from nearly every State in the Union, and much important business, mostly of a financial nature, was disposed of. Of course the literary features of the Conference were exceptionally interesting, as was to be expected. It would simply overwhelm our space to undertake to go into details of everything that transpired, and we must rest content with the simple statement that it was a brilliant gathering of many distinguished men and women who really believed that there could be such a thing in human affairs as a Reign of Justice, if men would only will it.—*Country Home Journal*, Washington, D. C.

I DO NOT think things can be cured except by a wide equalization of private property, especially in land.—GILBERT CHESTERTON in *Century Magazine*.

NEWS—DOMESTIC.

RHODE ISLAND.

The *Providence Daily Journal* gave a brief report of the Public Hearing given at the State House on March 17 as follows:

"Former Governor L. F. C. Garvin of Cumberland and a number of others appeared before the House judiciary committee yesterday morning at a public hearing given on the bill providing for the exemption from taxation of improvements and industries.

The former Governor predicted great results if industries were untaxed.

Charles Sisson also urged the passage of the bill. 'I am not a convert to the Single Tax theory,' he said, 'but I do realize the good results which would follow the untaxing of some of the State's industries.'

A. J. Thornley of Pawtucket also advocated the passage of the bill. He did not understand the Single Tax theory, he said, but he thought the act under consideration a good one.

'The burden of taxation is growing so heavy upon our industries,' he said, 'that they must soon have some form of relief.'

Charles Kelly of the James C. Goff Company urged a report upon the measure.

Zechariah Chafee, Jr., said he was not a Single Taxer, but he believed in giving to the cities and towns the rights proposed in the bill.

He believed that land should be taxed at a heavier rate than improvements."

Of the adjourned hearing held on the 18th the same newspaper reported:

"At a continuation yesterday of the hearing on the bill providing for the exemption from taxation of improvements and industries, given by the House judiciary, O. L. Preble of this city and John H. Powers of Pawtucket, both labor men, and David S. Fraser of this city spoke in favor of the measure."

Mr. Sisson and Mr. Thornley hold high positions, both in the community and as responsible heads of great manufacturing establishments in Pawtucket. Mr. Charles M. Kelly is manager of the James C. Goff Co., dealing in brick, lime, etc. He spoke emphatically in favor of the bill and said

if that was the Single Tax he was a Single Taxer.

Zachariah Chafee, Jr., is a lawyer, the son of the principal owner of the Builders' Iron Foundry, who is a supporter of local option in taxation.

Others spoke in favor of this Act, among them Mr. J. W. Bengough of Toronto.

At the adjointed hearing organized labor was well represented in the persons of Messrs. Preble and Powers, officials of the labor unions of Providence and Pawtucket. Mr. Fraser is a business man of Providence and a Single Taxer. At the first hearing a number were present to speak who could not be heard for lack of time.

On March 10th Mr. J. W. Bengough, the famous Canadian cartoonist, arrived in Rhode Island and has been kept very busy ever since. He has given his wonderfully illuminating "chalk talks," demonstrating the principle of the Single Tax, on the following occasions: March 10th, the Mothers Club of Providence, over 300 present; March 11th at 9 A.M. at State Normal School, several hundred pupils present; at noon, luncheon at the Town Criers; evening, in a parlor at Lonsdale; March 12th before members of Carpenters' Union and other labor men in Loom Fixers Hall, Pawtucket; March 13th before Royal Order of Moose, 1,000 men; March 14th before the British Club in Providence; on Saturday evening the 15th he addressed the Peoples Forum, of Providence, all seats filled; March 16th, at noon, the Congregational Clergymen, and in the evening a large and select audience at Newport; March 17th the Young Men's Hebrew Club and the Public Hearing at the State House. On March 18th he filled two engagements in the evening, to wit, the Unitarian Club and the Olneyville Business Men's Association. He has began a series of "Noon Day Chalk Talks" to be held in the hall of the Peoples Forum, on the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st.

Other engagements are: the evening of the 20th, D. K. E. Fraternity at Brown University; the Southern New England Textile Association on the afternoon of the 21st; Women's Political Union on Sunday evening the 22nd. The 23rd is Mr. Bengough's last day in Rhode Island. He speaks to the Baptist Clergymen at noon,

and to the Providence Carpenters' Union in the evening. For the 24th he is billed for the Progressive Club in Lynn, Mass.

Mrs. Bengough accompanied the lecturer on his first visit to Rhode Island and was welcomed by us all. She gave effective assistance to the active campaign for Woman Suffrage, now being conducted in this State.

L. F. C. GARVIN.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NOTES.

Since last writing, two polls under the Land Values Assessment Act have been taken in South Australia. On December 6th, at Wallaroo, the ratepayers were given an opportunity of saying whether they wished to exempt improvements from taxation. They decided by 299 votes to 272 to continue under their present system. We shall continue our educational work in this town, and we are hopeful that in the near future we shall be able to secure a majority of ratepayers in favor of revenue being raised from land values only.

Special interest attached to the poll taken at Thebarton. This municipality was the first in South Australia to adopt the principal of land values rating at a poll in 1907. The system came into operation in 1908 and immediately the land speculators commenced to unload. During the past year opponents of the principle secured control of the Thebarton Council, and at once set to work to discredit the principle. Instead of taking advantage of the Amended Land Values Assessment Act which gives Councils power to make their own valuations, the Council preferred to work under the Government assessment which was very much out of date as to values. The result was there was a shortage in the amount of revenue required to meet the needs of a growing town. Towards the end of the year the Council gave instructions for a new assessment to be prepared. When completed it was condemned both by friends and opponents of land values rating. The ratepayers petitioned the Mayor and asked that a public meeting should be convened so that the