

by repentance and by holding up his hand. Enthusiasm on the part of the exponent may make others think, but it can no more make single taxers out of them than it could make mathematicians of them. It might make them vote right if the campaign were once on, but the thinking part has to be gone into by the individual himself, and not as a half hour's diversion, but as a study ranging over some considerable period. This is why the wayfaring man is seldom to be found in our meetings. He may come once or twice, but nine times out of ten he will drift away again without grasping the subject. But once he grasps it thoroughly he sticks. I do not suppose there could be any backsliders in a single tax camp.

After all, it is the individual work which counts. I have made converts in a night talk on a train and I have made others in my room, but I cannot say that I ever knew one to be made at a meeting. Not that I discountenance meetings. They are excellent advertising mediums and we need advertising as much as any other movement does. I merely wish to encourage those who may feel disposed to allow their meetings to drop because they cannot see results. The results will come, no fear, but the individual work is that which scores the runs.

The Association has published a pamphlet, *La Vraie Reforme vs. La Reforme Pour Rire* (True Reform vs. Sham Tax Reform), which by those who desire to do missionary work among our French citizens may be had on application to Robt. B. Capon, 28 St. Matthew street, Montreal.

—T. C. ALLUM.

AUSTRALIA.—VICTORIA.

Single taxers have been generally very quiet in all the states with the exception of South Australia. The single taxers of that state made a proposal some time ago to hold an inter-state conference either in Sydney or Melbourne for the purpose of forming a National Australian Single Tax League, but at the request of Mr. Max Hirsch the project was deferred until after the settlement of the Federal tariff, now under discussion in the Commonwealth Parliament. There can be no doubt that such an organization would be of immense advantage at the present time, and I for one do not approve of the postponement of the Conference. It is not proposed that the National League should take an active part in politics on its own account, for it is admitted that our work is mainly educative, but with the consummation of federation a wider field is opened to us. The times are marching on, and single taxers should be prepared to lead the way. The site of the Federal capital will shortly be selected, and under the constitution it must become national property, and an opportunity will be afforded of an immediate application of single tax theories, and the question of

direct taxation ought to be kept in the fore ground. But besides the advantage of having a central organization to watch over Federal affairs, and to give our movement a superior status, there are other benefits to be derived from unity of action. A national league could assist the smaller body of single taxers by arranging for lecturers to visit the different centres, by printing and publishing and distributing tracts and leaflets. An Australian single tax newspaper or magazine could be started containing articles of general interest for all the states. And furthermore, a national league could make it worth while for your John S. Crosby or some other single tax orator to pay us a visit which would give our movement a wonderful impetus and be of advantage to the single tax cause all over the world.

—JOHN S. HIGGS, Echuca.

AUSTRALIA.—NEW SOUTH WALES.

There is not much news to report from here. The Commonwealth Parliament has passed a number of acts, but most of them are concerned merely with local affairs. The Alien Immigration Restriction Act prohibits foreigners from entering Australia unless they can pass a simple examination in some European language. It is really intended to keep out Asiatics.

The most important bill, the tariff bill, was introduced into the House of Representatives in October, and is still there. In spite of repeated promises by the Prime Minister (Mr. Barton) and other members of the ministry that the tariff proposals would be very moderate, the bill was a high protectionist one. I think I sent you a newspaper giving the list of proposed duties. Mr. G. H. Reid, leader of the opposition, moved an unsuccessful vote of censure, and then the bill was taken into committee. About three-quarters of it have been dealt with, and a large number of duties have been reduced, some of them considerably. It has afterwards to be dealt with by the Senate, where there is a free trade majority, so it may be still further reduced. But the Senate is not strictly a "party" house, so it is impossible to say what it will do. The bill has done good in an indirect manner by raising antagonism to protective duties. Melbourne, where Parliament is sitting, is the stronghold of protection in Australia, and much good has been done there, especially among the manual laboring people, by having great debates in Parliament on "Free Trade vs. Protection." Some of the best free trade debaters are labor members from New South Wales and West Australia. All the Victorian labor members are protectionists. When the bill is ready for the house I shall send you a paper for the REVIEW, showing the duties proposed and the reductions made.—ERNEST BRAY, Carrowa.

As you know, we have a Federal Government in Australia now. Most of us strongly

opposed the proposal, not on account of hostility to the federal idea, but because of the exceedingly faulty character of the proposed constitution. Though the opposition polled over 82,000 votes in New South Wales, it was overpowered and the Federation established. One of the first fruits was the Barton tariff. Mr. Barton was an idol with the unthinking crowd some time ago. Now it is hard to find a man who admits having supported him or the Federal Bill, and those who did, regret it. You see we, in New South Wales, have enjoyed a greater measure of free trade than any other State in the world. Naturally, we are up in arms against the heavy protective tariff placed before the House of Representatives by the Barton Ministry. We got out a leaflet contrasting the Barton tariff with the single tax, and organized a public meeting to protest against it.

Our municipal elections, with the exception of those of the city of Sydney, are held early in February. As municipal rates are levied upon the rental value of land and improvements, instead of upon land values apart from improvements, we are taking advantage of the chance to bring the matter before the people. With that end in view we have issued a leaflet upon municipal reform. We posted half a dozen copies to every municipality, about 190, copies to 274 papers published in the State, and 300 copies to members, reputed single taxers, business people, and others. Of course a municipal council composed of single taxers has no power to legislate, but you can understand that a supporter of our principle is a better man to have in a council than an opponent. The point of least resistance here is to secure rates upon land values, so we keep that fact in mind.

In connection with this question of rating we organized a deputation to the Mayor of Sydney last week. We asked that the City Council should promote a short bill in the coming session of the State Parliament to alter the method of raising rates. Our speakers were Messrs. W. E. Johnson, J. R. Firth, and A. G. Huie. Ald. J. L. Mullins introduced us to the Mayor (Ald. Thomas Hughes). He received us cordially, and assured us that he was strongly in favor of imposing rates upon unimproved values. There was an amending Municipalities Bill before Parliament last session, but not dealt with. It provides for optional rating, that is the municipal electors can maintain the old system or establish our principle. This bill does not apply to the city. The Mayor, however, assured us that he had asked the Premier to make the rating provisions apply to the city also, by means of a short clause at the end. It is a bigger contract than we asked him to undertake, and less likely to meet with success, as the bill in question is both long and debatable in many ways. However, we must hope for the best. It is cheering to have gentlemen like Alderman

Hughes, the new Mayor (for he only took office on the 1st), so heartily with us. They are careful, however, to say that they are not single taxers. The words "single tax" constitute a bogey with many people in this country.

A little over a week ago we had what we call a "Georgian Evening." It is a kind of fixture in which we endeavor to blend the dry economic facts of the movement with song and conversational intercourse. So we had a short address upon municipal taxation, a short discussion on the subject, several songs, a general statement of the work being done by the League from the honorable secretary, a few remarks by the president, and an interval for conversation. This is a feature of the event. People come together on such an occasion who never meet at other times, and the opportunity to become better acquainted is much appreciated. The officers of the League have a busy time, however, as they must get as many outsiders to join as possible.

Generally, in a small way, we are trying to push the cause along. We have no paid officers. Whatever is done is done for the cause, often at the cost of considerable time and effort. We have no Tom L. Johnson in this country. Some of us cherish the hope that he may some day visit Australia. In the meantime it is a case of work. There is popular ignorance to overcome, there is unreasoning prejudice to fight, and the rank weeds growing from socialistic seeds have to be cut down.—A. G. HUIE, Hon. Sec. Sydney Single Tax League.

NEW ZEALAND.

I have much pleasure in sending you a gratifying item of information. The citizens of Wellington last month adopted the provisions of the Rating on Unimproved Values Act by a two to one majority, and from and after the end of March the local revenue of this city (the capital of the colony) will be raised from the unimproved value. It is now absolutely certain that before very long the system will be generally adopted throughout the country, and of course the working of the principle in connection with local taxation will help splendidly to educate the people for the greater change to come later on.

Strenuous efforts were made by the party of monopoly to defeat us by raising the cry that the proposal to levy rates on land values was a single tax idea, and long letters were published in the press to show that the system would injure "the poor man." The great majority, however, refused to take all the proffered sympathy for the poor man seriously, probably because it came from people never before suspected of philanthropic proclivities. Nor does the phrase "single tax" scare people as it once did, when the idea was less understood.

—P. J. O'REGAN, Wellington.