

**SINGLE TAX REVIEW**, will look after the Danish Americans and assist among the Germans. A very promising field is open for us here among the younger element of the Hebrew Americans who take kindly to Single Tax.

In conclusion, I may say that what surprises us in this work of organizing is the small sums of money needed to push along the different activities of our club. The secret seems to be that if every member has some *definite work* a great deal more is accomplished.—E. WANGEMANN, Secretary Chicago Single Tax Club.

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## NEWS—FOREIGN.

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### NEW SOUTH WALES.

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**COAL STRIKE ON AND LEADERS IN JAIL—THE LAND QUESTION FORGOTTEN IN THE GENERAL MUDDLE—THE "LIBERAL" PARTY STANDING FOR PROTECTION—EXPERIMENT OF MARRICKVILLE IN LAND VALUE RATING AND RESULTANT BUILDING ACTIVITY.**

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There is a good deal going on in this part of the world at the present time, but scarcely in our line. We have had a coal strike for the last three months, the Federal elections are approaching, the State elections follow towards the end of the year, and the second general election under our new Local Government Act will take place early next year. The coal strike is ending, the leaders are in gaol, and the only result gained by the miners is the knowledge that disputes with employers must be settled in the way provided by law. Hitherto they have refused to recognize the law. As readers of the **REVIEW** know, laws regulating wages and conditions of labor are mere expedients. They do not touch the cause of the evils which their advocates say require a remedy. The promoters of the strike were led by a man named Bowling, an extreme socialist. He has now two and a half years retirement, which will no doubt afford him time for reflection. Now, strikes, as a rule, are no good. Socialism as a remedy for economic ills is also no good. Strikes are promoted and

used here as a means of socialistic propaganda. Then is not the Legislature right in establishing Arbitration courts and Wages Boards, and gaoling those who refuse to recognize the law? Technically it is, for the people make the Parliament, and in a rough and ready way give instructions as to what they want. But nevertheless, it is folly. If a man does not care to continue a work he has the right to leave. The same applies to a body of men. Men do not lay down their tools without cause as a rule, and when they seek to better their conditions, a course which they have every right to take, putting the leaders in gaol, will right no wrongs. It makes martyrs of the gaoled leaders and the causes of industrial wrongs remain as obscure as ever they were to the average mind. The folly of socialism cannot be exposed by putting socialists in gaol, but by pointing out the natural way in plain and simple language. Today on one side people are expressing satisfaction that Bowling and Co. have been imprisoned, and on the other side indignation at the vindictiveness of a law which they helped to make. Between the two the vital importance of the land question is overlooked and we muddle along in the old rut.

The Federal elections take place on the 13th of April. There are two parties contending for supremacy. As they are constituted now there is no reason to expect any progress on the lines of free trade and taxation of land values in the next Parliament. The so-called "Liberal" party is pledged to let the tariff stand. The leader Mr. Deakin, however, will do all he can for Protection, and as he has no political principles worth an hour's purchase, he cannot be trusted, no matter what he may say. The party is not likely to touch the land question in any way. The other party by courtesy called the "Labor" party also has a protectionist leader, while the rank and file are mostly protectionists. Strange, is it not? I am told, and I have no reason to doubt it, that the Australian Labor Party is the only protectionist Labor party in the world. The party however, advocates a progressive land tax. Owners of up to £5,000 in unimproved values are to be exempt. Owners of values above that

sum are to be asked to pay on a graduated scale upwards. It is held in some well informed quarters that such a proposal is at variance with the Constitution, and if passed into law would be upset by the High Court. Your readers, therefore, will realize that the Federal outlook is dismal. We are doing what we can to keep the Free trade issue alive and to help those who are free-traders, and who believe in taxation of land values. I must explain however, that our Federal Constitution does not prevent taxation of land values. If a Federal Government proposed to raise revenue in that way by a uniform rate of so much in the pound, either as a substitute for Customs, or in preference to increasing Customs, it has full power to do it. It would be an effective way of raising revenue, and have, as well, a beneficial social effect. But the Labor party does not want revenue from a land value tax. It professes to want the beneficial special effect while retaining the tariff. Hence the £5,000 exemption. It is a class proposal, and it is held that it means a discrimination which the Constitution forbids.

So far as State politics are concerned, apart from the strike, all is quiet. Thanks to the State Premier, the City Council has not yet come into line on the matter of local rating on unimproved values only. The city of Sydney land is rapidly increasing in value. An area with a frontage of 49 feet was sold near the general post office the other day, for £50,600, or over 1,032 per foot.

Now let me turn to what is far the most satisfactory feature of our public affairs. I mean local governments outside of the "City" Councils continue generally to rate on land values only. I think that I cannot do better than quote the advertisement of one of the councils notifying its proposals for the year. The municipality of Marrickville is a Sydney suburb with an area of 2,016 acres, and a population of, say, 26,000. It has two rates, one explained by the notice which I quote in full, and the other is a local rate for a special service confined to a small portion of the area. The amount to be raised is only £135. Personally, I do not understand why a council should be bothered with a second

small rate like that when it might very well come out of the general rate for all purposes. But it is levied upon land values, and it is their own affair.

"MUNICIPALITY OF MARRICKVILLE.

"Local Government Act, 1906-8, Section 142.

"Estimates for the Financial Year ending 31st Dec. 1910.

"Notice is hereby given that at a duly constituted meeting of the Council, held on Monday evening, 10th January, 1910, the following estimates were submitted and approved, in pursuance of the above Act:

"1. Amount of proposed expenditure out of the General Fund, to which the proceeds of the rate are to be carried, £21,-282.12.1.

"2 Amount in hand available for such expenditure, £137.12.1.

"3. Other revenue estimated to be available towards such expenditure, £3,-145.0.0.

"4. Amount required to be raised by a rate for such expenditure, £18,000.0.0.

"5. The total Unimproved Capital Value of the land on which the rate is to be levied, £1,169,202.15.0.

"The rate proposed to be made and levied to raise a sufficient revenue to cover the above expenditure is 3 3-4d. in the £ on the Unimproved Capital Value of the whole of the rateable land in the Municipality."

That appeared in the Sydney Morning *Herald* of the 12th of January 1910. At a subsequent meeting it was confirmed, and before your readers see this, the rate-payers will have received notice to pay. It may interest your readers to know that 449 new buildings, mostly residences, were erected in Marrickville last year, as compared with 351 for the previous year, making a total of 800 new buildings in the first two years under the system of rating land values only. We have never known such activity in the building trade as we have had during the past two years in the Sydney suburbs, and the prospect for 1910 is excellent. The coal strike, however, will make a serious difference, as the brick yards have been closed down for over two

months now, and jobs are hung up in all directions.—A. G. HUIE, Sydney, N. S. W., Australia.

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### DENMARK.

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MR. FELS HAS A RIVAL IN DENMARK WHO GOES HIM ONE BETTER—GROWTH OF THE HENRY GEORGE SOCIETY.

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The Single Tax—or as the Danes have chosen to call it—the Henry George movement in Denmark, dates from about 1904 in which year the Henry George Society was started by a small body of enthusiasts, conspicuous amongst whom were and are Mr. Sophus Berthelsen, a solicitor, and editor of the official organ of the movement, Mr. Jakob Lange, a teacher and the able translator into Danish of Henry George's principal works, and Mr. H. P. Hansen, the secretary of the Society. An energetic campaign was set on foot among the peasantry—mostly, be it noted, the proprietors of their little holdings. Agitation was also carried on in the Press, and two or three journals devoted to the cause sprang into existence. Today I believe every one of the many Peasants' Associations throughout the country supports the taxation of land values, and the circulation of "*Ret*," the Society's monthly journal, which has grown to 4000 copies—a truly remarkable result when one bears in mind the fact that the Danish population is little over 2 1-2 millions. This means one copy for every 625 inhabitants, and if a similar proportion existed in the United Kingdom it would give *Land Values* a circulation of 72,000—a figure that might well make John Paul's pulse beat faster. In the United States a proportionate circulation would be 112,000 for the SINGLE TAX REVIEW.

Early in 1909 Mr. Joseph Fels, at the writer's suggestion, offered the Danish Society £200 a year for five years on condition that a like amount was raised by the Danes themselves. The first year has just closed and I am advised by the Executive that not only has the amount subscribed exceeded the requisite £200, but a wealthy Dane, stimulated by Mr. Fels'

example, has challenged the challenger to put down practically the whole of his five years subscription in one lump sum, when he will double it!

In consequence of Mr. Fels' generosity, the Society has been enabled to adopt various methods of spreading the light and to force the pace of their by no means lethargic propaganda. Largely due to this, the Danish Government have at present under consideration proposals for introducing special valuations of the land apart from improvements in certain districts for experimental purposes. What might be almost described as a fierce lecturing campaign is being carried on throughout the country districts, accompanied by discussions and debate, and special efforts are being made to carry the Socialists' support.

One interesting feature in the internal administration of the Society is the adoption of what is known in Denmark as the principle of "free" suffrage. This reform in the election of representative bodies was introduced by a Danish Solicitor, Mr. Johan Pedersen, of Aarhus in 1905, and is only now beginning to attract attention as a competitor with the system of proportional representation. Under this system, an elector is "free" to elect whomsoever he pleases to represent him, as opposed to the present "restricted" system, under which he has no choice but to vote for the nominee of some party or clique, obedient to party ties, and standing for some particular locality. The vote of the elected representative carries weight in proportion to the number of electors who have elected him, and where payment of members occurs it is made in proportion to the number of votes each representative stands for. In this way those members who most fully represent the will of the electors are made economically independent, and with short intervals (one year) between elections, the people can quickly withdraw their support from members who have failed correctly to interpret their wishes.

Membership of the Danish Society is open to "anyone who will work for the object of the Society and pay the annual subscription" of about 40 cents. The Committee is elected and works on the "free