

matter of the new assessment might be discussed. The petition was turned down by the Mayor, although the assessment was full of anomalies; some values being too low, others being too high. Then six ratepayers, whose rates were increased under the land values rating system, petitioned for a poll of ratepayers with a view to returning to the old system of rating improvements. This request was at once granted. Two days before the poll an announcement was made that tenants would not be permitted to vote at the rating polls, the reason for same being that the Council were anxious to see the principle defeated. Our League interested itself in the fight, and issued a special leaflet. Steps were also taken to have evidence for a test case in the Courts in the event of the poll being lost on account of the disfranchisement of the tenants who had voted at all previous polls under the Act. It is gratifying to know that when the people were appealed to, they reaffirmed the principle of land values rating by 695 votes to 360. This was a great victory. After the system had been in operation for five years, the majority in favor of the principle had increased from 268 to 335; and that at a poll where some 300 tenants who had previously voted, were disfranchised.

Not only did the ratepayers reaffirm the principle at the rating polls, but every candidate for Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors opposed to land values rating was defeated by big majorities, and a sympathetic Council returned. It is not at all likely that the opposition at Thebarton will ever again ask for another poll. They were routed all along the line.

We have just had a by-election for the Federal Parliament. The death of Representative Roberts caused a vacancy in the Adelaide Division. The Labor candidate was Mr. G. E. Yates, secretary of the Labor Party. The Liberal Union did not put up a candidate. The Single Tax League decided to again run me for the seat as a protest against party politics, and because the policy of the Labor party is a policy of Protection. Under the present tariff the people of Australia are called upon to pay £15,000,000 a year. The

landlord only pays £1,300,000 a year. As good meetings can be obtained at election times it was regarded as a favorable opportunity for propaganda work. There was never any hope of victory, but it was a splendid chance for preaching land values taxation and free trade. A good number of meetings were addressed and a lot of literature circulated. As a result of our work the vote received this time was nearly double that secured at the general election last May. Considering that the district is a strong labor one, and a hot bed of protection, we are well pleased with the result. We shall continue to preach the glorious gospel of freedom until the people recognize that only by the application of Single Tax principles can justice be done. —E. J. CRAIGIE, Adelaide, South Australia.

RECENT ECONOMIC ERRORS.

In an address at Springfield, Mass., Secretary of Labor Wilson said:

"The problem of production has been practically mastered, but methods of equitable distribution still are to be devised."

The socialists also think distribution depends on a "device" or an invented system. Under freedom, distribution will be automatic. Besides transportation, distribution involves only exchange. People want to trade what they do not want for what they want, need no system or device, hence there is no "problem" of distribution. Abolish exploitation, then each will receive his due, and exchange will be left to personal choice. The chief causes of exploitation are: High prices due to taxes; High land rent due to land monopoly; and low wages.

Prices will drop to labor cost when taxes are abolished, and land rent is taken in their stead. The best no-rent land is the basis of wages. Give to labor land now vacant, and ALL wages will rise. Henry George says (Prog. and Pov. Book V. chap. II.)

"Suppose there should rise from the English channel or the German ocean a No-Man's land on which common labor should be able to make ten shillings a day,

and should remain of free access. What would be the effect on wages in England? Common wages must soon increase to ten shillings a day."

This may seem like a claim of magic, but it is the truth. Opportunity raises wages, and abundant opportunity is all about us.

In a debate in *Everybody's Magazine*, Morris Hilquit, socialist, says:

"To the trusts belongs the credit of having perfected the most pernicious method of financial malpractice—the watering of stocks. In creating by THEIR MERE FIAT new income bearing securities, they impose a heavier tax on the people than the combined organs of government ever dared to exact."

Trusts possess no such power. As is usual with socialists, the cart is before the horse. The income must appear BEFORE the stock shows "water," and the excess income is the result of some legal monopoly. If "mere fiat" of a trust could create an income, why do different trusts yield such different incomes; why should not each share yield as high as six times normal interest, as does Standard Oil? Why did not "mere fiat" keep up the price of express stocks, after parcels post began? The price of such stock fell more than half, because the income was threatened; rates had to be reduced; the legal power to charge high rates was gone, and the "water" went likewise. Like the price of a title to land, watered stock is capitalized income, and nothing else.. Free the land, and such incomes will be further reduced by higher wages.—C. F. HUNT.

OUGHT SINGLE TAXERS TO UNITE POLITICALLY.

Single Taxers all know that theirs is the only all-embracing, the only really fundamental reform. They all know, too, that no political party is giving its attention to this fact. Everywhere they see this, that and the other puerile proposal to cure the ills of society, with the result only of diverting attention from the cause of the ills. "Boxt quotations" like this are sent out from the "boiler-plate" factories to the newspapers all over the country:

SOCIAL UNREST.

The condition of the industrial classes is distinctly better today than ever before. In Great Britain as a result of recent social legislation enacted to meet and to allay this unrest, there are 14,000,000 of workers who are insured by the government against unemployment and disability caused by accident or sickness. There are hundreds of thousands of aged men and women drawing pensions from the State, while 500,000 people every week receive medical relief for which the government pays the bill, and during the past year 250,000 mothers not only received free medical care in giving birth to their children, but in addition were granted a considerable cash bonus. Yet in the face of these facts the demands of the proletariat grow apace and employers are kept in constant dread of labor troubles.—REV. J. A. MCCALLUM, Philadelphia.

A result on one hand of all this sort of thing is apathy on the part of those that know the truth and, on the other, an amazing growth of the Socialist parties. This growth should teach us the value of political organization. The mass of the people know that some thing is wrong; and the Socialists being organized, are able easily to persuade them that they offer the solution. We know that the solution offered by the Socialists is not the true one; that it is impossible of accomplishment; and that if any part of it were accomplished, save that part of true Socialism we offer, the resulting collapse would be only the greater.

We know also that the disintegration of big business that is attempted by both the prominent political parties can effect no good.

On the other hand, we offer the true solution. The least step in the direction we point serves to prove that it is the right direction; and we can proceed step by step without any need to wait till we can secure control of the National Government, or even of all the parts of any government. And now we are offered the