

The tariff act of 1907 is a curious mixture and on the whole I think is in the direction of lowering the total amount of customs duties paid by the people. The duty on sugar is entirely removed, with the result that sugar sells retail at 1¾d per lb. This alone is considerable saving to consumers. Dried fruit, cotton piece goods, silk, linen goods and some other articles are also placed on the free list. In the other direction, however, certain duties are raised, chiefly on boots and shoes.

At the present time there are signs that the semi-socialistic Conciliation and Arbitration act is likely to break down and be abandoned both by employers and employed. The labour conditions prevailing in this country are such that if any Tribunal rules that working men should work at rates that are less or for hours that are considered exacting by the men, the employees will not obey that tribunal, and as there is plenty of employment on better terms elsewhere they simply ignore the Arbitration court's award. If we can so manage the land that labour conditions will continue to improve, the Arbitration and Conciliation law will break down and be abandoned because of its uselessness.

GEORGE STEVENSON.

#### WEST AUSTRALIA.

LAND VALUE TAXATION AN ISSUE—FRIENDS OF PRIVILEGE GRASPING AT THE INCOME TAX TO SAVE THEMSELVES—TRADES UNIONS HERE DIVIDED BETWEEN SOCIALISM AND HENRY GEORGE'S TEACHINGS.

Land values taxation is *the* question of politics in this State, due wholly to the energy and enthusiasm of our Single Tax League. There are two political parties in our State Parliament viz. Liberal and Labor. The former is in office and during the last session of Parliament introduced and carried a land values tax, which is now being brought into operation. Unfortunately this tax is mutilated with exemption clauses and linked with an income tax, the bill being introduced as a Land and Income Tax Bill. The legislative council composed chiefly of landlords

rejected the first measure introduced, *i. e.*, the land values tax bill, and accepted the present measure because of the income tax, which means a great reduction in the revenue originally intended to be derived from the incidence of the land values tax. It is significant that the legislative councils in the respective States of our Commonwealth will invariably welcome an income tax in lieu of land values taxation. Our legislative councils are generally elected on a property franchise and prefer any class of taxation to the land values tax. Our legislative assembly is elected on an absolutely democratic franchise *i. e.*, adult suffrage, and it will only need the vetoing of one or two democratic measures by the legislative council when it will soon be reformed or abolished.

The Labor party, now in opposition is in reality a trades union party. Our trades unions are political as well as industrial. During their recent Congress, when their political platform was formed by representatives of trades unions within the State, two schools of thought were in conflict—viz. Socialists and Henry George men. The platform contains among many planks Land Values taxation without exemptions and an Income tax with exemptions to £250. We are not officially associated with either party, and credited to support both or either as occasion requires. Our united aim is to get an unadulterated land values tax placed upon our legislative statutes.

WILLIAM MARTIN.

BOULDER CITY, W. Aus.

#### EFFECTIVE PROPAGANDA.

When Louis F. Post announced the probable suspension of the *Public*, the Single Tax movement seemed in danger of losing one of its most effective means of propaganda. For although the *Public* is not a Single Tax organ it does Single Tax work in a field that no avowed organ of the movement can possibly enter. Mr. Post could not were he editor of a paper strictly devoted to Single Tax, freely discuss and advocate many of the ideas, in regard to which there is a

difference of opinion among Single Taxers, but which properly belong to a paper that aims to cover the whole field of fundamental democracy.

Mr. Post has thus been able to reach with Single Tax arguments many Anti-Imperialists, tariff reformers, Socialists and others who could not become sufficiently interested in a Single Tax organ to read it regularly.

The desirability of saving the *Public* seemed worth making an effort. It was only a matter of notifying all who had been reading and enjoying it that they were in danger of losing their favorite intellectual dish and that unless they cared enough for it to contribute the means necessary to prolong life, they would have to dispense with it in future. The notice had the effect of arousing the friends of the paper. Pledges for contributions to a sustention fund poured in, sufficient to make good any probable deficit for three years provided there should be no loss in circulation.

But this does not by any means settle the matter. Mr. Post insists as a further condition of its continuance that there be sufficient increase in the subscriptions list to make it evident that the paper will be self supporting at a date no later than the time the sustention fund will be exhausted.

By far the greater number of pledges were received from Single Taxers. The promptness and enthusiasm with which they responded show that in spite of many disappointments, those affiliated with our movement can be stirred into activity whenever a worthy occasion arises. It shows that any publication which has demonstrated its value to the movement may safely rely upon co-workers to give what aid may be required in time of need.

But because we have this assurance Single Taxers must not for that reason grow lax in their support of publications devoted to our cause. As an illustration of the way the leaven is working, a recent occurrence may be cited. For many years *Puck* has been looked upon, and rightly so, as a periodical engaged in the service of plutocracy. Old Time Single Taxers will remember how in the time immediately following the first George

campaign, its pages were frequently adorned with hostile and abusive cartoons, and how its policy has since then been consistently plutocratic. Consequently *Puck* is the last paper that any Single Taxer would look to find any of the truths of our philosophy presented. Yet recently quotations from the *Public* have appeared almost regularly in every issue, and on March 25th there appeared an excellent Single Tax cartoon on the last page. This cartoon plainly showed how public improvements designed to "benefit the poor" only increase rent. The cartoon would be a far more effective means of propaganda than a ton of well written tracts to put in the hands of well meaning but misguided charity workers. *Puck* is still far from being a Single Tax, or even a democratic paper, but the appearance of such a cartoon, in connection with a number of other matters in its pages, shows how seed sown on apparently the most stony ground, may nevertheless take root and grow. Surely money is well spent that is devoted to a means of propaganda capable of producing such results.

Now a recommendation on an entirely different matter. Single Taxers who want to spend a quiet enjoyable vacation, and are able to take the trip, will make no mistake in going to Fairhope for the purpose. The enjoyment to which I refer, that will be especially appreciated by Single Taxers, is that they will thereby have the opportunity to see for themselves that the Fairhoppers are making "good theories work" to the extent that existing conditions will permit this to be done. A personal investigation of this kind will do more to put an end to all doubt in regard to the policy of the Colony than the perusal of a thousand pages of controversial matter.

DANIEL KIEFFER.

WE have received through the kindness of Mr. John H. Kelly, Single Taxer, a copy of the Bridgeport *Evening Post* which contains a report of the remarkable work of Vacant Lot improvement through the agency of the Special Relief Committee of that city. It was Mr. Kelly who first gested to this committee the adoption of this mode of relief.