

AUSTRALIA—VICTORIA.

VICTORIA SUFFERING FROM FORTY YEARS OF PROTECTION—MOST BACKWARD OF ALL AUSTRALIAN STATES—SIGNS THAT SHE WILL LEARN OF HER MORE PROGRESSIVE SISTERS.

Our club, I am pleased to say, has not ceased to exist, but we are still hammering away. If you asked what we have done, well, in one sense, not much, but in another, we have done a great work. Victoria, most of all the Australian states, has been the victim of the curse of Protection, and the superstition and selfishness of Toryism which it breeds has so poisoned the minds of the workers here, that they are not readily receptive to principles the acceptance of which denotes a mind capable of wishing well to all mankind, and capable of rising above mean and petty motives. Of course the curse comes home to roost in Victoria as elsewhere, and after forty odd years of Protection, from an alleged reasonable duty for the infant industries, it has passed through many stages and we have protectionists—moderate, scientific, prohibitive, rabid, until now we have the new protectionists. All the old brands have proved Will O' the Wisp and the new, although only just brought into existence is already old. The first industry to which it was attempted to apply it was the manufacture of agricultural implements; it was to fix wages, profits, and the selling price to farmers, altogether a wonderful thing. This was only a few months ago and the High Court has already declared it unconstitutional.

You have probably heard of our Wages Board system of raising wages. The actual money wages in some industries have been increased, but of course the cost of living increases also, and the last state is worse than the first. However, in speaking to an ex-president of our Traders Hall Council here, he told me he was done with the whole Protection fraud. Our State parliament has a bill before it now seeking to raise municipal revenues from Land Value. This system is already in existence and working well in the state of New South Wales and more

or less in West Australia, South Australia, Queensland and New Zealand, and all producing object lessons for backward Victoria

In the legislative assembly on October 20th the Premier, Sir Thomas Bent, moved the second reading of the land valuation Bill which provides for a valuation being made of the improved capital value, and the unimproved value of the land in every municipality in the State, with power to the municipalities to rate on the unimproved value.

On the following day the Municipal Conference by a majority of 65, to 45 passed a resolution in favor of councils having the option to rate the unimproved value of the land.

ALEX. CHALMERS, Sec.
MELBOURNE, Aus.

CHINA.

I am sorry that I have practically no Single Tax news. I am the only enthusiastic Single Taxer in Nanking. I hope some day to get a Viceroy to take up the matter, and I have memorialized the present Viceroy twice. One of these memorials was published in the leading dailies.

The Chinese are opposing with all their might the sale of land to foreigners. They do not now grant mining or railway franchises and are trying to redeem those that have been alienated. They want to preserve China for the Chinese, and are perfectly right in this. It is uphill work for me, but I keep at it hopefully. I am translating books on Liberty, such as Spencer's Social Status, Patrick Edward Dove, Motley's Dutch Republic and Green's History of the English People. Our Viceroy wrote a preface for this. I work hard enough to keep me on the verge of headache half the time, but it is a satisfaction to give this down-trodden people some idea of liberty in books and tracts.

W. E. MACKLIN.

NANKING, China.

FRANCIS H. Warren, editor of the *Infomer*, Afro-American organ of Detroit, was a Democratic candidate for the state legislature.