

directly to do with Single Tax, but which show a recognition by the public of socially created values. An income tax amendment to the State constitution has just been adopted by the legislature, which must be submitted later to the voters. While we have not much sympathy with this measure, it nevertheless shows dissatisfaction with present taxation, and a search for something better. In Milwaukee the teachers have taken up the matter of local taxation, in an effort to discover some means of finding money enough to pay adequate wages to teachers, and to supply needed accommodations and appliances. A bill is also pending before the State legislature looking to the recall of faithless officials by petition, and the immediate election of a successor of such official.

The election of Governor La Follette to the United States Senate immediately after his re-election as Governor for a third term has shocked and rather paralyzed the old machine politicians. It was argued that in good faith to the people he should remain to complete his term as governor. But he proved his good faith by retaining the governorship until the legislature shall have finished its work and adjourned. It is not likely that he will go to Washington until next December. A humorous feature of the situation is that the cry of "bad faith" was made by the newspapers and people who fought his election, while those who supported him for governor were the ones who urged his election as senator.

The most important bill before the legislature at this session is the railroad rate commission bill. It is being fought hard by the railroad lobby, but it will be passed; and it is likely to be a thorough-going and effective measure. The most that the lobby now hope to do is to weaken its effect by amendments. When this bill becomes a law the Governor will feel that his promises to Wisconsin will have been fulfilled, and he will be ready to enter upon the larger field of national affairs, where such men are much needed.

Mr. W. J. Bryan, the Democratic leader, delivered his lecture, "The Value of an Ideal" in this city to a crowded house on the 10th instant. Among the best things he said, referring to the Wisconsin situation, and the fact that the "half-breed" (La-Follette) republicans are accused of "stealing democratic thunder," was that he believed that a party should keep its thunder out on the front porch where everybody could get all that was wanted.

In 1903 Premier Seddon claimed that his country had then enjoyed twelve years of continued prosperity, and last year he announced that it had no paupers. What other statesman can claim as much for his country?—JOSEPH LEGGETT in *San Francisco Star*.

News—Foreign.

TORONTO.

A rude awakening has come to those who fondly imagined that because our system of government is representative it is also democratic. At the new year's election last the electors of this city instructed the city council to ask the Provincial legislature for power to exempt houses to the extent of \$700 of their assessed value. This was an attempt on the part of the people to free themselves from a disastrous house-famine from which they are suffering, but the aldermen who were elected at the same time the vote was taken have refused on a vote of twelve to seven to carry out the instructions. Those in the council who are opposed to the measure evinced the utmost disregard for public opinion, declaring contemptuously that the electors were ignorant of the merits of the question and did not know what they wanted. The exemption itself and the principles of popular government were ably defended by Alderman Dr. Noble, but he stood unsupported except by the silent votes of six of his fellow aldermen, while the land speculator class, led by Controller Spence, made a violent onslaught in defense of their privileges.

To the general public the black eye to the Single Tax association is looked on as a crushing defeat, but as a matter of fact it but momentarily checks the progress of what has been a triumphal march. Ere the King's crown shall fall there are crowns to be broken. Had the civic opponents of the measure been wise they would have obeyed the instructions of the people and allowed the Legislature the unpleasant task of turning down the Single Taxers. The exemption advocates would have been almost powerless at the Parliament buildings, but they are dangerous in the City Hall. As affairs now stand our enemies in the City Council are marked, and they are the wrong side of the fence, while another election is only nine months away. The association is adopting Bre'r Fox's tactics just now; it is lying low, but it is gathering funds for one of the liveliest aldermanic campaigns Toronto has ever witnessed. It is to be a war to the knife in which the members of the association are confident of being successful in cutting off the heads of practically every candidate who has proved himself a traitor to the electors.

With this accomplished the City Council may be in a position to grant the tax reformers something considerably in excess of a simple request to the Legislature.

ARTHUR W. ROEBUCK.

SCOTLAND, GLASGOW.

During the past year the Scottish League for the Taxation of Land Values have held under their own auspices over 100 open air

meetings, besides assisting in the promotion of many meetings to discuss the land question and the remedy, organized by other bodies. Our speakers are busy now with many similar indoor events, and the office keeps busy distributing as much explanatory literature as we can provide. Along with the Edinburgh League for the Taxation of Land Values, we are promoting a conference on the question to be held in Edinburgh in April. This gathering will be comprised of delegates from rating bodies, co-operative societies, trades unions, etc., etc. I will send news of this for the summer number of the REVIEW.

JOHN PAUL.

WEST AUSTRALIA, PERTH.

I notice your great election is over, and that the strenuous Imperialist still retains the occupancy of the White House. Which of the two main aspirants won was not of much consequence to you, I suppose, from a practical point of view, for with you the Single Tax is not yet in the political arena. Parker did not appear to be too anxious to go straight at the trusts by means of the tariff. Apparently your great field of usefulness lies in education, and the evidence seems satisfactory that the heaven is slowly but surely spreading in all directions. With us matters are not so cheerful. Our ministry (Labor Socialist) sent a bill to the Legislative council providing that it should be optional with municipalities whether they raise their local rates on Land Values or according to the ancient system. The house of landlords, seeing the labor people were lacking in backbone, and were not likely to insist on the clause, promptly hacked it out, and when the bill was returned to the lower chamber it was quietly dropped in toto. But throughout the country here is a growing note of dissatisfaction with the Ministry for the way they have trifled with the most important plank of their platform, and within another year they will either have to mend their ways or make way for Democrats. That plank is: "The taxation of land values without exemption." The granting of the power to municipal bodies was a golden opportunity for them to substitute a just and beneficial tax for an unjust and injurious one. Now, the position is that customs duties are in the hands of the Federal Parliament, which consists of about equally Labor-Socialists on one hand and Free Trade and Protectionists on the other, who have dropped the fiscal issue to become solid anti-Socialists. The Labor party proposes to ignore the fiscal issue as immaterial, but has strong leanings towards that popular offspring of Socialism and ignorance, "Protection," so there is no hope in this quarter for years to come. In the States municipal bill just murdered, roads boards (country districts), are using the system, and we are advocating

a general tax without exemptions to replace a portion of the ruinously heavy railway rates, and let me assure you there are warm times ahead.

JOS. G. GRIFFITHS.

FAIRHOPE'S TROUBLES.*

Editor SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

I have been requested by so many Single Taxers to write them regarding Fairhope, that it will be impossible for me to reply to any of them personally and will do so through your valuable journal, with your permission, in your next issue. It is impossible to do so in time for this issue, owing to an overwhelming load of work already on hand. In the proposed article I will seek to give information and bring out points that should have been developed at the late conference at Fairhope. It seemed to the writer at the time, as it doubtless must have to others, that it was the one thing for which a conference was called. Single Taxers all over the world waited for further details as to the colony; its actual operation and methods; just to what extent it could approach the Single Tax principle and as to whether or not the plan could be in any way applied elsewhere; or if it justified the claims made for it by some of its promoters. I shall give the facts in any article I may write, and leave your readers to draw their own conclusions. The Conference, instead of enlightening the world on these points, was led into a series of meetings, from which the outside world got little or no information as to the workings of Fairhope. I hope to be able to give you a number of specific cases of renters; their tax assessments, values of property, amount of land rents paid, both town and suburban, personal property assessments, comparative values of the different locations, outgo and income of representative persons, in relation to the colony, how assessments are made and how fixed, who are benefitted by the colony plan and why, what are the comparative values of land in the colony and lands adjoining, also the advantages to one renting colony land, as compared with renting lands outside—in fact will seek to show things as they are, from which it will be possible for your readers to form their own opinions as to whether or not "good theories are being made to work." In closing let me say, Fairhope will be a success, but only after it adopts democratic principles.

E. Q. NORTON.

*In printing these communications and newspaper clippings regarding Fairhope it is necessary to say that however much the colony on the shore of Mobile Bay has been advertised as a Single Tax experiment, its success would not furnish a demonstration of the Single Tax, nor its failure disprove it. The colony has many admirable features,