

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