

Bill has passed Second Reading. You will probably receive details of the Debate from London, and learn also of that strange Liberal, Mr. Harold Cox, M. P., once a strong opponent of landlord monopoly, who last week moved the rejection of the Bill.

Answering a question in the House of Commons regarding an admiralty purchase of a piece of land near Greenock, the Secretary for Scotland said the plot was bought for £27,225, and consisted of 10 acres of land and $4\frac{3}{4}$ acres of foreshore.

This patch of ground in the Assessor's Roll was valued at about £25. The foreshore was not entered at all.

We are indebted to Mr. Dundas White, M. P. for raising questions of this nature. The answers appear in newspapers all over the country.

The Solicitor General for Scotland, Mr. Alex. Ure, M. P. whose name and whose speeches will now be familiar to your readers all over the world has been invited to debate with a leading Socialist, in Armadale—a mining town in the center of Mr. Ure's constituency. Mr. Ure has agreed provided the socialist speaker will draft a Bill embodying a method by which Socialism can be introduced.

We are all awaiting this Bill with interest and amusement. So far Socialists have had the easy task of condemning and criticizing the proposals of others. Now that they are eager for power, and prepared to accept the responsibilities of a Political Party, it is time for them to submit some definite scheme of action.

The Scottish Land Values Bill, and the Small Holdings Bill have aroused fierce opposition among the Tories and the House of Landlords. They know an attack is being made upon their stronghold.

If the socialists had any foresight they also would actively oppose those Land Bills. One or two of the Socialist leaders instinctively feel that the policy of taxing Land Values will injure the prospects of State Socialism. But most socialists do not understand; and are so busy with two-cent schemes, and peddling palliatives that they cannot comprehend the wider course of events.

We believe, with a tax on Land Values operating in this country, and with small

farmers settled over our land out of the reach of landlord tyranny that the increased opportunities for labor will make men more able to look after themselves and less in need of organization by State Officialdom.

Socialism requires a helpless Proletariat—in order to grow. Liberalism is busy cutting the feet from Socialism and from taxation by pushing forward real Land Reforms.

JOHN WILSON.

BATHGATE, Scotland.

NEW ZEALAND.

REAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRESS IN 1907—
CHANGES IN TARIFFS AND THEIR EFFECTS
—ARBITRATION ACT LIABLE TO BREAK
DOWN—LABOR NOT LIKELY TO ACCEPT
TRIBUNALS' DECISION WHERE WORK IS
EASY TO GET.

During the year 1907 considerable progress was made in land reform and tax reform in the dominion of New Zealand. The session of parliament that year was a record both in length of time occupied and in number of important measures passed. Being the first actual working session of Sir Joseph Ward's Government the party led by that gentleman have reason to be satisfied with their new leader. In land reform the progress made has been partly in the direction of further taxation of land values and partly in the direction of setting aside of eleven or twelve million acres as a reserve, the revenue from which is to be used for public purposes, Education and Old Age Pensions. It will perhaps be remembered by some of the older Single Taxers that the late William Saunders of England, in speaking of compensation to landowners, said, "If we are going to have compensation, let it be for the robbed and not for the robbers." In the Old Age Pensions scheme of this dominion I perceive a partial carrying out of Mr. Saunders idea. The old age pensions of 10/ per week paid to poor people over the age of 75 years, provided by a tax on land values is certainly compensation to those who have been robbed of their opportunities and their earnings.

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