

the injustice of the existing system. The man who improved his property even by adding a room found that an increased tribute was demanded of him, while the owner of an adjoining allotment, probably used as a refuse tip, escaped. The proposed change must benefit everyone. During the general election he was twitted with being a Single Taxer. He could tell them that he still continued to support the body advocating the Single Tax, and he trusted to be able to continue to give his mite in the same direction. He would deem it a great honor if this Government were privileged to pass legislation which made for the development of freedom and the industrial life of the people. He could not, however, promise to introduce a short measure during the present session to give power to the municipalities to tax the unimproved value of land. The days of this session were already numbered. The Government had a big task before them to accomplish in a few weeks, but without fail next session this matter would be tackled, and if they could not overcome this question it would overcome the Government. The question would be whether this State was going to have local government and amended municipal government, or whether the Government were going to continue in existence. There would be no shirking the question. Either they would carry out the reform or others would take their places."

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND.

The land reform movement has been pushed forward with considerable vigor during the last three months. In the House of Representatives a debate has taken place of a nature which clearly shows that our principles are in the domain of practical politics. The best speeches on the side of the land reformers were delivered by Mr. G. Fowlds, President of the Single Tax League of New Zealand, Mr. Bedford, senior member for Dunedin, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Ell and Mr. Laurenson. All of these speakers showed a clear grasp of economics and are in earnest for land reforms. The speeches on the other side were very good considering the bad cause they had behind them. Such debates as this among our legislators must call public attention to the land question.

The Secretary of the Labor Department, Mr. Tregear, who is a very able man and who has without doubt a most complete knowledge of the labor laws of this colony, has addressed a circular to the Premier pointing out the evils of land monopoly and showing in a concise manner how the private ownership of ground rent is absorbing the high wages of the workers and nullifying the effect of all human legislation. The remedy suggested, however, is not of much value, and the Wellington Single Tax League has passed a magnificent series of resolu-

tions showing that the taxation of land values is the only effective remedy.

A very successful Single Tax social was held in Wellington on October 17th, about 120 persons being present. Mr. O'Regan presided and referred to the policy of Mr. Chamberlain, which was forcing the attention of Liberals to the taxation of land values as an alternative policy. Three members of Parliament also spoke. There have been no polls on the proposal to rate unimproved values lately, but I understand an effort will be made in that direction in Auckland before long. Single Taxers in New Zealand were shocked to hear of the sudden death of Mrs. Henry George and unite in sending their sympathy to the family of the great leader.

GEORGE STEVENSON.

DENMARK.

That the Single Tax movement in Denmark is progressing most favorably is shown by the fact that the party is already strong enough to have its own paper, a little monthly, the title page of which reads as follows:

The Right.

A Journal for Human Rights and Land Rights,
Organ of the Danish Henry George Movement.

Published by a circle of disciples of Henry George.

The third number for December, 1904, contains a portrait of Leo Tolstoy and an article on Tolstoy, making a point of the Russian thinker's espousal of the ideas of Henry George; further, a resumé of "The Programme laid down by Henry George"; an extract from "Progress and Poverty" (one of a series giving the main points of the book), and a very interesting article entitled "Denmark's Pearls," showing the danger to a country of unhindered private ownership of land by taking the example of the beautiful little island of Møen, one of Denmark's beauty spots, whose owners threaten not only to cut off the famed sea cliffs from public use, but to cut them down for the rock. It would be a desecration worse than that going on in the Palisades on the Hudson, for the destroying of the Møen cliffs would not only rob Denmark of one of its greatest landscape beauties, but would lay the fertile land behind the cliffs open to the fury of the Baltic storms. The Danish Single Taxers have thoroughly grasped the idea that such individual greed is not to be prevented by any other legislative action than by a change in the taxation of land values. The little monthly contains further news from the movement throughout Denmark, a list of meetings and speeches showing most encouraging activity, and news of all political movements and doings in which the party is interested. An extra sheet containing an article on "What the

Individual Owes to the Community," written by the Danish Single Tax leader, Sophus Bertelsen, for a Danish journal, *The New Century*, is given with the December issue. In Denmark as in Germany the postal card is considered an important means of propaganda, and the Danish Single Tax postal is illustrated by a reproduction of a sculptured bust of Henry George, with the motto "Charity may rest upon Justice, but cannot take its place."

Of all European Single Tax factions, the Danish "Henry George League" as its name implies, rests entirely upon the ethical and fiscal teachings of Henry George, and follows out his theories with completeness.

GOOD NEWS FROM VANCOUVER, B. C.

A Single Tax proposition is to be introduced in the Vancouver city council. Alderman Francis Williams, who has just been elected, is furthering the plan. Under the present assessment plan 50 per cent. of improvements are exempt. Williams' plan is to exempt 70 per cent. of the value of improvements and to increase the rate on the land assessment to make up the deficiency.

TOUR OF JOHN Z. WHITE.

The work of the Henry George Lecture Association has been continued regularly since the last report in the *SINGLE TAX REVIEW*. Lectures have been delivered in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois and Pennsylvania.

There is without doubt a growing belief that our industrial affairs are in a deplorable condition, and a well settled opinion that the situation results from a mistaken application of legal power includes an ever widening circle.

This recognition of wrong is undoubtedly the first step that must be taken, for if there is no disease there surely is no need to discover and apply a remedy. Facts, however, are daily enforcing the lesson. One newspaper, to-day, tells of 16,000 men, women and children at the door of starvation in Fall River, Mass., because of failure of demand for cotton goods. The explanation was originally offered that the high price of raw cotton necessitated an advance of the manufactured article, with, of course, declining sales. Just now planters are burning cotton because of its low price.

The same paper tells of the arrest of an old man and his wife (man 80, woman 71) because the police found them in possession of all sorts of goods bought at auction and bargain sales. The woman was five days in a cell without knowing with what crime she was charged. Investigation showed that they merely had a silly notion of buying these things because they were cheap. Upon being brought into court not a scin-

tilla of evidence of guilt was forthcoming. There was nervous collapse for the poor old lady, however. She fainted when told of what she had been suspected.

Now, why the suspicion? Just one ground for it. They were evidently poor, and therefore possession of these curiously assorted goods, instead of being nine points of the law in their favor was, in the opinion of Captain Daly, of the New York police force, ten points against them. When told the facts by the old man, the police captain laughed and said, "You will have to invent a better story."

If the good captain had strayed into the home of some art collector of wealth he would not have made an arrest. But why the difference—one is doubtless as silly as the other? What is Rockefeller "collecting" a thousand millions of dollars for? Is he not as silly as the old couple? The truth is plain. Poverty has come (not avowedly, but in fact) to be recognized as a crime—or the cause of it.

Meanwhile, the Board of Health is very thorough in New York. After a patient recovers from a contagious disease it fumigates the premises in the interest of higher hygiene, or higher criticism, or something. In order to secure this elevation it, by its minions, removed a child of one and a half years, just recovering from a complication of pneumonia and measles, from a warm to a cold room. The baby died. The New York Board of Health doesn't treat the babies of the rich to lessons in higher hygiene. It is a crime to be poor. Day after day the good people of this Republic are being taught lessons in freedom that look so much like Russian tyranny that only an expert government official, on a salary, can tell the difference.

Perhaps, in time, the feeling will penetrate the understanding—in which case we will—ah—dig another canal! That will stimulate trade, which is heaven—by the way, the old couple were stimulating trade, and were arrested. Perhaps the police captain could be charged with blasphemy.

Mr. White's tour in Missouri included a number of cities, among them St. Louis, Jefferson City and Kansas City. At St. Louis the Fair and its accompaniments held the center, both ends, and the rest of the stage. Still he had the good fortune to meet several audiences, owing largely to the active interest of J. W. Steele. A class of young men in one of the Episcopal churches is reading and discussing "Progress and Poverty." They were much pleased to listen to an address that outlined the general doctrine and possibly helped to clear up some more or less hazy points. One man, in particular, who was a graduate of some German university, had the biologist's notion of the statement in the Declaration of Independence, that "all men are created equal." He thought this was clearly erroneous; us, because some men are short and others tall,