

as would be the blare of battle trumpets and the waving of banners.

There will be submitted to the people at the coming election three amendments on taxation. Two do away with restrictions and limitations in the Constitution, and have been submitted by the Legislature at the petition of the Grange. The third will limit the taxation power of the Legislature and give counties power to exempt classes of property from county taxes on vote of its citizens. It has been drafted by very able men and endorsed by the State Federation of Labor. The Grange and the Federation of Labor are working in friendly harmony for a number of measures, and while the "third tax amendment," as it is called, has not been endorsed by the State Grange, as have the others, it will receive a large measure of support from progressive Grangers all over the State and may be officially endorsed. Another amendment will limit the "emergency clause," as before mentioned, and if all four pass, and no Convention is endorsed, the people will have the power to act as their intelligence directs.

The people of Oregon are not inclined to tumult and uproar. They don't enthuse. Experience has shown that they vote quietly and positively upon their convictions of right. At the last election a measure which was a decided advance toward the Single Tax was defeated because the people were uninformed as regards the principle of justice embodied in it. The force back of it was not able to properly educate the people in the few months and with the few hundred dollars at hand. The indications from that vote are that it would carry if an educational campaign was undertaken with two years to make it in, and with means sufficient to properly canvas the rural sections in which the strongest opposition exists. The people are inclined to say but little, will not turn out to rally-meetings in large numbers, and want time to think over measures. It would require more time for a campaign to secure the Single Tax in Oregon than is afforded between now and next November. It requires time for an idea to grow in the brain of an average Oregon citizen, and when other ideas have to be uprooted

before the idea of the Single Tax can take root and send out leaves, it requires still more time. When the Single Tax carries in Oregon it will stay carried. When the farmers of Oregon are given the power to enact it, and the understanding to perceive its justice and moral strength, they will go for it ten to one. Meanwhile, the Single Taxers are neither idle nor asleep, neither loafing on the job nor hunting trouble. The foundations are being laid and the quarry worked for blocks to make an enduring structure that will not rest upon sand.—A. D. Cridge.

CHICAGO.

REORGANIZATION OF THE CHICAGO SINGLE TAX CLUB—OLD WORKERS AGAIN ACTIVE IN THE FIELD—WORK AMONG THE FOREIGN BORN.

You have asked me for an outline of our methods of reorganizing The Chicago Single Tax Club and I comply because some of these may be of practical use to others who feel they can give the time and hard work necessary to organize Single Tax clubs in their own cities.

First, then, we found it necessary to pick out men with the proper mental attitude of the genuine Single Taxer. This was easy in Chicago where the Single Tax attitude of mind is widely diffused, and where we had a flourishing number of clubs at one time—about eight years ago—but which after a local political campaign, began to languish for reasons which I have never quite understood. As far as I can gather many thought the time ripe for political action and others thought differently.

While the movement was apparently dormant, nevertheless almost all the old war horses—all the men and women who understood—were at heart just as strongly convinced of the truth as before. Under these conditions—with over 5000 old Single Taxers to draw from—it only needed some impelling new influences to rekindle the old spirit. One of these is the universally growing "Economic Pressure."

Another potent influence was the econo-

mic-civil conclusions which Single Taxers were forced to draw from the chaotic conditions in which the old political parties are engulfed, and which in the preponderance of privileged interests have lost their distinguishing features. Knowing the reasons of the present situation in what we conventionally call "Politics," the Chicago Single Taxers felt restive—felt inclined to be up and doing. And then came an impelling influence from Great Britain to crystalize all these more or less potent causes.

However, it is well understood that in the beginning of a reorganization of men and women into a Single Tax Club there must be a period in which authority and initiative is entrusted to an individual. The next step was to provide, right from the start, a sort of skeleton organization to be filled up with "Actives" as they were developed. Thus we headed with Hardinge as a representative of aggressive activity—put Olcott into his old job as treasurer—the writer into the secretaryship—and then we elected five vice presidents, the very best men in different proposed fields of future activities, A. A. Worsley, Otto Cullman, Geo. V. Wells, Ed. C. Moeller, F. H. Monroe, Chas. Ciliske, and John Weiler, and then we all went to work. And as the next step, partly for advertising, but mainly for instruction, the secretary took notes of the weekly Friday meeting addresses and mimeographed them as "Bulletins" of the Club. In that way we accomplished, at little cost, the permanency of the addresses. The writer suggests that other secretaries do likewise, for nothing will help a club more than the publication of a well-edited abstract of the addresses. These we then mailed to all the Single Taxers, members and others, in Chicago, and to liberal and labor newspapers, here and abroad, and to the clubs everywhere. Chicagoans live in a town so cosmopolitan that the thought never occurs to any of us to consider our club as a mere local institution for mutual admiration or mere local propaganda. The central location may have something to do with that attitude. We realize that industrial conditions in the West, South and East can not be essentially different from what they are here.

Thus the offer to act as an American Single Tax "clearing house" would be presumptuous if Chicago were not the caldron in which all elements of the world are mixed and work out the civic and economic problems of the generation. Our Club is in the Centre of American actualities. This is why it grows so fast in efficiency.

Having provided, first, an organization on effective lines and then formed "connections" of all sorts, our next step is to train agitators. We produced in the past Henry H. Hardinge, John Z. White, and many others less well known nationally. Therefore part of our present work is that of a training school. We hold meetings every Friday in which we encourage the younger Single Taxers to take part in the discussions after the addresses.

And then we organized a Committee for "Local addresses and debates" among the foreign born.

Our policy is to divide that committee into subcommittees—one for each nationality—with a chairman able to explain George's thoughts in their language. To these subchairmen we give unrestrained control of their work.

Another large field is work among the Labor Unions. This field for reasons which this writer only partly understands, has been slighted by the Single Taxers of the early days.

I hold that no rare intellectual power is necessary to understand Henry George's ideas, any more than those of Christianity. A sullen conviction exists among working men that something is wrong with Socialism as talked at them, but lacking, as most of them are, in knowledge of sound economics, they are without arguments to confute the half truths of socialism.

Among our club members active among the unprivileged wealth producers I mention Raymond Robins, George A. Schilling, and Henry H. Hardinge as speakers, while Edward Gates and I are more active as writers. This whole field is now under organization too, but since the machinery is as yet not perfected I merely mention the fact. Mr. Karl M. Koedt, also a member of our club who published a very good article in the December number of the

SINGLE TAX REVIEW, will look after the Danish Americans and assist among the Germans. A very promising field is open for us here among the younger element of the Hebrew Americans who take kindly to Single Tax.

In conclusion, I may say that what surprises us in this work of organizing is the small sums of money needed to push along the different activities of our club. The secret seems to be that if every member has some *definite work* a great deal more is accomplished.—E. WANGEMANN, Secretary Chicago Single Tax Club.

NEWS—FOREIGN.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

COAL STRIKE ON AND LEADERS IN JAIL—THE LAND QUESTION FORGOTTEN IN THE GENERAL MUDDLE—THE "LIBERAL" PARTY STANDING FOR PROTECTION—EXPERIMENT OF MARRICKVILLE IN LAND VALUE RATING AND RESULTANT BUILDING ACTIVITY.

There is a good deal going on in this part of the world at the present time, but scarcely in our line. We have had a coal strike for the last three months, the Federal elections are approaching, the State elections follow towards the end of the year, and the second general election under our new Local Government Act will take place early next year. The coal strike is ending, the leaders are in gaol, and the only result gained by the miners is the knowledge that disputes with employers must be settled in the way provided by law. Hitherto they have refused to recognize the law. As readers of the **REVIEW** know, laws regulating wages and conditions of labor are mere expedients. They do not touch the cause of the evils which their advocates say require a remedy. The promoters of the strike were led by a man named Bowling, an extreme socialist. He has now two and a half years retirement, which will no doubt afford him time for reflection. Now, strikes, as a rule, are no good. Socialism as a remedy for economic ills is also no good. Strikes are promoted and

used here as a means of socialistic propaganda. Then is not the Legislature right in establishing Arbitration courts and Wages Boards, and gaoling those who refuse to recognize the law? Technically it is, for the people make the Parliament, and in a rough and ready way give instructions as to what they want. But nevertheless, it is folly. If a man does not care to continue a work he has the right to leave. The same applies to a body of men. Men do not lay down their tools without cause as a rule, and when they seek to better their conditions, a course which they have every right to take, putting the leaders in gaol, will right no wrongs. It makes martyrs of the gaoled leaders and the causes of industrial wrongs remain as obscure as ever they were to the average mind. The folly of socialism cannot be exposed by putting socialists in gaol, but by pointing out the natural way in plain and simple language. Today on one side people are expressing satisfaction that Bowling and Co. have been imprisoned, and on the other side indignation at the vindictiveness of a law which they helped to make. Between the two the vital importance of the land question is overlooked and we muddle along in the old rut.

The Federal elections take place on the 13th of April. There are two parties contending for supremacy. As they are constituted now there is no reason to expect any progress on the lines of free trade and taxation of land values in the next Parliament. The so-called "Liberal" party is pledged to let the tariff stand. The leader Mr. Deakin, however, will do all he can for Protection, and as he has no political principles worth an hour's purchase, he cannot be trusted, no matter what he may say. The party is not likely to touch the land question in any way. The other party by courtesy called the "Labor" party also has a protectionist leader, while the rank and file are mostly protectionists. Strange, is it not? I am told, and I have no reason to doubt it, that the Australian Labor Party is the only protectionist Labor party in the world. The party however, advocates a progressive land tax. Owners of up to £5,000 in unimproved values are to be exempt. Owners of values above that