

them, raising their own food. The idea grew out of a conversation between Mr. Kiefer and C. M. Rothschild, proprietor of a mortgage loan business. It had been Mr. Rothschild's plan every year to give Christmas dinners to thousands of poor people. Kiefer told him that charity was degrading, and urged the just and common sense plan of helping the poor by putting them on the earth and let them help themselves, each one in his own way. The plan so favorably impressed Rothschild that he then and there agreed to back Kiefer for all expenses if he would put it in effect.

Carnegie's offer to give a library to Marion, O., has raised quite a discussion and given the George men a good opportunity to teach a lesson in taxation. It was pointed out by our friends that the present method of taxation was most unequal and injurious.

The American Federation of Labor, No. 9900, met in regular session and took up the library proposition which has been made by Andrew Carnegie. It was unanimously agreed to oppose the acceptance of the proposition, and to use all honorable means to defeat the aim of Mr. Carnegie in erecting a building in Marion.

The following shows exactly the ground taken by the labor organizations:

"Any increase made in taxation increases in greater proportion the injustice resulting therefrom. At the dedication of his library at Washington, a few days ago, Carnegie said: 'It is the people helping themselves by taxing themselves.'

"The rapid growth that our city is now making will increase taxes, as the number of streets are increased and extended, which will require additional sewers, water mains, paving, sidewalks, lighting, police protection, etc.

"Fully 95 per cent. of the land within our incorporate limits is vacant. This portion of our city is practically exempt from taxation.

"All taxes upon labor and its products eventually fall upon the consumer, who usually fails to be the financial beneficiary.

"Therefore, be it resolved: That we condemn as unjust all taxes levied upon labor and the products of labor, and demand a repeal of such laws that restrict or prohibit the production of wealth. We particularly condemn that law which permits all special taxes in excess of a 25 per cent. valuation to be levied as direct and indirect taxes upon the community. We condemn the acts of all persons who take advantage of this law when such cases apply to vacant land.

"The above proposed remedy would enable the producers of wealth to provide themselves with the libraries and other essentials without the aid of non-residents."

RHODE ISLAND.—With the election of Lucius F. C. Garvin to the governorship of Rhode Island is revealed what a man of personal force and character may do in office. Incidentally is disclosed the degradation of the elective franchise in that State. Governor Garvin says:

"In a considerable number of our towns bribery is so common, and has existed for so many years, that the awful nature of the crime has ceased to impress. In some towns the bribery takes place openly, is not called bribery, nor considered a serious thing. The money paid to the voter, whether \$2, \$5 or \$20, is spoken of as payment for his time."

Undoubtedly long familiarity with this sort of corruption breeds contempt of the morality that condemns it. Let us hope that the first single tax governor in the nation may succeed in arousing the new conscience to the enormity of all offences against the integrity of the ballot.

News—Foreign

CANADA.

MONTREAL.

It must be a matter of great regret to your various correspondents that they have not more hopeful and encouraging messages to communicate to each other through the medium of the *Review*. Yet at times we read of happenings which would seem to indicate that progress is being made in other places, and even at home where changes are gradual and apt to pass unobserved, we note an occasional awakening of the people to a realization that something's got to be done.

Just now an awakening seems about to take place in Montreal. Self-preservation, that first great law, will be the compelling force. A couple of years ago, when the electric lighting franchise had expired and new tenders were about to be called here, we had Messrs. John S. Crosby and F. F. Ingram, the latter of Detroit, deliver a public lecture here in favor of municipal ownership of public franchises. It was pointed out to the people that whereas there was now competition between the various companies, a combination was apt to take place at any time, and that they would then be at the mercy of the power they were fostering. Needless to say, the strongest company got the franchise, but the competition from a dark-horse company, after a lot of manipulating, compelled them to reduce their tender from \$90 a light, per year, to \$62, the old contract being at \$110. The combination has now been effected, to all intents and purposes, and at any time we may hear of the last company coming in out of the cold.

There will then be but one lighting company, gas or electric in the city. As you may readily imagine, they are not merging for philanthropic purposes.

Added to this is the report that it is the intention to merge the street railway with the lighting and power company. The head men and principal stockholders of both companies are the same and there is a pretty well founded opinion that the street railway magnates are desirous of having their franchises extended before the end of the present one approaches sufficiently near to affect the value of their stock. There is, therefore, every likelihood of a stiff fight taking place over the question of our city franchises before many years have passed. In fact, the Single Tax Association is about to communicate with other societies in the city in order to see what united action can be taken in the matter. There should be lots of opportunity to advocate our reform before long and we shall try to take advantage of every occasion which may present itself.

Since writing you last we have had another public lecture. This one was illustrated, J. W. Bengough, of Toronto, the well-known cartoonist and single taxer, being the "whole show." Some 400 or 500 people turned out to hear him, probably the largest crowd we have ever had at a single lecture. Mr. Bengough really does most effective work, and there can be no doubt whatever that so far as clearness of exposition is concerned, the illustrated method is the best.

The latest proposition in Canada for diverting public money and lands into private pockets, on an extensive scale, is that of subsidizing a trans-continental railroad line. We, as you know, already have one, but the recent rapid growth of our Northwest necessitates another.

There is very little doubt that subsidies and probably lands will be granted, although there are powerful interests allied against it possibly from the standpoint of rivalry. We, for our part, have just passed a resolution which will be forwarded to the government as soon as possible, drawing attention to the fact that we already have a successful government railway in Canada, that the Province of Ontario is about to build another, that other countries have long operated government railways successfully, and praying them to construct and operate a government trans-continental line in place of granting a subsidy to private individuals.

Yours truly,

T. C. ALLUM.

Sec'y. S. T. Ass'n. of Montreal.

TORONTO.

We are pleased to report that the Single Tax has made better progress in Toronto this last year than ever before, and

our prospects are bright for a lively future. Four years ago our Association was of practically no consequence, but to-day we have an office in one of the finest buildings in the city, and maintain a permanent secretary.

During the past winter we had a series of thirteen successive lectures in the Toronto Opera House, on Sunday afternoons. These cost us on an average of nearly one hundred dollars apiece, the funds for which had to be raised almost entirely by voluntary subscription. We had a collection at the door and took in about thirty dollars a Sunday, so that our net expenditure was from fifty to seventy dollars. Last winter we held a similar series in the pavilion, one of the largest halls in the city, but owing to its having been burned down during the summer we had to resort to one of the theatres. We advertised well and had strictly high-class music, and nothing but the best of speakers, many of whom had to be brought from a distance. Mr. Ernest H. Crosby of New York, opened the series and was followed by Louis F. Post of Chicago. The next speaker was Lee Francis Lybarger of Mifflinburg, Pa.; then Jas. R. Brown of New York; W. A. Douglas of Toronto; W. W. Buchanan and Jas. Simpson, of Toronto; J. W. Bengough, Toronto's famous cartoonist in one of his chalk talks; Father Cox of Chicago; a quartette of Toronto young Single Taxers—Harry S. Ellis, Allan C. Thompson, Chas. Kerr, and Arthur W. Roebuck; Rev. Mr. Higgins and W. A. Douglas of Toronto; and next Harry W. Hetzel of Philadelphia. The series were completed by four of our leading labor men—Jas. Simpson, Harry Pickles, L. Glockling and Arthur W. Holmes.

Had our funds permitted we would have continued the lectures, but unfortunately we have to be limited by the possible.

Since then we have opened our office and are attempting to organize our Association into better shape so as to be more of a power in the city.

The Direct Legislation people are making quite a fight here and are strongly backed up by the Single Taxers, most of whom are members of both movements, and all are advocates of both. We do not connect the two officially as we might prejudice a number of labor men against the Direct Legislation movement if we did so.

Last fall we organized a "Federation For Majority Rule," which had delegates from thirty different societies in the city. Their object was to promote the Initiative and Referendum by means of the Winnetka System. As a result our present Mayor and fourteen out of our twenty-four Aldermen are pledged to Direct Legislation, and have already taken the first step towards redeeming their pledges.