

opening." The "Manchester Guardian" has remained lukewarm, if not actually hostile to these ideas, contenting itself with conventional support of the Liberal candidate while deprecating his introduction against the protest of the Labor Party.

In its failure to grasp the significance of the Single-tax the Labor Party has shown itself less far sighted than the class it ostensibly represents. Like all organizations, political parties tend to lose sight of the ideals they are formed to serve, and are governed by the law of self-preservation. Reforms have always grown in strength outside of political groups and therefore free from the repressing influence of expediency. If the Liberal Party offers hope at the present time it is because the eyes of the people have been opened by the non-political propagandists, and the pressure from the constituencies forces it for the moment to attack interests that are by no means negligible within the party itself.

The attitude of the Labor Party was thus defined by its leaders during the campaign. Mr. Ramsay Macdonald declared that "there was no more absurd idea than that all rates and taxes should be imposed on land. It meant that employers, stock exchange gamblers, financiers and millionaires would be free to exploit the workers, but unless they owned land they would not pay a penny in the rates and taxes. The Labor Party would tax unearned increment whether derived from land or from capital." Mr. Keir Hardie described the land tax policy as the latest red herring of the Liberal Party. "The policy of the Labor Party was nationalization on the lines of the telephone purchase." Mr. W. C. Anderson referred to the "few eager enthusiasts who appear to imagine that land was given not to use but to tax. Vague denunciation of landlordism and land monopoly," he continued, "may for a time win electoral support; but the workers will not follow very far or very long the cry, which is essentially a capitalist cry, that the element of unearned increment in capital should be relieved from taxation and the element of unearned increment in land made to carry the whole burden." The words of Labor members during this contest may return to plague them at some future stage of the controversy when the lines are sharply drawn between the people and the landlords.

Hanley will not soon forget the Land Song. During the past weeks the air has vibrated with the notes of "Marching Through Georgia," and the refrain, "The land, the land, 'twas God who gave the land." The Liberal platforms were provided with harmonium and gramophone to give the pitch at the appropriate moment, and even the opposition speakers must have gone home from the contest with the melody singing in their heads. The announcement of the poll was greeted with prolonged cheers by the crowd of 30,000 assembled in front of the Town Hall. Addressing them Mr. Outhwaite said, "I came down here to show how the people may be emancipated. I told you I thought you could trust the Liberal government to adopt the policy. You believed that and you have sent me with a mandate to the Government. That mandate will be delivered in all honesty. Believe me, we have to-day done a great thing for freedom." As soon as he had ceased speaking the crowd, with one impulse, broke into the chorus of the Land Song. Some 40,000 people were waiting to cheer the new

member at Burslem and there also the enthusiasm culminated in the Land Song.

F. W. GARRISON.



CANADIAN POLITICS IN SASKATCHEWAN.

Ceylon, Sask.

The recent Saskatchewan campaign affords a good cross-sectional view of Canadian politics in action. It shows the party machines in full working order, and also a new factor that may "cut some ice" in the future. The subjects discussed in the speeches were direct legislation, government farm loans, government storage elevators, the transfer of title to our natural resources to the Province, and others more remote or less important. The above cannot be said to have been issues, for the two parties were in substantial agreement in favor of them all. The real battle was between the national parties to gain control of the Province for strategical purposes in the next national contest.



Elections here are simple, in that you only vote for the single office of member of legislature or parliament. Nominations are made in a most undemocratic way, not by a representative convention, but by a select gathering, and a candidate need not be a resident of the constituency he seeks to represent. As a result, in my own constituency two candidates were nominated neither of whom had ever been heard of by perhaps a majority of the voters. If a primary election law ever was urgently needed it is here.

The parties did not divide on local issues. If the policies both alike advocated are progressive it is because they are supposed to be popular and no powerful interests have seen fit to oppose them. The same may be said of past legislation, such as the Torrens land titles act, some excellent labor laws, and our exemption of farm improvements from taxation.



It is hard for a "Yankee" to understand why Canada, with no Civil War traditions, should exhibit such extreme party feeling. In the prairie Provinces, settled from the four corners of the earth, large numbers have not yet found a party home, but every campaign shows a stricter alignment; every year less straggling among party leaders. Strong men have violated conscience and home interests at the behest of the Ottawa machine. When this Province was created our Premier-to-be demanded that Saskatchewan own and administer her natural resources. Later he accepted and defended in lieu thereof, a ridiculously low annual cash subsidy. Our Opposition leader, in a ringing speech, defended reciprocity and refused "to learn at the feet of the eastern Gama-liels." Later, he was constrained to change his mind, and so went into this contest with the greatest handicap of his life. It is to the credit of both men that their untrammelled decisions were in favor of the people, and provocative of lasting suspicion that the party machines hold other interests as of more consequence.

But now, enter the new factor. The East, as usual, has been slow in recognizing the revolutionary spirit that is stirring the West. The feeling of injustice is of long standing. Scales of prices that perhaps were necessary in the days of small traffic and uncertain payments have persisted long after the shadow of an excuse has passed. The hopes of partial relief by access to the American markets were last fall dashed to the ground, and immediately the revolution was on. The grain blockade of last winter in sight of the American market added force to the revolution. This campaign was conducted after the most approved fashion, the Conservative speakers proving conclusively that reciprocity was dead and that a Provincial legislature could not make it effective even if it were not dead. The people voted exactly as they would if not a speech had been made.



The prophets are already forecasting the future. The Alberta election will be a repetition of this. The rotten Conservative government in Manitoba can scarcely survive an election since the telephone and elevator scandals. The Liberals have carried Quebec and claim a fighting chance in Ontario. Borden went into power bound by obligations that will prevent his doing anything opposed to the predatory interests. Some say that Laurier will administer a dose of the Borden specific at the next session of Parliament, others that he will wait till two or three Provincial elections are held.

But the victory of a party is not necessarily a victory for the people. Parties serve the people only when they see dire punishment awaiting them for their failure. And it is by no means certain that the people of Canada are prepared to exact democratic service from any party. Still, some progress can be reported.

GEO. W. ATKINSON.



AUSTRALASIA.

Corowa, N. S. W., Australia, June 7, 1912.

General elections were held last month in the States of Queensland and Tasmania.

The Labor party lost ground in Queensland, but gained in Tasmania. Before the election in Queensland, there were 40 Liberals and 32 Laborites; after, the numbers were 47 Liberals and 25 Laborites.

In Tasmania, the old Parliament was composed of 19 Liberals and 11 Laborites; the new one consists of 16 Liberals and 14 Laborites.



In every State as well as in the Commonwealth, there are now two parties only, Liberal and Labor.

In the Commonwealth and in the States of New South Wales and West Australia, the Laborites are in power; in the other States the Liberals have majorities.



Hon. George Fowlds, New Zealand's leading Singletaxer, has stated he has definitely determined to throw in his lot with the Labor party. "I hope," he

says, "to see the Labor party of New Zealand adopt a sane programme of reform which all the moderate progressive people of New Zealand will be able to commend." That these hopes are not without solid foundation is shown by the important planks adopted at a recent conference of the N. Z. United Labor party. Planks 2, 3 and 4 read as follows: (2) Proportional representation on single transferable vote. (3) A land system shall be established which shall bring into the most productive use, either by individual undertakings or by public enterprise, all natural resources; shall make absentee ownership and private monopoly in land impossible; shall secure to the landholder all the values created by him and those only; all such values to be exempt from all taxation; and shall secure to the public in an annual tax all values created by the public. (4) Increased taxation of land values; the revenue so raised to be used to reduce the cost of living by the reduction of customs taxes on necessities of life not produced in New Zealand, and by the reduction of railway freights and fares.

ERNEST BRAY.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

RELIGION AND THE SINGLETAX.

Seattle, Washington.

When I came West from college, something more than ten years ago, my attention was called to "Progress and Poverty"; and with all the ardor of youth I began calling the attention of others to it, only to find the others uninterested and satisfied with the existing order. Thereafter the Singletax lay on the shelf, for me, with the nebular hypothesis and other beautiful theories which, while they manifest the perfection of reason, seem to be of no practical consequence. The inevitable awakening came about three years ago when a neophyte in the faith demonstrated to me that people as a rule were interested and dissatisfied.

My tendency to pursue the same hectic agitation so common among political reformers was checked by the consciousness that the visible results were not commensurate with the quantity or quality of Singletax effort which had been put forth in the generation just past. Thereafter it was my privilege for more than a year to move in various communities on the Pacific Coast where I could talk politics with individuals and groups who knew nothing of me, and among these I took pains to observe the grounds for their action or reaction, as the case might be, with the purpose of ascertaining the Singletaxer's line of least resistance in offering his gospel.

There were many interesting conclusions that forced themselves forward, out of the mass of evidence accumulated, but they are relatively unimportant in comparison with the prime factor that shall be the basis of my action in the future as it has been in the two years that have passed since my study of the question. The prime factor lies in my belief that the accomplishment of the Singletax ideal depends on our reaching the minds of men and women whose lives are actuated by religious