

cludes to industrial institutions, such as the Reading Railway Company, which are numerous, and are so unified in ownership by capitalization as to make a vast net work of "capitalistic class" interests the world over. And this is precisely what the Singletaxer means when he speaks of "land-lordism."

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The Singletaxer's thought does not center upon the labor-produced property which bookkeepers merge with land in "capital account" in their ledgers. The Socialist's thought does center upon that property when its values are mixed with land values as if they were only one kind of value. It is ownership of these mixed values, bundled together in the term "capital" or "capitalism," which seems to the Socialist to constitute the oppressive power of our civilization. The Singletaxer denies that ownership of labor-produced capital, except in so far as its value is mixed with or reinforced by land monopoly, has any oppressive power.

The Socialist, therefore, who argues that there must be coercive power in "capital" over labor, because labor is in fact coerced by ownership of land and capital, seems to the Singletaxer like a man who should argue that soda water must be intoxicating because men get drunk on brandy and soda.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

AUSTRALIA.*

Corowa, N. S. W., May 4.

Near the end of last December, the State parliament of Victoria passed an act providing for a tax on land values of a half-penny in the pound [2 mills to the dollar] with an exemption of £250 [\$1,250].

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The annual Labor conference of New South Wales was held at Sydney in February.

It has been for some time an open secret, but this year it was stated publicly, that this conference is the parliament of the Labor Party, and that the elected Labor representatives in the Federal and State parliaments have merely to carry out the dictates of the conference. It was also made public that the conference was dominated by the Australian Workers' Union, the largest and most aggressive union in Australia.

A very warm discussion arose at the conference over the action of some members of the State government of New South Wales in opposing the proposed amendments to the federal Constitution. Finally these members were virtually given the alternative of withdrawing their opposition or leaving the Labor Party and they chose the former.

*See current volume, pages 79 and 392.

Following is the platform of the party for the State of New South Wales:

1. Constitutional reform: (a) Abolition of the Legislative Council (upper house), and the substitution thereof of the Initiative and Referendum; (b) electoral reform to provide proper machinery for the true representation of the people in Parliament.

2. Regulation of hours of labor.

3. Land and financial reform: (a) Cessation of further sales of Crown lands; (b) a proper system of closer settlement; (c) water conservation and irrigation; (d) restriction of public borrowing; (e) State bank; (f) graduated land tax.

4. Free education: (a) Secondary; (b) technical; (c) University.

5. Nationalization of coal mines.

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Two proposed amendments to the federal Constitution were submitted to the people by referendum on April 26th.

The first, called the "Legislative Powers" amendment, provided that—

the Commonwealth Parliament shall be empowered to make laws with respect to:—(1) Trade and commerce within the States. (2) Corporations formed under the law of a State. (3) Wages and conditions of employment in any industry. (4) The prevention and settlement of industrial disputes in relation to employment on or about railways the property of any State. (5) Combinations and monopolies in relation to the production, manufacture, or supply of goods or services.

By the second, the "Monopolies" amendment, it was proposed to add to the Constitution that—

when each House of the Parliament, in the same session, has by resolution declared that the industry or business of producing, manufacturing, or supplying any specified services is the subject of a monopoly, the Parliament shall have power to make laws for carrying on the industry or business by or under the control of the Commonwealth, and acquiring for that purpose, on just terms, any property used in connection with the industry or business.

These amendments are very far reaching, and if carried would have extended so greatly the powers of the Commonwealth over affairs now under the control of the States, that practically they would have produced unification instead of federation. And as every State, regardless of population, has equal representation in the federal Senate, it would have been a most unfair form of unification.

The results are not yet quite complete, but it is certain that each amendment has been defeated by a majority of over 250,000 in a total vote of about 1,200,000. Both amendments were defeated in every State except Western Australia, where they were carried by small majorities.

These amendments were submitted by the federal (Labor) government but evidently they did not obtain the solid support of the Labor Party.

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Penny postage [two cents] was established throughout the Commonwealth on May 1st.

ERNEST BRAY.

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Justice Harlan dissents. [tf.]—Chicago Tribune.