

PROGRESS IN GERMANY.

The German Single Tax organ of Jan. 5th reports three more towns as having adopted the Land value Tax. One of 4,000, one of 15,000, and one of 24,000 inhabitants.

The last one voted, that is its town council, voted on it a year ago, and the measure was rejected, but this time it was carried by a vote of 16 to 1. The result of one years education.

The same organ of Jan. 20 reports the city of Wiesbaden, 65,000 inhabitants, as taxing all rental value over and above what was paid for land after April 1902.

This they call "Zuwachssteuer" which may be defined as a value which has attached to land since a certain time, which time the different communities fix and set for themselves. Some go further back than others, and no doubt, in time, they will reach to Adam and Eve's time.

For Feb. 20 it adds one town named Eller near the Rhine to the list. Also the town council of Marburg voted for Single Tax, but before it voted, the Mayor resigned, as he could not bring it in accord with his conscience of being responsible for a law that would confiscate honestly acquired property. His Honor looked at that law through a looking-glass where everything appears inverted.

At the annual Single Tax Conference, President Damaschke stated that there are now in Germany 260 communities with a partial application of Single Tax principles in operation, and from 50 towns we have the report that such measures are in operation. We may fairly claim that this matter is decided for Germany, and is only a question of time that it will be generally adopted.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIA SINGLE TAX LEAGUE NO LONGER ACTIVE—"JUST FOR A HANDFUL OF SILVER"—THE LABOR PARTY OFFERING SOCIALISTIC PALLIATIVES.

Owing in very large measure to the fact that several prominent members of the S. A. Single Tax League—including the one-time Secretary and President, and in a sense the mouthpiece of the League—Mr. Crawford Vaughan—have joined the Labor Party and under that flag been elected to Parliament, the work of Single Tax education is largely in abeyance. Very little, indeed, has been done during the past two years on pure Single Tax lines, the time and energy of the League being frittered away on unimportant matters and in supporting and apologizing for and explaining why these aforesaid staunch and valiant Single Taxers, whose denunciation of the L. P. and all its works was of the strongest and most vigorous type, should

make an absolute *volte face* and be content to be swallowed by that which so short a time previously was anathema and the unpardonable sin.

The L. P. has no plank in their present platform dealing with the land question, except that of a progressive land tax, which proposes to have the first £5,000 in value to pay the ½d. (halfpenny) in the £ land values tax and becomes progressive above that amount. And these aforesaid Single Taxers advocate this iniquity in and out of the House as glibly as if they knew no better. It is sad to think that after 20 years of faithful, and to a fairly large extent, successful effort in the education of the people on the only just basis of taxation or revenue getting, our work is being so largely nullified and made of no account, and this by those who once were foremost in advocating pure Georgianism. These men try hard to persuade themselves and the public that they joined the L. P. with the idea of reforming it, but the case is more analogous to that of the whale and Jonah—the real objective being something much less idealistic. "Just for a handful of silver, &c."

As individuals they have, of course, a perfect right to join any party they please, but as more or less representative Single Taxers they owed something more to their colleagues and the movement than if they had been merely rank and file men. The most regrettable feature about the whole business is the fact that on joining the L. P. they are compelled to pledge themselves to advocate it and vote for and support any parliamentary candidates selected by the party. They thus cut themselves off almost from any opportunity to advocate real reform or anything outside the L. P. platform. Even if they were not so pledged they could not in one place or meeting advocate the progressive Land Tax and at another the pure S. T. This would be too grotesque even for unphilosophical socialists, or State-own-everything men.

Speaking of politics in a more general sense, we have just been through an extraordinary election brought about by a forced dissolution on the franchise question. The franchise for the House of Assembly, the "Lower" or popular House, is adult suffrage, while that for the Legislative Council or Upper House is, roughly, a £25 qualification, e. g., paying house rent of 10s. per week. The dissolution is the first act in forcing the Legislative Council to grant a lower or £15 qualification. The Houses have just met again and the franchise bill is to be passed and sent up to the other House. Should it refuse to accept it, a double dissolution will be resorted to next year to convince them that the people are most desirous of this widening of the franchise, and that the Parliament is fighting for their rights. Of course it will be apparent at a glance that a mere reduction of the qualification is not necessarily a meas-