

FAIRHOPE.

The normal and proper condition of a Single Tax town—with everybody busy—prevails at Fairhope. The "Labor Problem" here is rapidly becoming reversed. Instead of men hunting jobs, it is difficult to get men to do work desired. While we would by no means claim all the credit for this for our application of the Single Tax principle over the small territory we are able to control, there is no doubt that it is having a very great influence in that direction. The ease with which men can secure access to land and become their own employers, vastly increases their independence and the application of rental values to public works, thus increasing opportunities, is another important and related factor.

An extraordinarily dry May and June were rather discouraging to our farmers, but recent rains have revived their courage as well as their crops.

We are having a fine fruit season. Peaches, grapes and figs are in the height of their season, also the luscious water-melons—of which those of this section are famous for excellence. Several schooners have loaded melons on our shore front in the last few weeks for Mobile and New Orleans, besides many shipments made on the steamer.

May was the best season in the history of the steamer *Fairhope*, the gross receipts reaching nearly \$1,000. The receipts of the wharf, a "public service" owned and administered by the Association, were \$186.68.

We had a very pleasant visit last week from Mr. J. B. Howarth, of "What's the Use," East Aurora, N. Y. In spite of all he had heard about Fairhope, he was totally unprepared to see such a fine little city as we have. He declared that in his twenty-two years experience as a commercial traveler he had not seen in any state of the Union a town of its size, presenting the manifest evidence of public and private enterprise and prosperity that were apparent at Fairhope. This is something remarked on by all visitors, though not all see as clearly as Mr. Howarth did, that the elimination of land speculation with its attendants of tumbledown shacks, and weed-grown vacant lots, and the relieving of improvements from taxation, are the prime causes.

R. F. Powell, of the Philadelphia Vacant Lots Cultivation Association, is endeavoring to organize a "Fairhope Improvement Association," to build cottages for rent and sale on Fairhope land. He is meeting with much encouragement, and hopes to be down in November, possibly earlier, to take active direction of the work.

Our town is now full of summer people, mostly Mobile residents. It is certain that fifteen or twenty more cottages could be rented within a week, to Mobilians, if they were available. This is one of the great ad-

vantages of our location, that it is suited for both a summer and a winter resort—and not alone a summer resort for Southern people, but for Northern people as well. There are a number of such here now, who declare it is much more comfortable than in Iowa or Illinois.

The *Courier* office is now engaged in getting out a handsome illustrated booklet on Fairhope, something which has been very much needed. It will be out soon, and will be sold at ten cents a copy.

Professor Bellangee is out on a second tour in the interest of the plan to enlarge the land area of our Association, which is the one thing for which we ask and feel that we have a right to ask aid of Single Taxers. We bespeak for Prof. Bellangee the hearty cooperation of Single Taxers, everywhere he goes. His story of the results of the application of Single Tax principles at Fairhope is as effective a Single Tax speech and as interesting, as can be made.

E. B. GASTON.

News—Foreign.

TORONTO.

With the passing of Winter goes our busy season. But though the busy season may be gone we are not idle. We believe in the maxim of the poet, "In times of peace prepare for war," and just now we are "preparing" for one of the heaviest summer campaigns yet organized. Our battle cry is still the same—the exemption of all dwellings from taxation to the extent of \$700 of their assessed value.

The City Council is about to pass a by-law establishing direct legislation in this city, and we are preparing a petition by which we will compel them to ask the legislature to grant the city power to apply this exemption.

Our method of circulating the petition is to place copies of it in the hands of all our members, and to secure admission for our speakers to all clubs, trades unions and meetings possible.

Our lecture on the French Revolution by Prof. Lybarger, while a disappointment in some respects, has nevertheless proved a success. The professor addressed as many as 1,200 people when here, most of them being an entirely new audience for our speakers. We were fortunate enough to secure an opportunity for him to address the Canadian Club, one of the largest organizations in the city, which holds a dinner once a week between one and two, when an address is delivered by some prominent man. Three hundred men, mostly of the plutocratic element, listened to Prof. Lybarger.

The Young Democrats Club, an organization headed by the young men of the movement, has just closed its second season.