

I have personally met practically all of the big men of my time, the so-called great man of my time: scholars, literary men, statesmen, high officials and royalty. But as I was shaking hands with each and every one of them, I looked them in the eye and I felt that I could say, "There's a man," and striking myself on the chest, say, "Here's another!" Out of all that crowd of people, there are only two in whose presence I felt like standing hat in hand, because behind those simple men, I felt I was in the presence of an awe-inspiring giant, and that giant was a determination to live a life devoted to the service of humanity. One of these men was very tall and one of them was comparatively small. One we knew as Abraham Lincoln, and the other was called Henry George.

Land Valuation in New Zealand

IN New Zealand there is a fairly satisfactory system of valuation by the Government, mostly done every five years, and local bodies use this as a basis for rating purposes, depending on whether they rate on the capital, annual or unimproved value. When notices of the new valuation are served on property owners they are entitled to object and go before an assessment court presided over by a magistrate. They can be represented by counsel or state their own cases and frequently valuations are reduced. In between valuations people by paying £2.2.0 can have a new valuation made and this is often done for the purpose of paying lower rates when there has been a shrinkage in land values, but it is very unfair on the rest of the ratepayers who have not thought of doing the same or have not the money. For many years there used to be a provision in the Act that if the land owner objected to the value put on his property he could insist that the Government take it over or come down to his price. But when the depression came on the last Government abolished this provision. Now the new Labor Government brought in a clause that when the owner objected it has the right to try and arrange a sale at his figure. Recently an owner protested when a sale was arranged and wanted to increase his own figure but the Supreme Court gave a decision that once he had made his figure he could not go back on it and the sale was consummated.—G. M. FOWLDS.

A Word on Organization

FROM time to time we are reminded of the desirability of organization to further the Henry George idea. Whatever the outcome such an organization cannot spring into full form at once. At the recent conference at Detroit a committee was appointed to formulate plans.

The following suggestion may be of interest. In

practically every hamlet, town, city or rural district in the country a large proportion of the population subscribes to the Telephone service. So universal is this, that the "Phone Book" has, to a large extent, superseded other directories. In most of these places let us assume that there are one or more Single Taxers whose name may appear in the Telephone Directory. If only one an extra listing under his number should appear as The Single Tax Society. This might cost fifty cents a month and if more than one Single Taxer the expense should be shared. If more funds are available an advertisement might be inserted in the local paper at regular intervals giving the name and telephone number of the Single Tax Society and soliciting inquiries.

In the larger cities where an organized Single Tax group already exists their phone number could be used. In each State one central large city should be that State headquarters and again the 'phone number of an organization already existing may be used. Inquiries regarding Single Tax could be answered locally or referred to State Headquarters and perhaps further referred to a National headquarters. Each inquiry should enclose stamp for reply.

The wide-spread advertising value of such a plan, if practical, would be incalculable. The expense would fall so lightly on each individual and would be so widely spread that it would hardly be noticed. The result should be an ever increasing list of Single Taxers and prospects.

Some funds for early publicity would be needed and later for administration expenses but the latter would be in response to a demand created.—C. H. KENDAL.

Selling the View

AN OBSERVANT TRAVELLER

MR. C. J. FLEMING, of Matamata, who has been on a visit to his father in Natal, evidently noted the things that matter.

Writing to the *Matamata Record* Mr. Fleming stated that Durban seemed to have the dearest residential sections in the world. The size varied from a quarter to a sixth of an acre, and it was impossible to get one in any good suburb under £450. A glimpse of the ocean added at least £100, and £500 to £600 was a common price for a section with a sea view.

Yes, a sea view added about £400 per acre. Talk about private "ownership" of land. "There's one born every minute" right enough!

Johnny Jones, Wentworth and Campbell claimed to have bought the whole of the South Island of New Zealand in the early days! Taking this "ownership" business to its logical conclusion, one man could "own" all of New Zealand!

Land "ownership," as distinct from security of tenure