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Single Tax Movement in Toronto

By Fred B. Lake

SINGLE TAX WORK IN TORONTO.—DEFEAT OF
CONTROLLER SPENCE—JOHN Z. WHITE'S VISIT.

The good work continues. The harvest is plenty but lol the reapers are few. Last December the Association issued 185,000 copies of the Canadian Single Taxer as campaign numbers. The campaign was against those members of the local City Council who would not obey the man- date as expressed by them at the polls in reference to the proposed \$700 exemption measure. These special numbers were faithfully distributed to every house in Toronto.

The majority of the old council- men were returned, but our campaign compelled them to discuss taxation and the right of the majority to rule; and now some of the Aldermen who opposed us are asking that the assessments of land be raised to their values. Controller Spence who was the chief opponent of the Exemption was running for Mayor on the temperance ticket, and at the nominations he declared he would use his own God given privilege to do as he liked should he be elected. Although Mr. Spence was a "strong" man, the people decided that they wanted someone who would obey their mandates and Mr. Spence was defeated. He even paid us a compliment at the last meeting of the old City Council.

Mr. J. W. Bengough and also Mr. W. A. Douglas were in the running for Alder- manic honors, Mr. Bengough being defeated but by a small margin. We confidently expect to get him in at the next election.

Mr. John Z. White visited Toronto the first two weeks in February. We had a splendid visit. In all Mr. White made 26 addresses. He spoke before a local town council, two Universities, the Provincial Normal School, two Collegiate Institutes, and a number of other representative organizations. We are adding members to our Association, as a result of White's lectures.

Local Single Taxers are greatly encouraged by the legislation of the new provincial government. The

Provincial Secretary in speaking on an amendment to the License Act, declared that the landlords absorbed a portion of the profits of the liquor business, because as a site became valuable they charged higher and higher rents. Our new Government has decided to work the Gillies limits in New Ontario, for the benefit of the whole province, and these limits are supposed to be very rich. They are also going to build a Railway from Cobalt to Sudbury.

There are reports from many districts in Ontario that an agitation for the taxation of land values is proceeding. It has lately been reported that the municipalities of Port Arthur and Cobalt in New Ontario will apply for legislation so they may raise their local revenues from land values. Toronto citizens are becoming familiar with the term "Single Tax" and are anxious to know its meaning. One of our friends in the council has come out as a Single Taxer and when referring to the Association and its objects publicly uses the plural "we."

We are beginning to be recognized in local politics and like our brother land reformers the world over, we don't take "no" for an answer.

Fred B. Lake