

about to achieve in this City may seem a trivial matter. As far as this country is concerned, however, it is the only practical work we are able to do just now. The local governing bodies of this country now require an annual revenue of £5,000,000 and it is steadily increasing. To place all this taxation on the unimproved value, in my opinion, will be a great step in the right direction. So far, out of 118 boroughs in this country 74 have adopted our system, and out of a total of 129 counties 53 now levy their rates on the unimproved value. You will see from this that it is only a question of time when all our local rates will be where they ought to be.

If we have not made the progress that I had hoped when I entered Parliament some years ago, I can only say that in my opinion the present situation can be explained by the fact that for the past quarter of a century this country has been be-devilled and distracted by matters in which it really has no concern whatever. I allude, of course, to the South African and the European wars. There never was a greater lie passed off on a gullible public than that the object of the late war was to make the world "safe for democracy." If our people have been cheated by the lie, however, there is a kind of satisfaction in remembering that they were not alone and that shrewd Americans have been gulled likewise. Not the least distressing fact about this blighting heresy of Imperialism is the savage intolerance it begets in its votaries. Had the war continued much longer we would have had chaos and not freedom.

Wellington, New Zealand.

P. J. O'REGAN.

Commonwealth Land Party News

THE New York Commonwealth Land Party will meet at noon the first Saturday of each month at the headquarters, 3 East 14th Street. All are invited.

Several of the members have filled speaking assignments. Among those active in making addresses before organizations of various kinds are Oscar Geiger, Morris Van Veen and George Lloyd. The last named has personally distributed many thousand Single Tax tracts including the platform of the Commonwealth Land Party.

On February 3, Mr. Van Veen addressed a large meeting of the Master Sign Painters at the Advertising Club, Park Avenue and 35th Street, this city. The call issued by the Sign Painters organization says of him, "He knows his subject well and you will profit considerably by hearing him."

THE Twenty-Second Anniversary number of the Sydney *Standard* under the editorship of A. G. Huie is a splendid issue, with portraits and cartoons. Our congratulations to our Sydney co-workers.

THEY fined the man who robbed the hen house—once—
But him that built it, every year—the dunce!—HORATIO.

Henry George Foundation Purchases Birthplace

THE disciples of Henry George throughout the world will rejoice with the trustees of the Henry George Foundation of America over the announcement that the Foundation has achieved its first important objective through the purchase in January of the birthplace of Henry George. The old brick house in which George was born stands on South Tenth street, near Lombard street, in the heart of Philadelphia, and its appearance has changed but slightly since the days when young Henry lived there with his parents. The property has for several years been in the possession of Dr. Thomas S. K. Morton of Philadelphia. An investment of \$20,000 will be made in the purchase, remodeling, equipment and maintenance of the birthplace. It is hoped that additional property may be acquired soon in order to give the historic house an attractive setting.

The old homestead will be made a permanent memorial to the founder of the great modern movement for economic freedom. The valuable collection of George memorabilia donated by Benjamin W. Burger will add to the interest of visitors to the shrine. The humble dwelling of this great American will be restored as nearly as possible to its original condition and some of the original furniture, now in the possession of his daughter, Anna George de Mille, will be placed therein. Formal dedication exercises are being planned to be held on the next anniversary of the birth of the philosopher, for which notable occasion many of the most prominent and active of his followers will be present to pay a fitting tribute to his memory. The present year, which witnesses the restoration of his birthplace, will also mark the thirtieth anniversary of the death of Henry George.

The officers of the foundation have been gratified to observe the widespread interest in the preservation of George's birthplace and are duly appreciative of all contributions, large or small, that have been made to the birthplace fund. This memorial to our great leader has even enlisted the interest of prominent Single Taxers in Europe and Australia, and it seems fitting to make special mention of contributions recently received from Senor Antonio Albendin, of Cadiz, Spain, and Hon. George Fowlds of Auckland, New Zealand.

The birthplace restoration fund will not be closed until all Single Taxers interested in this worthy project have been given an opportunity to have a part in the establishment of this memorial. If plans now under consideration are carried through with the enthusiastic support of the loyal friends of the cause, the birthplace of Henry George will become not only a shrine dedicated to the great cause of freedom and justice, but also a center around which a number of important activities associated with the Single Tax movement will be located.

P. R. WILLIAMS.