

## NEWS—FOREIGN

## Spain

THE suspension of publication of the Spanish *Impuesto Unico*, organ of the Spanish Single Tax League, is announced in its last issue.

This is deeply to be regretted. The Spanish Single Taxers have done admirable work in translating and interpreting the works of Henry George for the whole Spanish-speaking race. In organization, they may have been weak; but their clear vision and indomitable zeal in preaching the faith are of such salt as saves nations from decay. The undying spirit will only manifest in new forms and achieve yet greater works.

It is true that Spain is ruled for the moment by a military dictatorship. It is conceivable that such circumstances do not favor free expression of opinions unpleasant to the powers that be.

## Argentina

THE front cover of the *Revista del Impuesto Unico* (Official Organ of the Argentine Single Tax League) displays an excellent portrait of Dr. Edward McGlynn. In the body of the magazine appears a sympathetic tribute to his labor and sacrifices for the cause of economic justice, together with a translation of his doctrinal statement before the Papal Delegate, Monsignor Francisco Satolli.

Derogation of the Single Tax by-law by the City Council of Buenos Aires. Following a combination of all the reactionary factors in that city and the Argentine, this new ordinance, upon which so many hopes had been based by our Argentine Single Tax friends, was derogated by the City Council that had passed it. After a bitter debate, the derogation was passed by a vote of 17 against 11.

Of the 11 votes against the derogation, 10 were by Socialist members and 1 by a Radical. The Financial Secretary of the Municipality, Dr. Emilio Ravigmani, in a stirring address before the Council, defended the new ordinance and denounced the move to abolish it.

The new ordinance was attacked principally on the grounds of alleged unconstitutionality.

It seems unlikely that the Argentine Single Taxers will allow the case to rest where it is. It is quite evident that they will have the unanimous support of the Socialists.

## Mexico

THE proposed one per cent. tax on all land values in Mexico was killed in its cradle by a convention of state representatives held in Mexico City. As a substi-

tute there is to be a national cadastro (land valuation department) and an annual tax on future unearned increment of land values.

The one per cent. tax was opposed by the so-called Syndicate of Agriculturists heavily backed by the land monopolists of the Federal District who have so far lost nothing of their tribute-levying power by the decade of revolution. Until there is an economic revolution of Georgism there will be no relief.

The Recent Campaign  
in Ontario

THE Tax Exemption "By-law Campaign" that came to a conclusion in Toronto on January 1st, was the most important as to interest and educational value in the history of the movement in Eastern Canada.

"The Municipal Tax Exemption Act, as amended in 1921, made the following petition operative, if sufficiently signed:—

THEREFORE we, the undersigned, hereby petition the Council of the City of Toronto that, under and in accordance with the said Act as amended, there be duly submitted to the electors qualified to vote on money by-laws, at the next annual municipal election after the presentation to council of this petition a by-law exempting from taxation for all purposes including school purposes, for the first year in which the by-law takes effect 10 per cent. of the assessed value of improvements, income and business assessment, and from year to year thereafter an additional 10 per cent. of such assessed value until the whole of such assessed value is so exempted from taxation.

After some months of work by efficient canvassers, 12,400 signatures were secured for the petition, which was presented to the Toronto City Council on October 15th, sent on by that body to the Assessment Commissioner to be examined by his department.

A most searching scrutiny of the signatures was made by this official, who for years has been our outstanding opponent, with the result that he reported at least 1,000 signatures over the necessary 10% of those qualified to sign.

After making this report it was passed over to the electors for a decision.

A month of strenuous campaigning followed in which we had the opposition of three city papers, but the support of the *Star*. The result was a defeat of 37,072 votes against and 6,317 in favor of the By-law. Though this adverse majority was much larger than any of our workers expected, the amount of newspaper and other publicity that the campaign received, made the effort worth while.

The mass of evidence presented to the Special Committee appointed by the City Council, by the Single Taxers of New York, Pittsburgh, Ottawa and Winnipeg, with our Toronto members in support, was logical and weighty, but the majority report signed by the Commissioners of Fi-

nance and Assessment, the City Solicitor, with representatives of the Manufacturers and Board of Trade, was opposed to the By-law.

The large interests such as the Manufacturers Association, the Real Estate Board, the Down Town Owners Association and other bodies spent thousands of dollars in newspaper and billboard advertising against us.

The City of Toronto voted \$5,000 of public funds in a propaganda to defeat the By-law and it was an illegal use of civic funds. We did not have money to launch an injunction to prevent it.

Socialists were openly opposed to the By-law, though their leaders in other years had favored our proposal as going halfway to their objective.

It is within the mark to state that our opponents spent \$15.00 to our \$1.00 in a newspaper campaign of misrepresentation against us.

Apart from the endless work of distributing literature at the homes of those who signed the petition, our workers made a further distribution of 190,000 copies of special reports, stating our cause, during the month of December just prior to the vote.

During the past two years, our friends and members on both sides of the line have heartily responded to calls for the finances that made the campaign possible.

In the month before the vote, our President, Mr. A. W. Roebuck, practically devoted all his time to the work of the campaign, not to mention the excellent legal advice that was beyond our ability to purchase.

The Treasurer of the Association, Mr. Alan C. Thompson, was also a tower of strength during this campaign.  
S. T.

## Robert Smilie's Victory

COMBINED with our pleasure in the success of our first attempt at a National Women's Day is the Labour triumph of Robert Smilie's return for the Morpeth Division. At a very large number of meetings the first item on the programme was a message of hope and good wishes to the women of Morpeth. Robert Smilie's victory has its special significance because no man in the movement has been more wholeheartedly on the women's side. During his campaign the miners' wives rallied magnificently in the cause. At a great meeting of over 8,000 women at Ashington, Smilie received an ovation which showed how they appreciated his constant sympathy with their needs, and when he was opening his speech to them he said: "I have often told the men in the movement that I feel inclined to set to work and organize the women to do what they haven't yet done, but when I look at this magnificent meeting I must confess that I hardly know what to say to you and that I am even a little awed," and that was also the feeling of some of the men when they looked around at the meeting at Durham.—*The Labour Woman*, London, England

## Recent Deaths

ROMYN HITCHCOCK

NOTED SCIENTIST AND SINGLE TAXER

ROMYN HITCHCOCK, well known as a research botanist, chemist and professor of English, and for many years a resident of Ithaca, died on November 30 in Baltimore, Md.

Mr. Hitchcock was born in St. Louis, Mo., on December 1, 1851. He prepared for college at Hamilton, Nassau County, and entered Cornell University at its opening. He was professor of chemistry at Lehigh University, 1872-4; professor of chemistry and toxicology at the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College, 1876-1877.

The American Quarterly Microscopical Journal was established in 1878 with Mr. Hitchcock as editor. This was followed by the American Monthly Microscopical Journal, which became popular and was continued for eight years under his management. Mr. Hitchcock's literary activities have covered a wide range of subjects including "The Practical Applications of the Automatic Telegraphy," and articles on government ownership.

In 1886 Mr. Hitchcock was appointed professor of English in Koto Chu Gakko, the Japanese government school at Osaka, Japan.

In later years Mr. Hitchcock had made special studies in botany of which preliminary notes have been published in the Bulletin of the Torrey Club 1919.

He was one of the early members of the American Chemical Society, of the New York Academy of Sciences, of the the New York Microscopical Society, which organized largely through his efforts, and a Fellow of the Royal Microscopical Society of England.

Mr. Hitchcock's labors in the scientific field so occupied his time and attention that it was not until well passed middle life that he gave heed to economics and when the Henry George doctrine was brought to his notice, he approached it with many misgivings.

To a mind trained to tracing effects back to their causes it was however only a short time before he became an ardent and outspoken advocate of the Single Tax, although failing health prevented him taking an active part in the various campaigns which were under way for the spreading of the gospel.

Romyn Hitchcock was a clear thinker with an unusual power of expression and to his intimates a charming companion and devoted friend.

P. H. MAHAFFEY

P. H. MAHAFFEY, one of the most active and most widely known Single Taxers of Pennsylvania, died at the Mercy Hospital, Johnstown, on Thanksgiving Day, November 29, 1923. Death was due to diabetes and came after an illness of about six months all of which was spent in the hospital where he died. Mr. Mahaffey was a native