

expenses, is in the increase of land values in Bergen county, which came as a result of the projected Hudson River Bridge."

Spain

THE Prime Minister, General Primo de Rivera, is reported to have issued a manifesto to the Spanish people which contains the following statement:

"There should be a national reform in the direction of the Single Tax. The requirements of national reconstruction would call for a revenue of 3,300,000,000 pesetas, which could be obtained without impairing the national wealth, provided there was a true spirit of citizenship."

For some years there has been active work by disciples of Henry George in Spain. The firm of De Francisco Eeltran, in Madrid, are publishing in Spanish all the works of Henry George.

Last year "*La Ciudad Lineal*," a Madrid paper, declared that "the triumph of the Georgist idea is no other thing than the triumph of common-sense applied to economics and the moral and material amelioration of human life."

Very Rev. Canon Doriga, speaking to the Catholic Labor Clubs of the Archdiocese of Granada, in Spain, in 1915, said of the Taxation of Land Values that it "is the one means by which the community may rise from the mire of poverty, regain its God-given rights, and again walk upright and unashamed in the image of the Most High."

We may await great happenings from Spain, for thought is awakening in that country.

Progress in South Africa

THE town of East London, South Africa, voted to raise its local revenues by a tax on land values only, at the election held November, 1926. For, 1327; against 1245; favorable majority, 82. This result is gratifying since it is the outcome of an eight years contest.

In December, 1918, the voters by 565 to 456, decided to adopt a partial land value tax plan, and since then the council has raised local revenues by a combination plan which yearly increased the proportion paid by land and decreased that paid by improvements. In February an attempt was made to return to the old plan of taxing land and improvements alike, but this was defeated by 1217 to 404. A further poll was had on the proposition to put all the taxes on land values and this was carried in April. The council then adopted a resolution to carry out this plan. Subsequently the issue was raised again in the election for councils, and a new poll was had in November with the result stated above.

China

IN the New York *American* appears the following statement from Chiang Kia Shek, Commander-in-Chief

of the Canton armies whose recent victories have made him supreme over two-thirds of China.

"Dr. Sun Yet Sen's teaching is our political guide, (Dr. Sun Yet Sen was a Single Taxer, as our readers know.)

"We have neither capitalists nor great land owners. We have no problems that bother great industrial nations. We have only a land problem but no great landlords. We mean to adopt as a policy the rule that the government shall either tax or buy all lands according to values fixed by their owners. When the landlord has fixed the value and the Government has recorded it, the value of land the government does not buy increases. The increased value shall go to the government."

Denmark

DR. AXEL DAM and Mr. Hesselbjerg have been elected to the Danish Folketing as candidates of the Justice Party (Single Tax Party.) The *London Times* says the "surprising feature" of the election is the success of the new party and the election of two avowed Henry George men.

New Zealand

YOUR readers are doubtless aware that rating on unimproved values was adopted in the City of Wellington 25 years ago, but in those days legislation authorized the levying of the general rate only on the unimproved value. Special rates and separate rates had to be levied as heretofore on the total value of property, including of course, improvements. The result is that today out of an annual rate revenue of £355,942, £248,561 is levied on the unimproved value and £107,381 on the gross value. In 1901 the law was altered, and since that date, if and wherever rating on unimproved values is adopted, *all* rates are levied on the unimproved value, but it is necessary in districts where the system had been already adopted to take a second poll. In order to have a second poll, however, 15 per cent. of the rate-payers have to sign a requisition to the Mayor. For some time past a movement has been on foot in this city to obtain a poll, and at the present moment I have in my office nearly sufficient signatures to procure the same. It is our intention to have the poll on April 27th next, on which date the City Council will be elected. Curiously enough, the Wellington City Council recently passed a resolution condemning the system of rating on unimproved values, and committing itself to a proposal to promote a poll to revert to the old system. So far, they have got very few signatures, however, and I am quite confident that we shall win handsomely. You will see a full account later on in *The Liberator*.

From the point of view of those who want the full realization of our principles at once, the victory we are

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.