

game and knows that for the present it must be played according to certain rules. "It's all right to trust the people," said this Senator, "but it's all wrong to trust your enemies and imagine they won't persuade some of the people to distrust you." And that's political common sense.

The fact that Senator Bourne has remained in Washington, attending to public business, was used against him. He was pictured as a non-resident who pays no taxes in Oregon, remaining away from the State and spending his time playing golf in Washington. Loud shouts were made over the State that he pays no taxes in Oregon except \$2.44 on some office furniture in Portland; no mention was made of other taxes paid by him outside of Portland. Equally loud shouts were made that Selling is a "large taxpayer," and he wisely refrained from explaining that as a merchant and building owner he passes those taxes on to his customers and tenants.

Doubtless it will be said, especially in the East, that Oregon voters have "repudiated the Progressive hysteria." There is no reason for that claim. Oregon voters repudiated Taft in the primaries, and Selling's campaign was based on the statement that he is one of the original Progressives; that a large part of the credit for establishing the "Oregon system" belongs to him. There was never a hint that he has been or is opposed to any plank, prop or nail in the Progressive platform. Whether or not he will shed his Progressive feathers when he gets into the Senate is a conundrum for the future to answer.

There is one thin thread of silver on the edge of the cloud. No other Progressive is going to try the Bourne plan of campaignless campaign at a very early date; not until the public service corporations are out of politics, which they won't be until they are out of private hands and in the hands of the people. Private ownership of public utilities means selfish control of the press to defend and uphold taxation for private profit.

W. G. EGGLESTON.

AUSTRALIA.*

Corowa, N. S. W., Australia, March 21, 1912.

The fifth Commonwealth Political Labor Conference was held at Hobart, Tasmania, in January, when the following platform was adopted:

(1) Maintenance of a white Australia. (2) Maintenance of the land tax. (3) Effective federation for the inclusion of the referendum proposals in the constitution. (4) New protection. (5) Nationalization of monopolies. (6) Arbitration act amendment. (7) Navigation. (8) Commonwealth freight and passenger steamers. (9) Restriction of public borrowing. (10) General insurance. (11) Establishment of sugar refineries.

A proposal was made that no exemptions be allowed in the existing Federal land-value tax, but it was defeated.

Clause 3 refers to the referendum taken in April, 1911, on the question of extending the powers of the Commonwealth.

*See Publics of February 16, page 150; and March 29, page 301.

By "new protection" is meant legislation to provide for higher wages in protected industries, so that the manufacturers shall be compelled to give their employees a share of the benefit derived from the tariff.

General State elections were held in South Australia in February, the Verran (Labor) ministry having resigned owing to a disagreement with the Legislative Council (upper house), over the budget.

The ministry proposed to reduce railway freights for the carriage of wheat and firewood; to raise the exemption under the Income Tax Act from £200 to £300; to abolish the stamp duty on receipts; and to make up the deficiency in the revenue by increasing the land-values tax by a half-penny in the pound. It also proposed to establish state brick works, and timber and firewood yards. As far as can be judged from the reports, the Council would have passed the Appropriation Bill but for the last items, which it held were improperly included in the bill.

The Ministry then appealed to the country, but was defeated. The new House is composed of 24 Liberals and 16 Laborites.

The electoral machinery in South Australia is very bad; the voting was nearly even, yet the Liberals secured a majority of eight members.

The Verran government appears to have lost the opportunity to pass some useful reforms, owing to disputes over some socialistic experiments of doubtful value.

ERNEST BRAY.

PROGRESSIVE EFFORTS IN MARYLAND

Baltimore, Md.

Advocates of direct legislation and tax reform have had a busy time here this year. The legislature favorably reported an Initiative and Referendum bill out of committee and a canvass showed a majority of supporters in the House; but the sentiment was not strong enough to withstand opposition of floor leaders, and the measure lost by 6 votes on its second reading. A Constitutional amendment permitting classification of property for taxation was put through the House but was unfortunately held up in committee in the Senate. Joseph Fels recently stimulated Singletax interest here by addressing the City Council, the Real Estate Exchange and several other public bodies; and Charles Frederick Adams of the Henry George Lecture Association has spent several days here in effective work. Mr. Adams addressed the political economy class at the Johns Hopkins University, where Dr. J. H. Hollander came out most surprisingly for the Singletax. Mr. Adams also spoke before the Advertising Club and the Real Estate Exchange on "Commission Form of Government;" and before the Builders' Exchange, the Baltimore Chapter of the American Banking Institute, and the Federation of Labor, on "Rational Tax Reform." Everywhere he met with responsive audiences, and excited an eager demand for literature.

CHAS. J. OGLE.