

12th and 13th of July, 1904, at which meeting Mrs. Coope represented the club, and also the National Treasurer, Mrs. Jennie L. Munroe, who was prevented from attending the annual meeting, being called to Colorado on business.

On July 12th, 13th and 14th Single Taxers and others in Washington had the pleasure of meeting and hearing Mr. John Z. White, first at an informal banquet held on the evening of July 12th; on the 13th at a joint picnic held under the auspices of the Equal Suffragists and Single Taxers; and on Sunday afternoon, July 14th, at the People's Church, Dr. Alex. Kent, pastor of the church, presiding.

From the platform of this church anyone having a message in behalf of humanity can be heard at any time.

Thursday, Oct. 27th, 1904, the Washington Single Tax Club will consider the mass meeting to be held in January, 1905, at which time Mr. White is to speak.

The matter of holding a conference of Single Taxers in February or March, 1905, at Fairhope, Ala., has not been discussed generally by Single Taxers of Washington, and it is unlikely that any considerable number would be able to attend. Some would, however, and nearly all Single Taxers of Washington are friendly to Fairhope.

JENNIE L. MUNROE.

News—Foreign.

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND.

The National Single Tax League of New Zealand held a social on the evening of Friday, June 24th. The President of the League, Mr. Fowlds, occupied the chair and about 100 members were present. Some excellent speeches were given and the members generally were thrilled with enthusiasm for the truth. Several clergymen took part in the proceedings. The League's programme on the land question has been very ably presented to the people at a large number of meetings during the last quarter, chiefly by the efforts of Mr. G. Fowlds and Mr. G. Lawrenson, both of whom are members of parliament. During the month of June a series of meetings were held, extending widely over the Auckland Province. The first was held at Devonport, the marine suburb of Auckland, on May 29th. The hall was well filled and the speakers were attentively listened to. The arguments of the two speakers struck deep into the minds of the hearers, and those who attended that meeting will remember it for many years. It must be gratifying to Messrs. Fowlds and Lawrenson to see how effective their work has been, for this meeting undoubtedly influenced the voting at the Rating Unimproved Values poll which was held eight days later in the same borough. Devonport has enjoyed the operation of

Rating Unimproved Values for three years, and it has prospered exceedingly during that period. But the land speculators are mortified at the operation of this system and they made a very determined effort to upset it, but they were disappointed and are doomed to further "outrageous taxation," as they call it. The system of Rating Unimproved Values was maintained by a majority of nearly 3 to 1. This result is very encouraging to land reformers, for it shows not only that Rating Unimproved Values has the beneficent effect that we claim, but it also shows that the people are prepared to appreciate that effect when they see it and that they will firmly uphold the system once it is adopted.

GEORGE STEVENSON.

TORONTO.

There is great news to report from Toronto. We have Single Tax in sight! At least such is the opinion of our more optimistic propagandists. The most conservative of the association's members, however, agree that the tide is flowing our way as it never did before.

To give a clear idea of the advantages of our position it must be recalled that two years ago Mr. Robert Tyson started a movement to secure direct legislation in Toronto municipal affairs by the Winetka system. Ably assisted by Mr. James Simpson, the Socialist ex-president of the District Labor Council, practically all of the aldermen were induced to pledge themselves to grant the request of 3,000 voters to submit any specified measure to the people. These pledges were renewed at the last municipal election, and the promise was made that this obligation should be incorporated in the council's rules of procedure.

The Toronto Single Taxers in common no doubt with their fellow land reformers in other places, have for years been told by politicians that their demands were too radical for practical politics.

"Would you support us were we to reduce our requirements to a request for an exemption of \$700 from the assessment of houses?" asked Mr. Alan Thompson after listening to a statement to this effect made some two years ago by our assessment commissioner.

The commissioner consented to lend his aid to the carrying of such a proposal.

Ald. Dr. Noble had recently been elected to council on a Single Tax platform and the association sought his aid. A measure seeking from the local legislature the necessary power to grant the exemption was introduced in the municipal chamber and referred to a committee. The assessment commissioner then took advantage of an opportunity offered him to throw the weight of his department against the idea by submitting a report full of spurious arguments as to the working out of the scheme. The Single Taxers appeared before

the committee and so punctured his report that it was sent back for repairs. The measure was next sent to council and pigeon-holed.

But now the curtain rises on the third scene of the drama. Our present "good times" have resulted in a very serious house famine in the City of Toronto and the \$700 exemption has become a popular measure. In a series of editorials advocating the scheme, the Toronto *Daily Star*, our possibly most widely read evening paper, points out that such an exemption would reduce the rent of a house assessed at \$1,000, providing the land was valued at not more than \$800, by \$12.65 per annum. A house assessed at \$2,000 would receive a reduction of \$8; one valued at \$3,000 would be benefited to the extent of \$3.65, while a dwelling assessed at \$3,800 would pay the same tax under one system as the other. The taxes and therefore the rents of houses still more valuable would be increased so that a dwelling valued at \$5,000 would pay \$5 extra and one assessed at \$10,000 would pay \$28 extra. The explanation of this apparent discrimination in favor of the much needed small house is that the reduction in the city's total assessment would require an increase in the general mill rate which applied to the remaining assessment would offset, in a greater or less degree, the direct result of the exemption. The fact that over 18,000 of our 37,000 dwellings in the city of Toronto are assessed at \$1,100 and under shows that the great majority of houses would be benefited. So apparent is this and so easily seen by the workmen that one of the aldermen declared himself opposed to submitting the proposition to the people on the ground that "they would all vote for it."

The Single Taxers, like good sailors, are running with the wind and tide. All thought of Sunday meetings or other propaganda is for the moment forgotten; the referendum petitions are already printed and every effort of the association is being strained to secure the necessary 8,000 signatures in time for the next election.

ARTHUR W. ROEBUCK.

NOTES OF PROGRESS ABROAD.

At the very time we go to press the Land Reform League of Germany, which includes the active Single Taxers of that country, are holding their Fourteenth Annual Convention. At Darmstadt on October 15th and 16th, those who are active in the movement for the restoration of the rights of the German people to the land of their country are discussing ways and means for advancing the cause of industrial emancipation. One hundred delegates from Germany will be present, but representatives from France, Sweden and Switzerland will also be in attendance. Professor Schaer is the leader of the move-

ment in the last named country, and he will speak on its progress among the people of that sturdy little republic. The governments of German cities, which are now engaged in introducing modifications of the Single Tax System, some account of which has appeared in the REVIEW from the pen of Miss Grace Isabel Colbron, have been invited to send delegates. The president of the League is Adolph Damaschke, whose name is well and favorably known on this side of the water. Miss Colbron is in attendance and will speak of the progress of the Single Tax movement in America. In the next number of the REVIEW will appear an article from Miss Colbron, which will include an account of the League's meeting and her impressions of the leaders present at its convention, with whom it is hoped Single Taxers in this country will in time become better acquainted.

At the recent annual meeting of the Single Taxers of Melbourne, Mr. E. Lonsdale, M. H. R., of New South Wales, gave an account of some of the battles he has fought for the Single Tax. During his campaign in the last state contest he was "charged" with being a Single Taxer. Here is his reply, and it is a model of its kind.

"What is a Single Taxer? Ask my opponent. He cannot tell you, for he does not know. What is a Single Taxer? I should imagine it some sort of wild animal which ought to be captured and put into an iron cage and taken around on exhibition. What is a Single Taxer? A Single Taxer is a man who fights under a banner on which is inscribed, "To every man his own." Now get up any of you in this hall and tell me that that is wrong. Let us see the man who will say that a man should not have his own. What a man earns or produces belongs to himself, and no man, not even the State, has the right to take any portion of it from him without giving him a fair equivalent. A Single Taxer is a man who fights under a banner upon which is inscribed, "Equal rights to all men; special privileges to none." Get up, any of you, and say that that is not correct. Let us look on the man who says there are some men who should not have equal rights with others. That there are some men who ought to have special privileges and be in the position of levying tribute upon the community. A Single Taxer is a man who fights under a banner upon which is inscribed "Taxation, according to advantages received." Now, again let us look at the man who says that that is wrong. That a man who gets the largest advantage shall pay the least taxation. That the man who gets the least advantage should pay the largest taxation. You know my opponent. He believes in getting all for nothing. If you believe in that, vote for him. If you believe that justice should be meted out to all; if you believe