

This year has been one of great growth and the club now numbers a goodly number of earnest young men, more or less Single Taxers, and all workers. These are to be the leaders of the movement in the next few years, and a bright future can be predicted.

Every association should have such an auxiliary debating club for its young men, where they can bring their friends, and thus introduce them gradually to the work of the movement, using it as a preparatory school.

WALTER H. ROEBUCK, Secretary.

MONTREAL.

The movement of the Montreal Railway Co. for an extension of their franchise was effectively blocked for the present by the defeat in the council of the proposal by a vote of 26 to 6. This does not show the true gravity of the crisis as it is well known that a number of the aldermen shifted over when it was felt that the motion was doomed. In the eighteen years the franchise has yet to run many more such attempts are sure to be made, necessitating constant watchfulness on the part of those interested in the public welfare.

A suggestion from an official source to support the public schools by a taxation of land values seems to have been defeated by the usual policy of inaction. It cannot be more than temporary, however, as the terribly over-crowded state of the schools is certain to keep public attention directed towards the increasing need for educational funds.

Perhaps the most promising event of the year was the election by an overwhelming majority of a pronounced anti-franchise mayor, and the defeat of several aldermen known to be favorable to the Railway Co. The French Canadian section of the city is bitterly hostile to the Railway Co., and is showing an increasing interest in civic problems. The mayor elect has stood for years in the council for honest administration and his election by an absolute majority in a three-cornered contest is good evidence of this interest. As a consequence the railway franchise extension is again set back, and public ownership of the gas plant, which had been slowly growing into public attention, came suddenly to the fore. The present gas franchise has yet about two years to run, but the agreement contains a year notification clause, if expropriation is contemplated. Otherwise the agreement extends itself automatically for five years. The subject came up immediately in the council and public ownership was resolved on. A deputation of aldermen headed by the mayor went to the Quebec Government to obtain the necessary legal power. Through what looks almost like intentional bad management on the part of the city representatives, the clause allowing public ownership was struck from the city's bill.

The usual hostility of the country members to the city's wishes as well as the invisible efforts of the gas company also contributed to this defeat. At present it looks as if the five years extension is almost assured. The hopeful sign is the strong public sentiment in favor of city ownership to break the present monopoly of the means of lighting.

Another proposition which has received scant attention is an alderman's proposal to levy a tax per foot frontage for snow removal, a very large item yearly in the city's expenditure. The Single Tax Association took steps to support the proposal, and it will probably come up again next year.

Since the people of Montreal are at present at the mercy of the monopolists of the means of lighting, public as well as private, the association memorialized the federal government at Ottawa to abolish the duty on refined coal oil. A fifty per cent. reduction was granted and crude oil was put on the free list. It since appeared from a statement of the gas company that they also were active towards these ends, crude oil being a factor in the manufacture of gas. The reduction in the tariff will thus save them \$50,000 per annum.

At the annual meeting of the Single Tax Association a decided change in the personnel of the executive was decided on, and the following officers elected: President, Henry Timmis; First Vice-President, John Anderson; Second Vice-President, Joseph Fortier; Secretary, J. R. Roebuck, 178 Mansfield Ave.; Treasurer, R. B. Capon; Financial Secretary, D. C. Barker. A board of management was appointed, composed of the following; Messrs. B. Marouse, Chas. Lingham, T. C. Allum, John Barker and E. J. Griffiths.

J. R. ROEBUCK, Secretary.

NEW ZEALAND.—AUCKLAND.

The session of the New Zealand Parliament which has just closed was remarkable for its heated debates on the land question. A few members who call themselves the representatives of the farmers were persistent in their efforts to induce the Government to cause all crown leaseholds to be merged into the freehold tenure. This proposal, which was not carried, met with strenuous opposition from the reform section of the House. Some interesting debates took place in which the whole land question was opened up, nor was the matter allowed to rest when the session closed. A number of members organized meetings in various parts of the colony to protest against the further sale of crown lands and urge the necessity of increasing the present tax on land values. The first of these meetings was held in the city of Christchurch, on January 28th, before an audience estimated at over 2,000. Some five or six members of Parliament spoke. Mr. T. E. Taylor, in a spirited speech, said: "That the land question was above all others an imperial