

There will then be but one lighting company, gas or electric in the city. As you may readily imagine, they are not merging for philanthropic purposes.

Added to this is the report that it is the intention to merge the street railway with the lighting and power company. The head men and principal stockholders of both companies are the same and there is a pretty well founded opinion that the street railway magnates are desirous of having their franchises extended before the end of the present one approaches sufficiently near to affect the value of their stock. There is, therefore, every likelihood of a stiff fight taking place over the question of our city franchises before many years have passed. In fact, the Single Tax Association is about to communicate with other societies in the city in order to see what united action can be taken in the matter. There should be lots of opportunity to advocate our reform before long and we shall try to take advantage of every occasion which may present itself.

Since writing you last we have had another public lecture. This one was illustrated, J. W. Bengough, of Toronto, the well-known cartoonist and single taxer, being the "whole show." Some 400 or 500 people turned out to hear him, probably the largest crowd we have ever had at a single lecture. Mr. Bengough really does most effective work, and there can be no doubt whatever that so far as clearness of exposition is concerned, the illustrated method is the best.

The latest proposition in Canada for diverting public money and lands into private pockets, on an extensive scale, is that of subsidizing a trans-continental railroad line. We, as you know, already have one, but the recent rapid growth of our Northwest necessitates another.

There is very little doubt that subsidies and probably lands will be granted, although there are powerful interests allied against it possibly from the standpoint of rivalry. We, for our part, have just passed a resolution which will be forwarded to the government as soon as possible, drawing attention to the fact that we already have a successful government railway in Canada, that the Province of Ontario is about to build another, that other countries have long operated government railways successfully, and praying them to construct and operate a government trans-continental line in place of granting a subsidy to private individuals.

Yours truly,

T. C. ALLUM.

Sec'y. S. T. Ass'n. of Montreal.

TORONTO.

We are pleased to report that the Single Tax has made better progress in Toronto this last year than ever before, and

our prospects are bright for a lively future. Four years ago our Association was of practically no consequence, but to-day we have an office in one of the finest buildings in the city, and maintain a permanent secretary.

During the past winter we had a series of thirteen successive lectures in the Toronto Opera House, on Sunday afternoons. These cost us on an average of nearly one hundred dollars apiece, the funds for which had to be raised almost entirely by voluntary subscription. We had a collection at the door and took in about thirty dollars a Sunday, so that our net expenditure was from fifty to seventy dollars. Last winter we held a similar series in the pavilion, one of the largest halls in the city, but owing to its having been burned down during the summer we had to resort to one of the theatres. We advertised well and had strictly high-class music, and nothing but the best of speakers, many of whom had to be brought from a distance. Mr. Ernest H. Crosby of New York, opened the series and was followed by Louis F. Post of Chicago. The next speaker was Lee Francis Lybarger of Mifflinburg, Pa.; then Jas. R. Brown of New York; W. A. Douglas of Toronto; W. W. Buchanan and Jas. Simpson, of Toronto; J. W. Bengough, Toronto's famous cartoonist in one of his chalk talks; Father Cox of Chicago; a quartette of Toronto young Single Taxers—Harry S. Ellis, Allan C. Thompson, Chas. Kerr, and Arthur W. Roebuck; Rev. Mr. Higgins and W. A. Douglas of Toronto; and next Harry W. Hetzel of Philadelphia. The series were completed by four of our leading labor men—Jas. Simpson, Harry Pickles, L. Glockling and Arthur W. Holmes.

Had our funds permitted we would have continued the lectures, but unfortunately we have to be limited by the possible.

Since then we have opened our office and are attempting to organize our Association into better shape so as to be more of a power in the city.

The Direct Legislation people are making quite a fight here and are strongly backed up by the Single Taxers, most of whom are members of both movements, and all are advocates of both. We do not connect the two officially as we might prejudice a number of labor men against the Direct Legislation movement if we did so.

Last fall we organized a "Federation For Majority Rule," which had delegates from thirty different societies in the city. Their object was to promote the Initiative and Referendum by means of the Winnetka System. As a result our present Mayor and fourteen out of our twenty-four Aldermen are pledged to Direct Legislation, and have already taken the first step towards redeeming their pledges.

We are keeping up a steady fire at every loop hole we see and never lose an opportunity to get noticed by the press.

So far our funds have been raised by subscriptions, but now we are trying to enlarge our resources by increasing our membership and collecting an annual fee of one dollar from each member. In this way we don't tax anyone too much and yet derive quite a revenue. Of course, we have to watch our expenditures very closely, that we may be able to accomplish as much as possible with what we have. The money is hard to get and we have to take care of it.

Literature, of course, is one of our principal means of spreading the gospel, and we took care to throw lots of it around at the Sunday meetings, so that everyone who came, went away with a tract in his pocket.

Our young people are doing good work. They have a speaking and debating society which they call the "Young Democrats' Club." Every alternate Monday evening they meet in the house of one of the members, and have a programme of speeches, essays and general literary subjects, with occasionally a song or a comic recitation to liven the meeting up a little. They don't confine themselves to Single Tax, but discuss all live topics and encourage and build up democratic thought as much as possible. In this way the young people are educating themselves and bringing their friends into the movement. We found the work of the young members of the Association most effective and at present have more young men actively engaged than ever before. This is a point that I think has been overlooked by most of the associations. Give the young men and women a chance to do something. Let them get on the platform occasionally. They like "glory" as well as the old folks do. Special effort should be made to cultivate young speakers in every association. Public speakers are what the cause requires, and the only way to get them is to take the young men, and make as many opportunities as possible for them to talk. We must not forget to train the girls, too, for there are numerous women's club of various sorts, where a good woman speaker, which is somewhat of a rarity through lack of opportunity, could do any amount of good work. It is seldom that you can train an old man to be a good speaker, but a young man you generally can. Therefore, I say, get the young men interested as much as possible; put them in positions of responsibility and you will find that they do the work all right, and in a few years you will have a nest of young radicals to send forth into the world. The seeds which you have sown will remain, and in later life you will find these radicals cropping up in all parts of the

country. Education is our plan and we must educate the youth. A young man of eighteen or so is just beginning to form definite opinions of his own and then is the time to get him.

The young people, boys and girls, have been a special feature in our work this year, and we have found it most beneficial, for though it may be the old men that give stability to the Association it is generally the young men who do the hustling.

At present we are laying plans for our summer campaign and hope to do some good work.

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### GERMANY.

Activity and progress in the spread of our ideas can be noted all along the line. The Land Reform League, as the German Single Taxers call themselves, grows in membership and influence rapidly. It is only since the 1st of January, 1900, that the laws have permitted organizations which can concern themselves with "Public affairs" to come together and coalesce, and yet since that time 141 organizations, with together in round numbers 105,000 members have come into the League as corporate members. There is the widest diversity in the sort of organizations which have here united themselves for a single object, among them are associations of state officials; of teachers of all grades; of postal and railroad employers; clubs of house-owners; trade unions and workmen's organizations; citizen's unions; organizations of heads of municipalities; and many more. During the last year over 600 new members have joined the League of itself, as individual members.

The introduction of taxation of municipal land at the actual selling value, a reform instituted by Johann von Miquel, when Minister of Finance for Prussia, and a most important step onward in our ideas, is now an established fact in 81 Prussian cities, and bills are up in the legislatures in Saxony, Wurtemberg, Hessen and Bavaria to have the same reform introduced into the municipalities in those countries. The tax is very low, in most cases not more than 4 marks in a thousand, but it has already brought to the municipalities using it, a most valuable increase in ready funds, and a reduction in the tax rate for the individual tax payer. A notable example of this is given by the town of Spandau, near Berlin, which was formerly hardly more than a citadel with garrison, but which, owing to the presence of large factories, is now a rapidly growing community. The walls of fortifications were taken down and there was an attempt made to