

ACTIVITY IN TORONTO, CANADA.

The local Association of Single Taxers are preparing to do some aggressive work the coming fall, and are straining every sinew for the fray. The plan is to roll up a monster petition asking that the \$700 exemption be again submitted to the electorate. There is a great advantage to the cause in canvassing for petitions as each one who signs will ask questions and have the measure explained to him. It is most likely when the petition is submitted to the City Council that they will vote to refer it again to the people, and we are sure that the result will be similar to the last referendum of our measure which resulted in 8,000 majority in its favor.

The paid secretary has resigned his position in order to cut down office expenses for the summer and in this way aid the campaign in the fall.

The Toronto brethren are also thinking of moving in the direction of Majority Rule, but for the present have their hands full; but it is almost certain that a direct legislation measure will find its way before the public ere long.

Single Tax is progressing very favorably and even the most conservative minded men are discussing social reform; the fact is they have to be up to the times, and the local Single Taxers realize the value of seizing the present moment for carrying on an effective propaganda.

FRED. B. LAKE.

VISIT OF HON. GEO. FOWLDS.

Mr. George Fowlds, member of the New Zealand Parliament from Auckland and a resident of that country for twenty-one years, arrived in New York on Monday, June 25th, while on his way home from the celebration of his father's centenary in Scotland.

Mr. Fowlds was entertained at the Manhattan Single Tax Club in the evening. Owing to the short time, no notice could be sent out, but a number of Single Taxers were advised by telephone and by personal calls.

Mr. Fowlds talked for several hours on the general conditions of New Zealand and told of the results of the various reforms adopted there. "Invariably," said he, "the troubles we have had, have been due to the socialistic and paternalistic experiments." He told of the government's attempt to destroy the coal monopoly by operating a mine, but after eighteen months' operation they have not been able to reduce the price of coal and are producing at a loss, the rate payers making up the deficiency. The engineers in charge of the mines were chosen because of their pull and not for their ability, and they chose land that private enterprises would have passed over.

In the building of railroads, the engineers have been forced to pay the laborers a uniform wage no matter what the results of their work. This has demoralized the workers.

"The railroads cost the government four times what they would cost private corporations," said Mr. Fowlds.

Wherever the land value tax has been applied it has proved beneficial, and none of the communities that have adopted it have ever gone back to the old system.

In the suburb of Auckland, where the land value tax has been in effect several years, the population has increased 125 per cent., while adjoining towns where it has not been applied have increased only in proportion to the normal growth of the whole country.

Although the Conciliation Court had settled the wages of mechanics in Palmerston North, when the land value tax was adopted, it so stimulated building that the employers began paying more in order to get mechanics to do the work.

"We have no unemployed," said Mr. Fowlds, "and every man that wants work can find it. Of course New Zealand is a new country, and not yet developed, so wages are not as high as might be expected where opportunities are so plentiful."

In speaking of the education of his people in economics, he said that there was no general conception of fundamental principles. They had some of the absurdities of other countries. They held strongly to the protective tariff, although they threatened to put flour on the free list when a trust was organized. He said they knew good things when they see them and the land value tax is one of them.

Mr. Fowlds left for Boston the next day, and will then go on to Chicago and Milwaukee, stopping at Denver to visit Mr. Bucklin, and in California to see his old friend, Michael Flurscheim.

WILLIAM RYAN,
Secretary Manhattan S. T. Club.

WHY LITTLE CHILDREN ARE AT WORK.

Mr. Will L. Ross, of Philadelphia, having received from Tudor Jenks, secretary of the Anti-Child Slavery League, an invitation to join that society, has written to Mr. Jenks the following letter, giving his reasons for declining to take part in the work of the society, and indicating the futility of its methods:

"I have your very kind invitation to join the Anti-Child Slavery League.

Your purpose in this matter is noble and praiseworthy. But I cannot agree with your method of doing away with this disgrace to civilization. For many years I

have earnestly studied social and economic questions, and have long ago concluded that the slavery of children exists because of the industrial slavery of their parents.

The march of invention has long since made unnecessary a condition so unnatural. That ten millions of people in the United States should be condemned to poverty and millions more to the fear of poverty is a social crime. It exists because we support laws which deny the equal right of all to the use of the earth. We make private property of the great storehouse of nature—the coal fields, mineral deposits, timber lands, the rich plains and fertile valleys, which, manifestly, are for all the children of men. We give to individuals and corporations immense values which belong to the people collectively and then rob industry for the support of government. We grant privileges to respectable grafters who dictate the teachings of our public instructors, so that when Political Economy dares to make clear the simplest of truths which run counter to vested wrongs, it is gagged by those who imagine they profit by this injustice.

If a man who earns his living by catching fish has five out of every six taken from him by force, fraud or cunning, he will be forced to put his children to work when they ought to be at school and is likely to become debased and embruted. Is not this true of labor to day? Even our conservative experts tell us that labor only gets one-sixth of the wealth it produces.

So long as labor and productive capital are robbed by privilege, special laws may keep children out of factories, but the children will then be driven to beg, to steal, or to starve."

DEATH OF PREMIER SEDDON.

The death of Premier Seddon, of New Zealand, is a distinct loss to the progressive movement of that great forward colony. The advances that New Zealand has made are due in no small measure to the liberal open mind of the late premier. Under his leadership nearly 60 municipalities have adopted the land value tax for local revenues, and this approach to the Single Tax has so approved itself in practice that no backward step now seems possible.

He was hospitable to new reforms, and New Zealand has embarked upon other experiments in government which the Premier and the enlightened officials of his administration did not regard themselves as justified in opposing. Some of these may perhaps be abandoned; others will stand the test of time. But this is the value of Democracy, that it must learn by experience, and it is to the honor of Premier Seddon that as the people gave evidence of a desire to test new theories of taxation and administration no stupid conservation of an obstructive government was allowed to interpose.

BOOK REVIEWS.

LEO TOLSTOY.

This is the first volume, to be followed by two others, which recount the life and work of the great Russian, "Compiled by Paul Birukoff and Revised by Leo Tolstoy." This volume deals with his childhood and early manhood. Wherever possible the biographer has allowed Tolstoy to tell his own story—it is thus largely autobiographical, and will remain for long the authoritative repository of the main incidents in the life as well as the intellectual growth of the Russian novelist and prophet—perhaps the greatest moralist of his time, certainly one of the greatest moralists of all time.

There are many books from the perusal of which one may rise wiser; this is one of the few which makes us morally and spiritually better. We are admitted to the intimacy of one whose superiority even in his early manhood to those around him—to the aims and ideas of the civilization in which he moved—is immediately manifest. We become aware of how much that even the world agrees to call greatness is really in essence moral—spiritual, if you will. A symmetrical body of doctrine is not essential to this greatness; doubtless flaws may be found in Tolstoy's philosophy, as in that of Buddha, or Mohammed, or Swedenborg. But we feel that we are in the presence of one whose sense of nearness to the infinite and whose boundless and embracing love for humanity permit him to look pityingly upon all its crimes and sordid follies, and set him apart from his fellows.

It is of value to our movement that this man has recognized the truth we stand for. Maybe he does not apprehend it in its fullness and breadth. This seems to be indicated in the importance he attaches to questions whose solution is really involved in the adoption of our principles. He is too much given, it may be, to attacking forms of privilege when he might apply the axe to the props which give to the whole system of privilege its stability. But the value of his endorsement, his admiration of Henry George, and his brave words against landlordism, have immense weight, nevertheless.

This volume does not bring Tolstoy's life down to the date of its final awakening. We find him still involved in habits of thought and conduct which left him much to regret. He still gambled, and showed on more than one occasion the petulance and violence of his disposition. His quarrel with Tourgenef, which came almost to the verge of a duel, which, in the then temper of Tolstoy, might have resulted fatally to

Leo Tolstoy. His Life and Work. Vol. 1. Childhood and Early Manhood. 8vo. 370 pp. Price \$1.50 net. Charles Scribner Sons, New York.