

educated on all economic questions and need good advice and instruction.

The editor of the *Kansas City Star* is a good target. He stated editorially that landlords give as much value to society as they receive from it, and that economic evolution disproved the theories of Henry George, but soon after began a series of articles upon the injustice of taxing water consumers 84 cents per thousand gallons, the cost of pumping being ten cents, the proceeds going to extend and improve the municipal water works and to pay off the bonds for their purchase, while real estate pays no tax whatever on account of water supply that adds so largely to its value, the city getting its water free of cost for public purposes—that is, paid for by private water consumers, mostly tenants. I am inclined to think that this able hired man of a millionaire newspaper owner is either a Single Taxer, or needs to learn where "he is at."

The Republican State Committee of Kansas is said to have sent a circular to all local workers that they should if possible prevent any local debates of political questions or organizations for such debating. At any rate, this is being done and no one dare cheap against monopolies in a school house or hall.

W. H. T. WAKEFIELD.

Mound City.

MISSOURI.

ST. LOUIS WELCOMES JOHN Z. WHITE—LOCAL ACTIVITY IN ST. LOUIS.

John Z. White spent three weeks in St. Louis in November and talked to many people every night, speaking at some point in or about the city. Altogether his visit with us was very profitable in a propagandist way, much more so than the year before, when his reputation as an entertainer and logician had not been established hereabouts. White grows in strength, and those who heard him on his first St. Louis trip were more than anxious to attend his meetings this year, and to persuade others who had not heard him, to come too. Wherever he goes, White makes friends and converts, for his treatment is so logical and easily understood, and all the elements of frenzy being absent, his arguments are particularly persuasive and captivating, leaving no rancor in any one's mind, no matter how antagonistic he may be to the philosophy expounded. I consider this a great forte, and one that brings strength to the cause wherever and whenever the speaker appears as our representative and exponent.

Prof. White's season in St. Louis was closed out in a blaze of glory at the Planter's Hotel, the leading hostelry of the city. What was at first intended for a dinner at which perhaps twenty-five might be expected to attend, the affair having been arranged after an eleventh hour resolution, developed into a splendid feast of reason at

which something like a hundred and twenty-five sat down, many of the "old guard" being present, feeling as enthusiastic as in times past, with a large number of new faces to an "old stager" like myself.

I notice in this morning's paper (30th) that Harry Sycamore, one of the "old guard," and still active propagandist, was elected President of the Aschenbroedel Club (musicians' union), an organization in which there are several hundred musicians, and which has its own club house at 3535 Pine (a fine building and until recently an elegant residence of heroic proportions). The St. Louis Single Tax League has occupied rooms with the organization for several years and meets at the club headquarters on each Wednesday evening of the week. Gus A. Menger, Owen Miller and P. G. Anton, all Single Taxers, were chosen as the Board of Trustees. It looks like a Single Tax victory in the club, which carries on its roster many of the faithful—men of intelligence and influence in the industrial world.

Prof. Sycamore is a thorough disciple of George, and his election to the chief executiveship of a club such as that consisting of all the leading professional and semi-professional musicians of the city, certainly speaks flatteringly of his personal worth to our cause.

The Ladies' Single Tax Club is meeting at the homes of the members on the first Thursday of each month. The last meeting was held at my house, 1390 Aubert Avenue, and it proved to be not only enjoyable, but profitable, as well, some strangers to the faith being in attendance. Mrs. Hall (104 South Channing Ave.) is the president, and the right woman in the right place. She is developing much ability as a speaker, and is imbued with the true spirit.

L. P. CUSTER.

News—Foreign.

ENGLAND.

That the agitation for the taxation of Land Values in Great Britain is gradually permeating political thought of all shades can easily be seen, and we Single Taxers may, I think, reasonably assume that it has fairly entered the region of practical politics.

It must not, however, be inferred that there is any great weight of public opinion in favor of the measure, but ground is being gained all along the line, and there is an ever increasing body of men inclining towards it. Undoubtedly the fact of many important municipalities so emphatically declaring in its favor has caused many former opponents to modify their attitude. Even in the House of Commons itself, where not so long since the movement was looked upon with indifference, there is quite an altered feeling in evidence. Not that it is much more favored than formerly out-

side the Radical ranks, but members of Parliament have begun to see in it something which will have to be reckoned with.

In some quarters strenuous opposition is encountered, but generally speaking this method of taxation is becoming the subject of grave discussion almost everywhere.

Quite recently we had conferences at which the taxation of land values has been brought well to the front, and a week or two ago at Manchester one was held for the sole purpose of discussing the advisability of the immediate application to the Government for powers to impose the tax. The ever increasing burden of rates in the larger centres of population has brought about a reaction in our favor of which we must take the utmost advantage. This conference at Manchester was promoted by the Glasgow Corporation, which, as your readers are no doubt aware, is the pioneer of the municipalities in the direction we wish them to go.

The influential co-operative societies also look favorably upon our proposals, and almost invariably at their general meetings a resolution supporting them is put and carried. In various other ways the same tendency is noticeable, thus leading us to believe the day to be not far distant when Parliament will be compelled to admit the thin end of the wedge into the present absurd fiscal arrangements. When that day comes, then ours will be the duty to drive the wedge home, and thus split asunder those bonds which have crippled the British people for so many generations.

In Yorkshire where the inside working of the movement is naturally well known to me, I can speak with some authority. We are going ahead, our membership continues to increase at an entirely satisfactory rate, and particularly is this so when we consider the class of man we are enrolling. Solid business men, professional men and others, all of the type which thinks itself into a conviction, are joining us, and it can therefore be only a question of a short time before the county is fully awakened to the merits of the question. The mass of the people, having neither the time nor the inclination to think out problems of this kind, are quite willing to follow a definite lead, and as in no political body can such unanimity of opinion of social evils and their remedy be found as amongst Single Taxers, we are bound sooner or later to gain the confidence and support of the toiling millions.

As the agent of the league in Yorkshire I feel that an immense tribute of praise is due to the gentlemen who formed the organization. Their untiring advocacy of the cause is worthy of the highest success, and I am fully persuaded they will surely receive the reward they so richly deserve. We are a particularly happy family, and to that fact our progress is largely attributable. Unity is indeed strength.

In other parts of the country the league is moving onward, and with the advent of the Liberal Government we are all looking forward to ours becoming a burning question in the new Parliament. It is a plank in most Liberal platforms, and is also meeting with support from some of the more progressive members of the Conservative party.

The last bill but one for taxing land values, brought before the House of Commons, had for its seconder the Tory Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Mr. Rutherford, which is not without significance.

In this country we have suffered from a long spell of reactionary legislation, and the hands of the clock of progress have been pushed back to a deplorable extent; we are hoping, however, that the change of Government heralds the dawn of a brighter day, and that before the next change takes place a decisive step forward will have been taken, effectually preventing retrogression and leading to the emancipation of labor and commerce from the mill-stone of land monopoly which has hung so long upon their necks.

From various parts of the country encouraging reports are coming to hand, and I can assure your readers that Glasgow in the North and London in the South are great centres of activity.

We Yorkshiremen occupy, geographically, an intermediate position, and are continually receiving the valuable assistance of gifted speakers from each of the two places. During the past fortnight we have been fortunate in having the services of Mr. Lester, ex-President of the Scottish League. He has addressed nearly a dozen important meetings in our district during his visit, and we hope the seed he has sown will result in a fruitful harvest.

Mr. J. H. Whitley, M. P. for Halifax, and President of the English League, and Mr. C. P. Trevelyan, M. P. for the Elland Division, are devoting themselves largely to the movement, and being excellent speakers and thorough masters of the subject, they are making their presence felt in a very marked fashion. Altogether the outlook is good, and we feel that we have now secured a foothold in the political thought of the nation.

FRED. SKIRROW.

Yorkshire, Eng.

IRELAND.

The Irish Land Question could not be in a much worse position than it is. Peasant proprietors are taking the place of the old landlords. I am deeply impressed with the conviction that in a few years—say a quarter of a century—the new owners of the soil will reduce Ireland to the lowest level she can fall to. There is not a more conservative man than the Irish farmer, and when he comes, later on, to re-let his land, the new tenant will not only be salted but