

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

question. The present land policy of the Government, that of buying large estates for close settlement and at the same time selling the freehold of the remaining crown lands to speculators was the maddest land policy ever proposed." Several resolutions demanding land reform were carried unanimously.

Shortly after this a meeting was held in Dunedin at which Mr. Fowlds was the principal speaker. He pointed out that if the land monopolists insisted that crown leases should be turned into freeholds in favor of the tenant, they could not object if private tenants demanded the same right from their landlords.

The preferential trade proposals of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain have unfortunately met with a favorable response from our Premier, Mr. Seddon, but Mr. Seddon knew very well that he could not get his infamous preferential trade bill through Parliament if he allowed its proposals to be known to the people. He accordingly introduced his bill suddenly and pushed it through all its stages in a few hours. The poor apathetic taxpayer was thus saddled with a large amount of indirect taxation before he had time to even offer a protest.

Mr. Seddon is a politician of the jellyfish species, exceedingly deficient in backbone. He resembles President Roosevelt in giving glowing promises, but he generally fails to carry them into effect. However, it is generally felt that Mr. Seddon's days are numbered. He has been Premier of New Zealand 10 years and his democratic instincts have not improved lately. He has had several splendid opportunities of striking an effective blow at monopoly, but he has generally failed to avail himself of it, and reformers are now almost unanimous in condemning him as a leader who would lead us backward instead of forward.

The future of the Single Tax movement will, no doubt, be largely influenced by the success of the small independent colonies which more nearly approach the realization of the theories of Henry George. It, therefore, behoves us in this small colony, removed many thousands of miles from the hoary corruptions of Europe and America, to do our utmost to conquer the great enemy monopoly while he is yet young with us. Success will surely follow the efforts of those who fight on the side of truth.

In vain and long, enduring wrong  
The weak have striven against the strong,  
But the day shall come when right  
With might at her back the victor shall be;  
And let what may stand in the way  
That day mankind *shall* see.

—GEORGE STEVENSON, Auckland.

#### ENGLAND.

The annual meeting of the English Land Nationalization Society was held in May of this year. Dr. Alfred Russell Wallace, who

is the president of the society, was absent, but there were a goodly number of the representatives of the movement for land nationalization, among whom was Richard Whiteing, author of "The Yellow Van," reviewed in these columns, and one of the best selling books in London. The English land nationalizers are not all or even generally Single Taxers, but they are coming to perceive that the solution of the problem is to be found through the taxing power. Among those present at this meeting in May was Mr. Jan. Stoffel, Single Taxer, of Deventer, Holland, who is known to many of us here by reason of his labors to popularize the great economic truth in his own country.

With the increase of the sentiment favoring the taxation of land values in Great Britain goes a growing perception of the impolicy of the income tax. The *Speaker*, one of the ablest journals of the United Kingdom, has this to say:

"No Liberal is satisfied with the present scheme of taxation, even when the necessary economies and reductions have taken place. Government cannot be carried on without money, and we want to see that money provided from natural, proper, and legitimate sources. A high income tax is disastrous to trade and bears with undue severity upon the middle classes. The millionaire hardly feels it. The man who earns a moderate income contributes far more than his proper share to the expenses of administration, especially when we remember the heavy rates which he frequently has to pay as occupier to the local authority. The income tax should be graduated and it should be reduced. But this is not all. In order to relieve the taxpayer and ratepayer we must see what new sources of revenue can be tapped. We naturally look round for monopoly values, and we find them in the drink traffic and in the land."

Again it says:

"There are pitfalls in the way of the reformer, and a Liberal Government will have to proceed with wariness as well as with resolution. But the principle of rating the landowner has already been applied in an Act of 1889, by which the owners of lands used for advertisements were made liable to rates. An obvious extension of the principle to which absolutely no valid objection can be offered is to rate owners of unoccupied building land on its selling value. This will not only relieve the ratepayers of many urban districts and boroughs; it will also tend to reduce rents and to solve the housing problem.

And it proposes to make the issue direct by instituting a comparison between the income tax—which excepting the tax on land values has of all taxes most to recommend it—and what we in this country have learned to call the Single Tax. It says:

"On going to war one of the first steps