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Single Tax Movement in New Zealand

By George Stevenson

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND.

The chief topic of interest in New Zealand recently has of course been the General Elections, which took place on December 0th. The results on the whole were a decisive victory for the Liberal party. It is gratifying to notice that since the election Mr. Seddon, the Premier, has announced that one of the first bills to be introduced into the new Parliament would have for its object the remission of Custom Duties.

It has been the opinion of Mr. Seddon for several years that if any additional taxation is required it will come from an increase of the tax on land values. Among the members of the new Parliament are 11 or 12 strong and aggressive advocaters of the taxation of land values, and there are many others, probably a majority of the whole number who would vote for an increase in the present land tax.

Mr. Fowlds who is President of the Single Tax League was again elected for the Grey Lynn district and will have a powerful influence in the House during the next 3 years. The old Conservative party was practically annihilated at the election. They secured only 14 seats out of a total of 74. It appears that the Tory party in Great Britain has met a similar fate, and well they deserve it. The collapse of Preferential Trade and Protection will be an eye opener to the colonies, in fact to the whole world. It shows us that Free Trade is a success, and that the English people want more Free trade instead of less, in fact they want free production as well as free exchange.

The fight for rating unimproved values still continues here. Several polls have been held recently, but mostly without success. The latest district to adopt it is the Borough of Miramar. a suburb of Wellington. The whole of Wellington city with all its suburbs is now under the new system. It is usual for this reform to be adopted by districts that are joining onto other districts where the

system has been in operation for some time. The success of the plan in one district commends it to others.

Mr. G. Fowlds, President of the Single Tax League of N. Z. and member for Grey Lynn, will be in New York about 1st June next and no doubt would be willing to give an address to the people. Single Taxers would do well to secure him for a night, for he is an excellent speaker, in fact a real 'Croasdaler.'

George Stevenson.