

Dunne's plan neither delays nor impairs any of the city's rights under the Mueller law. On the contrary, it is designed to promote them. It contemplates the prosecution of every means for securing complete and direct municipal ownership and operation, without delay, side by side and day by day with the acquisition and operation of traction plants by the city's auxiliary company for which the plan provides.

All of this plainly appears in the Mayor's message, as when, for example, that document declares of the "contract plan" that—

It provides for this system of street car service [municipal ownership under the Mueller law] under the management of a board of directors in its preliminary steps, and without the intervention of such board as soon as the city raises the necessary capital and complies with the statutory requirements.

The newspapers and press dispatches that describe this plan as an abandonment by Dunne of his immediate municipal ownership policy fully deserve his characterization of them as mendacious.

Effects of the single tax in New Zealand.

A single tax experiment in New Zealand has been in operation long enough to afford some actual indications of its probable effect. We refer to the experiment in local taxation (vol. iv, pp. 617, 618; vol. v, pp. 62, 298; vol. vi, pp. 10, 524), which began in 1896 with the granting by the Colonial parliament of authority to all taxing districts, upon local referendum, to exempt real estate improvements from local taxation, personal property having been exempted throughout the Colony by act of parliament in 1891. More than sixty taxing districts—towns, cities, counties, etc.—have availed themselves of the local option privilege granted by the act of 1896. A comparison of 12 of these towns, ranging in population from 500 to 45,419, and aggregating 92,215, has been made by the Sydney (New South Wales) Single Tax League, with twelve other New Zealand towns, ranging in popula-

tion from 590 to 37,022 and aggregating 89,917, for the purpose of contrasting gain or loss of population in the single tax towns with gain or loss of population in towns that have not adopted the single tax. The selection of towns seems to have been fairly made, as the subjoined tables indicate. The comparison is for the years from 1897, when the single tax was adopted by North Palmerston, to 1903, two years after the latest of the twelve single tax towns had adopted the reform. We append the result in tabular form.

The first column states the year when the indicated town adopted the single tax, the second the names of the towns, the third their populations in 1897, the fourth their populations in 1903, and the fifth the increase in populations:

SINGLE TAX TOWNS.				
1901	Wellington	40,000	45,419	5,419
1901	Sydenham	10,312	12,679	2,367
1897	Palmerston N.	5,910	7,828	1,918
1900	Davenport	3,060	5,000	1,940
1898	Greymouth	3,200	4,300	1,100
1901	Hasterton	3,600	4,000	400
1898	Melrose	2,044	4,295	2,251
1901	Lower Hutt	1,530	2,250	700
1901	Fielding	2,100	2,000	400
1901	Gore	2,200	2,000	400
1901	Sumner	596	864	268
1901	Winton	398	500	102
Totals.....		74,950	92,215	17,265

It will be observed that in the twelve single tax towns population has invariably increased, with a total increase of 17,265, or 23 per cent. On the other hand, in the non-single tax towns for the same period—1897 to 1903—several have actually lost, while the rest have increased but slightly, and the total increase is only 1,575, or less than 2 per cent. Following is the table, each of the decreases being indicated by a star:

NON-SINGLE-TAX TOWNS.				
	Auckland	37,320	37,022	298*
	Napier	9,231	9,015	216*
	Nelson	6,659	7,513	854
	Wanganui	6,200	7,386	1,186
	Oamaru	5,300	5,000	300*
	Parnell	4,250	4,850	600
	New Plymouth	4,000	4,500	500
	Thames	5,500	4,200	1,291*
	Lyttleton	3,808	4,026	128
	Onehunga	2,913	3,015	102
	Gisborne	2,500	2,800	300
	Richland	580	590	10
Totals		88,351	89,917	1,575

Palmerston North, which had the local single tax for six years, gained 33 per cent.; Greymouth and Melrose, with five years of the same policy, gained 34 and 100 per

cent. respectively; Davenport, which had it for four years, gained 63 per cent., while the gains of the other eight towns, which had had the reform but two years, ranged from 11 to 46 per cent. Of the twelve towns which retain the antiquated method of taxation, four lost from 1 to 25 per cent. of their population, while the other eight gained only from 2 to 19 per cent. The gain of all these twelve towns for the six years was less than 2 per cent., as against 23 per cent. for the twelve towns with partial single tax.

OUR ADVANCING POSTAL CENSORSHIP.

I

Since long before the foundation of the Federal government, American public sentiment has cherished freedom of the press above every other condition of popular liberty except trial by jury. With the press untrammelled our fathers believed that no menace to liberty could really gain a foothold, if an innovation, or long endure, if already established; whereas, if the press were subject to censorship, they felt that autocracy would flourish as in their day it did throughout Europe and as in ours it still does in Russia.

They did not mean that the press should have license to attack personal reputations or offend public morals with impunity. They conceded that publishers should be held to account for libelous and indecent publications. But they insisted that guilt should be determined by juries, after the act, and upon a full hearing of both sides; and not by bureau officials in advance of the act and ex parte.

Much has been said against this view on the ground that it would permit the accomplishment of wrongs which once done cannot be undone; and it must be confessed that the objection is not without plausibility when particular grievances are considered irrespective of general effects. But our fathers realized that the greater danger lies in empowering officials to impose upon publishers a decree of silence. A person outraged by libel would be vindicated by the