

such as a business tax, licenses and a floor tax. Finally all those were dropped and now there is only one tax assessed and that is on the land.

Our assessment is now \$178,000,000 and our tax rate for the twelve months is only about 14 mills. We have no income tax and no business or stock tax. The big Canadian plant of Swift & Co., which cost \$1,500,000 to build, and which carries a stock worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, does not pay one cent of tax on its building or stock. There is a big business block downtown that cost \$750,000 and with a store containing \$500,000 to \$750,000 worth of goods, and neither the owner of the buildings nor the tenant has to pay taxes on them. The man who owned an unimproved lot of the same size in the next block would have to pay just as much in taxes as the owner of the land upon which the buildings stand.

Now as to municipal ownership. The city of Edmonton owns the street railway, the power plant and the electric light and telephone systems. The valuation of the four is in excess of \$9,400,000.

Notwithstanding the criticisms, the reports that have come out, influenced by public utilities corporations whose interests lie in other directions than municipal ownership, to the effect that municipal ownership has fallen down in Edmonton, the premier city of Alberta, the plan has worked out successfully, and those reports are absolutely false, and our city affords a splendid vindication of the doctrine.

Now as to the telephone. In Edmonton we have a splendid system, with automatic switchboard and 11,500 connections. These pay all the way from \$20 to \$50 a telephone lower than in any city in the United States. We have no pay stations.

As for power, we generate power from coal, and are able to supply the street railway department with current at 2 cents per kilowatt per hour, the cost being 1.7 cents. To users of power for electric light service the maximum price is 7½ cents, with a discount of 10 percent and it runs as low as 3 cents. To users of considerable power for elevators, cold storage and such things we have a rate as low as 2 cents.

After depreciation, we have a surplus in the neighborhood of \$385,000, and out of this we are constructing an addition to our power plant, by means of which we shall be able to supply power at half a cent less per kilowatt than at present.

Altogether Edmonton, in spite of the fact that we have come in for a great deal of criticism and of charges that we have fallen down on municipal ownership, is a great vindication of the practicality of that and of the singletax.

[See vol. xvii, pp. 869, 1111, 1183.]



Land Party Begun.

The Land Party is a new political organization formed at New York on January 6. Its platform declares that land is rightfully common property, that all men have equal rights to its use, that the annual rental value of land should be taken for public purposes and further that: "Nothing can be gained for a good cause by voting for its ene-

mies or its inactive friends. When aspirants for office cannot be relied on to support these principles ably and honestly, the Land Party will nominate its own candidates, especially for offices having to do with the making and enforcement of laws affecting taxation and land monopoly." A provisional executive committee was formed to take further steps to organize the party. The committee is headed by George Wallace of Freeport, New York. Other members are A. Bastida, 111 Broadway, New York City; Alfred Bourgeois, Belleville, N. J.; William J. Wallace, Newark, N. J.; A. G. Sullivan, Farmingdale, N. Y.; Burton E. Carpenter, Cleveland, Ohio; Gaston Haxo, New York City.

NEWS NOTES

—The Utah State Senate passed a statewide prohibition bill on February 11.

—The Georgia Supreme Court on February 13 held unconstitutional an ordinance of the Atlanta City Council to segregate residences of Negroes.

—Fines aggregating \$125,000 were levied on five Chicago packing firms by the Missouri Supreme Court on February 9 for violation of the anti-trust law of the state.

—The Iowa State Senate on February 12 voted to submit a prohibition constitutional amendment. If adopted by the House, it must be passed again by the next legislature before being submitted.

—Lincoln, Illinois, adopted a commission form of government on February 11 by a vote of 1,420 to 1,293. Male voters opposed the change by a majority of 143 but this was overcome by the women's vote.

—Charles Opel, of Kansas City, died at the age of 58, after a three months' illness. Mr. Opel had been a resident only five years, but his restless activity in the interests of progress had won him a place in the hearts of reformers who are trying to secure real reform. He was a staunch supporter of the Singletax. Mr. Opel is survived by his widow, five sons, two daughters, and a sister.

—Dr. Francis A. Tappan, of Kansas City, died after an illness of two weeks at the age of 71. Dr. Tappan went to Kansas City in 1867. He was at one time city physician and was noted for his civic interest. He gave much effort to perfecting Kansas City's park and boulevard system. A liberal in politics, he has been a supporter of the Singletax movement for many years. Dr. Tappan is survived by his widow and one daughter, Mrs. Lucile Tappan Moreland.

PRESS OPINIONS

Wartime Amenities.

Daily News and Leader (London), December 29.—One of the odd and far from gratifying by-products of the war is a temporary suspension of the trade between the belligerents in literature. "That a Munich