

perhaps, that all commodities have not gone up. The following show declines, comparing prices in 1911 with the average for the period 1890-1899—sheep, soda crackers, California raisins, mutton, rice, bicarbonate of soda, tea, onions, some kinds of clothing, raw silk, wool, candles, Connellsville coke, matches, bar iron, galvanized barbed wire, sheet copper, copper wire, nails, steel billets, steel sheets (black), shovels, wood screws, Portland cement, plate glass, putty, window glass, wood alcohol, tea-cups and saucers, glassware, paper, Manila rope, starch. I believe that is all. So you see, we may not be so badly off if we can manage to get something to eat, or if we can restrict our diet to mutton, soda crackers, raisins, onions and tea. A summary is given of a recent Canadian report on wholesale prices from which it appears that Canada is in the same boat. There are, indeed, some points of difference which may arouse curiosity. For example, "fuel and lighting" show a decline in Canada against an advance of 22 per cent in the United States. Coal, taken separately, shows an advance of 31 per cent in the United States. Inferences would not be safe, but it may be that we have something to learn from Canada, or, perhaps, that the Canadian Captains of Industry have something to learn from ours.

WM. E. McKENNA.



New Zealand Number of The Single Tax Review.

An interesting fact brought out by Arthur Withy, who contributes the main article to the current issue of *The Single Tax Review* (a special New Zea-

land number), is that the first suggestion that land should be taxed in New Zealand came in 1844 from a Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the state of the colony and the proceedings of the New Zealand Company. This recommendation, based on bitter experience with land grabbers in the older colonies of Australasia, shared the fate of many another valuable public document. It was carefully filed away in Downing street. The first public agitation against the land monopoly, built up under Edward Gibbon Wakefield's scheme of colonization, which depended on keeping labor cheap by maintaining the price of land so high that it was out of the reach of the workers, came in the early seventies, when Sir Julius (then Mr.) Vogel introduced his public works and borrowing policy and proposed that land should be made to bear some of the burden. Sir Julius, however, was afraid to deal with the land question. He left that for John Ballance and Sir George Grey. Mr. Withy gives extracts from reports of Sir George's campaign speeches. When we remember that these speeches were delivered forty years ago—between the dates of publication of "Our Land and Land Policy" and of "Progress and Poverty",—they become particularly interesting. The Grey-Ballance land tax became law in 1878. The year following, the Grey government was defeated and the land tax repealed, a general property tax being substituted. A wave of depression followed, and when the Liberals again came into power, John Ballance, who had never ceased to advocate the land value taxation principle, introduced his bill, which

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was carried (1891) and has ever since remained on the statute book. All this and very much more Mr. Withy tells with wealth of interesting detail and illustration. And the future in New Zealand? Read the article in this same number of the Single Tax Review on the United Labor Party—"The Hope of the Future." The other articles in this special number, and the valuable statistical matter that has been collected for it, should, it would seem, be of particular value for quotation in propaganda literature in this country. (Single copies of this number, 25 cents; in quantities of ten or more, 15 cents each. Jos. Dana Miller, editor, 150 Nassau street, New York.)

S. B.

"As to the judicial decision quoted by my learned friend on the other side of this case, if the court please," began the prosecuting attorney, "I say it's punk—"

"I protest, your honor!" interrupted the other

lawyer. "Such a remark is not in keeping with the dignity of a court room."

"I say it's punk—"

"Again I protest, your—"

"I insist, your honor, it's punk—"

"Your honor, this is outrageous! I demand a ruling on that point!"

"I was only going to say that it's punk—"

"Mr. Sharp," interposed the judge, "you will not be permitted to indulge in abusive slang in speaking of a judicial decision in this court."

"I assert once more," bellowed the attorney, "that it's punctuated wrongly, as he quotes it! That is all I was trying to say, your honor."—Chicago Tribune.

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