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"CUT IT OUT.

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When Mr. Arthur Withy was reading his statement of how the New Zealand working man is taxed from the cradle to the grave, the chairman of the Royal Commission said, "We do not wish you to go through the whole tariff." "No sir," replied Mr. Withy, "I can well understand that you wish me to cut it out. And I sympathize with you. But I want the Government to cut it out." (Laughter.) —*New Zealand Times*.

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New Zealand is not on a single tax basis, but is rapidly gravitating to a better and higher state of society, and using local taxation of land values to slide there.—Portland, (Oregon) *Labor Journal*.

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SINGLE TAX LEADERS OF NEW ZEALAND.

(See Portraits).

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P. J. O. REGAN.

Hon. P. J. O'Regan is one of the Single Tax leaders of New Zealand. Elected to the New Zealand Parliament at the early age of twenty-six he retained his seat for six years. He afterwards was twice defeated, and in 1899 entered upon the practice of law. He is well known to the radicals of the country by his writing and lecture work, and is an occasional contributor to the SINGLE TAX REVIEW.

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EDWARD WITHY.

Mr. Withy, one of the Vice-Presidents of the New Zealand Land Values League, was born at Bristol of Quaker stock in 1844, and was educated at the Friends' School, Sideup. As a lad he was apprenticed to Messrs. Richardson and Duck, Shipbuilders, Stockton-on-Tees, and soon rose to be manager of the yard. For some time he acted as inspector to the P. & O. Steamship Company, and travelled extensively in Eastern waters. Returning home in 1867, he married Miss Annie Treadgold, of Stockton-on-Tees, and founded the shipbuilding firm of Edward Withy and Company, at Middleton, West

Hartlepool, prospering well in the good times that followed the Franco-German War. About this time he took a trip to Australia for the benefit of his health with his wife and eldest son, and there conceived a liking for the Colonies which led him, when he sold out his interest in the shipyard in 1884, to take his wife and family out to Auckland, New Zealand, to settle there. For years Mr. Withy had been a Land Nationalist, a follower of Professor Alfred Russell Wallace, but on reading "Progress and Poverty" in the early eighties he became a disciple of the Prophet of San Francisco. He was a member of the New Zealand House of Representatives from 1870 to 1890, but did not stand for re-election at the general election in the latter year. In 1893 he again ran for Parliament, but mainly with the object of doing a stroke of propaganda work for the Single Tax, and, owing to the prominence that he gave to this plank of his platform, he failed to reach the top of the poll. For years he was Acting President of the Auckland Anti-Poverty Society, Sir George Grey being Honorary President. He was also for some time President of the National Single Tax League, and is still a Vice-President and member of the Executive of the New Zealand Land Values League, and a generous subscriber to its funds. Besides reproducing several of his lectures on the Single Tax in pamphlet form, and writing numerous letters to the Press, and an article, "Daylight on the Land Question," in the *Westminster Review*, Mr. Withy has written more ambitious pamphlets on the question, the best known of which is "Ground Rent, The True Source of Public Revenue: How to Secure It for this Purpose by Means of the Single Tax."

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WESLEY SPRAGG.

Mr. Spragg, one of New Zealand's foremost Single Tax stalwarts, was born at Madeley, Shropshire, England, in 1848, and was educated at Madeley Wood Wesleyan School. Came to New Zealand with parents and rest of family in 1864. "I was actually 'converted' to Single Tax" he says, "through reading Henry George's

'Condition of Labor,' although prior to that I had assented to the doctrine under the enthusiastic Single Tax ministration of my friend Fowlds. Finally, you will understand, that it was Henry George's fine presentation of the ethical side of land reform that won my full acceptance of the teaching."

Mr. Spragg, besides being a Vice-President and a member of the Executive Committee of the New Zealand Land Values Leagus, is fellow Deacon with the Hon. George Fowlds of the City Congregational Church, Beresford Street, Auckland; President of the New Zealand Alliance for the Abolition of the Liquor Traffic; President of the Auckland Province No License Council; Vice-President of the Y. M. C. A., and a Trustee of its new Building Fund; and a Trustee of the Costly Boy's Home Bequests. He was the originator, and is still the Managing Director of the New Zealand Dairy Association, Ltd., a farmers co-operative business, the largest dairy concern in New Zealand, and the third, if not the second largest butter-making concern in the world.

He, with Mr. Fowlds, established the *Liberator*, which, under the able editorship of Mr. R. A. Hould, has kept the flag flying for the past twelve years, and, doubled in size some twelve months ago, is now "going stronger than ever."

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#### ARTHUR WITHY.

Mr. Arthur Withy, whose father was the founder of the Hartlepool shipbuilding firm now known as Furness, Withy & Co., was born at West Hartlepool in 1870. He was educated first at Ashville College, Harrogate, and afterwards at Auckland Grammar School and University, his family having gone to New Zealand in 1884. He was destined for a legal career but an inclination to journalism and his enthusiasm for the Single Tax proved too strong for him. For two years he edited an advanced Liberal monthly on Single Tax lines; but, feeling a strong inclination to try his luck in the Mother Country, he returned to England in time to do a little work for Liberalism in the general

elections of 1892, and in September of the same year he joined the staff of the *Portsmouth Evening News and Hampshire Telegraph*. In 1895 Mr. Withy stood as Liberal candidate for the Southern Division of Herefordshire—a quite forlorn hope, as the candidate only arrived in the constituency ten days before the election, and had to fight a gentlemen who had held the seat for 30 years; but he succeeded in polling 2,828 votes.

In the following year Mr. Withy returned to New Zealand to act as associate editor of a weekly paper of advanced Radical views, but was unsuccessful in an attempt to secure a seat in the House of Representatives. Mr. Withy fought the contest on Single Tax lines, and was awarded the high testimonial of being described by the *New Zealand Herald* (the leading Conservative paper in the colony) as "one of the very worst of the cranks, faddists, and assorted idiots" then turning the country upside down. Early in 1897 he married the third daughter of Mr. R. A. Hould and returned to England and to the *Portsmouth Evening News*. On the eve of the general election of 1900 Mr. Withy went to Hartlepool to assist Sir Christopher Furness in a by-election contest, and which resulted in a sweeping victory in a walk-over for Sir Christopher at the general election. After a year's work as political secretary to Sir Christopher, Mr. Withy became lecturer to the Northern Liberal Federation, embracing Northumberland, Durham, Mid-Cumberland, North Westmoreland, the Richmond Division of Yorkshire, and Middlesborough. The result of his five years' work was made manifest by the many victories gained throughout the federation area at the election of 1906.

In August, 1900, Mr. Withy returned to New Zealand with his wife and family to act as the Fels Fund Missioner to the Dominion. Since his arrival he has been kept very busy lecturing and organizing, besides writing a "Land and Labor" column each week which appears in half-a-dozen papers in as many of the chief centres, acting as Co-Editor of the *Liberator*, and writing many letters to the Press. At the general election of