

ernment will make. The press informs us that the German Emperor will fight, whether on the line suggested by A. Pohlman remains to be seen. If he does, it means new life to the land movement here..

NEW ZEALAND.

New Zealand.—The vote for single tax by local option in New Zealand towns, taken in March, is an indication of the way the great cause goes marching on. Sydenham borough, 353 for single tax to 163 against; Onslow borough, 140 to 8; Linn borough, 140 to 71. The first borough is a conservative one, where little agitation has been made, and Onslow, a suburb of Wellington, has had the advantage of witnessing nearly two years' working operation of the land-value tax; hence the few dissenting votes. "Nothing succeeds like success." Labor is scarce, and wages for any kind of work are eight shillings a day for eight hours' labor.

ONTARIO.

Toronto (Special Julian Sale).—We have been quite active here recently, and have just concluded a series of lectures by Messrs. Tom L. Johnson, H. S. Bigelow, and John S. Crosby, which have started a great many people thinking. We have also had the privilege of hearings before the Ontario Tax Commission, and these we availed ourselves of at every opportunity, setting forth our ideas in juxtaposition to those of the varied interests represented. These have been published verbatim, and will be mailed upon application to Hon. G. W. Ross, Toronto. We are gratified by the abundant evidence of progress manifested in the rapidly growing demand for the municipalization of franchises and the attitude of people generally toward the advocates of tax reform.

MONTREAL.

(Special—J. C. Allum.)

Montreal, May 28, 1901.

The past few months have been prolific of events which, uninteresting as they might be to those who dwell near the world centres, are of considerable importance to the coterie of proselytizers living on the northern fringe of civilization and known as the Single Tax Association of Montreal.

Two years ago this association came into existence, as the result of a visit of the Hon. John S. Crosby. The second annual meeting was held on April 18 and showed a not unsatisfactory condition of affairs. The membership, while still under forty, had increased during the year by half a dozen, exclusive of an equal number who were struck off, so that the total number taken on was equal to 30 per cent. of the previous year's membership. Thus the ratio of members taken on the previous year was maintained.

During the year a considerable amount of work had been accomplished by the association. The regular monthly meetings had been

well attended by both members and visitors and the papers read at these meetings and the discussions resulting from them had proved so interesting that towards the close of the year the attendance of visitors was even greater than that of the members. Challenges to debate the subject of single tax had been issued to various clubs, and though the stalwarts have not yet ranged up opposite each other they will doubtless do so during the coming season. A few informal lectures had also been given by the members before some of the organizations of young men throughout the city, apparently with good results. Some ten thousand circulars dealing with various aspects of the single tax, and having special reference to the municipalization of the lighting plants of the city, were printed in English and French and distributed. Notwithstanding these and various other good works the treasury showed a small balance in hand.

It is not the intention to excite the envy of our good brothers over our deep and overflowing money coffers. Ours are the shallowest of the shallow. We have no stated membership fee, every one gives as the spirit moves him, according to his limits, and yet we manage to get the needful when it is required.

This was the case when, in order to bring our little campaign for the municipal ownership of the lighting plant to a dignified halt, it became advisable to bring on the Hon. John S. Crosby, who was billed to speak in the king's domains about the end of April. At the same time we induced M. F. F. Ingram, president of the Public Lighting Commission of Detroit, to come over and refute some of the representations of those who were more interested in saving their stock than in exactness of speech. Mr. Ingram was out of pocket on the trip, but then we made him an honorary member of our association.

The "Crosby-Ingram" lecture was a complete success so far as the lecturers were concerned. Municipal lighting had been forced before the people for some months previous by the combining of several of the companies and the approaching termination of the lighting contract. Mr. Ingram confined himself to the lighting question, while Mr. Crosby took the single tax end, and both were thoroughly at home with their subjects. On the platform were senators, mayors and aldermen, besides those who aspire to these positions. All had a few words to say at the close of the lecture, some indorsing the single tax, and all indorsing the municipal lighting proposition. In fact, as a result of Mr. Ingram's visit, the Mayor of one of the suburbs, who was on the platform, is moving strongly in the direction of municipalization.

The association is about to lose one of its most prominent members, the Rev. Robert Hopkin. Mr. Hopkin has been president since the association was formed, and during that time has done his utmost to assist it in its work. He has never lost an opportunity of bringing the single tax before his listeners and he has done his best to break through the tough crust of his ministerial associates.

He removes to Kent, Ohio, and it is safe to assume that sooner or later there will be a growing sentiment in favor of single tax in that town.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Kamloops.—Mr. J. Dean, our well-known single tax worker here, is at present engaged in the performance of his duties as secretary of the Royal Commission appointed by the Government of Canada, to inquire into the effect of Chinese and Japanese labor in competition with white labor, in the province of British Columbia.

Workingmen in this province expect good results from the work of this commission, as the evidence goes to show that under present conditions in British Columbia the white man is handicapped in his struggle for a living, and that our Government must unlock the natural resources of this province and thus create opportunities for labor, or pass a prohibitive law against the stream of Oriental immigration that has been pouring into this province for the last ten years.

Single tax sentiment is growing steadily in this district. Our Provincial Government recently gave us an opportunity to discuss the question of taxation at a public meeting held in this city.

The Government introduced a measure in the Legislature for the purpose of raising the "head tax," or what is known here as the provincial revenue tax, from three to five dollars on all male citizens between the ages of 18 and 60. Public meetings were held in all the large centres of population to protest against this, but the Government, at the head of which is the Hon. James Dunsmuir, the largest individual land grabber in this province, owning, as he does, one-third of Vancouver Island, or about two million acres of land ignored the expressed wishes of the people in this matter and passed the law, in spite of the protests that were raised against it. But the day of reckoning is coming. Our legislators, who were instrumental in raising this tax, which falls mainly on the back of labor, also raised their own sessional indemnity from six to eight hundred dollars, a fact that will not be forgotten by the victims of this pernicious piece of legislation.

A branch of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress was recently formed in this city. The president, Mr. A. Thompson, and the Secretary, Mr. Joseph Magee, are both Single Taxers. The seventh clause in the platform of principles of this association reads as follows: "Tax reform by lessening taxation on industry and increasing it on land values." Our friends can be depended upon to keep this principle to the front in and out of season.

TAXES HARD TO REPEAL.

Some kind of taxes die hard. Once imposed they go on year after year, simply because money is wanted, and political econo-

mists do not know where to raise a new tax to replace the one abolished. For instance, the tax on doors and windows in France was voted in what is known in Republican circles as the year VII. It was a war tax, and intended to be temporary, but once imposed it has remained. Even in the city, which prides itself on being the "Light of the World," taxes are paid on doors and windows. Air and light are the two essentials for health. God gives them free, but people in France cannot enjoy them to the full without having to pay for them—without having to pay a door and window tax. A movement is in progress in the centre of France asking for the suppression of the tax on doors and windows.—Paris Messenger.

CLOSE TO UTOPIA.

One Swedish Town Where Taxes Are Unknown.

Orsa, in Sweden, seems to be the nearest thing to Utopia that can be found on earth at the present time, says the Chicago Record-Herald. The inhabitants of Orsa have in the course of a generation sold \$4,600,000 worth of trees, and, by means of judicious replanting, provided for a similar income every thirty or forty years. The money from the sale of trees has made it possible for the people of Orsa to get along without taxing themselves. Railways, telephones and schools are absolutely free. There are no monthly gas bills, and no semi-annual water rents to pay, and whenever the Orsaites think they need them they build city halls and court houses and such things without reaching into their pockets. Their trees do the business. Of course, it must be remembered that the people of Orsa have no collector's office to keep supplied with such funds as the collector and his friends may desire to make use of, and there are no elaborate spoils system for their mayors or their bosses to manipulate for the purpose of wiping out private political debts; but still, on the face of the returns there seems to be an indication that tree planting is a good thing.

WRIT SARCASTIC.

There is no office within the gift of the people to tempt me to give up the position I now hold.—THREE-CENT TOM JOHNSON.

There's virtue for you! Heroic, self-sacrificing Tom! The people have made him Mayor of Cleveland and he will not leave Cleveland in the lurch. He will do his best to make that town a single taxers' paradise, a three-cent Cockayne. To be sure, there is no prospect of his getting any other office within the gift of the people in the next two years. Thus he is seen to be a sage as well as a hero.—N. Y. Sun.