

wealth, but we ought to be willing to take a little trouble in order to so improve their surroundings that they can easily make a living for themselves, that they may not suffer 'the loss of employment, which is worse than all the plagues of Egypt.' "

I shall be pleased to hear from any of your citizens upon this vital matter with a view to taking at once the steps necessary to bring about this reform, so simple, but so far reaching in its good effects.—LUCIUS F. C. GARVIN.

CANADA.

Perhaps the most important news is the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Taxation to the Provincial Parliament of British Columbia that it adopt the Single Tax, abolishing the poll tax, the personal property tax, and tax on improvements. We shall present later an analysis of this report.

CANADIANS ORGANIZE FOR FREE TRADE.

The organization of a Free Trade League for Canada is announced, with Geo. H. Ross as president, W. J. Tregillus, Vice President, and E. J. Fream as Secretary-Treasurer. Canadians wishing to join the League should address the Secretary at Calgary, Alberta. Membership in the League has been placed at \$1. per annum.

ONTARIO.

The Liberal Party of Ontario has come out squarely for the taxation of land values and the exemption of improvements. Local candidates are pledging themselves to support the measure. The new Liberal Leader, Mr. N. W. Rowell, K. C., in an address to the electors of Ontario declares:

"Social justice demands the removal of existing inequalities in taxation, and we propose the amendment of the Assessment Act to permit municipalities to exempt improvements from taxation either in whole or in part."

The Toronto *Globe* in commenting upon the programme of the party says:

"One of the most popular planks in the platform will be that favoring such an amendment of the Assessment Act as will permit municipalities to exempt improvements from taxation either in whole or in part. Sir James Whitney stands like a rock against this reform, although he knows that Vancouver, Edmonton, Regina, Winnipeg, and almost all other cities or towns of any consequence in western Canada tax land values more heavily than improvements. The men who are most insistent in urging this reform on Sir James are within his own party, and they will no doubt use the Liberal declaration of policy as a goad with which to prod their laggard leader."

TESTIMONY FROM CANADIAN OFFICIALS.

I think I am safe in saying that for several years past, there has been no serious suggestion from any quarter that we should revert to the old system of taxing improvements.—F. F. FISCHER, Secretary to Mayor of Edmonton.

I beg to say that, generally speaking, the movement in Saskatchewan to have assessments based on a land assessment only, exclusive of buildings and improvements, appears to be gaining ground and many western men in the prairie provinces and British Columbia express their unqualified approval of such a scheme.—J. N. BAYNE, Deputy Minister for Saskatchewan.

I may say, however, that the Council of this city is endeavoring to obtain Legislation to enable it to adopt what we term the Single Tax system, that is, taxing only the lands and exempting the buildings. Taxation on business incomes and special franchises, of course, remaining as at present. The Council has made a careful investigation into this system, and is convinced that it is the most logical and fairest manner of raising revenue.—C. C. DAVIDSON, Sec. Treas., Prince Albert, Sask.

While it is true that there has been this

large activity throughout the west in building this year I think it perfectly true to say a proportion of the increase in this city is due to the adoption of tax reform methods by the municipality.—A. E. CHIVERS, City Clerk, Regina, Sask.

At this time I can but state that the rate-payers appear to highly approve of the change made, and that the City of Victoria, whether from this cause or not, is enjoying an abnormal development in building and other improvements, the buildings going up being of a far more substantial nature than heretofore, and every indication points to the fact that the City of Victoria has made no mistake in the step it has taken.—A. P. MAULEY, Mayor, Victoria, B. C.

We have made the first step towards the assessment of land only, this year, by reducing the assessment on improvements by 10%. It is our intention to continue this reduction year by year until eventually improvements will be exempt from taxation. So far the people are very well satisfied, and consider the movement a wise one.—JAS. CLINKSKILL, Mayor Saskatoon, Sask.

Few men have endured heartaches equal to Henry George, pater. Few men have so successfully outlived contumely and reached such a pinnacle of popularity and fame. Few books have been more widely read than his. Few questions have caused such wide-world discussion. And after all of this, the public generally is woefully ignorant of the principles of the George theory.—Tacoma (Wash.) *News*.

THE Good Cheer Dinner given annually to James H. Barry of the San Francisco *Star* was given in January of this year, and was, as usual, a great success. Many were the spoken and written tributes to the brave and accomplished editor, who has made such a good fight for democratic principles on the Pacific coast. In these tributes Joseph Fels and Daniel Kiefer joined with messages of cheer to the guest of honor. Joaquin Miller, the poet, who

had hoped to be present, sent greetings, as did many others.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE DINNER.

The Women's Henry George League will hold its annual Lincoln dinner at Cafe Boulevard, 2nd Avenue and 10th Street, Monday, February 12th, 1912.

This being Lincoln's Centenary the topic will be "The New Morality" and the speakers who will deal with the different phases of this topic are:

Bishop Williams of Michigan
Dr. W. E. B. du Bois
Miss Grace Isabel Colbron
Miss Rose Schneiderman
Miss Charlotte O. Schetter.

Dinner will be served at seven o'clock sharp. Price of tickets is \$1.25. Applications for seats should be made to E. M. Murray, Chairman of Dinner Committee, Room 711, 29 Broadway, to whom checks should be made payable.

FUGITIVE SLAVES OF THE HUDSON'S BAY CO.

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW.

An interesting fact about the Hudson's Bay Co. might have been put into your special Edmonton edition. The officer in charge of their posts formerly read all letters written by their "servants" (slaves?), to see that nothing should get abroad about the suitability of the country for farming or settlements. I got this from an old servant of theirs; and if any of them ran away, they were hunted just like slaves. For thus locking up the country they have this huge land grant, which they will only sell when the settler has made it very valuable for them, and if anyone wants to buy from them an adjoining section, they will only sell $\frac{3}{4}$ of what is asked, knowing the rest will be wanted when the neighbor has made it more valuable to. And they do nothing to help the country as the C. P. R. does. Oh! it is an iniquity, the country will not stand it much longer. Single Tax will fix them, and your REVIEW can do much.—F. W. GODSAL, Cowley, Alberta.