

than the world has ever before seen, while the masses of our people are steadily becoming relatively poorer.

"This same unjust distribution of wealth develops on the one hand a class idle and wasteful because they are too rich, and on the other hand a class idle and wasteful because they are too poor.

"(d) The taxes we would abolish fall most heavily on the poorer agricultural districts and tend to drive population and wealth from them to the great cities. The tax we would increase would destroy that monopoly of land which is the great cause of that distribution of population which is crowding the people too closely together in some places and scattering them too far apart in other places."

Elsewhere the argument states:

"There is nothing in this measure that in any way disturbs the present guarantee of title to land. It may be transferred or bequeathed, together with its improvements, just as is done today. Should you now not pay your taxes you would lose your property. There is no other guarantee that government can give. This security would be the same under the Single Tax as it now is with this advantage: the economic situation would be so improved under the Single Tax that the holder of title to land that is used could pay the nominal tax on the location instead of being forced to give his property to the State, as in many cases he is forced to do now."

Mr. Pierce, the Democratic candidate for Governor, having announced that he was anxious to debate with the Single Taxers and show them what fools they were, a challenge was immediately issued to that gentleman by some of the farmers and by Mr. Hermann. To this no reply has been received. Perhaps Mr. Pierce on reflection is not so eager. How little he knows of his subject is shown by a recent utterance in which he says: "There's only one tax that a fellow can't pass on and that is an income tax."

The *Portland Telegram*, in an editorial under the title, "Single Tax, Real and Counterfeit," says that the measures submitted to the voters of Oregon were not the Single Tax of Henry George, and says that the Single Tax has many supporters among thoughtful citizens. It wants to know about the New York Exemption Law, and asks for proof that the building boom here is the result of such exemption. It says it does not know the details of the law. As the *Telegram* seems sincerely desirous of information, maybe some of our readers here will enlighten the editor.

Messrs. Ross and Hermann spoke before a good audience in Portland on July 22, and the sentiment of those present appeared almost unanimous in favor of the amendment. On August 2nd Mr. Ross spoke before the Trades Council at Salem. In a debate with Mr. Stallard, leader of the Non-Partisan League, Mr. Hermann made an address and Mr. Stallard, following Mr. Hermann in a few closing remarks, said he had "nothing to say."

Later information tells us that Mr. Pierce will meet Mr. Hermann in debate. This will occur some time in August. All candidates will be invited to debate the Single Tax. In this invitation will be included two of the foremost representatives of the Income Tax Amendment.

Mr. Will Ross will work with Mr. Hermann, speaking

and writing in defence of the Single Tax measure. It is felt that there is a splendid chance of a great increase of the vote in this State and no stone will be left unturned to effect this result.

No argument against the Single Tax will appear in the State pamphlet, but an argument against the Income Tax amendment initiated by the State Grange will be included, which will be grist to the mill.

Pennsylvania

PENNSYLVANIA Single Taxers are busy securing signatures to petitions for their nominations. Chas. J. Schoales, at 2535 N. Mascher street, Philadelphia, is the new secretary of the State and County Committee. Following are the nominations made to date: For Governor, John W. Dix, of Ardmore, Pa.; for Lieutenant-Governor, Hugo W. Noren, of Pittsburgh; for Secretary of Internal Affairs, Louis Ryan; for Supreme Court Judge, William G. Wright, of Saint Davids, Delaware county. Other nominations will be made of which REVIEW readers will be duly apprised.

Canada

SINGLE TAXERS of Toronto held a dinner on June 21st in honor of the 80th birthday of W. A. Douglass, "the grand old man of the movement." Eloquent tributes to his worth as a man of high ideals were paid by Dr. J. L. Hughes, Jean Blewett, Rev. Father Minehan, Wm. Houston and others. It was an outpouring of those who have watched the labors of Mr. Douglass for many years and of those associated with him in the work for the cause to which he has contributed so unstintingly.

Rev. Father Minehan said:

"Even if I do not agree with him all the way," said Father Minehan, "none has a greater respect for his idealism and courage. I am indeed glad that you have honored him while he still can appreciate it and be stimulated to further efforts instead of waiting until you could bring wreaths."

Mr. Douglass addressed the diners.

"In speaking to such an audience," he said, "I realize the danger, for I still retain the small spot of humility within my being. I have worked for the Single Tax idea because it took a hold on me as nothing else. In my youth I started out to fight the world and to beat it, and the progress which has been made in the work is indeed surprising. Today in Ontario we have but a small fragment of the people who support the cause, but I may confidently say that that fragment is ever growing."

"I could have accomplished very little without the enthusiasm and hearty support of the men who worked with me," declared Mr. Douglass, modestly. "If we can by bringing harmony among humanity add one whit to the comfort, beauty and joy of life, we may then say with true spirit, 'Thy Kingdom come.' May we all work and ever look forward to that day which will behold every man imbued with the noble idea of uplifting his fellow."

A great many tributes were read from A. C. Campbell,

Anna George DeMille, F. J. Dixon, Louis Post, Lawson Purdy, and many others from the United States and Canada. Verses in honor of the distinguished guest by Joseph Dana Miller were read, from which we extract the last two stanzas:

Fall gently, Time, on this most honored head;
 He in the Måster's vineyard did his task,
 Setting his feet where beckoning angels led—
 What more can the Eternal Judges ask?
 With humble heart he held the truth he found.
 To such as he the world its gifts denies,
 But when the trumpets of the judgment sound
 They stand soul free before the Grand Assize!

The Toronto *Globe* printed these verses. The Toronto *Daily Star* also contained an appreciative sketch of the life and work of Mr. Douglass.

An event of more than usual significance was the resolutions adopted by the conference of the National Council of Women which took place at Port Arthur, Ontario, June 24. These were introduced by Mrs. E. M. Murray, of Halifax, and seconded by Mrs. Gilley, of New Westminster, and are as follows:

"Whereas, the country needs greatly expanded revenues, and whereas, the people have emphatically declined to accept increased tariff duties as a means of raising that necessary revenue, and whereas, income, excess profits and sales taxes all tend to decrease production and to make the cost of living higher; therefore, be it resolved, that the National Council of Women press upon the government the advisability of levying a tax upon the so-called unearned increment, or increasing value of land, as a means of augmenting the national revenue that will not be reflected in increased cost of commodities."

Mr. Sydenham Thompson is travelling in Ontario. His itinerary includes Hamilton, Brantford, Galt, London and Guelph. The papers in Woodstock contain an interview with him and report him as saying that "prominent business men in all places visited are becoming convinced that the present system is outgrown. They are giving their approval to an assessment reform that would gradually reduce the assessments on improvements, business and income and place them on land values where they are easily appraised."

Passing to Calgary, Alberta, we find Mr. A. J. Samis, one of the Commissioners of that city, engaged in an interesting controversy with Dr. Horace Britain, who is Director of the Citizens' Research Institute of Canada. He accuses Dr. Britain of dealing too much in generalities and in a letter to that gentleman says:

"I note that you refuse to give an expression of opinion as to whether or not public utilities should be taxed.

I think it is unfortunate that you assume this attitude. You must realize the absolute necessity of getting rid of private companies that have hitherto had a monopoly of handling public utilities in our cities.

The people have conducted a 30-year war with these selfish franchise holders; and it must be apparent to any student of municipal affairs that the only effective way to get rid of them is for the cities to exercise their proper

functions. This can only be accomplished by the cities owning these public monopolies themselves, and operating them in the interest of the public.

You must also know that the most effective method that the enemies of public ownership can adopt, is to insist that these utilities, in addition to financing themselves, pay the taxes of the real estate exploiters who, as you are aware, have done more to financially embarrass the cities of this continent than all other agencies combined.

The City of Edmonton is an outstanding example of this. In that city, one-third of a million dollars are being forcibly taken from the patrons of their public utilities this year under the guise of taxation, and used to reduce the taxes on the tens of thousands of lots which the real estate interests there have foisted upon Edmonton—spreading the city over an absurdly large area and doubling their expenses. As you well know, what is true of Edmonton, is true to a greater or lesser degree of all of the cities of this continent.

I regret that you cannot see your way to use your influence to put these grafters out of business."

Denmark

DURING the war there was not much thought for reform along Single Tax lines. There was so much opportunity for specialization in all lines that people did not think much about radical land legislation. Furthermore, most of the men and women who think about such matters were busily engaged in work tending to rectify the havoc caused by the war, and the resulting confusions in economic and social conditions.

When the war was ended, and goods of all kinds were again flooding the country, the speculators took fright. It meant losses to them as the prices went down. The interests tried to prepare public opinion and brought pressure to bear upon the radical government to stop imports in order to keep up the prices of goods. Many of our public men believe that our "captains of industry" acted in good faith, but our liberty-loving independent small farmers met the attack upon free trade, and no great consequences followed.

In 1921 unemployment set in. It reached its climax in February, 1922, when 33 per cent. of organized labor was out of work. Again the special interests seemed to have some ground for their demand for more protection to keep foreign goods out that our own laborers might have work. Single Taxers, of course, maintain that protection can only do injury and is almost fatal to a little country like ours. The abolition of all taxes and the opening up of natural resources would solve the question of housing and unemployment.

As told in the March-April REVIEW for 1921, the owners of entails, according to the law of October, 1919, have to give up to the State as compensation for the absolute fee 20 to 25 per cent. of the value of their entailed property. Furthermore, the State has a right to get 33 per cent. of lands belonging to the entails for which there is to be paid a fair compensation. This law is now coming into force and big areas are being cut up into parcels of 13 and