

question. The present land policy of the Government, that of buying large estates for close settlement and at the same time selling the freehold of the remaining crown lands to speculators was the maddest land policy ever proposed." Several resolutions demanding land reform were carried unanimously.

Shortly after this a meeting was held in Dunedin at which Mr. Fowlds was the principal speaker. He pointed out that if the land monopolists insisted that crown leases should be turned into freeholds in favor of the tenant, they could not object if private tenants demanded the same right from their landlords.

The preferential trade proposals of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain have unfortunately met with a favorable response from our Premier, Mr. Seddon, but Mr. Seddon knew very well that he could not get his infamous preferential trade bill through Parliament if he allowed its proposals to be known to the people. He accordingly introduced his bill suddenly and pushed it through all its stages in a few hours. The poor apathetic taxpayer was thus saddled with a large amount of indirect taxation before he had time to even offer a protest.

Mr. Seddon is a politician of the jellyfish species, exceedingly deficient in backbone. He resembles President Roosevelt in giving glowing promises, but he generally fails to carry them into effect. However, it is generally felt that Mr. Seddon's days are numbered. He has been Premier of New Zealand 10 years and his democratic instincts have not improved lately. He has had several splendid opportunities of striking an effective blow at monopoly, but he has generally failed to avail himself of it, and reformers are now almost unanimous in condemning him as a leader who would lead us backward instead of forward.

The future of the Single Tax movement will, no doubt, be largely influenced by the success of the small independent colonies which more nearly approach the realization of the theories of Henry George. It, therefore, behoves us in this small colony, removed many thousands of miles from the hoary corruptions of Europe and America, to do our utmost to conquer the great enemy monopoly while he is yet young with us. Success will surely follow the efforts of those who fight on the side of truth.

In vain and long, enduring wrong
The weak have striven against the strong,
But the day shall come when right
With might at her back the victor shall be;
And let what may stand in the way
That day mankind *shall* see.

—GEORGE STEVENSON, Auckland.

ENGLAND.

The annual meeting of the English Land Nationalization Society was held in May of this year. Dr. Alfred Russell Wallace, who

is the president of the society, was absent, but there were a goodly number of the representatives of the movement for land nationalization, among whom was Richard Whiteing, author of "The Yellow Van," reviewed in these columns, and one of the best selling books in London. The English land nationalizers are not all or even generally Single Taxers, but they are coming to perceive that the solution of the problem is to be found through the taxing power. Among those present at this meeting in May was Mr. Jan. Stoffel, Single Taxer, of Deventer, Holland, who is known to many of us here by reason of his labors to popularize the great economic truth in his own country.

With the increase of the sentiment favoring the taxation of land values in Great Britain goes a growing perception of the impolicy of the income tax. The *Speaker*, one of the ablest journals of the United Kingdom, has this to say:

"No Liberal is satisfied with the present scheme of taxation, even when the necessary economies and reductions have taken place. Government cannot be carried on without money, and we want to see that money provided from natural, proper, and legitimate sources. A high income tax is disastrous to trade and bears with undue severity upon the middle classes. The millionaire hardly feels it. The man who earns a moderate income contributes far more than his proper share to the expenses of administration, especially when we remember the heavy rates which he frequently has to pay as occupier to the local authority. The income tax should be graduated and it should be reduced. But this is not all. In order to relieve the taxpayer and ratepayer we must see what new sources of revenue can be tapped. We naturally look round for monopoly values, and we find them in the drink traffic and in the land."

Again it says:

"There are pitfalls in the way of the reformer, and a Liberal Government will have to proceed with wariness as well as with resolution. But the principle of rating the landowner has already been applied in an Act of 1889, by which the owners of lands used for advertisements were made liable to rates. An obvious extension of the principle to which absolutely no valid objection can be offered is to rate owners of unoccupied building land on its selling value. This will not only relieve the ratepayers of many urban districts and boroughs; it will also tend to reduce rents and to solve the housing problem.

And it proposes to make the issue direct by instituting a comparison between the income tax—which excepting the tax on land values has of all taxes most to recommend it—and what we in this country have learned to call the Single Tax. It says:

"On going to war one of the first steps

taken by the Japanese was to double the land tax, just as Mr. Gladstone's first step in 1854 was to double the income tax. In the eighteenth century the land tax used to be the most important source of revenue, and Adam Smith used to say that on this account the country gentlemen were generally much less inclined to war than "the moneyed interest." But, unfortunately, at the end of the century, when war became chronic, the country gentlemen who supported Pitt insisted that the land must not be further taxed, and so, when taxes had been laid on every article of consumption and the Minister was still at his wits' end, he had to invent the income tax, instead of developing and improving the system of land taxation. But we believe that Radical financiers in the immediate future must, after retrenchment, look for national revenue to the license duties and for the local revenue to a rate upon the owners of ground values."

It ought to be said that the *Speaker* is no radical or labor paper, but a liberal journal of high character, resembling the *New York Nation* in its appearance and the high literary merit of its contributions and its editorial pages.

NORTHWESTERN TERRITORIES.

To those who are looking for the adoption of the Single Tax idea, it may be welcome news to learn that some progress is being made in the N. W. T. of Canada. The first of January of this year a new Local Improvement Ordinance came into effect organizing from three to six townships into Local Improvement Districts. A District Council is formed by electing one Councillor from each township, and this body has charge of all local improvements, with power to levy a tax of not less than 1¼, nor more than 5 cents per acre on land. There is no provision for statute labor on the roads, and all taxes are payable in cash.

Being a Councillor of the District in which I live, I am in a position to give the workings of the Ordinance. The policy of "land taxation" in vogue in the N. W. T. is not theoretically the Single Tax, but a land tax. But it will be seen that selecting the land as the best subject for taxation is in line with the Single Tax theory, and to some extent the tax falls heavier on the more valuable land; for, in practice, it is found necessary to expend more money in the more thickly settled districts in which towns and villages are situated and where travel is heaviest, than in outlying districts where settlement is sparse.

The District Council of which I am a member levied a tax of 4¾ cents per acre, or 7 dollars per quarter section of land, and the only kickers were men who are holding more land than they can use, some of whom are threatening to sell out and leave the country. Apart from a small government grant to schools, all taxes for the

maintenance of rural schools and for local improvements, are now levied upon the land exclusively. And this system applies to the whole of the N. W. Territories, and even Americans, who are coming here by thousands, and who have been accustomed to paying taxes on "all they possessed," take very kindly to the system and are writing back to their friends left behind, telling them that we don't tax everything here—only the land, and that but a small tax.

GEO. PRICE, Olds Alta, N. W. T.

REV. HERBERT S. BIGELOW.

(See *Frontispiece*.)

Herbert Seeley Bigelow was born at Elkhart, Indiana on Jan. 4, 1870. He attended the public schools of that city, also the preparatory department of Oberlin, and graduated from the Western Reserve University and from Lane Theological Seminary.

Mr. Bigelow became pastor of Vine Street church in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1886. The history of this church makes it a peculiarly fit abiding place for him. It was organized in 1881 by supporters of the abolition movement, who seceded from a Presbyterian society because that society was pro-slavery. The seceding members organized a Presbyterian church, but it subsequently became Congregational. Josiah Strong was pastor of this church at the time he wrote "Our Country." The society, more persistently perhaps than most others, has advocated the doctrines of human liberty, and for this reason, if for no other, Herbert S. Bigelow is very properly its pastor at the present time.

He came to this church without any idea of participating in a great social movement. In fact he, in common with the dominant thought of the educated class of that day and this, believed the miseries of the poor were the normal results of their own short comings. His personal experience in the "least prosperous" life of a great city opened his eyes to the fact that social injustice is a powerful factor in determining the results of individual life.

As the pastor asserted the fact of social injustice, opposition grew in the church whose history had been so interwoven with the cause of freedom. And, curiously, the matter was brought to practical issue over the admission of a negro to membership. The membership of the church was inclined to resist, but Mr. Bigelow was able to hold them to their own traditions. He even hopes that the American people may be held true to their traditions, as expressed in the Declaration of Independence.

The more heavily the burden the poor were compelled to carry weighed upon his spirit, the more earnestly did he plead for their relief. But in like degree, the opposition grew, and the resignation of Mr. Bige-