

affected by public improvements, let them do the work in the locality. There is no sense in going to London. As Treasurer Gray said—"some of the mistakes that had taken place in connection with the railway schemes in Glasgow had arisen through the inquiry having been conducted in London. He was quite sure that no mistakes would have happened had the inquiry been conducted on the spot."

THE ERROR OF SOCIALISM.—In the motto of Socialism—"From each according to his ability—to each according to his needs"—specious, altruistic as it may seem, lurks the essence of slavery. We say this with all due regard for the sincere belief of noble men and women who think relief from present conditions can be obtained only through Socialism. It implies the determining by "society" of both the abilities and needs of its individual members—the setting of tasks and doling out of rewards. Stated in the language of the Ruskin Co-operative Association's bye-laws (sec. 14, art 5), this rule is—"A man's endowments fix the measure of his duty, and the employé of great endowments who does not do all he might shall be deemed a less deserving worker than the employé of small endowments who does his best." As an abstract proposition this may be correct, but its error lies in the assumption that this duty is to "society" and that "society" is competent to measure endowments. If the conferring of greater endowments imposes a greater obligation, that obligation is logically, to him who conferred the endowment, and he alone is competent to measure it. Omnipotence alone is equal to the task. There is, however, a plain obligation of men to each other to secure the fulfilment of which is the cohesive force which holds "society" together. It is the obligation of each to observe the equal natural rights of all, and this is the basis upon which Fairhope rests.—*Fairhope Courier*.

HORACE GREELY ON THE LANDLORDS:—"That wealth and penury advance hand in hand, that the stately, sumptuous mansion implies the lowly, desolate hovel, was long ago noted. We may rehearse the babble of the accredited political economists till our brains are addled and our eyes benighted, and still the fact remains that so long as one man shall be authorized to draw an income of, say 100,000 dollars per annum, from the cultivators of a township for the use of the naked earth they stand on, to be increased as power shall dictate and need perforce assent, so long must the reward of the labour expended thereon be meagre and its subsistence scanty and precarious. So long as the millions whom God has doomed in the sweat of their faces to eat bread shall be constrained to solicit of others the privilege of so doing, and to propitiate a land-owning class by such share of their products as cupidity may exact and necessity must concede; the increase of population will be paralleled by the depression of labour and the labourer."

In the Second Ward Mr. James Willock, a thorough supporter of the Single Tax faith, was returned by 1,000 of a majority over his Tory opponent.

Ex-Bailie Morrin kept his seat easily in the Fifth Ward against his Socialist opponent. The Bailie's main plank has been the Single Tax for quite a number of years now. He is a member of the St. Rollox Single Tax Association.

Councillor Fife who was also opposed by a Labour man has been returned by quite a sweeping majority. He is a firm believer in the taxation of land values and supported Councillor Ferguson's motion in the Town Council.

Altogether the results are most encouraging to the Single Taxmen of Glasgow to continue their propaganda. They have a good case and one that the logic of events is driving towards solution with greater and greater speed. The Single Tax is winning whichever party is triumphant.

You can fool some of the people all the time. You can fool all the people some of the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time.

THE SINGLE TAX IN AMERICA.

BY A CASUAL VISITOR.

Having recently enjoyed the privilege of taking a holiday trip across the Atlantic and back in the great record-breaker the "Lucania," and of spending some idle days in New York City and its vicinity, I have been asked to write down for the benefit of the readers of the *Single Tax* a brief account of what I heard and saw of the Single Tax agitation there. My visit being but short, I had really little time to see anything. But I did hear something, as our New York fellow-agitators received me with extreme kindness whenever I announced myself as a Scotch Single-Tax man, and put themselves to great trouble to introduce me to a considerable circle of our friends in that city. I found all of them exceedingly anxious to hear what news I had to give them from Scotland, and very ready to give me in return what information they could of the speed of our cause in New York and throughout the United States generally. I assured them that I was not on a visit to America with a view to writing an exhaustive treatise on the present conditions and future prospects of the great republic; but I said that I did want as much information as I could gather about their movement and propaganda, as I knew how our friends here would torment me on this subject when I came home.

First, as to the

GROWTH OF SINGLE-TAX IDEAS

throughout the United States generally, I never heard anything like a doubt expressed. "Is the advance of our cause rapid and steady?" I asked. "Not always both rapid and steady," was the answer; "sometimes steady and sometimes rapid, but always certain." Which made me think of our progress in Scotland, sometimes going at a leisurely walking pace, sometimes making great runs. They did not seem to put very much stress on the success or failure of this or that political party. "Whoever wins, we are winning," was the almost universal sentiment.

In the field of

FEDERAL POLITICS

most of the American Single Tax men vote with the Democratic Party, as being the party pledged to tariff reform. But they have not been at all pleased with the recent action of that party as a whole, as they are strongly of opinion that during its tenure of office it has not been faithful to the pledges it gave to the electorate, and has, indeed, thrown away the chances it got. They complain of the delay that took place before any intimation was made as to the character of the tariff measure proposed. And, while that measure (the Wilson Tariff Bill), even as drafted, was not by any means a sweeping one, the form in which it emanated from the senate and became law made it almost totally worthless, the duties under it being, on the whole, higher than those in force before the imposition of the high McKinley Tariff some years ago.

All the Single Tax men with whom I spoke on the subject prophesied that the then coming elections would result in a great victory for the Republicans. They said that the electorate had been quite turned against the Democratic Party in power, owing to their broken pledges and other faults, and to the long time during which their tariff proposals had been kept hanging, to the detriment of business throughout the country on account of the uncertainty involved. Since my visit to New York their predictions have been even more than fulfilled by the complete manner in which, as we now see, the Republican Party has swept the country at the polls. Many think that the Republicans may make no alteration on the tariff as fixed by the Democrats, though I fancy it is quite problematical what may be done once the clamour of the interests affected, or which suppose themselves affected by the recent changes, is free to be heard. Perhaps the more changes that are made the better, as now that the public gaze is directed to the subject, every tariff alteration will form a lesson in political economy to the American people. And I was assured that, despite the Republican reaction, the old Protectionist ideas are not nearly so strong as they used to be.

Meantime, the Single Tax principle is ably

represented in Congress by Tom L. Johnson, of Ohio, whose name is well known to friends of the movement on this side, and around whom a band of Single Tax and other advanced Free Trade Congressmen has gathered. Just as this goes into the hands of the printer, however, the news reaches me that Mr. Johnson has been defeated in the recent elections, and so unseated.

In

STATE POLITICS

the efforts of our friends are at present being largely directed towards obtaining what is called "local option" or "home rule" in matters of taxation. In America, local (*i.e.*, municipal, county, etc.) rates and taxes have to be levied according to *State Law*, just as in this country they have to be levied according to national law. The aim of the movement for "local option" is to put an end to this by having measures passed through the various State Legislatures permitting each locality to levy its rates in the way it judges best itself. This is a thoroughly democratic measure, and is enlisting considerable support quite outside of Single Tax circles. I was told that one or two of the States are already almost ripe for it; and I was also assured that whenever and wherever such a step is achieved there will almost certainly be some localities which would, either at once or in a short time, choose to levy their rates either wholly or partially on land values. The force of example involved in such a thing would be even greater than the results achieved to the localities themselves. For, as we believe in our principles, we must believe that every such locality would become a "burning and a shining light" among its neighbours, and a rousing voice calling upon them to "go and do likewise."

In New York a general

EDUCATIONAL PROPAGANDA

continually goes on, as I am told it does everywhere throughout the States. The methods by which this is prosecuted are very similar to our own Scotch methods, consisting as they do in the familiar circulation of literature, the running of propaganda organs, the holding of out-door and in-door meetings according to the season, the arranging of debates with opponents, the pushing of our principles in the columns of the press whenever possible, the pledging and attempted pledging of political candidates, the bringing of arguments to bear on political conferences and assemblies, and, generally, the preaching of the gospel whenever and wherever an opportunity can be found. Of large works, the one that is being circulated most extensively just now is George's "Protection or Free Trade," several million copies of which have, within a year or two, been scattered over America in various cheap editions.

I took the opportunity of being present at one of the

OUT-DOOR MEETINGS

held in Madison Square, New York, every Tuesday evening, under the auspices of the Manhattan Single Tax Club. I found there an audience of about 100, more than half of which seemed to be highly sympathetic, the remainder being evidently neutral or callous; just such an audience as I have again and again seen gathered under the auspices of the Scottish Land Restoration Union, on this side. The speeches delivered also bore a very strong family resemblance to those of the orators of the S.L.R. Union, with which I am so familiar—with the exception that all the examples and illustrations were, of course, American. I was accorded the privilege of making a ten or fifteen minutes harangue to the crowd. This I found was not a very easy thing to do without preparation, as I had to take great care to avoid making references to things British which might hardly have been understood. Besides I was quite well aware that my strong Scotch accent sounded strange to the ears of a New York audience.

I am glad to say that

HENRY GEORGE

is well, and active. He is at present engaged on his treatise on political economy which he expects to finish in the spring, and which I know will be eagerly waited for by his disciples in this country. The work would have been completed before now were it not for the frequency of the calls that are almost continually being made upon him to lecture

Ask all Candidates for Municipal and Parliamentary Honours this Question—