

National Single Taxer

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A Revolution in Japan.

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For a number of years the people of Japan have wanted their Cabinet to be responsible to the Parliament, and to change according to the way the election goes. At last the struggle has ended, the people and the parliament being victorious, as against the throne. The Japanese Government is now based on the English system rather than the German. While this change has come in very quietly, it is regarded as a revolution by the people and a step that is full of hope. The next step is to be the extension of the franchise. The sudden dissolution of the last Parliament put a stop to the bill for a new election law. Another effort for a Proportional Representation bill will be made at the next session of Parliament.

JAPANESE TAXES.

There has been continuous discussion about the taxation, because new sources of revenue must be found. The present Okuma Cabinet went into office professedly opposed to an increase of the land tax. About 50 per cent. of the national income now comes from the land, and the landlords who have most of the power in Parliament have largely shifted the burdens of taxation to labor. The Cabinet has decided to increase the land tax.

Mr. Taguchi, M. P., editor of the Tokij "Economist," is doing herculean work in getting the burden of taxation onto the landlords, whom he calls "the drones of society."

The "Japan Mail" lately came out with a strong editorial on taxing land, closing one paragraph by saying that Japan was a good example on which "to base arguments by the advocates of the most enlightened system—the single tax."

I have received from Mr. Herne fifty copies of "Progress and Poverty," which I am distributing among the libraries of Japan. They will do great good.

Lately I have been called upon for single-tax lectures. At the close I have called for "Three cheers for the single tax," and the audiences have responded most favorably and heartily.

I have been very sanguine about the cause in Japan, but its advancement has been away beyond my expectations. Both among the leaders of thought and among the common people new friends are being continually raised up, and the single-tax cause is making wonderful progress.

Mr. Chas. Newburgh, of Washington, D. C., sent me a copy of Dove's great book, "The Theory of Human Progress,"

which I read with intense interest. I have had it put on sale in Japan. A number of copies have been taken, and it takes hold of certain minds even better than "Progress and Poverty" does. Several copies have gone to Admiral Dewey's flagship, and are doing good service there in the interest of freedom in the Philippines. It has taken even better in China than in Japan. Dr. Macklin, in his usual energetic fashion, has distributed a number of copies, and it is doing great good there. Pre-millinerians are apt to be infatuated with it.

I have the manuscript of a booklet on the Single Tax, almost ready for the printers. It is in Japanese. I hope to have enough money to print it when finished.

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