

poll of ratepayers with a view to returning to the old system of rating improvements. This request was at once granted. Two days before the poll an announcement was made that tenants would not be permitted to vote at the rating poll, the reason being that the Council were anxious to see the principle defeated. Our League interested itself in the fight, and issued a special leaflet. Steps were also taken to have evidence for a test case in the courts in the event of the poll being lost on account of the disfranchisement of the tenants who had voted at all previous polls under the act. It is gratifying to know that when the people were appealed to, they reaffirmed the principle of land values rating by 695 votes to 360. This was a great victory. After the system had been in operation for five years, the majority in favor of the principle had increased from 268 to 335; and that at a poll where some 300 tenants who had previously voted were disfranchised.

Not only did the ratepayers reaffirm the principle at the rating poll, but every candidate for Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors opposed to land values rating was defeated by big majorities, and a sympathetic Council returned. It is not at all likely that the opposition at Thebarton will ever again ask for another poll. They were routed all along the line.

We have just had a by-election for the Federal Parliament. The death of Representative Roberts caused a vacancy in the Adelaide division. The Labor candidate was Mr. G. E. Yates, secretary of the Labor Party. The Liberal Union did not put up a candidate. The Singletax League decided to again run me for the seat as a protest against party politics, and because the policy of the Labor Party is a policy of protection. Under the present tariff the people of Australia are called upon to pay £15,000,000 a year. The landlord only pays £1,200,000 a year. There was never any hope of victory, but it was as splendid chance for preaching land values taxation and free trade. As a result of our work the vote received this time was nearly double that secured at the general election last May. The district is a strong labor one, and a hot bed of protection, and we are well pleased with the result.

E. J. CRAIGIE.



WEDGWOOD IN TORONTO.

Toronto, Ont., Mch. 13, 1914.

Josiah C. Wedgwood, Member of Parliament, gave an exhibition of hustle which would do credit to the American foremen whom he said "come over to England to show workmen how to do twice as much work." Mr. Wedgwood reached Toronto at four o'clock p. m., March 12, was interviewed by the press, attended a reception given for him by the Toronto Singletaxers, addressed a dinner of the Canadian Club, and went to New York, at 7:20.

Speaking to the Canadians as "Men and Brothers" rather than as cousins, which he regarded the Americans, he spoke on the Radical movement in England.

The working classes in England, he thought, were much better educated on the fundamentals of political economy than they were in Canada or the United States; since the campaign which resulted in the election of the present Liberal Government, there had

been a continuous process of education, and perhaps a debt of gratitude was due to Joseph Chamberlain for forcing the issue to a point where it became necessary to show the fallacy of the Protectionist ideas and their balance of trade theory.

The Liberal Party had a programme—old age pensions—with which Mr. Wedgwood did not agree—the abolition of plural voting, Home Rule, and Land Value Taxation. He believed in Home Rule, for Ireland and elsewhere, for every man would rather govern himself, though badly, than be governed by someone else.

The Taxation of Land Values was the great work of the Liberal Party. Its object being to free the "wage slave," to give to every worker just exactly all that he produced, and to give to all willing to work, a job either working for himself or for someone else, at wages governed by what he could produce working for himself on free land.

His story of the unemployed in South Africa after the Boer War was a center shot. He was autocrat of the town of Ermenlo, where he gave the use of the town lands to the unemployed, who found that they could average £1 (one pound sterling) per day in produce, and this automatically raised the wages of all classes of labor to not less than that sum. The thin edge of the wedge of Land Value taxation in England was apparent in the proposal of Lloyd George to transfer five per cent of taxes from improvements to land values, and in the course of a few years to take it all. Already some of the large landholders were selling out and buying in Texas and Saskatchewan, which would not help Canada or the United States, however much it might benefit England.

Mr. Wedgwood's address made an impression on the members of the Canadian Club which cannot soon be lost; his easy graceful style, his perfect English and his very evident sincerity and enthusiasm, all combined to lead to the climax of his address which was an appeal to listen to the "clarions of battle, which call and call and call."

WESLEY E. BARKER.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

THE QUESTION AT ISSUE.

Brooklyn, N. Y., March 8.

The question at issue at the hearing before the Board of Estimate of this city on the Herrick-Schaap bill was not one of taxation but the referendum. This was neatly put by Mr. Marsh when he pointed out to the Mayor that as the voters had been wise enough to elect him he ought to consider them wise enough to decide a matter of taxation.

Mr. Prendergast's opposition was more logical, for an electorate which gave him 80,000 votes less than the head of his ticket and which, if it had had to choose simply between him and his opponent Metz, would undoubtedly have buried him, could hardly in his opinion be safely trusted to decide any question. His position was also more consistent with his pre-election utterances than that of the Mayor, whose attitude all through has been that of trying to please both sides. In fact, the only candi-