

local real estate board, whose members are large advertisers, who do not care to have the delicate question brought to the notice of the public. We admit that. Still, it hardly excuses the *Enquirer* editor. Under our present revenue system, land speculators would capitalize the improvements and sell them before they were paid for, leaving the public, to be taxed on their shelter, food, clothes, etc. It is an old and wicked game which no editor ought to help.

WANGANUI, New Zealand, by a popular vote of 2,280 to 1,733, has abolished all taxes save the one on land values for municipal purposes. This doubles the tax on land values. The city has a population of 25,000. The Waterside Worker's Union took a leading part on the side of taxing land values only. In Te Kuile, a smaller town, where the land value tax system had been in use for three years, enemies of the system made a strong effort to return to the old system of taxing improvements, but were defeated by a popular vote of 407 to 111.

THE sanitary inspector for Edinburgh, Scotland, reported in July: "In the course of house-to-house visitation the floors and bedding were in 323 instances found in a dirty condition. The number of cases of over-crowding which came under the notice of the department was 1,062, and of these 683 were houses of one apartment, 364 of two, 14 of three, and one of four apartments. The four-apartment house was occupied by 20 persons. In a number of the one apartment overcrowded houses as many as ten were found in residence, while in one of the two apartment houses, as many as sixteen persons were found."

We feel toward such reports much as we do about the numerous statistical bureaus at Washington, which are constantly sending out inane bulletins, at great expense to the government. These figures tell nothing we did not already know or could not surmise accurately from prevalent conditions. And so, in Edinburgh, where cruel landlordism forces up rents and depresses wages, it does not need sanitary inspectors and tables of statistics to let us know that there must be over-crowding of a most distressing kind in the poorer quarters. The statistics never lead to anything. The government employes who grind the statistical mills seem to have no expectation that anything ever will be done to remedy things. What good are the statistics?

New York Socialists See the Land Question

THE Socialist Party of New York has nominated Norman Thomas for Mayor. It is gratifying to find the following plank in the platform of the party.

"Economy is not parsimony. It is a false saving that is at the expense of service to the people. It is true economy to eliminate waste, graft, and inefficiency. To that

we pledge ourselves. In the levying of taxes we believe that the State and city as representing the people are especially entitled to claim the rental value of land—a value created by the community rather than the individual owner. Therefore we favor a plan similar to that in successful use at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, for progressively putting a higher burden of taxation on land than on buildings and improvements to the land."

CORRESPONDENCE

ANNA GEORGE WRITES ENTERTAININGLY
OF HER TRIP ABROAD.

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I have just returned from a trip to Europe and wish I could make a real report of the progress of the Single Tax movement over there, but as I was on a combination joy ride and college extension course with my two daughters, my S. T. contacts were merely social, with the exception of the one meeting which took the form of a dinner given by the London group. Engineered by the two standard bearers, Fred'k. Verinder and John Paul, it was a delightful affair and a red letter occasion to me—although my enjoyment of it was marred by the fact that I had to make a speech, which I seemed utterly incapable of concentrating on beforehand so that I heard myself saying a bunch of things I hadn't expected to say and I afterwards realized that I'd left unsaid many things I'd meant to say. But it was sweet beyond words to meet again friends of my early youth who had come to my father's call; sweet to meet others whom I had heard of but never seen—and others still who were new to the cause.

The "feeling" of that meeting was like that of the old days and I believe there must have been others present who experienced, as I did—a revived enthusiasm and a desire to dedicate themselves anew.

It was a personal loss to me and a disappointment to all who know Richard McGhee's power and eloquence that he was not able to be at that dinner—due to the fact that he had not fully recovered from an operation. But a few weeks later we went to visit him and although he was in a "nursing home" and was supposed to be very much of an invalid—he showed his old "pep," talked to me like a dutch uncle and made me then and there change my itinerary. As I have Irish blood in my veins, I could hardly be expected to admit to him that he proved to be entirely right,—but nevertheless I shall be eternally grateful to him for making us cut out a visit to the English lakes in favor of York. For in that wonderful little city we were met by four Disciples, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Sorenson, Fred Sherron and Ashley Mitchell, who took us in tow and showed us the fascinating town and the amazingly beautiful Fountains Abbey, while, at the same time, they gave us an idea of the splendid type the Yorkshire Single Taxer is!

In Birmingham we saw the family of the dearly beloved Thos. F. Walker.

To my deep regret we were unable to accept an invitation to visit Col. and Mrs. Josiah Wedgewood but we did go for the week-end to the delightful home of Ex-Bailie Peter Burt near Glasgow. There, on Sunday afternoon we met, over the tea-cup, a few of the enlightened from that wide awake group of Scotch Single Taxers.

I was amazed and delighted to find the wide spread recognition of Henry George as a writer and thinker in England. So much better is he known there than in his own country! Everyone there seemed to have read him or at least to have heard of him. I had a long talk with a little old cobbler in the "smallest shoe shop in London." After rather skillful manoeuvring on my part, our conversation carried us to the discussion of the Taxation of Land Values.

"That's the idea of Henry George!" said the shoemaker. "I've always wanted to read his book." (Next day he had one.)

At a luncheon at Lady Nancy Astor's, I sat beside Lord Robert Cecil.