

whereas his neighbour on the other side is paying, for a similar property, 2s. only, and that the difference is made up by the city speculators and absentees, who now practically pay nothing, it will not take him long to appreciate the benefits of the Single Tax principle as applied to local rating.

IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

a tax of 2d. in the £ was imposed some 11 or 12 years ago, but attempts to increase it have been baulked by the Upper House. A strong agitation, however, is afoot for a Single Tax Local Option Bill, and another step forward may be looked for in the near future. In Queensland a tax of 2d. in the £, capital value, has since 1893 sufficed for all local purposes, but nothing can be hoped for from the present Government.

NEW SOUTH WALES

has followed New Zealand's example as regards the land tax of 1d. in the £, and since the large measure of free trade introduced by the Hon. G. H. Reid the trade of the Colony has undergone a great revival.

In 1894 the Victorian House of Representatives passed a land tax of 1d. in the £ on the New Zealand model, but it was rejected by the "Lords;" and in Tasmania that year a Bill, taxing land up to £500 in value at 1/4d. in the £, and land above that value at 1d. in the £, met with the same fate. The Tasmanian Premier is pledged to re-introduce the Bill, and it is more than likely that the stern logic of events will force the Victorian Premier to do the same, for unless something of the sort is done, coupled with a large measure of free trade, Sydney will quickly run off with all the trade of Melbourne.

THAT NEW SOUTH WALES, VICTORIA, AND TASMANIA

should so quickly have followed the example of New Zealand—the blocking of measures by the non-representative chambers in no way impugns the popular verdict—shows that the benefits of such legislation are open and palpable; and the introduction of the reform in the mother colony cannot but be followed by the most far-reaching results. On the whole, I think, considering the tremendous odds that we have to fight and the smallness of our funds, we have great reason to be proud of and encouraged by the results of our stock-taking. Right is on our side, the very stars in their courses fight for us, our enemies help us only less than our friends, and in the long run—and not a very long run, I believe—we are bound to win.

Republicanism.

There are many more people ready for republicanism to-day than there were twenty-five years ago. And to create a worthy movement it only needs that the case should be stated neither on personal criticism of any member of the reigning house, nor on the mere financial grievances against it. The employment of such pleas is a surrender of the true republican position, and should be left to those who lack the courage for that, and who, demoralised by the monarchic environment, yet allow themselves the appropriate solace of occasionally reviling their fetish—as did these Conservative newspapers which a few years ago scolded the Prince of Wales for playing baccarat with £5 points. The only concern that republicans should have with the personality of the Royal Family, is to insist that the position must be unwholesome to those adulated, as to those who adulate; and that no qualities of character or gifts of mind, under sane conditions, earn the gross homage which royalists pay to mere title, mere position, mere descent. To single out any member of the stock as unworthy of the sacred status, is to admit that another might possibly be more worthy of it, which would reduce republicanism from an ideal to a mere makeshift.—*John M. Robertson in the "Progressive Review."*

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We have NO WASTE COPIES WHATEVER, all our Returns being distributed at Political, Literary, Social Reform, and other Public Meetings.

The "Single Tax" finds a place in the Public Libraries and Reading Rooms, and in Social and Reform circles in the Cities and Towns throughout Britain, in all British Colonies, and in the United States of America.

Our American Letter.

The Single Tax cause is moving forward with rapid strides in the United States; so rapidly, indeed, that veterans in the fight are not able to keep posted on the numerous and widespread evidences of progress. It is true we have had no victories like yours in Glasgow last November where the distinct issue of raising all revenue from ground rent won an election, but the political tendencies in many of our States are decidedly toward that end.

Washington State, the most north-westerly commonwealth in the Union and one of the richest in natural resources, is probably farther advanced toward the Single Tax than any other part of the country. At the last session of the Legislature two important laws were enacted, both of which warrant this assumption. One of these measures exempts 500 dollars in personal property and 500 dollars in improvements from State taxation, which of course adds that much more to land values. This law is now being enforced throughout the State, although the wealthy landowners are already fighting it in the courts and may yet succeed in having it declared unconstitutional. The other law passed by the Legislature was one to permit the people next year to vote on an amendment to the State Constitution granting local option in taxation. When this has been passed upon favourably by the electorate, as it undoubtedly will, the constitutional barrier will be removed and any community will be free to establish the Single Tax and not be disturbed by the courts. Meanwhile the question of taxation is being well discussed in Washington, which, together with the enforcement of the new exemption law, is educating the people to the feasibility and justice of the Tax on Land Values.

Dr. B. F. Longstreet, one of the ablest orators in the movement, is now on his way to the State to devote his entire time to making speeches and distributing literature there. His expenses are nearly all borne by the local Single Taxers. There is a strong Single Tax contingent in the Washington State Legislature, and many of the State and county officers are avowed advocates of the reform.

A decisive victory in Washington would mean much for the cause, on account of the great natural wealth of the State, and which would at once be liberated from monopoly. Seattle, Tacoma, and Spokane are large and wealthy cities, and the effect of the Single Tax upon their business, as well as upon the farmers, would be magical, for it is speculation in natural resources, there as elsewhere, that has created millionaires within a decade and caused the commercial panic.

But Washington State is not the only one showing signs of progress toward the Single Tax. California, Colorado, and Massachusetts each gives unmistakable evidence of the same growth. In both California and Colorado Home Rule Bills, originating with and pushed by Single Taxers, passed the Lower House of the Legislature and were beaten in the Senate by only small majorities. In Minnesota a bill providing for the exemption of all improvements and increase of taxes on land values was supported by all the influential newspapers in the State of both political parties. Having been introduced late in the session it was not brought regularly before the House, but from published interviews had with the legislators it was shewn to have strong endorsement. Predictions are made by prominent public men that such a law will pass at the next session.

The Massachusetts Single Tax League last winter inaugurated a new plan of propaganda which has been very effective thus far. Banquets costing a dollar a plate were given monthly to a number of representative men in a particular calling at which a prominent speaker was invited to deliver an address on the Single Tax, he taking care to explain its application to the occupation of the guests of the evening. As is customary at all Single Tax gatherings, a season of questions and answers followed the speech to elaborate the points made by the speaker. Leading farmers of the State were invited to one dinner which was addressed by Thomas G. Shearman; he also spoke to one given for the benefit of assessors. Dr. M'Glynn was the one chosen to make the appeal to trade unionists, and he did it eloquently and with great effect.

As a result of these banquets and diligent distribution of literature, many encouraging things have happened, among them being the friendly tone of the conservative dailies of the State. The *Boston Advertiser*, noted for its cautiousness, has recently commended the work of Single Taxers in several editorials. The labour unions of Boston last week passed resolutions endorsing the principle of taxation which aims to levy on advantages conferred by the community instead of upon ability. It is clear that the Single Taxers of Massachusetts have captured not only the trade unions but the great mass of business men who have hitherto stood aloof from the movement. Massachusetts, it will be remembered, was the first State to adopt the Australian or secret ballot system in this country, and some predict that she will be the first to get the Single Tax.

Disappointing as were the election returns in Delaware last fall from our standpoint, it is certain that the hard fought campaign there has made a lasting impression. There is to be a Municipal Election in Wilmington, Del., this month, when Single Tax candidates will be voted for. The local men are making an earnest and systematic campaign, and whatever may be the result in votes it cannot fail to annoy pestiferous enemies and advance the cause of honesty in government.

In addition to these political tendencies in the various States there are other cheering signs of progress. Municipalities, in a number of instances, are making a partial application of the Single Tax. Quincy, Illinois, a city of perhaps 30,000, has just decided to construct a 17,000 dollar storm sewer, every cent of which amount will be raised from land values, the cost to be apportioned according to benefits conferred by the sewer.

Last week Judge William Gayanor, one of the members of the New York State Supreme Court, advocated the Single Tax in a speech before an audience of his own kind.

We are to have a higher tariff in this country under a law which will be passed during the summer. It is freely admitted, even by the friends of the bill, that the Protectionists will be swept from power at the next Congressional Elections, which will take place in the fall of 1898.

Single Taxers, however, are not taking as much interest in the tariff question as they did some years ago, on account of the inclination of the Democratic party to compromise and dilly-dally with the subject. At present we are trying to do more on the line of obtaining Home Rule in taxation and getting our reform started in States and municipalities. Just now this seems the line of least resistance.

The movement in Canada is in about the same stage of advancement as in the United States. British Columbia, where there appears to be a few Single Taxers in public offices, seems to be the most promising field.

American Single Taxers are watching the progress of events in Glasgow with increasing interest. Your experience with municipal ownership of street cars and other natural monopolies has been the subject of wide and favourable newspaper comment, and should you succeed in rooting out the greatest of all monopolies—landlordism—reformers all over the world will point to Glasgow as the model city, and as the beacon on the hill for municipal land reformers the world over.

JAMES MALCOLM.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., U.S.A., JUNE 1.

To convince by reason a majority of the people that this legal right is wrong morally, and that the law should be changed, is the peaceful and constitutional method by which Single Taxers would bring about their reformation. They remember in what bloodshed and loss of treasure the nation was involved by a denial of the negro's rights. They would avoid a similar catastrophe by persuading men that the right way always is the safe way, and that safety can exist only with justice.—*Wm. Lloyd Garrison.*

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