

ernment Loans to the Housing Commissions in many municipalities, whose operations have already advanced land values and enriched the speculators.

An amendment to the Assessment Act of Ontario passed by the late Government at its last session empowered municipalities to reduce assessments on dwellings, if confirmed by a vote of the ratepayers, to the extent of fifty per cent. on dwellings of value up to \$2,000; forty per cent. on value up to \$2,500; thirty per cent. on \$3,000; twenty per cent. on \$3,500, and ten per cent. on \$4,000.

Though the Central Council of Ratepayers' Associations of Toronto, with the Assessment and Legislative Committees of the City Council, supported the Single Taxers in urging that this question be submitted to the ratepayers, the reactionary aldermen and controllers carries an amendment to provide that the exemption be limited to houses occupied by their owners only.

This question, submitted to the ratepayers on January 1st, 1920, was carried by the following vote:

For	18 373
Against	2 413
	14 241
Majority	14 241

In view of the Government's proposal to grant Local Option in Taxation to the municipalities, it is not expected that Toronto will receive special legislation to operate this limited exemption.

S. T.

The Vote In Ottawa

IN the city of Ottawa a measure to reduce taxation on improvements and income 25 per cent. annually was defeated on referendum by a vote of three to one. The vote was restricted to property owners.

Had the limited electoral privileges of this Ottawa measure been known in advance, Single Taxers here and elsewhere would have moderated their exultation at the time of its passage.

Mr. James R. Brown, president of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, of this city, campaigned energetically for this measure. Though the proposal is defeated, credit is due him and our Ottawa friends for getting the measure on the ballot, and for the public education that is the result of every opportunity that is presented to vote for any measure of Single Tax rather than merely to talk about it.

The vote was 4,457, to 1597.

IN every career those who reach the front rank are the exception. Out of fifty cadets only one becomes a general; among a hundred physicians only one becomes a professor; the rest remain in inglorious obscurity, frequently in poverty.—MAX NORDAU.

LAND is not, and cannot be, property in the same sense that movable things are property. Every human being born into this planet must live upon the land, if he lives at all. The land in any country is really the property of the nation which occupies it.—FROUDE.

Our English Letter

THERE was a time when it was not a difficult task to write an encouraging news letter for the SINGLE TAX REVIEW. It is not so easy to write such a letter today. In the field of politics, rapid and unexpected changes are taking place, and one wonders what the next surprise will be. Twelve or thirteen years ago the Liberal Party was something quite different from what it is today. In those days, it was animated by the reforming spirit of its great, honest, democratic leader, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.

At that time Single Taxers looked forward with confidence to a real solid advance along our lines. Today the Liberal Party knows nothing of the spirit of freedom that animated it in the days of its greatest glory and strength.

That spirit no longer animates its leaders. Liberalism, as defined by Campbell-Bannerman in his great speech at Norwich in 1903, has been cast overboard. "Our policy," said Sir Henry, "is the policy of freedom in all things that affect the life of the people, freedom of conscience, freedom of trade, internal and external, freedom of industry, freedom of combination and co-operation, freedom from class ascendancy, freedom from injurious privileges and monopolies, freedom for each man to make the best of the faculties implanted in him, and with a view to embodying these and other principles in legislation, freedom of Parliament, and freedom for all to elect to the governing body of the nation, the representatives of its own choice."

Lloyd George is no longer a leader in the fight for land reform and economic freedom. He is now the friend of those who despised and feared him in the days of the great land campaign. As for Mr. Asquith, he appears to have forgotten about the importance he once attached to "opening the springs of industry." The difference between some of the Tory Party and the front rank Liberals appears to be one of party attachment merely, and not of principle.

Many Single Taxers, admittedly amongst the best fighting men in the Liberal Party have, out of sheer disappointment and disgust, left that party and joined the Labor Party. These include Dr. Dundas White, R. L. Outhwaite and many others.

What hopes they have of helping the movement through the Labor Party are not yet evident. There is no front rank man in either Liberal or Labor Party who appears to have any enthusiasm for the cause of economic reform. Our friends have left a party which has betrayed the cause for which they stand, and one can easily appreciate their feelings toward the betrayers, seeing how in past years they have worked and sacrificed to put these leaders into office.

Why our friends have any hopes of seeing our policy pressed forward by the Labor Party is not yet evident, because up to the outbreak of the war, we had very little support or encouragement from Messrs. MacDonald, Snowden and other leaders of the Labor movement. It may be (I do not know) that our Single Tax friends have had conversations with some of the Labor leaders and convinced them of the need for making the pace on our lines

as the only one that can permanently improve the lot of the workers.

One can understand that after the way Labor leaders have referred to our policy as "the capitalist's last ditch" and a "red herring drawn across the path of the workers," they will need to be very careful in the manner of bringing forward our policy.

As one who speaks in many parts of the country and to all kinds of political and social reform organizations, I am convinced that the rank and file of both Labor and Liberal parties are strongly in favor of our policy; and, not only these, but many men in the Conservative Party are ready to give their support to the party that will put up a real earnest fight for Land and Liberty.

Since the foregoing was written, the Liberal Federation meetings have been held at Birmingham and referring to these meetings, a correspondent has written me as follows: "The Manchester people strengthened a little the resolutions on Land Value Taxation at the National Liberal meetings but, as you know, the whole question is kept well in the background. Asquith never mentioned it in his address. The position is most unsatisfactory but I must say that I don't like the idea of joining the Labor party. Liberal principles, put into practice, include all we want."

Just now a bye-election is taking place in Spen Vale, a Yorkshire constituency. Sir John Simon is the Liberal candidate.* He is considered one of the best Radicals among the front rankers, but in this contest he is ignoring the question of the Taxation of Land Values. These things go to prove, as Henry George said, that "we cannot safely leave politics to politicians.... The people themselves must think, because they alone can act."

F. SKIRROW

Puerto Rico

OUR friend, Antonio M. Molina, reports that during his Summer's holiday in Puerto Rico he was invited by the leaders of the Socialist or Popular Party there to speak on economic problems. Of course, in dealing with the subject he pointed out the fallacies and shortcomings of Socialism as a remedy, and was pleased to note that both the audience and party leaders "saw the cat" when the Georgian philosophy was put before them. He was repeatedly asked afterwards to speak on the subject and literature was requested for distribution.

This incident seems to illustrate, like the action of the Socialist Party in Buenos Aires, what our old friend, Charles Frederick Adams, said of the Latin mind as being more logical and receptive than the Teutonic and therefore more inclined to accept the Georgian philosophy.

Send the REVIEW to your public library if it does not already take it.

*Since this was written the campaign has been fought, resulting in the defeat of Sir John by the Labor candidate for Parliament.—EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW.

New South Wales

AN UNEQUALLED OPPORTUNITY

THE termination of the war has enormously increased the opportunities of the Single Tax movement to make real progress in every part of the world, and nowhere more so than in New South Wales. One result of the tremendous waste and destruction caused by the war, and the unparalleled increase in taxation to meet an equally unparalleled expense, has been to concentrate public attention on the question of how to obtain the necessary funds in an equitable way. The almost daily increase in the price of everything we use has added to the complexities of the question, for wages have no sooner been raised to meet the increase in cost of living than prices again go up to meet the additional expense caused by the increased wage, so that, as the *Daily Telegraph* very aptly puts it, it is like a dog chasing its own tail. Then comes the Prime Minister and announces that the tariff is to be raised with the view of "protecting our industries," and the manufacturers, eager to dip their hands still deeper in the public purse, placard the ferry boats and trams with attractive looking posters beseeching the public to buy only "Australian made goods," declaring that the £626,000,000 worth of goods imported by Australia during the last ten years was a "tragic waste," every penny having been a loss to the country, preventing the people here from obtaining work! Thousands of pounds are being spent by the manufacturers in attempting to gull the public in this way, but the public are beginning to get tired of paying such heavy prices for everything they want, and the proposed raising of the tariff, which means that prices will go up still higher, threatens to lead to widespread revolt against the whole system of tariff taxation. This is giving the League an unequalled opportunity of contrasting the Georgian method of obtaining revenue by the appropriation of land values with the old-fashioned but still lingering system of taxing the products of labor. The most surprising thing is that the Labor Party in Australia has long been and still is in favor of a protection policy, although it has never done the workers any good. Only 7 per cent. of their number are engaged in protected industries, and the increasing cost of living, due in a large measure to the protective tariff of which they are so fond, very considerably reduces their purchasing power. They do not even yet see that the only person a protective tariff protects is the manufacturer, who is enabled to charge a higher price for the goods he makes, while the purchaser is prevented from obtaining the imported article at a cheaper rate.

THE FALLACY OF THE BASIC WAGE

To make matters worse the N. S. W. Board of Trade has just declared a basic wage of £3 17s, or 17s more than the ruling rate, to be immediately applied to all industries in New South Wales, which will mean an estimated addition to their cost of £14,000,000, and so overweight many of them that they will stop producing sooner than submit to such an exorbitant charge. This is just the opposite of