

John G. White's Lecture Work Progress In Ontario and The Vote In Toronto

Following are the lecture dates filled by John G. White during the month of December, 1919:

Kiwanis Club, New Orleans, La.
 Rotary Club, Baton Rouge, La.
 Rotary Club, Alexandria, La.
 Rotary Club, Memphis, Tenn.
 Kiwanis Club, Memphis, Tenn.
 Kiwanis Club, Chatanooga, Tenn.
 Rotary Club, Mobile, Ala.
 Open Forum, Mobile, Ala.
 Rotary Club, Cape Girardeau, Mo.

In January of this year Mr. White filled the following engagements:

City Club, Memphis, Tenn.
 Men's Church Club, Berwyn, Ill.
 Kiwanis Club, Milwaukee, Wis.
 Rotary Club, Duluth, Minn.
 Commercial Ass'n, Oak Park, Ill.
 Men's Church Club, North Milwaukee, Wis.
 Women Welfare League, St. Paul, Minn.
 Town Criers Club, St. Paul, Minn.
 The Seven Oaks Commercial Club, Minneapolis, Minn.
 Open Forum, St. Paul, Minn.
 Kiwanis Club, Minneapolis, Minn.
 Rotary Club, St. Paul, Minn.
 Civic and Commerce Ass'n, Rochester, Minn.
 Business Men's Association, Westby, Wisconsin.
 Kiwanis Club, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Following are Mr. White's engagements for February:

Salina, Kansas, Rotary Club, Feb. 2nd.
 Salina, Kansas, Kansas Wesleyan University, Feb. 3rd.
 Hutchinson, Kansas, Chamber of Commerce, Feb. 4th, noon
 Wichita, Kansas, Chamber of Commerce, Feb. 4th, evening.
 Wichita, Kansas, Lions Club and Schools, Feb. 5th.
 Pretty Prairie, Kansas, February 6th and 7th.
 Leadville, Colo., Chamber of Commerce, Feb. 12th.
 Grand Junction, Colo., Feb. 13th.
 Salt Lake City, Utah, Rotary Club, Feb. 17th.
 Pocatello, Idaho, Rotary Club, Feb. 19th.
 Boise, Idaho, Rotary Club, Feb. 26th.
 Spokane, Washington, March 1st to 7th inclusive.
 Tacoma, Washington, Rotary Club, March 19th.
 Hood River, Oregon, Farmers' Organization, March 20th.
 Hood River, Oregon, Church Forum, March 21st.
 San Diego, Cal., April 4th to 8th inclusive.
 Los Angeles, Cal., Kiwanis Club, April 9th.
 San Antonio, Texas, Rotary Club, April 30th.

This is the list of appointments so far accepted by Mr. White on his forthcoming Pacific coast tour beginning at Salina, Kansas, Feb. 2. Organizations desiring to secure Mr. White may communicate with the Henry George Lecture Bureau, 538 S. Dearborn street, Chicago, Ill.

THE change of government on Ontario from a Conservative regime of many years to a Farmer-Labor leadership and control is one of the important happenings of the past year. In it Single Taxers throughout the Province see the opening of a better day for their principles.

A radical change in taxation is part of the legislative programme of the Farmer-Labor coalition. Here are some changes that are proposed:

Tax on unearned increment.
 Higher tax on unimproved land.
 Higher graduated income tax.
 Higher inheritance tax.
 Tax on profits.
 Lower tax on improvements.
 Income tax on profits of corporations.
 Proportional representation.

"The United Farmers of Ontario" platform has been more definite than the Labor platform as to its taxation policy, but little difficulty is experienced in the two groups getting together on that subject. The bulk of the farmers in the Province may be suspicious of any move to make the land carry most of the burden of taxation, but local option for towns and cities would leave the rural districts free to adjust matters to suit themselves.

For the past twenty-five years such leaders of the United Farmers of Ontario, as Drury, Morrison, Good and Cowan have been pronounced Single Taxers in their writings and speeches.

The Liberal Party is also committed to Tax Reform and Proportional Representation.

It is no exaggeration to say that most of the influence that has made it possible for the leaders of these groups to advance such progressive measures has come from the efforts of the past thirty-five years made by the Single Tax Association of Ontario, in sending deputations to sessions of the Legislature, municipalities, and other organizations, and the publication of the *Square Deal* and other literature.

After the recent general election in this Province the leader of the Government, Premier Drury, received a deputation of our members, and after hearing their views, promised to introduce an amendment to the Ontario Assessment Act to provide for local option in taxation.

The deputation was informed that the gentleman appointed to frame this bill was a convinced Single Taxer, and a jurist much respected for his character and ability. Useful data to assist in this work have already been placed at his disposal by the Association.

Those who have followed the current of events in this Province for the past twenty-five years have no doubt that Local Option in Taxation will become law by a good majority in the new Legislature.

It was recently brought to the notice of Premier Drury by the Association that this contemplated change in the Assessment Act would obviate the need of any more Gov-

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