

The Movement In Ontario

THE Single Tax Association of this Province is resuming its pre-war activities, so necessary to allay the unrest now perplexing its statesmen.

A recent visit by the Assistant Secretary to Hamilton, Brantford, Preston, London and St. Thomas, indicated that the people are ready for progressive measures as the result of clear thinking on political economy.

Following up this tour spent in supplying public libraries with the books of Henry George, interviewing officials, making appointments for speakers, securing many new members, and other activities, similar work will be undertaken in other parts of the Province.

Since the beginning of the year many meetings have been addressed by Mrs. Prenter, J. W. Bengough, W. A. Douglass, A. W. Roebuck, A. C. Thompson and others.

The example of our English co-workers in publishing a series of leaflets entitled "A Tale of Two Cities," wherein English centres are severally compared, as to taxation methods, with Sydney, N. S. W., incited us to issue a similar leaflet, showing how far Toronto is behind that city of the Antipodes.

Apart from the monthly meetings of the Executive Committee, held in the Y. M. C. A. whose directors contribute the use of a room for that purpose—we have had another each month, social or educational in its character.

Alderman Honeyford, a convinced follower of George, was successful a month ago in carrying a resolution through the City Council requesting the Ontario Legislature to grant Toronto the power to assess land values higher than improvements.

If the financial contributions continue to increase at the present rate, the total for this year will be double the amount collected in 1918-19.

Apart from our volunteer speakers, we have a group of helpers who do clerical work in the office, and this is opportune, as a series of special letters, circulars, and articles are now being sent broadcast from the Toronto office to all the Provinces of the Dominion.

In the early Summer we are planning to hold a convention of Ontario Single Taxers in Toronto, and should the Assessment Act be amended in the meantime, so as to permit municipalities to have Local Option in taxation, the results of such a gathering will be of untold value.

Encouraged by the successful tent meetings held last Summer, we expect to make good use of our canvas and its equipment, to push for successful onslaughts into the ranks of the Ontario reactionaries.

S. T.

Winnipeg

THE Single Tax League of Western Canada met in Winnipeg in January and elected the following board of officers for the ensuing year: Honorary President, S. G. Bland, D.D.; President, John W. Ward; Vice-President,

D. E. Peddie; Corresponding Secretary, Geo. E. Wright; Financial Secretary, Hugh Mackenzie.

The following Executive Committee was appointed; F. W. Brownell, D. W. Buchanan, T. A. Bayley, P. M. Clemens, J. S. Clark, F. J. Dixon, D. A. Fowler, John Kennedy, W. D. Lamb, M. T. McKittrick and A. Summerfield.

President Ward spoke in part as follows:

"A brief survey of the present situation shows that Single Taxers are rapidly coming into power in this country. In Ontario we have a provincial government which came into power on a platform which includes the taxation of unimproved land values, and which is led by a premier, Mr. E. C. Drury, who is a pronounced Single Taxer. The platform of the Canadian Council of Agriculture on which four federal by-elections have recently been won, declares for the taxation of unimproved land values as a substitute for the protective tariff. Hon. T. A. Crerar, M.P., the leading spokesman of the Farmers' Party and the New National Policy, is a believer in the Single Tax and a member and generous supporter of this league. Coming closer home we cannot help being interested, as Single Taxers, in the result of the recent civic elections. We may have differences of opinion as to some of the issues which were raised in that contest, but, as Single Taxers, we note with satisfaction that one of our own members and one of the soundest Single Taxers in the city polled over 12,000 votes in the contest for mayor.

"It is in the federal field, however, that we must eventually look for the triumph of our cause. If the party supporting the New National Policy should gain control of the government at the next election, I am confident that they will inaugurate a system of taxation of unimproved land values for federal purposes. The organized farmers of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have repeatedly declared in favor of the principle at their annual conventions, and their leaders almost to a man are not only advocates of the system but are fundamentally sound Single Taxers."

New Zealand

STANDING as candidate of the Progressive Liberals, on a platform demanding that a substantial and increasing amount of the community created value of land should be collected and used for community purposes, Hon. George Fowlds, of Auckland, contested the Grey Lynn elections, as he has so often done before, and sometimes successfully.

He carried on a vigorous campaign, being committed not only to the taxation of land values as an issue, but to prohibition and proportional representation as well, so it is impossible to estimate the true causes of his defeat. But it was on the question which has made Mr. Fowlds well and favorably known in many parts of the world, i.e., the land question, that he made his real fight. In a declaration to the voters he said:

"I have been a keen student of Economics and Sociology for over thirty years, and have thus become fully convinced that substantial changes are necessary in our system of government and taxation in order to attain Social Justice. The aim of my public life has been to secure these changes by evolutionary means, knowing full well that the violation