

of natural laws involved in the present system must, if continued, bring disaster on our civilization."

Following is the vote, showing a plurality for the Labor candidate of 481.

Bartram, Labor, 3,141; Miss E. Melville, Reform (Govt.), 2,660; George Fowlds, Liberal, 2,405.

South Australia

MR. E. J. CRAIGIE is an Independent Democratic candidate for the Senate, and is out with a striking manifesto in which he announces the issues of the campaign. He is standing for Proportional Representation, Free Trade and the Taxation of Land Values. He points out that the United Farmers of Ontario put up fifty candidates and won 43 seats, and that the main planks of the party were Proportional Representation, Free Trade and the Taxation of Land Values. He asks why the Australian farmers do not follow the lead of their Canadian brethren.

He indicates that the farmers of Australia have large areas of land but of small values, and this statement is fortified by a series of comparisons between rural and urban land which should open the eyes of Mr. Craigie's farming constituency. The issues are very thoroughly treated in the limits of the manifesto.

Under the head of "Repatriation of the Soldiers," Mr. Craigie says (and we commend it to the attention of former Secretary Lane):

"This is a most important matter. When these men enlisted they were told they were fighting for their country. Now the fighting is over it seems they are unable to get a portion of the country for use in production unless they buy it back from the landlord class at a high price. The proposal to buy back land for soldier settlement is an insult to "the digger." It means loading him with a heavy debt for many years to come. Then, when he has acquired the land on these unjust terms and starts to get ready for production, what have the big political parties to offer him? Simply a greater burden of taxation. They propose to tax his plough, his drill, his harvester, his binder twine; in fact, everything he requires. How can he expect to succeed on the land if he is handicapped right from the start in this manner? It is utterly impossible. It is certainly a piece of political hypocrisy to offer a gratuity with one hand, and then take more than that gratuity away in indirect taxation. It is not fair to these men who have undergone such hardships. My proposal for the returned soldier is to make land available to him simply by paying the rental value each year into the public treasury. I would advocate the total abolition of all taxes now levied on his tools and implements, thus giving the returned soldier on the land a chance to make good as a primary producer. A policy such as this is of more practical benefit than the vague, shadowy proposals put forth by the political parties now angling for the soldiers' vote. It should, therefore, command the support of those who believe in a fair deal."

The first thing that a student has to get rid of is the idea of absolute ownership. No man is, in law, the absolute owner of lands; he can only hold an estate in them.

—WILLIAM, On the Law of Real Property.

Great Britain

IF we were to judge by outward appearances in Great Britain, our movement is at present "snowed under." Even at election times it is relegated to a back seat. The fact that Mr. Asquith spoke in favor of the Taxation of Land Values during the Paisley election does not, in the light of past experience, count for much. Probably the attitude of his labor opponent on the question, which as *Land and Liberty* says, was "deplorable," contributed more to his success than his own guarded utterances in its favor. On the other hand, the successful labor candidate in the Spen Valley election, the result of which was given in your last issue, was favorable to taxation of land values, while his opponent, a prominent Liberal, was not. It is too early yet for the influence of the Single Taxers who have recently joined the Labor Party to show itself in the policy of the party, but we may be sure that men like Hemmerde, Outhwaite, McLaren, Wedgwood and Dundas White, will be able in some measure to educate the party on the vital importance of placing land reform in the front of their programme. Meanwhile, municipal rates are rising to an alarming extent, (15s. in the pound will in many places be reached this year), houses are next to impossible to get, coal is scarce, transport difficult, with labor everywhere unsettled. The Labor Party is advocating as a remedy for this state of things, municipal and national house-building, to be subsidized from the national purse, nationalization of mines, railways, etc., and although land reform in one shape or another finds a place in most of the Labor and Liberal programmes, in the numerous by-elections which are now taking place, it is treated in such an off-hand way as to show that the candidates neither know nor care very much about it. We have not yet recovered from the war fever and the apathy which follows, so the immediate work of Single Taxers will be to educate trade unions, co-operative societies and similar institutions, for the approaching time when financial necessity will force the question to the front.

WM. THOMSON.

Roumania

THE *Nation* of February 14 publishes the text of the "Legislative Decree Concerning Expropriation for Reasons of National Emergency," published in the Roumanian Monitorul Oficial of December, 1918.

The purpose of such expropriation is declared in this Decree to be the purchase of arable land by the peasants actually working it. It includes arable lands owned by the Crown; all land outside the cities owned by subjects of foreign countries who are alien by birth, marriage or otherwise; rural land owned by absentees; two million hectares (hectare being a little over two and a half acres) to be obtained from the arable lands of all private owners owning over and above one hundred hectares of such arable land.

The price of the lands thus expropriated is to be fixed