

ture, and the voters of his district will listen to some fundamental economic truths from their candidate, during the coming campaign.

E. D. Schleiter of Beaver, and John T. Ennis of Pittsburgh, are also candidates for the Legislature. On the State ticket, one of the candidates was nominated on a Singletax platform, William N. McNair, who is running for Secretary of Internal Affairs. He is making an open air campaign, with the assistance of local Singletaxers in various parts of the State. The newspapers reported large meetings last week in various parts of Cambria County, where he was assisted by a number of Johnstown Singletaxers, among them M. J. Boyle, Prof. H. F. Bender and P. H. Mahaffey.

The result of the Pittsburgh plan for gradually reducing the assessment of improvements gives these candidates something practical to talk about on the "stump." They have arguments that are more than mere theory. And so the voters are beginning to show an unusual interest in their campaign.

If the next Legislature contains men who are Singletaxers, the movement for the extension of the Pittsburgh Tax Plan to boroughs will be greatly encouraged; as it is now, the boroughs surrounding Pittsburgh, are beginning to feel the situation. The Secretary of the Board of Tax Revision in Allegheny County is receiving many complaints from manufacturers in the towns surrounding Pittsburgh. They say that it is not just to them that machinery is taxed in boroughs and not in the city. They are beginning to realize the advantage which the factories in Pittsburgh have with their machinery exempt from taxation; and, no doubt, will soon start a movement, even though they know nothing of Singletax, to have a similar law in the boroughs, by which machinery will be relieved from taxation.

This year there was only a 10 per cent reduction on the assessments of buildings in Pittsburgh. At the next assessment there will be further 10 per cent reduction. Whether it is merely a coincidence or not, it is remarkable that the city is experiencing a great building boom. The Pittsburgh "Press" of the 20th inst., had an editorial showing that the large buildings in the course of erection in the city totaled about fifteen millions of dollars.

Some of the political leaders in Pittsburgh are considering amending the Stein bill so as to make the reduction of assessments of buildings more rapid. Some of the members of the City Council are beginning to see this and are advocating that a greater percentage of the assessment be reduced, than as is now provided for in the bill.

Whether these Singletaxers are elected or not, a great deal of propaganda work is being done. People are being told in a most effective manner that the way to better the conditions of the common people is by the taxation of land values. In all these open air meetings, good seed is being sown, the truth is being told to the people and the future battles in this State for economic freedom will be easier, because of the work that is being now carried on by the Singletax candidates in Pennsylvania.

R. E. SMITH.

NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND.

Wellington, N. Z., July 5.

During the financial year ending March 31, 1914, we have carried twelve places for rating on unimproved values (local single tax as they call it in Canada), two counties, seven boroughs and three town boards, etc. This year no less than 132 places will be rating on unimproved values in New Zealand. But for the strike last year, I believe we should have carried nearer two dozen instead of only one dozen places. We hope to do better this year, but as we have a general election in November more attention will probably be given to national than to local politics.

Our prospects in national politics this year are probably not good. The Honorable George Fowlds is sure to win back his old seat, and Mr. J. P. O'Regan, who is being pressed to stand for the Buller, will be returned if he can see his way to stand, but the general position is not bright.

The Second Ballot, as you will remember, proved an utter failure at the last general election. The Massey Government went into power, although, counting the votes cast for four "Liberals" who now support him, he received little more than one-third (thirty-eight per cent) of the votes cast in the first ballot, which shows the true feeling of the people. The result of the 1911 election was:

Masseytes .....	37
Liberals .....	35
Labor .....	4

But in proportion to the votes cast for each party the result should have been:

Masseytes .....	27
Liberals .....	37
Labor .....	10
Independents .....	2

Now Massey has abolished the Second Ballot, reverting to the old "first past the post" system, which means that if the Government put up only one candidate for each seat, while the progressive vote is divided among two or three candidates, the Massey Minority Ministry may get a fresh lease of power. Under Proportional Representation, the only scientific and honest electoral system, they would be beaten by two to one.

Sir Joseph Ward has not yet learned the lesson of the 1911 elections. If in his last session he had taken Mr. Fowld's advice and carried Proportional Representation and added another one penny in the pound, without exemption, to the Land Tax and reduced Customs taxes by the amount so raised (this would have meant reducing the cost of living at least £1,000,000 a year—£1 per head, £5 per family of five, man, wife and three children), he would have been returned hands down. But he has not yet declared for Proportional Representation, although he has for the reduction of Customs taxes and putting more of the tax burden on the community—created values. Mr. Fowlds, however, returns in September and we will then have a big campaign.

ARTHUR WITHY.