

meetings, besides assisting in the promotion of many meetings to discuss the land question and the remedy, organized by other bodies. Our speakers are busy now with many similar indoor events, and the office keeps busy distributing as much explanatory literature as we can provide. Along with the Edinburgh League for the Taxation of Land Values, we are promoting a conference on the question to be held in Edinburgh in April. This gathering will be comprised of delegates from rating bodies, co-operative societies, trades unions, etc., etc. I will send news of this for the summer number of the REVIEW.

JOHN PAUL.

#### WEST AUSTRALIA, PERTH.

I notice your great election is over, and that the strenuous Imperialist still retains the occupancy of the White House. Which of the two main aspirants won was not of much consequence to you, I suppose, from a practical point of view, for with you the Single Tax is not yet in the political arena. Parker did not appear to be too anxious to go straight at the trusts by means of the tariff. Apparently your great field of usefulness lies in education, and the evidence seems satisfactory that the heaven is slowly but surely spreading in all directions. With us matters are not so cheerful. Our ministry (Labor Socialist) sent a bill to the Legislative council providing that it should be optional with municipalities whether they raise their local rates on Land Values or according to the ancient system. The house of landlords, seeing the labor people were lacking in backbone, and were not likely to insist on the clause, promptly hacked it out, and when the bill was returned to the lower chamber it was quietly dropped in toto. But throughout the country here is a growing note of dissatisfaction with the Ministry for the way they have trifled with the most important plank of their platform, and within another year they will either have to mend their ways or make way for Democrats. That plank is: "The taxation of land values without exemption." The granting of the power to municipal bodies was a golden opportunity for them to substitute a just and beneficial tax for an unjust and injurious one. Now, the position is that customs duties are in the hands of the Federal Parliament, which consists of about equally Labor-Socialists on one hand and Free Trade and Protectionists on the other, who have dropped the fiscal issue to become solid anti-Socialists. The Labor party proposes to ignore the fiscal issue as immaterial, but has strong leanings towards that popular offspring of Socialism and ignorance, "Protection," so there is no hope in this quarter for years to come. In the States municipal bill just murdered, roads boards (country districts), are using the system, and we are advocating

a general tax without exemptions to replace a portion of the ruinously heavy railway rates, and let me assure you there are warm times ahead.

JOS. G. GRIFFITHS.

#### FAIRHOPE'S TROUBLES.\*

##### Editor SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

I have been requested by so many Single Taxers to write them regarding Fairhope, that it will be impossible for me to reply to any of them personally and will do so through your valuable journal, with your permission, in your next issue. It is impossible to do so in time for this issue, owing to an overwhelming load of work already on hand. In the proposed article I will seek to give information and bring out points that should have been developed at the late conference at Fairhope. It seemed to the writer at the time, as it doubtless must have to others, that it was the one thing for which a conference was called. Single Taxers all over the world waited for further details as to the colony; its actual operation and methods; just to what extent it could approach the Single Tax principle and as to whether or not the plan could be in any way applied elsewhere; or if it justified the claims made for it by some of its promoters. I shall give the facts in any article I may write, and leave your readers to draw their own conclusions. The Conference, instead of enlightening the world on these points, was led into a series of meetings, from which the outside world got little or no information as to the workings of Fairhope. I hope to be able to give you a number of specific cases of renters; their tax assessments, values of property, amount of land rents paid, both town and suburban, personal property assessments, comparative values of the different locations, outgo and income of representative persons, in relation to the colony, how assessments are made and how fixed, who are benefitted by the colony plan and why, what are the comparative values of land in the colony and lands adjoining, also the advantages to one renting colony land, as compared with renting lands outside—in fact will seek to show things as they are, from which it will be possible for your readers to form their own opinions as to whether or not "good theories are being made to work." In closing let me say, Fairhope will be a success, but only after it adopts democratic principles.

E. Q. NORTON.

\*In printing these communications and newspaper clippings regarding Fairhope it is necessary to say that however much the colony on the shore of Mobile Bay has been advertised as a Single Tax experiment, its success would not furnish a demonstration of the Single Tax, nor its failure disprove it. The colony has many admirable features,