

easily looks it externally) \$500,000, but is assessed for only \$100,000—20 per cent.

A somewhat similar condition exists in Toronto at this time as is found in New York city—a shortage of homes and tenements for the lower paid toiler. Whereas in New York it is due in large part to extended strikes in the building trades, so that buildings were not erected for the normal increase of population, let alone for the thousands attracted there by the prospect of securing employment in the building of the \$35,000,000 subway, here in Toronto it is due to the "boom" in land values which this city experienced a few years, and which boosted prices out of reach, if not out of sight.

With a continued increase of population house owners are now able to secure much higher rents, although they insist that present prices only yield a fair return upon the capital invested in the land and the building. If this is true, it simply proves that those from whom they bought the land capitalized future values.

Of course the tax reformers here are utilizing this situation as the strongest argument for the exemption of improvements up to \$700, pointing out that if this is done it will stimulate the building of homes and tenement houses for those who are the greatest sufferers from present conditions, as such property is uniformly heavily assessed as compared with business property and most expensive residences.

The outlook for the adoption of the principle of local option in taxation in this city, if not in the entire Province, in the near future is most encouraging. It should stimulate similar efforts in the United States.

ROBERT BAKER.

#### ST. LOUIS.

St. Louis, July 18.—The Women's National Single Tax League met at St. Louis, Mo., on the 11th and 12th of July. Mrs. John S. Crosby, of New York, presided. Delegates were present from New York, New Jersey, Washington, D. C., Massachusetts, Missouri, Illinois and Iowa. Written reports were read from several absent delegates, and visiting single taxers from Pennsylvania, Missouri, Illinois, Alabama and Colorado took part in the discussions.

Mrs. Louisa L. Werth, of St. Louis, made the address of welcome.

At the Monday evening mass meeting in Exposition building Mr. F. M. Crunden, of St. Louis, spoke hopefully of reformers' work, in the long run, citing the triumph of the abolition movement from small beginnings. Mrs. Margaret L. Coope, L. L. B., of Washington, D. C., reported for a large and active single tax league in that city, and incidentally of the develop-

ment such work was bringing the women themselves. Mr. James Belangee, of Fairhope, Ala., explained this working model of the single tax theory and its obvious benefits. Hon. Robert Baker, Congressman from New York, spoke earnestly of the remarkable object lesson daily being presented at St. Louis by the increase of rents by reason of the crowds attending the World's Fair; an increase which profits the landlords but not the city. He referred with much warmth to the break-down of law and order in Colorado, by civil and military authorities, before any alleged law-breaking by strikers took place, and the cause of the whole trouble—monopoly of mining land.

Among the resolutions adopted at the next day's session was one declaring the belief that the far-reaching method of the single tax is the only peaceful solution of the labor question, including its most distressing and disgraceful feature, child labor. Woman suffrage was heartily indorsed.

Mrs. John S. Crosby, of New York, was elected president; Dr. Anna M. Lund, of Chicago, vice president; Dr. Mary D. Hussy, East Orange, N. J., recording secretary; Mrs. Kate E. Freeman, Brooklyn, N. Y., corresponding secretary; Mrs. Jennie L. Munroe, Washington, D. C., treasurer. Plans of wider organization and propaganda were adopted. The next conference will probably be held in Philadelphia next June.

LONA I. ROBINSON.

## NEWS

Week ending Thursday, July 21.

The strike of the butchers against reductions of wages in the combined packing houses of the country (p. 235) has been settled so far as to submit the dispute to arbitration. The arbitration agreement, made on the 20th, is as follows:

Memorandum of agreement entered into between the representatives of the various packing companies whose signatures appear below and the representatives of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, as follows:

Wages and working conditions of all employes now on strike to be submitted to arbitration, each party to this agreement having the privilege of bringing before the arbitrators for decision any question of wages or conditions, or any other grievances they may have, and both to abide by the decision of the arbitrators. The packing companies signing this agreement to retain all employes now at work who wish to re-

main, and will reemploy all employes now out as fast as possible, without discrimination. Employes to return to work at the wages received when going out, pending the decision of the arbitrators; arbitrators to consist of three practical packing house men, to be selected as follows:

One representative of the packing companies, one representative of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America; these two to select a third member. The two first named shall meet within 48 hours after resumption of work, proceed to elect the third member, and shall meet daily for that purpose until this duty has been completed. When the third member has been selected the three shall meet daily unless adjournment be had by unanimous consent, until the final conclusion has been reached and the award made. Any former employe not reemployed within 45 days from the date work is resumed to have the privilege of submitting his or her case to arbitration, on question of discrimination, decision of arbitrators to govern.

The agreement was approved by those present at the conference besides the members of the subcommittees.

Those acting for the packers were: Arthur Meeker, for Armour & Co.; Edward Morris, for Neilson Morris & Co.; J. E. Maurer, for the Schwarzschild & Sulzberger company; L. F. Swift, for Swift & Co.; J. P. Lyman, for the National Packing company; E. A. Cudahy, for the Cudahy Packing company, and Edward Tilden, for Libby, McNeill & Libby.

For the different labor organizations represented the agreement was approved by President William G. Schardt and Organizer John Fitzpatrick, of the Chicago Federation of Labor; J. S. Khray, of the Journeymen Horseshoers' union; George F. Golden, of the Packing House Teamsters' union; J. W. Morton and F. Wall, of the International Brotherhood of Firemen; C. C. Gaskins and M. J. Morgan, of the International Association of Carworkers; James Kirby, of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters; John J. Redden, of the Canmakers; J. J. Keppler, of the International Association of Machinists; J. F. O'Neill, of the International Freight Handlers; W. Reilly, of the International Union of Steam Engineers; J. H. Miller and Phillip Moran, of the International Association of Steamfitters and Helpers; F. W. Wall, of the International Brotherhood of Firemen; Morris O'Donnell and Joseph Moore, of the Coopers' International Union, and John Mowan, of the Millwrights and Machinery Erectors.

This agreement was reached after two conferences had failed. The third and successful conference was called by the mechanical employes of the packing houses, who threatened a sympathetic strike