

man of the executive of that body, but now occupying the position of president :

TORONTO, April 15, 1893.

A. GIFFORD, ESQ.:

DEAR SIR,—I read with pleasure in to-day's papers your remarks upon the following clause : 1. "That mortgages, railway, bank and all company stocks and debentures be withdrawn from the list of properties exempted from taxation, and that taxes be required to be paid upon the values of such mortgages in lieu of the properties so encumbered, and on such stocks and debentures instead of upon the incomes derived therefrom as at present." And may just state that the Ratepayers' Association of Toronto are agitating on the same line, and shall be pleased to co-operate with your organization in any way to bring about the change you advocate. I shall inclose you a copy of our constitution and by-laws, and also a copy of a letter sent to the secretary of the committee on taxation and exemptions and a copy of a petition we have before our council. The very simple way that you proposed of getting at the mortgages by deducting the amount of his share of the taxes from the yearly interest must commend itself to every thinking person. I hope you will excuse the liberty I have taken in addressing you, but our association has been giving so much attention to the same subject, and believe that united action will be required to affect a change. We believe that "wealth should be assessed no matter in what shape or form it may be found, whether in land, houses, stocks, mortgages, bonds or anything else."

Yours very truly,

E. J. BARRICK,

Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Ratepayers' Association

Since then we are assured that our action has the approval of the Ratepayers' Association of the cities of London, Hamilton and Kingston. Respecting decentralization the high courts and increasing the jurisdiction of division courts, the Attorney-General said he would consult the judges.

The petition asking that the Employers' Liability Act be so amended as to relieve farmers, &c., from liability under its provisions has been granted and the requisite amendments made. Referring to the petitions forwarded to the Dominion Government, no attention has so far been paid to them. Your Executive Board had under consideration the advisability of repeating the petitions of last year, but, in view of the treatment received in the past and the near approach of the Provincial and Dominion elections, thought a better way would be to petition through the ballot box, by the proper use of which you can enforce your rights as free men and not have them doled out to you as suppliant slaves.

4. The Grand President and Trustee Gifford were authorized to meet a committee of the Grange with a view of adopting some common line of political action, but the Grange having no political platform, its representatives were unable to say how far their members would go in adopting ours. Consequently nothing definite was accomplished, but we hope the time is not far distant when not the Grange alone but every patriotic organization and every man irrespective of his calling will adopt our platform, and standing thereon demand greater regard for the interests of the masses in this country.

Requests were constantly being received by members of the board to speak at meetings in various sections of the Province, and frequently owing to the distance between meetings great expense in travelling had to be incurred. To obviate this and at the same time place all upon an equality we divided up this province and the organized portions of Quebec into three districts—eastern, central and western. The eastern was supplied by Trustee Wilson and Lecturer Miller, the central by Vice-President Currie and Trustee Kennedy, and the western by President Mallory and Trustee Gifford. By this arrangement two meetings were allotted to each county, to be taken in rotation, which was done at comparatively small cost for travelling expenses. Those meetings were largely attended, in some places by many thousands, and have served to popularize the order wherever held. Besides this series of meetings a large number have been held in constituencies from which requests have come for members of the board to assist at conventions called for the purpose of selecting candidates. At the last meeting