

A New Zealand Visitor

(Tells of Success of Land Value Taxation)

A distinguished visitor to Winnipeg recently was Hon. George Fowldes, formerly minister of education in the government of New Zealand. Mr. Fowldes was for five years in the cabinet of Sir Joseph Ward, late Liberal premier of the Island dominion, but resigned, as he said in a speech at Winnipeg on Tuesday, when he came to the conclusion that the Liberal party no longer stood for the principles of democracy in which he believed. Mr. Fowldes has for many years been the leading advocate of Land Value Taxation in New Zealand, and it was as the guest of the Manitoba Land Values Taxation League that he spoke in Winnipeg.

New Zealand, he said, was an ideal country in which to experiment with progressive legislation, because of its isolation from the rest of the world and the comparative smallness of its area and population. With an area only slightly larger than Great Britain, it

had now a population of one million, and the people had always been ready to adopt progressive measures partly, perhaps, because a large portion of the population was Scotch. Democracy in New Zealand, however, owed much to Sir George Grey, one of the greatest democrats of the Victorian era, who was sent to the Colony as governor and afterwards remained there and entered politics. In the 70's Sir George Grey was for a short time premier, and it was during that period that New Zealand became the first country in the world to adopt a tax upon unimproved land values. The tax was then a half-penny in the pound (one cent on \$5) on the capital value, and this had been increased from time to time and a graduated scale introduced. At present the unimproved land tax rose from nothing on small holdings up to threepence on the pound on large estates. In municipal taxation the towns and cities had local option, and about one-half had exempted improvements from taxation, including the two largest cities, Wellington, the capital, and Auckland. The result of this partial application of the Single Tax theory had been very striking. The towns in which buildings had been exempted from taxation had increased in population, in industries and in the value of land at practically double the rate of those adhering to the old system of taxing homes and other buildings. In Wellington the new system had caused so much activity in the building trade that employers accused one another of stealing their men, and wages rose considerably above the scale which had previously been fixed by the arbitration court. Mr. Fowldes also gave specific instances where rents of houses had been reduced and a better class of houses constructed as a result of the municipal land value taxation.

Mr. Fowldes also touched briefly upon other progressive movements in New Zealand, remarking that women, as well as men, had voted there for a number of years, and expressed the hope that the farmers of his country would in the near future be won over in greater numbers to the cause of progressive democracy. Mr. Fowldes is visiting Russell, Man. Yorkton, Sask. Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver before returning to New Zealand.

ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS

To standardize the work and increase the efficiency of the Provincial agricultural schools of Alberta, the teaching staffs of the three schools are meeting at Olds during September for conference and instruction.

The course will be under the immediate direction of Dr. J. C. Miller, Provincial Director of Technical Education, assisted by the principals of the agricultural schools and specialists from the Provincial Normal Schools.

SASKATCHEWAN SHEEP SALE

The annual auction sale of pure bred sheep and swine under the auspices of the Saskatchewan Sheep and Swine Breeders' Associations will be held in Regina on October 28. At this sale a large number of pure bred males and females of both classes of stock will be offered for sale. The pedigrees of these animals will be guaranteed by the associations, and will be transferred to the purchasers at the vendors' expense. Besides the pure bred, some four hundred head of grade range ewes from one to four years of age will be offered for sale. Farmers wishing to obtain this class of stock should communicate with the secretary, as last year purchasers for 800 head of grade ewes were at the sale and only 400 were on hand. For further information those interested should write the Secretary, Live Stock Associations, Department of Agriculture, Regina, Sask.

A man who lives right, and is right, has more power in his silence than another by his words. Character is like bells which ring out sweet music, and which, when touched accidentally even, resound with sweet music.—Phillips Brooks

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