

Toronto friends and his letters are always very much enjoyed and are always full of those eccentric witticisms for which he is famous. A great many of his friends would like to see him contributing to some of our Eastern papers as they think his articles would be much more enjoyed than those that now appear from the pens of some of our so-called funny writers.

CANADA'S LABOR PARLIAMENT.

AFFIRMS THE PRINCIPLE OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

The Labor Organizations throughout the Dominion of Canada send delegates every year to a central meeting known as the Trades and Labor Congress. The deliverances of this body are important, as voicing the sentiment of Canadian organized labor as a whole. This year, 1896, the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada met in the old city of Quebec, and amongst the resolutions passed was the following:

Regarding popular representation this Congress affirms:

That the existing method of election by wards and single member districts, is clumsy, inefficient, unfair and unscientific.

It makes the nomination of candidates a monopoly of the two party machines.

It promotes gerrymandering, bribery and treating.

It causes disfranchisement of a great body of voters at every election.

It prevents the direct representation of Labor, of Reform movements and of the smaller parties.

It tends to keep the best men out of politics, and puts a premium on dodging, shuffling and evasion.

It promotes and encourages the undesirable habit of personal canvassing on behalf of candidates.

And it is a great obstacle in the way of good civic and municipal government.

This Congress believes that a proper system of Proportional Representation, operating in large or grouped constituencies, returning several members each, would remedy the foregoing evils.

We call attention to the fact that such a system is in successful operation in some Six Cantons of the Republic of Switzerland and in the city of Bern, under the name of the "Swiss Free List"; that other Cantons are considering its adoption; and that the Hare-Spence system has been tested for four years in actual elections of the Mechanics' Institute of San Francisco, and for two years and a half in the elections of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council.

We recommend Local Labor organizations to adopt Proportional Representation in the election of their officers and committees, with the double object of securing better results for themselves and of making their members familiar with the working out of the principle. The Hare-Spence or the Single Vote is suitable for this purpose.

We urge upon the Dominion and Provincial Governments to introduce the Single Vote, the Hare-Spence System, the Gove System, or the Swiss Free List, to such an extent as may be needful for a full and fair trial under Canadian conditions, so that one of these systems of Proportional Representation may be generally adopted if found satisfactory.

We believe that municipalities should have the option of using Proportional Representations in their elections if any of them see fit to do so; and we hope that the Provincial Governments will see the way to amend their municipal acts accordingly.

HOW TO RAISE DOMINION REVENUE—A SIMPLE AND PRACTICAL PLAN OF TAXATION.

That a direct tax of \$ be annually laid upon land values in the Dominion of Canada, and the same shall be apportioned to the Provinces and Territories, respectively, in proportion to population as ascertained by the latest census enumeration.

That the said direct tax, shall be assessed and laid on the value of all land, exclusive and irrespective of the improvements thereon: Provided that all

lands belonging to the Dominion of Canada, or to any Province, county or municipality, shall be exempted from assessment and taxation under this Act, and provided further that all land subject to taxation shall be valued and assessed for the purpose of taxation at its full market value, in the first month of each year.

The plan of detail is as follows:

That each Province and Territory after having appraised the true values of all land in each distinct municipality or district, shall in turn collect from each distinct municipality or district a sum proportionate to the total assessed land values, equal to the amount required for the purposes of the Federal Government.

The justice and wisdom of this proposal lies in the fact, that the Government—the people collectively, are the creators of land values, and in taxing land values, the whole community of Canada will derive the full benefits of Government—in proportion to benefits bestowed without the continuance of the vicious methods now in operation of imposing taxation on thrift, enterprise and industry, as if by the exercise of these qualities, men were committing breaches of the criminal law in violation of good government. Let us apply a little common-sense to questions of importance, such as taxation is.

THE DELAWARE CAMPAIGN.

A call has been issued through the National Single Taxer for a \$10,000 extra Delaware campaign fund. Already \$2500 of this sum has been subscribed and contributions are rapidly coming in. Canadian Single Taxers have heretofore acted generously in subscribing to good objects when the purpose was made perfectly clear to them. They must recognize the necessity still further for continued help. No time presents itself better than the present for aiding the Delaware campaign fund, when with a little more financial assistance some measure of success is sure to be gained in the ensuing elections. Whether Delaware obtains the first privilege of applying the Single Tax or whether any province in Canada should do so makes no difference to Single Taxers. Once the privilege is embodied in legislation, we are certain of one thing, the cause will spread rapidly.

A strong pull and a pull all together and the deed is done.

Single Tax papers and papers friendly to the Single Tax please notice and aid in pushing this fund. Immediate action is urgently required.

Allan Thompson, secretary of the Toronto Single Tax Association, is District Treasurer for Canada. His address is at the office of the Association, 72 Victoria-street, Toronto. Let every Canadian Single Taxer strain a point to give a little help to Delaware now, if it be only a quarter. Send it right in to Mr. Thompson.

THE PEOPLE'S HERITAGE.

The wealth that it is alleged lies hidden in such abundance in the Ruiny River district belongs to the people of Ontario, and they have a right to demand that their property shall be handed to the best advantage. The Province of Ontario is rich enough to develop this property on its own account. The Government is composed of business men, and we fail to discover any reason why they should not assume this new duty. Under this system the people and not a few individuals would reap the benefit. If the business were undertaken by the Government the Province would likely soon develop sufficient revenue from it to defray all the expenses of Government. If the mines are really valuable, as we believe they are, a profit of two or three million dollars a year would not be an excessive one to calculate on. In this way the country will be developed at once and the people will not be dispossessed of their heritage.—Editorial Toronto World, Sept. 7.

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