SINGLE TAX COLUMN.

NEW ZEALAND.

Talk with a Visitor from that Colony.

There appears to be no other country in the world that presents so favorable a field for the introduction of political reforms and innovations as New Zealand does at present. Woman suffrage is in full operation; the system of taxation presents the nearest approach to a realization of Henry George's ideas that has yet been tried anywhere; and various features of the government embody the principles of administration known as state socialism.

On these accounts New Zealand offers an unusually interesting subject of study on the part of those interested in the progress of modern governmental methods, and the political and industrial movements in that remote land receive an exceptional degree of attention.

A member of the Herald staff has just had the good fortune to meet a gentleman from New Zealand—Mr. J. W. Copithorne of Wellington, who has been visiting relatives in Boston, and from whom he received a deal of information concerning the peculiar conditions of that colony.

Mr. Copithorne's attention had been attracted to some recent comments in the Herald on the reports upon New Zealand reforms in taxation and industrial conditions made to the state department by United States Consul Conolly at Auckland. He thought that, while in the main to an ordinary reader from one side Mr. Conolly's opinion would appear to be fairly correct, to one more closely identified with the country and who had followed the progress of affairs for a number of years they would seem to need some qualification.

For instance, Mr. Conolly, in speaking of the improvement that had taken place under recent reforms in systems of taxation, described the state of affairs during the long depression that followed the period of speculation that culminated in 1880, or thereabouts, and said that misery and destitution had overspread the land. Now while the times were hard and business was depressed there was in reality

NOTHING LIKE MISERY AND DESTITUTION

as understood by those terms in the older countries of the world. New Zealand was a very young colony, comparatively speaking; the population is sparse and the soil very rich. There was room for all and food for all, and while during the depression money was scarce and trade dull, there was no lack of the necessities of life. It was safe to say that in New Zealand less poverty exists and has hitherto existed than in any country he had ever been in; there was absolutely none of that grinding poverty that is to be met with in the cities of the older colonies of Australia, as Sydney and Melbourne. Mr. Copithorne, therefore, thought that Mr. Conolly, who had not had a very long experience in the country, must have conceived an exaggerated idea of the conditions that prevailed during the depression, in consequence of his knowledge of the effects of such depressions in the older parts of the new world.

New Zealand was a very progressive country, and it had immense opportunities for prosperous development. Its population was of unusually high character. It was a purely British colony. The people were intelligent and honest, and the innovations which they made in their forms of government were, as a rule, dictated by no tendency toward wild and radical measures, by no disposition to be governed by eccentric theories, and to try a thing simply because it was new. The favor which the new principles of procedure found among them was chiefly due to the fact that they appealed to the enlightened common sense of the people as being best adapted to the circumstances under which they lived; being a new country, and with no obstacles of precedent and tradition that forbade the application of measures that seemed reasonable, improvements in governmental methods were more readily adopted than in most other parts of the world.

As the population was still very sparse, being considerably less than 1,000,000 for a country with an area as great as that of Great Britain and Ireland, with the exception of Wales, New Zealand offered

REMARKABLE ADVANTAGES

to industrious and intelligent immigrants. There was an abundance of land to be obtained from the government on the most favorable terms. The system of taxation was such as to give the entire people the benefit of the increase in values of land created by the growth of the community, the "unearthed increment," and the burden of taxation, therefore, did not bear heavily upon individuals. In fact, as has been stated, the tendency in taxation was toward the practical application of Henry George's theories. The land and income tax system, however, could hardly, by any stretch of imagination, be called a "single-tax," and the "single-taxers" of New Zealand were not by any means disposed to view it in such a light.

It was very easy to become a citizen in New Zealand. Only persons speaking foreign tongues were regarded as aliens. An American, like an Englishman, would not be so regarded Six months' residence in the colony only was requisite to citizenship, and, although formal naturalization was legally requisite, the vote of an English-speaking person would not be likely to be challenged. The ballot system was superior to the Australian, in providing a "double check" as a safeguard against impersonation. Instead of checking the names of the persons voted for, the names of the persons not voted for were marked off with lines across them; the ballot was gummed in one corner on the back, and the person voting wrote his name in this corner. The official at the ballot box, on receiving the ballot would fold over the name and seal it at this place. In case of charges of impersonation, the ballots would be examined and compared with the voting lists. Should the same name be found more than once the fraudulent ballots would be thrown out. The penalty against impersonation was very heavy, and the law was very seldom violated. A system of minority representation, by which the voter could express his preferences for candidates by first, second and third choices, and so on, was now being agitated.

Adult Suffrage was universal, without either educational or sex qualification. The lack of an educational qualification was practically no drawback, for the reason that there was no illiterate vote to speak of. The law permitted a polling officer to accompany a person who could not read English into the booth and aid him in

PREPARING HIS BALLOT.

About the only persons to whom this practically applied were Chinamen. These, while they could not read English, were of course not illiterate.

As to the results of woman suffrage, Mr. Copithorne was emphatic in pronouncing them thoroughly admirable. It was a remarkable fact that the enactment of the woman suffrage law was really due to the aid given by members of the conservative minority in the upper house of parliament. The Liberals were in control of the government. While apparently in favor of the measure, the government was in reality opposed to it, and secretly worked against it. The motive of this was that it was felt that while in principle woman suffrage was a liberal measure, women were conservative by nature and to give them the ballot might endanger the ascendency of the Liberal party. The government at that time was strongly under the influence of the liquor interest, which was naturally opposed to women suffrage, and took pains to impress this fear upon those in power.

The result, however, was quite contrary to what had been feared. The women voted the Liberal ticket so generally as to give the Liberals an overwhelming and unprecedented majority, apparently intrenching them in power beyond any reasonable prospect of overthrow. But the fears of the liquor interest were justified, for the vote of the women was cast almost solidly against them and a parliament favorable to anti-liquor legislation was chosen. The women also looked very carefully to the personal character of the candidates and voted accordingly, so that it was shown that their influence was a purifying one in politics.

The system of constructing public works by "co-operative contract," as it is called, had been adopted as a regular and permanent policy by the government. Under this system, works like railways and highways, which were constructed by the general government were divided into small sections by the government engineer in charge. Each section would be appointed to a group of laborers, six or eight in number, who would

AGREE TO DO THE WORK,

for the sum estimated by the engineer. The men would elect one of their number to transact the business for them. The group would do the work in its own way, but its members would, of course receive a greater remuneration for their time the sooner they finished it. If the man did not own the tools necessary to do the work, the government would lend them and charge for their use. The government would, from time to time, advance money to the men, sufficient for the maintenance of their families, and on the completion of the job and its approval by the engineer would make the payment in full. In this way the men would get for themselves the profit that otherwise would go to the contractor.

Mr. Copithorne characterised this system as excellent in itself, and in high favor with the laboring men. The great objection to it, as at present practiced, lay in the manner in which it was used as an instrument for the exertion of political influence. For example, if there was an election pending the government might become suddenly impressed with the necessity for public works, such as a new railway, in some district where the party in power was weak. It would advertise for the sufficient number of laborers to do the work and would send these into the district a long enough time before election to gain them a residence there. They would naturally vote on the side of the government and so carry the district for that side.

While political consideration of course, had great force in New Zealand, as elsewhere, and politicians would use all means in their power to gain votes for their side, yet the civil service system at New Zealand was

ENTIRELY OUTSIDE OF POLITICS.

Either the matter of entering the service, or of remaining in it, or of obtaining promotion, the political complection of a man had nothing whatever to do. A young man entered the service as a cadet, after passing the requisite examination. As a civil service cadet he received a training which gave him a thorough basis of experience of practical instruction that qualified him to serve an intelligent and well imformed public official. He would then work his way up through the various grades of the service, according to ability and merit, as indicated by successive examinations for promotion. The civil service in New Zealand was exceptionally large by reason of the governmental administration of the railways, telegraph and telephone, as well as the mail service, and the existance of an admirable system of government life insurance. In connection with the post-office was a postal savings bank system, and there was a system of postal notes which were legal tender throughout the colony.

There was also a system of government labor bureaus throughout the colony in various districts, by which men seeking employment could be sent to the parts of the country where their work was needed. The idea was borrowed from the Salvation Army. Another government institution was a public trusteeship, by which the government undertook the administration of properties given into its charge by will or otherwise—a system which worked with marked economy and efficiency.

Mr. Copithorne expressed his astonishment that a people so intelligent as the Americans should carry party politics into municipal affairs, which had no proper relation to party politics. Such a thing was unheard of in New Zealand. Municipal elections were always conducted on the ground of municipal policy regarding certain define propositions, as to whether, for instance, a system of sewers or water works should be built, and as to what persons were best qualified to conduct municipal affairs.—Boston Herald.

W. C. T. U. COLUMN.

For God and Home and Native Land.

The little boy who never learns to taste liquor, to utter an oath, or pollute his lips with tobacco will make the best kind of a temperance man.

Moody says, "I have been working a good deal with drinking men; I think the rest of my work will be with the young. Once in a while a drunkard may keep away from the cup, but it takes all his strength to fight the habit. It is a good deal better to begin when you are young and never get the appetite fostered in you."

A pleasant remedy.—A doctor has been recently speaking very favorably of the free use of oranges, both as regards the appetite for tobacco and alcoholic liquors. Among other things he says:—"If you smoke or chew tobacco and want to give it up, lay aside the skin of your next orange, let it dry for a day or two and whenever you feel a craving for a smoke put a small piece in your mouth. It carries you over the desire and is wholesome and pleasant. Candied orange skin is the most delicious of confections. They make this in Havana, but nowhere so well as in the city of Mexico, and for any time and all times of the day the orange is a wholesome and palatable fruit.

Anomalies.—A London, England, lawyer who was once a reporter for one of the London dailies, has been speaking out in regard to his own experience. It is to the effect that he had attended banquets where some of the court dignitaries became so helplessly drunk that they had to be carried away. Next day he had seen the same men sitting in court and sentencing those charged as "drunks" and "disorderlies" the same night. We honestly believe there is not a reporter of many years extensive experience in any of our Canadian cities who has not witnessed anomalies of this class. This statement may look like a sweeping one, but it is no doubt too true.

SHOT WIFE, NIECE AND SELF.

Triple Tragedy in The Village of Tottenham.

Tottenham, Ont., Feb. 16.—Robert Newbury, a retired farmer, this morning shot his wife and her niece and then blew out his own brains. The wife is dead, but the niece will recover.

Newbury is a man of 75. The murdered woman was his second wife, and his junior by 30 years. For some time past he has been in ill-health and at times melancholic.

KILLED HIS WIFE INSTANTLY.

This morning he seemed absorbed and depressed, and followed his wife around as she went about her household duties. Mrs. Newbury was arranging clothes in a bedroom bureau when Newbury entered the room and took deliberate aim and shot her. The ball entered the back of her head, ploughed through the brain, passed out of the forehead and embedded itself in the wall. The woman must have dropped to the floor dead instantly.

SHOT HIS NIECE IN THE LIP.

His niece, alarmed at the shot, went to see what was the matter. Newbury met her, and, seeing the revolver in his hand, the girl ran into the garden. Newbury followed; the girl turned and piteously pleaded with the now thoroughly crazed man not to kill her. Tears and plaintive entreaties had no effect, and the wife murderer put a ball into his niece's body. The shot took effect in the lip, embedding itself against the jaw bone.

BLEW OUT HIS OWN BRAINS.

Turning rapidly on his heel, Newbury re-entered the house, closed the door, then placing the revolver to his temple, blew out his brains. He was found a minute later by neighbors, who had heard the shooting; he was then alive, but expired within half an hour.

The tragedy was evidently premeditated, for on Friday evening Newbury had given his watch to a friend, with instructions to keep it until he would call for it.

The murder would have been committed at an earlier hour had not a neighbor called on Mrs. Newbury after breakfast, and remained until a few minutes prior to the shooting.

The niece was attended by Drs. Wright and Campbell, and unless blood poisoning sets in no fears of her life are entertained.

Coroner Law, of Beeton was summoned and an inquest will be held at the Maple Leaf hotel this evening.

THE FAMILY HISTORY.

Mr. J. R. Bond, druggist, Young-College streets, was for several years a neighbor of the Newbury family in Tottenham, and knew all the members intimately.

Newbury came to a farm near Penville, Tecumseth township, County of Simcoe, from Kentucky, about 20 years ago. It was a 50-acre farm, and, having been engaged in growing tobacco in Kentucky, Newbury set apart a small part of the farm for that purpose. Newbury was the first man to start tobacco cultivation in the neighborhood, and his venture occasioned quite an interest, and he in consequence became well known. His wife died about 15 years ago and he married a Miss Martin, a family of large connection in that vicinity. He had no family by either wife. About nine or ten years ago he sold his farm and took up his residence in Tottenham, where he bought a comfortable home, and has since lived a retired life. The young woman referred to as his niece is a niece of his wife and has resided with Newbury for several years. About three years ago Newbury had a protracted illness, and has been rather under the weather since, and has been living a sedentary life. It is supposed that brooding over his illness rendered him temporary insane, as he had always been regarded by his neighbors as a good living and church going man. Deceased was between 65 and 70 years of age, stoutly built, and of a retiring disposition. He was, however, a very determined man. Newbury was an attendant of the Presbyterian church. He is believed to have been worth $8,000 or $10,000. His wife was 45 or 50 years of age.