

deep mark upon the "sands of time" or the records of the House as a statesman or a politician. Steady, plodding, mental work is his forte.

No. 44.—Mr. CHARLES HALL (member for Waipawa).



Mr. Hall has a good, vigorous organization. He possesses a thick long neck, raising his head well above his shoulders, indicating longevity. He has "plenty of lip," and before he is much older the House and New Zealand generally will know it. He will be an active, working, talking member, and he will have something of importance to say. The mental as well

as the physical powers are well developed in him. Language, memory, and conception are all good. He will be a real, live member, as he will have matured ideas on most subjects, and he will know how to express them. He is combative, and will quickly show it when any motion or measure is introduced with which he cannot agree. He will be a useful, able, and energetic member of the House.

No. 45.—Mr. R. MCKENZIE (member for Buller).



This gentleman has a superior organization. His head and face indicate a man of first-class ability. Good taste, natural refinement, and love of the orderly and the beautiful are leading traits of his. He has a clear, quick, and decisive mind. He has a high and broad forehead, well developed eyes, and clear Roman nose, which indicate great range of

thought, power of expression, and distinct selfhood. He possesses a positive disposition, a constructive and a progressive mind, with a leaning to the Conservative or the "respectable party." He would object to the designation John S. Mill gave this colour of politics—"the stupid party." He wants everything done orderly and perfectly, as he has such large ideality and personal neatness. He has a steady, moral disposition, and should be a consistent M.H.R.

We are indebted to the New Zealand Clippings Bureau for the following translation from a Swiss newspaper:—"In New Zealand there are at present only two parties—men and women. The women have the franchise there now, and at the first election they put all their candidates in, having gone to the poll in very large numbers. Their intention is to institute a reign of terror or Petticoat Government. Their political views are of the most reactionary kind. In view of this great danger the men have put aside all political differences, and formed one solid party with only one plank in their platform: 'Protection of the Rights of Men.'" Our Swiss contemporary is facetious. Most foreign newspapers cover their ignorance on this subject in this way.

Single Tax in a Nutshell.

[By O. K.]

Rent, ground rent, or "economic rent," as it is called, is a tax—a tax which one set of individuals are empowered to levy upon the whole community. Its existence is a distinct and pernicious contravention of all Democratic principles. It allows persons to usurp the highest functions of government. The theory which proclaims it immoral and unjust lies in the world-admitted principle that the State should be the only power to inflict taxation—especially indirect taxation—on the people. When the Government of a country put 2d. a pound on starch, 3s. 6d. a pound on tobacco, or a 1s. on playing cards—manufactured in the country—these articles become dearer and the consumer pays the tax in an indirect manner. We grumble a bit at it, but we know it is necessary. And we fully realize that it makes the articles cost more. It is, however, comforting that this was to be done by Act of Parliament, or by the constitutional authorities. Our blindness, which prevents us seeing that the landlord or ground-owner can tax us to a far greater extent in the same manner, without either new Act of Parliament or municipal authority, is somewhat remarkable. Rent enters into price. That is to say, that the cost of the production of any article consists of three component parts: wages of labour, interest on capital, rent of land on which the article was manufactured or sold. Consequently any rise in land-values enables the landlord to put more taxation on the products of labour by exacting a higher rent. That articles have become cheaper (though the reward of labour and intelligence has been correspondingly lowered) is due to progress made and economies effected in the art of production. But these benefits have not affected the worker; their value has been absorbed in increased rent. The Single Tax theory is that the private appropriation of rent is an unnatural way of using a natural tax. It is proposed to gradually shift the incidence of taxation from labour products to rental values. Of the three component factors in production, every penny of rent could be taxed away without making articles any dearer. However, as taxation can only be levied as required, continual remission of the tariff on consumable goods must precede any addition to the "land value tax." Governments never raise revenue unless it is wanted. That is why Single-Taxers are Free-traders. When the ground landlord is more generally recognised as a tax-gatherer, the practical application of Single-Tax will not be far distant.

The Governor and party were at Rotorua the other day, saw all the lions, and were all graciously pleased to express their approval. Sophia, the well-known guide, "personally conducted" the vice-royalties around. When they had gone she said: "The Governor he very mean man. I showed him everything, and he never gave me a penny." Now the common or garden tourist in the loud-check knickerbocker suit, and with the thirty-shilling field glass slung across his manly chest, is always good for a half-a-crown when Sophia trots him round. Hence her disgust. A nobody parts two-and-six without a murmur. A Governor gives—nothing. But then, of course, there is the honour and glory of the thing! Sophia never thought of that! —Auckland Observer.