

## IN NEW ZEALAND.

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP EN-  
RICHING THE PEOPLE.

A Sensible Talk from a Man Who  
Knows — Railroads and Telegraphs  
Yield All the Taxes for Improve-  
ments.

Macaulay's New Zealander is stop-  
ping at the Grand hotel in this city.  
He is a member of the New Zealand  
parliament from Wanganui, named A.  
D. Willis, who has been making a trip  
around the world. He told yesterday  
how the woman's suffrage, the govern-  
ment ownership of railroads and tele-  
graph lines, government insurance,  
government banking, co-operation in  
public works, the doing away of large  
land holdings, Henry George's single-  
tax theory, and other things only  
dreamt of in the rest of the world are  
known in the practical every-day life  
of that southern land. All these things,  
he says, have been brought about by  
their legislature and are far beyond  
the experimental state. Speaking last  
night at the Grand, Mr. Willis said:

"The mass of the people is the first  
consideration with us altogether, and  
everything is being done for them,  
from the government ownership of  
railroads down to loaning money on  
land. I have been for some months  
traveling in different countries in Eu-  
rope and the United States, and find  
that everywhere a great deal of interest  
is taken in our government on account  
of the many new departures we have  
made and the desire to know how our  
new experiments, as they regard them,  
are coming on. But we have got far  
beyond the experimental stage. I have  
received the greatest kindness from  
Americans everywhere, and I am leaving  
the country with a very feeling  
toward the people, but with a decided  
dislike for their system of government,  
by which wealth is represented and  
not the people.

"With us, all that our government  
is for is the mass of the people. We  
are very radical. There is no conserva-  
tism about us at all. I suppose you  
want to know something about woman's  
franchise and how that is working.  
The last parliament was the first  
to be returned under the new system.  
The women are coming to the front at  
a rate that astonishes us. The most  
astounding thing about it all is that,  
while the conservative party took the  
greatest interest in giving the franchise  
to women, in the hope that it  
would help their dying cause,  
the women have come out  
strongly against them, and over  
two-thirds of the members of  
the house of representatives were  
returned by the liberals. The liberals  
never had so large a majority before  
the women were given the franchise.  
Even the women who were careless  
about getting the franchise are making  
full use of it. As you Americans  
say, it has come to stay. Generally  
speaking, nearly as many women  
voted as men. They formed their own  
committees and worked very hard and  
very systematically and are making a  
careful study of all political ques-  
tions."

Evidently, according to Mr. Willis,  
there is no question about the advan-  
tage of government ownership of rail-  
roads. He said:

I have been astonished to see how  
blind the people of America are to  
their own interests in allowing rail-  
roads and telegraph lines to be taken  
up by monopolies. In our country we  
look upon railroads much as we do  
on wagon roads, and think it would be  
just as bad to hand the turnpikes over  
to monopolies to erect toll gates every  
few miles and collect tolls as to hand  
them over those greater highways —  
railroads. Railways, we believe, should  
be a means of assisting farmers to  
take their products to market even if  
there is no profit in running them.  
There are over two thousand miles of  
railway in New Zealand, nearly all  
owned by the government. Our system  
of managing them can not be  
beaten. There is no corruption and  
not a single abuse.

The telegraph system belongs entire-  
ly to the government.

Then we have a government system  
of insurance which works admirably.  
Through this we are abolishing all pen-  
sions. All government employees, in-  
cluding those connected with the rail-  
roads and telegraph system, are com-  
pelled to provide for their own insur-  
ance out of their salaries.

Our taxation is based on Henry  
George's theory of a single tax  
on land, and we also have an income tax.  
All legislation is so arranged that there  
is no taxation on improved land. Land  
improved and unimproved pays the  
same tax. Under our income tax we  
exempt all income under 300 pounds a  
year, and on incomes from 300 to 1,000  
pounds the rate is six pence per pound.  
On incomes from 1,000 to 2,000 pounds  
the rate increases from six pence to a  
shilling, and on incomes above 2,000  
pounds it remains a shilling to the  
pound.

Last year we adopted a system of  
lending money to farmers on both free-  
hold and leasehold lands at a low rate  
of interest, with a 1 per cent sinking  
fund, which clears off the loan in thirty-  
three years by compound interest.

New Zealand has taken the bull by  
the horns in the question of preventing  
large holdings of land. As to this Mr.  
Willis said:

We have passed legislation by which  
we can take back lands held in large  
blocks. That is, a bill has been passed  
giving the government a right to pur-  
chase all of one man's holdings over  
from one to three thousand acres, de-  
pending on the quality, to be decided  
by arbitration. It does not follow that

much of this will be done yet for awhile  
until our population increases. Then  
we have not the money to spare.

Government land is now leased for  
999 years in small portions for 100 to  
500 acres. Any one who wishes to  
take such land pays a low rate of in-  
terest on the value of the land, and for  
the first two years is required to put in  
a small amount of work until it is in  
condition to settle on. Then he must  
live on it. But our people are not satis-  
fied with that. What we want and  
what we shall probably get soon is a  
system of leasing in perpetuity with a  
revaluation from time to time.

We are trying something entirely  
new in the way of co-operative labor  
in public work. Instead of letting  
such work out to contractors, it is cut  
up into small pieces by the government  
engineer, who values it at fair working  
wages, 7 shillings a day, or about \$1.75  
in your money, and contracts are given  
out to the men at that rate. This sys-  
tem has been so successful that it is  
being extended to all work such as  
painting public buildings, building  
stations and the like. Probably there  
will be no contracts let under the old  
system in the future.

In every way, as I have said, we look  
carefully to the interest of the mass of  
the people. Our factory girls are not  
allowed to work over eight hours a day.  
Children under 14 years of age are not  
allowed to work in factories and until  
they have passed through certain  
grades in the schools. We compel em-  
ployers in factories to give a weekly  
half-holiday. No shops are allowed  
open on Sunday, and every shop must  
be closed one day in the week at 1  
o'clock in the afternoon. The closing  
of the shops on Sunday was not at all  
on secular grounds, but simply to give  
employees a reasonable amount of rest.

The governor sent over by the queen  
has no veto power over our legislation  
and is really only a figure-head, for he  
has really very little to do with our  
government. We have home rule in  
reality.

Mr. Willis looks hopefully to the  
practical workings of the single tax  
theory as soon as it is adopted in its  
entirety by the government of his country.—San Francisco Examiner, May 4.

## Will They Do It Again?

In 1878 there was a strong greenback  
sentiment in Missouri that threatened to  
overwhelm the Democratic party.  
When their state convention met it  
adopted the following plank in its plat-  
form:

"We regard the national banking  
system as being oppressive and bur-  
densome, and demand the abolition and  
retirement from circulation of all national  
bank notes and the issue of legal  
tender notes in lieu thereof, and in  
quantities from time to time sufficient  
to supply the wholesome and necessary  
business demands of the entire country,  
and that all greenbacks so issued shall  
be used in the purchase and retirement  
of bonds of the United States, so that  
the interest bearing debt of the country  
may be lessened to the extent of  
the greenbacks thus put in circulation."

This plank corralled the boys. They  
all fell in and whooped for the grand  
old party. The greenbackers warned  
them that it was only a bait and meant  
nothing except to catch votes. These  
warnings were unheeded. They fol-  
lowed the leaders until they are now  
in the gold-bug camp.

And now the Democrats of Missouri  
are trying that same old trick. They  
have held a free silver convention.  
They have declared for free silver. But  
the trouble is they still remain with a  
gold-bug party. They are in the minority.  
They will have to vote for a gold-  
bug for president in 1896. It is the  
same old story of betrayal. The people  
must be deceived in order to save the  
party and give a few men office. It is a  
continual scramble for spoil instead of  
principle. The same farce is being  
played in other states. How long will  
the people suffer themselves to be thus  
fooled for the sake of a party that  
cracks a party whip over him.

## \* \* \*

The old party lines are fading out  
and the country is organizing on the  
brains and common sense of the  
common people; organizing on a basis to  
secure speedy legislation on the ques-  
tions that most need immediate attention.

I looked upon this as the most

fortunate thing that could happen to  
our great commonwealth. This is a re-  
publican government. We need an in-  
telligent citizenship. To have this we

must have first a free press, with brains  
and statesmanship at the head, not  
bought and bribed and dominated by a  
party lash, but governed by patriotism,  
intelligence and sense of right, instruct-  
ing the people honestly and impartially  
on the great governmental questions of  
the day. The common people are be-  
ginning to think more than ever on  
government questions; they are begin-  
ning to doubt, investigate and examine,  
and the time is coming and ought  
quickly to come, when the masses of  
the people will cease to be driven into  
line by party lash wielded by corrupt,  
selfish and designing politicians.

## \* \* \*

Chattel slavery could have been leg-  
islated out of existence had it not been  
for the intransigence of the slave power.

Not by proclaiming them free without  
remunerating their owners, but by  
purchasing them, and forever prohibiting  
slavery in the future. This would

have been much cheaper than the war.

But the Slave Power in its arrogance  
would not permit it. The policy was

compromise. It secured the Dred Scott  
decision. It hung John Brown. But  
all these did not make it right. The  
party leaders refused to settle it by  
legislation and the people rose up and  
shot it to death. We have in this  
country today a system of debt slavery.

Its burdens are greater than chattel  
slavery imposed upon the blacks.

The people have been trying to settle  
it by legislation. The creditors, the  
owners of labor, are arrogant — insolent.

They want to extend their dominion

over the people as the slave power did

over the blacks. The people are willing  
to pay their debts, but they insist on  
the right to pay in the dollar of the  
contract. The creditors insist on pay-  
ment in a dollar of greater value. They  
bribe the people's representatives, the  
executive and the courts. The income  
tax decision is almost a parallel to the  
Dred Scott decision. The court of last  
resort has declared for plutocratic  
wealth. The people have lost confi-  
dence in government and respect for  
law. They are approaching the temper  
of revolution. Debt slavery must go.  
If it is not legislated out of existence —

that is, if the people are not given an  
opportunity to pay their debts in the

dollar of the contract, they will shoot  
debt slavery to death as they destroyed  
chattel slavery. Nothing is ever set-  
tled until it is settled right, and debt  
slavery is no more right than was ch-  
attel slavery.

## \* \* \*

Bankers and usurers are the only  
men that ever questioned the credit of

this government in time of peace.

The way to win is to work to win.

## REV. SAM JONES TALKS

GIVES HIS VIEWS OF THE PO-  
LITICAL SITUATION.

Says Old Party Lines Are Fading Cu-  
and the Country Is Organizing on the  
Brains and Common Sense of the  
Common People.

For the past twenty years the rank  
and file of citizens have given very little  
attention to politics. Our rapidly de-  
veloping country, the various commer-  
cial and agricultural interests, have  
commanded their attention, every man  
has been busy with his own affairs —  
watching his opportunities in the busi-  
ness world. We have literally turned  
the governmental machine over to the  
politicians, and for years the professional  
politicians and tricksters have  
manipulated things to suit themselves,  
and all they had to do was to write out  
their platform and write democratic or  
republican above it, crack the party  
whip, and the people fell in line. As  
long as the old governmental cow gave  
milk enough for the family nobody  
cared how many calves sucked, but  
when there was not milk enough to  
go in the coffee the question was raised.

The people have attended to their own  
personal business and have turned govern-  
mental affairs over to pot politicians  
and tricksters until they have  
managed things to suit themselves.

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