the labor of babies, and of the operatives whose necessities and ignorance lead them to sacrifice their children to this Christian Moloch. The Christian World of July 2, says:—"The Factory Bill will have an easy passage in the Lords. It was read a second time on Monday without a division. In the course of the discussion Lord Salisbury took occasion to explain his attitude on the question. He was unusually frank. He told the House that he was in favor of raising the age of the employment of children to 12, and had instructed the delegates at Berlin to vote for that age. The Government, he said, were afraid of the opinion of the manufacturers and operatives in Lancashire, and hence they did not originally propose to raise the age. His explanation had, at least, the merit of honesty, and contrasted pleasantly with Mr. Matthews's, that the same and an opinion needed the retention of the age of 10. Lord Salisbury advised the acceptance of the compromise of 11; and no doubt this course will be adopted by the Lords.

I am, Sir, &c.,

OBSERVER.

Parliamentary Echoes.

A Glimpse into South Australian History.

[By H. S. T.]

Again and again have proposals of land reformers been turned aside by the assertion that it was to its large landowners that South Australia owed its salvation in the early years of its settlement. Now that the Agricultural Holdings Bill has been under discussion in the House, and because with the money thus obtained the colony was tided over seasons of depression, therefore, many forefathers of the colony, and among them little sketch of the founding of this colony, and the early working of its land laws.

In 1829, Mr. Edward Gibbon Wakefield aroused no little attention in England by the publication of his colonization theory. It was written in the form of a letter, and was pointed out to him from Sydney, and gave an account of the evils to be experienced there by gentle- men, and proposed a scheme to remedy them. According to the book, New South Wales was a wretched place for English gentlemen to emigrate to, but a Paradise for working men. The whole to be founded for the purpose of increasing the land, since the effect of this, as Mr. Wakefield pointed out, was to raise wages so high and place such facilities in the way of all men for settling on the soil, that folks who wanted to live in a state of gentility found it was no easy job to do so. Wakefield and Australia a Paradise colony for rich men, and the basis of his scheme to effect this end was that a high price should be charged for land, so as to prevent the poorer people from purchasing it. The money received from the sale of land, he said, would be used to educate young men and women who would act as servants to the wealthier colonists.

This scheme found immense favor in London, and in 1833 the South Australian Association was formed with power from the British Government to sell waste lands and apply the proceeds to pressure and immigration. It was in such a basis that this, a basis whose essential object it was to keep the masses dependent upon the class that the colony was established in 1836.

The Wakefield system proved a failure.

The folks who had come out under the notion that servants would do all their work were not inclined to reclaim the waste lands they had purchased, but preferred to buy and hold city land with an eye to the future "unturned increment." The Adelaide was turned into a scene of reckless speculation and gambling in land. At length the collapse came, and with it came the prospects of a better time. With the collapse of the fictitious prosperity came a decided fall in land values, and this, by enabling under-privileged classes to get upon the soil, saved the colony.

In 1840 an event occurred which illustrates yet more strongly the manner in which early South Australian affairs were conducted wholly and solely in the interests of the wealthy landed class. Land was selling in Port Phillip for $6 an acre; while for land of no better quality $1 was being asked in this colony. The result was that the population was flowing towards Port Phillip, and the "Home authorities," so infatuated were they still with the Wakefield theory, decreed that no land in New South Wales was to be sold for less than $5 an acre. The very large portion of it was to be sold at not less than $1 an acre. Naturally enough this caused great discontent in New South Wales, but it had the effect of wringing sufficient money from our settlers to preserve for a time this rich man's Fan- dance of dreams.

In 1841 Governor Grey arrived, and did much to impair our wasted fortunes. He was evidently no believer in Wakefield's theory, for he exerted his powers to the utmost to get men settled on small farms and stations; but in this policy he was greatly impeded, the historian grimly relates, by the high price of land; for Wakefield's friends in England were not yet convinced that their favorite scheme was defective. 'To lower the price,' said they, 'will be to ruin the colony, and lest such a thing should happen, they raised the price of all lands, whether good or bad, to one pound per acre.'

And so the tale goes on. Let the workers cast an intelligent glance back over the history of our early days; let them recognise the manner in which the poor were kept poor that the rich might grow richer, and it will not be long ere the cry will come from their ranks that the great land monopoly has been in the past, let the landless have their say!

Single Tax Campaign.

The Natives Consider Single Tax.

On Monday evening, August 17, Mr. R. Hogarth read a paper before the members of the Australian Natives Association on "The Single Tax: its principles, application, and effects." He realised the great injustice existing in the wrong distribution of wealth, but claimed that this was the greatest of all monopolies, which commercial exchange in which the producers were perpetually robbed. He advocated the breaking down of all monopolies, but opposed the destruction of that greatest of all monopolies—