

who has frequently sung at single tax gatherings, was substituted for Mme. Mantelli in the Mascagni Opera Company during its recent engagement in New York. She will go to Paris to prepare herself for grand opera. The good wishes of the single taxers of New York will go with her.

Mr. John S. Crosby's present address is 335 W. 14th street, New York City.

John K. Lewis writes to the *Dayton Herald* calling attention to the editor's mistake in speaking of Mayor Johnson as a socialist. To this the paper replies: "The *Herald* never said that Mr. Johnson was a socialist, but it did say that Mr. Bigelow was one."

J. F. Cowern, of Concord, N. H., continues to send illuminating contributions to the press. In the *Concord Daily Patriot* of Sept. 29th he points out how the coal famine may be relieved.

P. Cullman, Jr., who is one of that active band of single tax workers in Chicago, has a communication in the *Chronicle* of that city commenting upon a proposition of one of the aldermen to license barbers. Mr. Cullman says: "The people of this city are suffering more from unclean and ignorant aldermen than from unclean and ignorant barbers."

IN MEMORIAM.

ARTHUR HERBERT STEPHENSON.

Five years ago the civilized world was startled to hear that Henry George was dead; Henry George, who had devoted his life and his great talents to making practical the belief in the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. He had written "Progress and Poverty," a book which overturned the old political economy and set men to thinking as they never thought before on that subject.

In one of the early editions of "Progress and Poverty," he printed a request that any one who read his book and agreed with its conclusions should write to him. A young man twenty-six years old read it, and being convinced at once by the irrefutable logic, wrote such an earnest letter to Mr. George that the latter came to Philadelphia where this young man lived that he might see him and talk with him. This meeting was the beginning of the single tax work of Arthur H. Stephenson, who, on Saturday, October 4th, passed into the unknown beyond.

Arthur H. Stephenson was born in West Newton, Mass., January 13th, 1860. He came of good old New England stock and inherited from his ancestors, the Knapps, courage and fidelity to principle. When he was quite young his family moved to Brooklyn where they lived for five years and then returned to Boston. He was sent to school

first at Ware, N. H., and afterwards Plymouth, Mass., going from there to the Boston Institute of Technology. He remained there two years and then went to Colorado to try ranch life, intending to stay five years but he returned within as many months. Soon afterwards he came to Philadelphia to go into the woollen yarn business with his father and brothers, in which business he remained until his death.

When Mr. Stephenson declared himself a believer in the doctrines contained in "Progress and Poverty," he was almost alone in Philadelphia. There was only a handful of Mr. George's followers in the whole country, and a man who opposed private property in land encountered ridicule and opposition. But Mr. Stephenson was brave and cared nothing for criticism; in fact, he was at his best when assailed by his opponents. Immediately on his "conversion," he felt impelled to propagate the ideas he had adopted and organized a society which was called "The Henry George Club," the name afterwards being changed at the request of Mr. George to "The Single Tax Society of Philadelphia." Soon afterwards he started a little paper called "Justice," for which he wrote, editorially and otherwise, for many years and which paper, by a strange coincidence, ceased its existence the same week that Mr. Stephenson died.

The Single Tax Society met first in a small room. Mr. Stephenson and several of the other earnest members acted in any capacity that seemed necessary, and a few of the members did most of the speaking as well as discharging the duties of janitor and chairman, as occasion required. Even when the society held its meetings in a large commodious room a few years later, Mr. Stephenson might be seen with his coat off and a broom in his hand, sweeping out the room.

He was a born leader, with remarkable clearness of vision and rare ability to see through fraud or sophistry, and he went straight to fundamental principles. He was not afraid of conclusions as soon as he became sure that his premises and his logic were correct.

He spent thirty days in jail at Dover as a member of the "Dover Jail Club," during the early part of the Delaware campaign and his great ability, his pen and his purse were ever at the service of the cause of humanity. The single tax was his religion, and the saying that "a prophet is not without honor save in his own country" is not true in this case, for he was looked up to as a teacher of the single tax philosophy not only by his fellow workers in his own city, but by single taxers all over the country. He never was afraid to stand up for his principles, and in his death the single tax cause has lost a brave and able defender.

A memorial meeting was held in Odd Fellows' Temple, Sunday evening, October 12th, at which W. L. Ross presided, and the

speakers were Messrs. John S. Crosby, Samuel Cooper, Arthur C. Pleydell, and Frank Stephens. Letters were read from Richard George and H. V. Hetzel, all paying eloquent tribute to Mr. Stephenson's worth and ability. A quartette sang "Nearer My God To Thee" and "Lead Kindly Light," and Chopin's "Funeral March" was played on the organ.

The following resolutions were passed :

We, the members of the Single Tax Society of Philadelphia, deeply conscious of the loss this Society in common with all mankind suffers in the removal by death of our brother, Arthur H. Stephenson, desire to place on record this tribute to his memory :

"Arthur H. Stephenson was gifted by Nature with more and greater talents than many men, but instead of devoting those talents to the support of privileges which make a few men monstrously rich and many men correspondingly poor, and which are in themselves the cause of most of the evils from which men suffer, he denounced those privileges and worked faithfully and laboriously to abolish them.

"He clearly saw that the institution of landlordism, arising as it does from our treatment of land as property, results in the denial to men of the bounty of the Creator; and he brought to the service of the disinherited and oppressed all the powers of his well-trained mind, standing courageously at all times and in all places for the equal right of all men to the use of the earth, and the consequent freedom and happiness which he knew would follow whenever this right was restored to them.

"Arthur H. Stephenson stood for Justice ! Not that conventional justice which is satisfied with the incarceration of petty thieves driven to crime through want, and at the same time applauds and rewards those who through unjust laws rob labor of its just reward; but a justice so exact and far-reaching as to secure to every laborer the full product of his labor; and which would deny to idlers and non-producers the privilege of fattening upon the toil of others.

"Arthur H. Stephenson did not live to see the time, surely coming, when 'if a man do not work, neither shall he eat;' but he contributed greatly to hasten that day, always mindful that to work was to be busy in benefit, and that no one could be esteemed an honest worker whose energies and intelligence were directed to fostering that system which makes the idle rich the pensioners of the toiling poor!

"Holding, as we do, to the belief that 'a man is worth only so much in this world as the things are worth about which he busies himself,' and ever mindful of the great things with which Arthur H. Stephenson busied himself, we call upon all those who, following his example, would do something for their fellow men, to join with us in the

public meeting, to be held on Sunday evening, the 12th instant, at Odd Fellows' Auditorium, to testify to his distinguished services to humanity."

The work which Mr. Stephenson so ably began is still unfinished, and if single taxers would honor his memory as he would have them do, they will work the harder and be the braver now that one more able champion of human rights is gone.

FLORENCE A. BURLIGH.

A HERO IN THE RANKS.

There died the other day, at Wakefield, Massachusetts, a humble citizen, by trade a moulder. Measured by academic tests, he was an unlettered man, yet so enlightened was his understanding, so clear his perception of principles, so faithful and persistent was he in the advocacy of an unpopular cause, that his demise calls for more than ordinary notice.

Jeptha N. Ryder was the oldest member of his trade in the town. "Bound to the wheel of labor," he followed day in and day out, for forty-six years, the routine of the mechanic, with small opportunity for relaxation and social indulgence. In spite of this limitation, through his habit of reading and reflection, his sturdy character, his faithful speech, his profound interest in the welfare of his fellow workers, as well as in the community in which his lot was cast, he acquired the respect and commanded the attention of his fellow citizens.

His life was worthy of notice inasmuch as he was the type of citizen upon whose existence and multiplication the survival and perpetuity of democratic institutions depend. There is often given to plain men, untrammelled by conventional standards and unconfused by the sophistry of learning, a clear vision of truths which evade the scholar. It is from Lincoln's "common people" that reformers draw the bulk of their disciples, for wealth and learning are timid and a cowardly subserviency is the price most frequently exacted for popular success.

Mr. Ryder was an early convert to the gospel of Henry George, and an earnest propagandist of the teachings of "Progress and Poverty" when ignorance of just principles of taxation was dense and all abounding. It was at his suggestion that the Massachusetts Single Tax League sustained for a week a series of protracted meetings at Wakefield in 1895, awakening thought by its careful presentation of local tax conditions, illustrated by pertinent individual examples, a memorable episode in the League's history.

Because of our friend's persistent watchfulness, frequent articles in the *Town's War-rants* kept the single tax contention fresh in mind. He was active in securing by a large majority the petition of the town for local