

make its offered solution of the problem known to those in authority, and to also engage public opinion in the question. An increasing interest for the suggestions for releasing the farm land from its burden, as proposed by Damaschke in his book, and as carried in the platform of the League, is being shown wherever the land mortgage question is discussed by the state or county authorities.

The recent important strike in the coal regions of central Germany has also given the Land Reform League an opportunity to agitate the question of government ownership of coal mines, something which is easily understood in a country where many public utilities are already public property, and a few more such disastrous labor disturbances would soon make this hope an actuality. The town of Frankenstein in Upper Silesia has just taken over its gas works from a private company, owing to universal discontent with the quality and price of the gas offered by the latter. The first result of the change has been a reduction of 10 per cent. in communal taxation, as well as a reduction in the price of the gas.

Taxation of land according to its selling value, which is slowly becoming law in the municipalities of all German countries, celebrated its greatest victory in April, when it was adopted by the City Council of Berlin, by 71 against 26 votes, as a method of raising the communal land and building taxes. It thus becomes a law in Germany's youngest and greatest city, the unprecedented growth of which has given cause for more abuses in land speculation than any other community in the realm can show. Head Mayor Kirschner made a speech in favor of the new law in which he states that there seemed to be little doubt that it was eminently just, and, furthermore, that the doubt which did exist as to its feasibility, had been relieved by the investigations of the committee into its effect in all towns where it had been already adopted. In no case had the law been repealed after use for a year or more, and almost all towns asked reported most favorably for it. The large suburbs of Berlin, where enormous fortunes have been made in the last twenty-five years by the unprecedented rise in land values, are now one after the other adopting this method of taxation, or discussing the matter in their councils.

An interesting social event in the history of the League was the special meeting given by it on May 6th in honor of the 70th birthday of Professor Adolf Wagner, the leading authority on Political Economy in German University circles, and the holder of the chair of Political Science in the University of Berlin. Prof. Wagner has long been Honorary President of the Land Reform League, and he, the foremost among his colleagues, was the first to openly acknowledge the fundamental justice of the

new doctrine. In every way, and most fearlessly, Professor Wagner has openly declared himself in agreement with the theories propounded by the League, and in many cases the stand taken by so eminent an authority has been of great assistance. It was therefore admirably fitting that the League should join as a body, in the open honoring of this ripe scholar, and his presence on the occasion made the occasion one of political importance as well as of personal import.

GRACE ISABEL COLBRON.

## QUEENSLAND.

FAR AWAY QUEENSLAND NOT WITHOUT ITS  
APOSTLES OF THE TRUE FAITH—EVEN  
HERE THE SEED IS BEING SOWN.

Here in this remote corner of God's earth, some fourteen or fifteen hundred miles from the nearest Single Tax centre, with no league, no organization and no paper, the principles of your great countryman, Henry George, are not without some advocates. There are those among us who are constant in season and out of season in discussing George and his works, in lending books where they are likely to be seed sown on good ground, and by refuting economic delusions when they appear in the local press, and in other ways trying to propagate the principles of our leader.

It is wonderful the amount of sympathy we find existing among reformers of all persuasions for these principles. It is the fashion in these days in this country for every reformer to call himself and to be called a Socialist, but when they come to define their positions they vary considerably and often fundamentally. Those who named the reform movement in Queensland the Labor movement probably did better than they knew, if it were to be renamed now there is every probability it would be called the Socialistic movement, which from a Single Tax point of view would be alarming retrogression. But with all tendency to socialism and its unscientific jumble of truth and error, we cannot ignore the fact that all Socialists believe in the abolition of private property in land, and also for weal or woe they have the confidence and support of the masses. For these reasons we do not so much desire to see the formation of a Single Tax party, as to see the principles of Single Tax infused into the minds of the people in the existing parties and to this end we exhort one another to see to it that we are the leaven in every organization to which we belong, which in time will leaven the whole lump. If we belong to the church let us preach God's mode of raising revenue; if to a trades union or labor party let us teach that socialism at the very best is only a means to an end, and if introduced to-morrow could not be more

than an experiment; while labor is the foundation of wealth, and the uplifting of labor is the real motive of every true reformer and the keeping down of labor is the first endeavour of those who oppose reform. Teach them that if they really want to free the laborer no matter of what planks their platform may consist let the first be a tax on land values, irrespective of improvements and without exemption.

And let those who belong to local bodies or those who are in parliament never miss a chance (when considering the raising of money or forming of platforms or when discussing policies in caucus) of preaching this mode of rendering unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's. Every time the funds are low or the treasury empty let them cry "Single Tax the rescue."

Acting on these lines some of us who belong to the Charters Towers Literary and Debating Class, which comprises a mock parliament, brought in the following bill "Land Values taxation bill for 1904.

1. The purpose of this Bill is to levy a tax on the value of all land in Australia, attached to or that may become attached to Australia.

2. This tax to come in force on the first day of January 1905.

3. For immediate purposes the tax shall be for the present year  $\frac{2}{6}$  in the £ for the annual value of lands.

4. The tax shall be increased at the rate of  $\frac{1}{6}$  in the £ for the year 1906 and each succeeding year an increase of  $\frac{1}{6}$  in the £ until the tax approaches as nearly as may be to  $\frac{20}{100}$  in the £.

5. All moneys raised to be used for the usual purposes of revenue and in ways that will add to the comfort and prosperity of the people.

6. All existing taxes that fall on goods or persons to be abolished as the revenue from land values becomes sufficiently large to enable the Government to dispense with them."

Mr. Harding who had charge of the bill made a 20 minute speech which was attentively listened to, and reported at length next day in the local press. Councilor Winstanley who was present supported the bill and said that "it was the most statesmanlike measure that had ever been brought before that or any other parliament."

Another speaker declared "that as far as he could see, if it were passed it would be the last measure for raising revenue that would ever be needed, future governments might squabble as to how revenue should be spent, but never more as to how to raise it."

The question of one member who opposed the bill asked if it could be possible that private property in land was immoral? showing that he was seeing further into a new line of thought than ever before.

A legal gentleman who was sitting with the opposition got so entangled in his efforts to defeat the measure that he fairly proved

that he could not possibly carry on his business unless allowed to pay rent for the ground on which his offices stood.

Besides this we managed to get an appreciative memoriam of the life and work of Mrs. George through the press, when the news of her death reached us. So that though we are a small folk and live in a remote part of the world when the battle is won and the nations recognize that land belongs to all and the individual to himself, wherever we may be when that time comes, it will be sweet to us to know that we did some little to help it along.

EDWIN I. S. HARDING.

Charters Towers, Queensland.

## JUAN DE DIOS TEJADA.

(See *Frontispiece*.)

In the Spring of 1902 the National Party of Cuba through its national committee in the city of Havana offered a prize of 800 centenes (\$1,590 in Spanish gold) for an essay on the economic situation in Cuba, embodying a practical method by which the country might be rescued from its present depressed industrial condition. The winner of the prize was Juan de Dios Tejada, an eminent citizen of Cuba, and formerly a member of the Manhattan Single Tax Club of this city. The work, which includes about 250 closely type written pages, is entitled, "A Comparative Study of and Analysis of the Economic Condition of Cuba and the Remedy." It is dedicated "To the Immortal Memory of my Beloved Master, Henry George," with the quotation below in English, "I digged deep and laid the foundation on a rock."

In view of the dedication Single Taxers will guess that the work is an exposition from the point of view of those who see that the remedy for bad industrial conditions everywhere is freedom of trade and production from all restrictions and burdens, in short, the application of the Single Tax as a cure for the problems which Cuba, more than most countries, perhaps, is called upon to solve. For land is held in large estates in that country, and is practically free of taxation. For centuries the old Spanish families have held a firm grip on the land, and most of it has been neglected for any purpose save the extracting of revenue from the impoverished people. The cause of the revolution which resulted in American interference and the loss of Spanish power was quite as much economic as political. Cuba has at last come to its own, politically, but its economic problems remain, intensified indeed by closer contact with American competition.

This work of our eminent Cuban Single Taxer written in three weeks, a remarkably short time for the completion of such a work, is very highly spoken of by those competent to pronounce upon it. Mr.