

meeting, and their action is homologated by the community generally.

When the Town Council are in the position to send the rate collector to the holders of vacant feus they will promptly let go their grip.

**EDINBURGH LEAGUE: D. J. Downie, Hon. Secretary, 29, Eyre Crescent.**

Some further replies to the questionnaire we sent out to candidates at the recent Municipal Elections came in after our notes for November had been sent off. The final result was as follows: The questionnaire was sent to 33 candidates, of whom 22 replied. Of these, 19 were favourable (two with reservations), two were against, and one declined to answer the questions put. Of the 19 candidates who replied favourably 10 were returned. Two of these, ex-Bailie P. H. Allan, M.V.O., and Bailie Andrew Young, are members of the League. The latter we specially congratulate on his election to the magistracy.

A By-Election is at present taking place in the South Leith Ward of the City on account of the recent death of one of its representatives. Mr George Hogg, who was a candidate for this Ward at the recent Election in November, when he gave special prominence at his meetings to the question of the rating of land values, is again contesting the Ward and, as before, is keeping our question well before the electors. We ourselves have taken steps by a letter to the Press, by a questionnaire and in other ways, to emphasize the importance of the rating question as an issue at the Election.

### WILLIAM CRAVEN

We deeply regret to report that on 24th November the Yorkshire League lost one of its most devoted and industrious members in the passing of William Craven, of Sheffield. He was in his 75th year and had been ill for about three weeks. The loss is not only to the Yorkshire League, but to the work Mr Craven loved so well. He was never happier than when engaged in the activities of the movement. In an obituary notice the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* names him as a well-known Sheffield personality, a man profoundly interested in the Taxation of Land Values and a prolific writer to the Press.

He saw the remedy and made use of every opportunity open to him to educate public opinion. Those "letters to the editor" were a persistent preaching and exposition of the case for land value taxation and the untaxing of industry. A Liberal in politics, his liberalism was of the radical order that gained for him the hearty association also of the most earnest men in the Labour Party, and any record of the progress of the municipal movement in Sheffield, culminating in the official report of the City Council in favour of land value rating, must give credit to William Craven for his persistent efforts in this field. He lived to see some of the fruits of his labour, but he will be sadly missed among his co-workers, who could rely on him for generous service at any time. Although advanced in years he was one of the young virile men of the movement and his correspondence with the United Committee was an inspiring story of work done or a call to deal effectively with some new opening. He was an organization in himself, especially during municipal and Parliamentary elections when he took charge of the "heckling" of candidates and the widespread distribution of leaflets. He was proud of our confidence and co-operation and we can say he was truly one of our best loved correspondents. It was a delight to meet him at the annual gatherings of the Yorkshire League and on other occasions.

At the funeral Mr Fred Skirrow was among the mourners and represented the Yorkshire League and the United Committee. William Craven was laid to rest at the Burngreave Cemetery, Sheffield. To the bereaved relatives we extend our heartfelt condolences.

A. W. M.

### FOR THE BLIND

Recently, the Trustees of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, 11, Park Place, New York, completed the production in interpoint Braille for the blind of the book, *Significant Paragraphs from Progress and Poverty* by Henry George, with its introduction by Professor John Dewey. This book has now been distributed with the compliments of the Foundation to 70 institutions throughout the country, which maintain libraries for the blind. The book is introduced by a raised bookplate, containing this inscription:—

#### THIS BOOK

an abridgment of the most famous of the books of

HENRY GEORGE,

Philosopher and Economist,  
is donated by the

ROBERT SCHALKENBACH FOUNDATION,

11, Park Place, New York.

A non-profit organization, formed to encourage among people of all countries a wider acquaintance with the writings of a great American who was as well a citizen of the world and a lover of humanity. 1929.

The officers of the Foundation are informed that this is the first effort to make available any of the writings of Henry George in Braille for the blind, in the United States.

Speaking at the Aylesbury Rotary Club on 18th November (*Bucks Advertiser* report) Councillor Rupert East, the new Mayor of the Borough, referred to the municipal improvements that were urgently needed. These proposals, he said, meant spending more money; but having regard to the fact that all public expenditure tended to increase site values and that the public demanded and expected greater and more efficient service, he felt that a conference of rating authorities was desirable in order to consider whether the time had not arrived to follow the lead of our Colonies and reform our system of rating, by calling upon the owners of land to contribute in respect of benefits received and thus to share the burden of the rates.

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At an inquest on a child who was burned to-day in Clerkenwell (*Daily News*, 30th November) Dr A. E. Thomas, Medical Officer of Health for Finsbury, described Little Sutton Street as "one of the plague spots of Finsbury." Land in Finsbury was worth £50,000 an acre, and that was the great difficulty of the housing problem.

A representative of the landlords said that out of the £600 a year received in rents, £500 had to be spent in repairs, rates and taxes, and there was also a ground rent of £400 a year.

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The wedding of Margaret, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs Percy McDougall, of Manchester, to Douglas Merson Steel, R.N., will take place on 1st January. Hearty good wishes to the bride and bridegroom. Miss McDougall was present with her parents and sisters at the International Conference in Edinburgh and we are sure their co-members join in the congratulations.

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