

stitute a record of achievement which entitles him to a high place among the literary notables of our generation.

To the end of his life Mr. Berens was active with his pen. *Land Values*, the brilliant English organ of our movement, commanded his services almost to the last. He kept in touch with the work at all times, and aided efficiently in the labors of organization. Though he died at 58 his life was a long and useful one.

THERE died last month a man hardly known to the real estate world though his fortune in New York City lots is now estimated at nearly \$40,000,000. His name was Charles E. Appleby. He began with nothing. The fortune that he amassed is attributed to "shrewdness." This may be conceded—shrewdness on his part and lack of it on the part of others. Another could have done it if he had been shrewd enough. But, after all, is not "shrewdness" as a social asset a poor substitute for justice?

#### RIOTOUSLY FUNNY.

They (the ground landlords) let the land for terms of ninety-nine years . . . stipulating that the lessee should erect thereon houses of a stated minimum value which at the end of the lease became the property of the owner of the land . . . It is in this way that huge fortunes have been built up by the great landlords of London enumerated above.—A Veteran Diplomat, *N. Y. Times*, Dec. 21, 1913.

Each ninety-nine years lease has carried with it an obligation on the part of the lessee to improve the property by the erection thereon of still finer and more expensive buildings than existed at the outset. In this way the Duke of Bedford and his fellow ground landlords *have aided in the development of the capital city of the huge British Empire* (!)—Same article.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer in publicly declaring war against the ground landlords of London is likewise declaring war upon his future King, and in this way rendering himself guilty of something very much akin to treason (!!!)—Same article.

#### AMY MALI HICKS.

(See frontispiece.)

Amy Mali Hicks was born in Brooklyn, N. Y. About three fourths of her ancestors were Hicksites, or unorthodox Quakers, so she comes honestly by her non-conformist tendencies.

She first heard of Henry George through her cousin Florens Schetter, father of our Charlotte Schetter, of Orange. He gave her *Progress and Poverty* to read, but as she was only sixteen years old at the time, she did not get very much out of it then, though something of its philosophy must have stayed in her mind for when she had the philosophy of the Single Tax explained to her by her friend, Marian Macdaniel, about six years later she accepted it at once. She did not understand even then all its economic sides with absolute clearness, but it appealed to her mainly through a sense of fair play and a desire to give every one an opportunity for self-expression.

Being an artist, self-expression seemed to her an absolute necessity for any kind of normal social life. She felt that this must be based on social justice, for harmony is not based on uniformity, but on the unity which is born of infinite variety.

#### FELS FUND DINNER OF THE MANHATTAN SINGLE TAX CLUB.

The Joseph Fels Fund Dinner of the Manhattan Single Tax Club was held on Wednesday evening, January 21st, at the Fifth Avenue Restaurant, Broadway and Twentieth street, New York. William Marion Reedy, of St. Louis, presided in his usual brilliant fashion.

Mr. Charles T. Root, of New York, maintained that both the name "Single Tax" and the diversities of opinion among Single Taxers were hindrances to our progress. He believed that unity of statement was desirable and that we should lay emphasis on the fact that we are not opposed to private property in land. We simply wish to make private property in land beneficent and not maleficent.

This can be done by government taking ground rent to meet its needs.

Bolton Hall objected to having the government become a partner of land speculation by means of an unearned increment tax. The speculators can then tell the government not to tax land too much as it will hurt its selling value, and then the government will lose the money that might have accrued from unearned increments.

J. Stitt Wilson spoke with a surpassing eloquence, torrential at times, and pulsating with hope at others. He said he was both a socialist and a Single Taxer, believing the monopoly of land the worst curse of our present social system. In California there were whole counties that could furnish work to every man in the State stagnating under the blight of land speculation. But the home-rule amendment will give us an opportunity to put them to use. But even under Single Tax he thought that spoilation would continue. He quoted Henry George to that effect from "Social Problems." He said, however, that he was willing to go our way and work for our way and when we got there, he would continue on his road.

At the close of the speech, Mr. Wilson was more enthusiastically applauded than anyone who has spoken at Single Tax dinners since Tom Johnson.

Mr. John B. McGauran said that the associations of New York should make the Single Taxers of that city the most splendid fighters for the cause. The place where George and McGlynn lived and the place where they are buried ought to be the most active Single Tax city in America. On account of the fact that exemption of improvements will increase land values, the land speculators will ultimately become keen for such exemptions. Land, the robber that keeps all that is left, would be just as firmly intrenched.

The exemption of improvements from taxation is a necessary stage of the movement. But it is only an introduction to the real struggle. We will be far off from the kingdom, and the part in which we must play the man is yet to come.

George J. Knapp spoke of the useless rubbing of the fur the wrong way, that so

many Single Taxers seem to delight in. In Pueblo the socialists voted for our amendments, because we did not abuse, but merely asked them to go our way and that when our plans had carried, we could better consider theirs. We did not spread the idea that Single Tax was radical, but simply that it would do thus and so, hence, vote for it. We did not attack landlords, whom many people like and a lot of people are, but speculators and monopolists, who are onerous. We took advantage of innumerable weaknesses of people and they bettered themselves and their children as a result by voting for our proposition.

Joseph Fels spoke of the movement throughout the world, the ideals of its wealthy men, and the true significance of contributions in proportion to means.

The dinner was attended by about 375 guests and was said to be one of the most satisfactory ever held in New York city.

JOHN T. McROY.

#### WHAT THE MEXICAN REBELS ARE FIGHTING FOR.

"What are you fighting for?" the little mechanic Capitan was asked.

"There is a grievous wrong in my country and there will be no true progress until that wrong is removed," was the answer. "It is the land system.

"All the land in Mexico is owned by a few families and 90 per cent. of it is uncultivated. All of it is untaxed. Until it is possible for the working class to acquire land and until the land is made to bear its share of public expenditures there can be no real relief.

"A Diaz might subjugate, but that time has passed. There will be anarchy unless the conditions are improved. Perhaps Carranza, our chief, who is a good man, will change it all when he gets in.

"I am for the wronged and oppressed of every country," said the interpreter, but by request he did not finish his oration. —Interview with Col. Torribio Ortego, N. Y. *Sun*.

As CONCRETE illustrations of the progress of the Single Tax movement help us