

## HARRY S. MURRAY



*Died 10th March at Pau, France. Aged 66 years.*

The news of the sudden and unexpected passing of Harry S. Murray came as a shock to his friends and colleagues in the movement. The last time we saw him, here in London, some months ago, he was the picture of health and was warmly congratulated on his fine appearance.

Along with Mrs. Murray he had been passing the winter months in the south of France, and expected to be home again in Galashiels this month. As the local paper, *THE BORDER TELEGRAPH*, said "the news came as a great surprise to the community and occasioned universal expression of regret." In his business life Mr. Murray was connected with Galashiels as Managing Director of Messrs. Sanderson & Murray, up till about six years ago when the firm changed hands. He had also business interests in England, being chairman of directors of Stanley Bros., Ltd., Nuneaton.

In all respects he was a public spirited citizen and for a time was member of the Galashiels Town Council. In the wider field of politics he was attached to the Liberal Party, where he figured as a representative platform speaker, though he had no great liking, never at any time, for this side of the propaganda. At the General Election of 1906 he stood as Liberal candidate for Govan. It was a three-cornered fight and the Tory won by a small majority, with Mr. Murray as second in the count. It was a unique and memorable campaign—the Liberal candidate being recognized as standing more in the name of the Scottish League for the Taxation of Land Values than in the Liberal interest.

Ten years previously he came into active touch with the Scottish League through *LAND & LIBERTY*, then named *THE SINGLE TAX*. He was elected a vice-president and at once was recognized to be a new intellectual force in the developing campaign. An address on the land question delivered at a public meeting at Galashiels in October, 1895, brought him into great prominence as an exponent of Henry George's teaching. It was published in pamphlet form and widely circulated throughout the country, a special edition, by request, formed the chief item of the

Govan election literature. He was a keen student of economic literature and had a knowledge of the writings of the French Physiocrats which made him an authority on their philosophy and their place in history.

Mr. Murray's last outstanding service to the cause was, as Chairman of the Edinburgh League, to preside at the Scottish National Conference to Promote the Taxation of Land Values, held at Edinburgh, 6th October, 1917. His address on that occasion was a perfect model of lucidity and conviction. Referring to the dreadful war he said: "We must go deeper than any proximate cause of this trouble, and, as far as I am concerned, I maintain that we must seek the real cause in those inequalities of wealth distribution which, unfortunately, are the curse of modern society." In the course of his well chosen remarks he faithfully exposed the evils of our land system, and declared with enthusiastic approval: "That we were here to say that it must be brought to an end, and that the land should be restored to that common purpose for which it was manifestly created." Commenting on the Report of the Scottish Royal Commission on Housing, noticed in the Press that morning, he said: "There comes the difficulty of the land monopoly, for the housing problem is the outcome of the land being held up for high prices. In order to destroy land monopoly you have got to impose the taxation of land values. The landowners hold to the land for higher prices in the future. By this system of taxation you would prevent the holding up of land. You would then get the houses built in any quantity at low rents, and give breathing space for the whole population. That is the method by which we propose that the people of Edinburgh, like the people of other cities in Great Britain, should enter into their inheritance of the land."

In literary and musical circles Mr. Murray had many admirers who will lament his loss. He was recognized as a highly accomplished violincellist and, as the local paper says, devoted much time and talent to the study and practice of high-class chamber music. He was a devoted lover of Scotland's national poet and officiated as chief spokesman at the unveiling ceremony of the "Braw Lads" memorial at Galashiels in June, 1913.

He was intellectually convinced of the truth taught by Henry George, but music was his overmastering passion. Time and again in recent years he has avowed to his friend the writer of these faltering but affectionate words of remembrance: "I must give less to music and more to our cause," or "I must stop so much of my business and help you in the work." It was willed otherwise; but we are grateful for the help he gave to the work these past thirty years.

It was ever a pleasure and an inspiration to meet our gifted colleague. His voice and presence will not soon be forgotten by those who knew the man. We can vividly recall his early enthusiasm, his eager questions, his enlightening arguments bearing on obscure points of doctrine, his wide outlook and comprehensive grasp of politics.

We join with many others in extending to Mrs. Murray our sincerest sympathy in her great loss.

J. P.

A White Paper, Cmd. 2082, has been issued giving startling figures relating to the cost of unemployment relief. For insurance alone, the expenditure since the Armistice to 1st March, 1924, has been £170,438,000, and of that sum no less than £13,733,000 has been appropriated for administration alone. The total sum expended has been supplied by contributions from employers, from employed and from the Exchequer, and the sums provided by the last-named amount to £53,417,000, including a loan of £11,470,000. The total sum provided by the Treasury for post-war resettlement, training of ex-Service men, insurance, unemployment relief works, land settlement, etc., has been 170½ millions.