

against direct legislation, and it is not so intended. But it is an argument for education in the principles we hold before attempting to perfect the machinery of government. And let us reflect that six states, or one eighth of the union, now have direct legislation. If a working example of the Single Tax is desired as sufficient to convert the rest of the United States, and it is held that such example may be most speedily secured where this system is in operation, it would seem that the field is already broad enough for experiment, and that labors for further extension of the system may well be left to other hands, while Single Taxers devote themselves to the more important work of teaching men their economic rights.)

The important question is as to the duty of the hour. Should Single Taxers stop even for a short time on the road as preachers of economic righteousness to perfect governmental machinery? We believe it is no part of our work—that the goal of democracy will be sooner won by teaching men their economic rights. "Then something will break loose," as Mr. Fels says elsewhere in these columns. Men will break their political bonds along with their economic bonds. The whole unjust and defective political framework of society will yield to economic assault—for it is built on economic injustice and the ignorance and apathy of men as to their basic rights.

Perhaps there might be some excuse for Single Taxers engaging actively in the fight for direct legislation if this cause were being neglected. But as a matter of fact it is in good hands. It has won splendid victories in Oregon, Oklahoma and Maine, and is finding lodgement elsewhere. It has secured leaders of exceptional power and ability, such as Senator Bourne, of Oregon, and George H. Shibley, of Washington, D. C., whose services to the cause merit more than this passing recognition. Perhaps it is an evolution of democracy; certainly, its triumph seems inevitable. And it is perhaps just as well for the cause of direct legislation that it has not found its chief apostles in Single Taxers, or rather that the body of Single Taxers has not bent its energies to securing it. And this for reasons that will appear obvious enough

to the thoughtful. It is at all events better for the Single Tax movement, for there would be present the temptation to disavow its importance to the Single Tax while advancing the delusive plea that it was in the interest of all true reforms—a plea none the less delusive because true. We do not imagine that those who compose the bodies actively engaged in the work for direct legislation will be especially grateful for Single Tax agitation in its favor.

There is another temptation, too. The movement for the initiative and referendum is popular—ever so much more popular than the Single Tax. It brings the brilliant men of our movement in association with brilliant men elsewhere—and intellectual comradeship of this order has its fascinations—and its dangers. But at all events, to the extent it diverts our leaders from their real work as preachers of economic righteousness, it is distinctly unfortunate.—J. D. M.

ALEXANDER MACKENDRICK.

(See frontispiece.)

Mr. Alexander MacKendrick, (President for the year of the Scottish League for the Taxation of Land Values) is an enthusiast in all that concerns the well being and advancement of the League over which he for the time being presides. Outside this sphere he is widely recognized as a careful student of public affairs. In his earlier years, he devoted much time to the study of the writings of Darwin, Herbert Spencer, and other 19th Century philosophers. In this connection Mr. MacKendrick enjoys the society of many of the Professors who have held Chairs in the Glasgow University, and of many able journalists and authors.

He became identified with the Henry George movement in Scotland some ten years ago, when he commenced valiantly to argue himself into a belief in the teachings of Henry George. He studied "Progress and Poverty" diligently, and discussed the subject matter of the book with an open mind in all its moods and tenses. In due course he became firmly convinced

that Henry George's position was sound and impregnable. This meant to him the breaking away of old ties, and entering into new outlets for his energy and enthusiasm. But true to his own sweet reasonableness he glided into the new movement, more or less unconsciously, and without breaking one single friendship.

Although not enjoying the best of health, Mr. MacKendrick is ever active, and never fails to take advantage of any opportunity to state the case for the Taxation of Land Values; when no opportunity comes his way he sets out to find one. He believes that the remedy proposed by Henry George for the solution of the poverty problem, is the only remedy available, and is firmly persuaded that the Taxation of Land Values with the abolition of the existing system of taxation, would not only solve the poverty problem, but put an end to the many problems arising out of poverty, which have vexed and tormented philosophers and politicians in all ages and in all countries throughout the civilized world.

Mr. MacKendrick is an uncompromising advocate of the policy the Scottish League exists to promote, and is ever ready to join heartily in all the plans of the League for promoting a wider knowledge of the Gospel. For this he has the goodwill and affection of his colleagues, and on his part this feeling is entirely reciprocated.

He has a wide circle of friends outside the League, where he is recognized as a good fellow. He has ready access to ever so many different circles open to the discussion of social problems, and much of the good work he does for the movement is carried on in quiet and unassuming ways. Wherever he finds a sympathetic or likely man or woman, or any group of them, he is untiring in his efforts to bring them within the fold, and when this more congenial work is wanting he will read a paper to some outside body, join in a debate, or take the Chair at an open air meeting, at a moment's notice.

A principal feature of Mr. MacKendrick's efforts are frequent letters and articles on Land Values to the *Glasgow Herald*. These are always welcome for their marked ability no less than for the sweet and persuasive style of the writer.

Than Mr. MacKendrick our movement does not contain within all its wide range, a more sincere and indefatigable servant. On another page will be found a notable address on Henry George before the Scottish League for the Taxation of Land Values.

THE MANHATTAN SINGLE TAX CLUB CELEBRATES HENRY GEORGE'S BIRTHDAY.

At last! The Manhattan Single Tax Club has distinguished itself by holding a dinner in commemoration of the anniversary of George's birth where the speakers' remarks were distinctly audible, uninterrupted either by the rattle of dishes or the music of carousal. And it was a very enjoyable and entertaining affair, and the menu was all that could be desired for the very moderate price per plate. Eighty-eight persons participated.

President Leubuscher presided, handsome as ever and bronzed by his summer stay at the seaside. He spoke briefly as follows:

"We are here to celebrate the anniversary of George's birth. Certainly we have abundant cause to congratulate ourselves on the progress that is being made. The George idea has taken root even in the president's mind. Taft has shown by his great speech before the Conservation Congress that the doctrines taught by the man whom we honor, have borne fruit in unexpected places. It is most significant, coming from the source it did." President Leubuscher here referred to the recent report of the Congestion Congress held in this city, and said: "All these things show that the doctrines of human rights preached by the man whose anniversary we are celebrating, are advancing with rapid strides."

President Leubuscher read the following letter from Poultney Bigelow:

"Impossible, my dear Mr. Fink. I shall pour a libation to the truth as seen and taught by Henry George on Sept. 10th, but it will be at my father's home—he is nearly ninety-three, and among the many things I owe to him is a conviction that between nations, as between individuals,