

CRAIG RALSTON

(See frontispiece)

Craig Ralston, author of the "Shovelcrats," the famous satirical Single Tax pamphlet, is a political writer on the *Milwaukee Journal*. The "Shovelcrats" is the outgrowth of fifteen years observation in newspaper work, beginning when Mr. Ralston was a police reporter on the *Denver News*. The police station harvested the fruits of the social system; the Shovelcrats pictures the logic of schools of statecraft which are attempting to deal with the social problems without taking monopoly into account.

In a discussion with a friend one day, Mr. Ralston tried to illustrate the viewpoint of the Single Taxers by citing a theoretical situation in a railroad construction camp. The point he made was that no section gang could be made wealthy or prosperous were the supply of shovels monopolized, so that each workman would have to pay several hundred, or several thousand dollars, for the privilege of using a shovel. A little later he elaborated this idea in the "Shovelcrats."

Mr. Ralston was born in Kentucky, but was reared in Colorado, on what was then the frontier. He returned to Kentucky to go to school, served six months with the volunteers of that State in the Spanish war, chose journalism as a profession, and has been employed in Louisville, Denver, Pueblo, El Paso, Milwaukee and other points.

DEATH OF H. F. RING.

Henry Franklin Ring died Dec. 14, at Houston, Texas. The news was a shock to his friends far and wide. He is survived by his widow and two sons.

There have been famous pamphleters, but it is seldom that a man becomes famous by reason of a single pamphlet. Yet the ability to express clear thinking in language surpassingly clear is a rarer distinction than those who follow the trade of a writer

suspect. The pamphlet that made H. F. Ring famous was "The Case Plainly Stated," the substance of an address on the Single Tax given before a gathering of the Knights of Labor in 1888. Mr. Ring was at this time an attorney in the city of Houston, a city more conservative at that time than it has since grown to be under the influence of such men as Ring and Pastoriza, and his bold avowal of the entire gospel of Henry George was a shock to the community.

Mr. Ring was a native of Mass., where he was born in 1852. He attended Cornell University from which he graduated. He studied later in Texas and was admitted to the bar in 1876. He soon became one of the most prominent attorneys in the State. He was elected to the presidency of the Texas Bar Asso.

Mr. Ring had completed shortly before his death a work entitled, "The Problem of the Unemployed." Efforts were being made to give this work a large circulation under a plan conceived by Mr. Ring. This work must now be undertaken by other hands. This volume of nearly 300 pages has all the characteristics of "The Case Plainly Stated," and is the finished work of a really great master of simple exposition.

Following is a tribute to his memory from his friend and co-worker in the cause, Joseph J. Pastoriza:

"H. F. Ring's whole life goes to show that he cared nothing about himself. He cared nothing about his personal financial affairs if the things he advocated could be of service to humanity. His whole heart was wrapped up in the Single Tax cause. He didn't let his finances and his friendship interfere with his free thought. He was fearless in his opinions regardless of whom it affected."

The *Houston Press* said of him editorially:

"The death of H. F. Ring takes away a force from the community. No more devout disciple of right and justice lived. The beacon stars of his life were truth and liberty. Without them, he often said, life would not be worth while to him. He possessed that rare gift of discernment