

theory into operation by means of confiscation."

Now we challenge the *Record* for proof that the Church has anywhere—speaking *ex-cathedra*—condemned the doctrine of the Single Tax to which it confesses the Church is not opposed, when carried to the point where all ground rent may be absorbed? It is clearly, only, and confessedly a question of degree—over which Single Taxers are themselves not greatly exercised—and it would be interesting to have the *Record* produce its authority. Clearly it cannot do this.

HON. GEORGE FOWLDS, M. P.

(See frontispiece).

George Fowlds, M. P., New Zealand's Minister of Education, and worker for the great cause since 1886, comes of that nationality which has given so many splendid and earnest advocates of Single Tax principles. For he was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, in 1860.

Mr. Fowlds was educated at the village school and attended classes at the Andersonian College, in Glasgow. He thinks he must have been a Single Taxer from birth. The doctrine he had unconsciously derived from his father, who for nearly eighty years had contended in the Parochial Board of his district for a different rate on land and houses, recognizing the distinction between the two kinds of property. Matthew Fowlds, of whom it would be interesting to learn more, died on the 31st of January, 1907, aged 101 years. In 1906 Matthew Fowlds, weaver, celebrated his centenary and the son, now risen to fame and honor in his adopted country, traveled to Scotland to take part in the celebration. Sir Joseph Ward, the premier of New Zealand, then on his way to Rome to attend the Postal Congress, was also present to pay his respects to the patriarch. The presence of Sir Joseph was a notable evidence to the old gentleman of the distinction achieved by the son. He must also have been aware of the much wider recognition accorded him as one of the foremost advocates of a cause which numbers its

adherents in all lands, and perhaps have rejoiced to know that the principles for which he himself had contended in the local council of his district had found in his son a notable champion.

Mr. Fowlds went to Kimberly, South Africa, in 1882 and remained there for three years. In 1884 he was married and in 1885 he sailed for New Zealand. Arriving there he took up his residence in Auckland. He became the leading clothier and "outfitter" in that capital.

Amid the details of an active business life he found time for participation in larger public interests. The educational needs of the community commanded a large share of that superabundant energy which has distinguished his public and business career. Attention was thus focused on the man who though known as a staunch advocate of the Single Tax, had other claims to public recognition. It was on the ground of this advocacy that he was most bitterly opposed as a candidate for Parliament in 1899, but he was successful, polling 5604 votes, or 840 more than the next successful nominee, which was a distinct personal triumph. Auckland at this time had three representatives, and the Single Tax advocate thus ranked first in the number of votes accorded him. In 1902 he again stood for Parliament, this time as member for Grey Lynn, and was again returned. In 1906 he accepted from Sir Joseph Ward the portfolios of Education and Public Health, and to-day in addition is Minister of Immigration and Minister in charge of Trade and Customs and State Fire Insurance Departments—surely a sufficient catalogue of activities for even so insatiable an energy.

As Minister of Education Mr. Fowlds has been able to introduce reforms of a democratic kind. He has abolished university fees; he has established Research scholarships to encourage post-graduate study on original lines of science likely to benefit conditions in New Zealand from which it may be seen that the versatile director of education has an eye to the kind of scholarship that has its application to right living and correct social laws; he has helped to further the cause of technical education and manual training schools

and he has purged his departments of many antiquated regulations.

Such is a brief sketch of the life and abounding activities of one of our foremost advocates under the Southern Cross. But it by no means exhausts the record. For Mr. Fowlds is an indefatigable temperance worker, is chairman of the Congregational Union of New Zealand, and is a member of a number of football, cricket, tennis and bowling clubs.

In a recent letter to the REVIEW from Hon. P. J. O'Regan, one of the distinguished leaders of our movement in New Zealand, the writer says:

"I regard Mr. Fowlds as an admirable type of public man—such a man as we might picture to be a model of public-spiritedness and integrity. It is to be regretted that at the present stage it is not possible to utilize all the sound knowledge of economic principles which Mr. Fowlds possesses. There is no man in this country or in Australia who possesses such a fund of knowledge or who has read more widely in those subjects which should command the attention of politicians. Apart from all this, however, very few are aware of the splendid openheartedness and generosity of the man. No public movement deserving of assistance goes without substantial aid from his purse. Such a man must do for the public life of his adopted country what men, like Cobden and Bright, did for public life in the wider sphere of British politics. As a Minister of the Crown Mr. Fowlds is necessarily less prominent officially in our movement than formerly, but we all know his intense devotedness to it, and, though some of our ranks think that he would do more effective work as a private member of Parliament, no one doubts his earnestness and disinterestedness. I may express my own view of this particular point—whether Mr. Fowlds did the right thing in joining the Ministry. In time he is sure to become a more influential member, and by watching his opportunities will most probably be able to do most effective work for the taxation of land values."

Perhaps to us the most gratifying evidence of Mr. Fowlds' sterling character and abilities is the testimony of his political

opponents. We shall content ourself with one citation of this kind from the *Wellington Evening Post*, which is an opposition paper:

"Certainly, all who know Mr. Fowlds, and have had an opportunity to see his straightforwardness, honesty, and solidity of character must be now stirred strongly in his favor in these days when the crafty are trying to beset him."

HOW TO REVIVE INDUSTRY.

All over the nation lands are held out of use for speculative purposes—agricultural lands, mining lands, city lands. If they were so heavily taxed that they would have to be used or given up to those who would use them, we should have a renewed era of building and a revival of industry.—*Denver (Colo.) Daily Express.*

IS HENRY GEORGE THE GREATEST AMERICAN?

Was Henry George the greatest American? It is perhaps too soon to give the answer one way or the other. But already the question is being discussed more or less and it is a question that will be more and more under discussion as the years roll by and as Henry George's ideas become better understood. * * *

It is idle to argue whether Henry George was the greatest American. It is enough that he has given the world a great idea. And it is the idea which needs to be considered, not whether the man who formulated and made it plain has been given his proper place in the galaxy of fame. Yet it is but just to say that perhaps no other American has ever wrought so mightily on the destinies of the world as this humble Philadelphia printer whom the duke of Argyll immortalized as the Prophet of San Francisco.—TIMOTHY TITT in Passaic (N. J.) *Daily Herald.*

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