

derstanding of it, and of the limitations set to that understanding. But he was as far as possible from being a mere dreamer of dreams.

"A staunchly loyal and generous friend, he was also exceedingly ambitious on his own account. If by risking his life, no matter how great the risk, he could gain high military distinction, he was bent on gaining it. He had taken so many chances when death lay on the hazard that he felt the odds were now against him; but said he, 'Who would not risk his life for a star?' Had he lived, and had the war lasted, he would surely have won the eagle, if not the star."

J. H. WHITLEY, M. P.,

PRESIDENT OF THE ENGLISH LEAGUE FOR THE
TAXATION OF LAND VALUES.

(See Frontispiece.)

Mr. J. H. Whitley, M. P., was born at Halifax, Yorkshire, February, 1866. His father was a wealthy and influential citizen, a staunch liberal in politics, and a man who in his public and private life was devoted to the service of others. Mr. J. H. Whitley is a worthy son of such a father. In his early days his mind was greatly influenced by the writings of Carlyle and Ruskin, and as a boy at Clifton College he, after reading *Progress and Poverty*, undertook to champion the cause of the Single Tax in a public debate in the college. After leaving college he at once threw himself into social and philanthropic work. He founded a Boys' Camp Committee, through whose agency over 8,000 factory boys have had a week's holiday at the seaside under canvas. In connection with this he founded a Boys' Gymnasium, which to-day holds the premier position for gymnastics in England, running a close second to the champion Scottish team. He also was largely instrumental in organizing in Halifax recreation evening classes in connection with the Board schools. These classes are now recognized as probably the most successful of any similar classes in the country.

In these and many other ways he made his life useful to those about him. As a very young man he entered the Town Council, and his conspicuous abilities very soon won him the respect of his colleagues.

His popularity increased so fast that he was pressed in 1895 to stand as a candidate for Parliament in the Liberal interest when the first opportunity occurred. This invitation, however, he did not see his way to accept, but when in 1900 he was again asked to undertake the responsibility he felt it his duty not to refuse.

Many years of municipal work and private philanthropy had taught him the utter inadequacy of social, municipal and philanthropic effort to cope with social disease as long as the root cause of this disease—

Land Monopoly—remained untouched, and he therefore considered that his zeal for reform would find a wider field and larger opportunity for attacking this root evil at Westminster rather than in local politics.

With this before him he was willing to make the sacrifice of time, money, leisure and home life which this decision involved, but he will eventually, if he has not done so already, find the rich reward of the knowledge that his life has been spent in making the possibility of life happier, better and nobler for others. One great source of strength in his public work is the help and sympathy of his gifted wife.

The election of Mr. Whitley last year to the position of President of the English League for the Taxation of Land Values (formerly The English Land Restoration League) is an acknowledgment of his worth as a Single Taxer. He represented the Halifax Town Council at the Municipal Conferences on the Taxation of Land Values, and at the Conference held in London, October, 1902, was requisitioned to move the leading resolution. At the close of the proceedings he was elected a member of the Special Committee appointed by the Conference to draft a bill for the Taxation of Land Values for local purposes, for presentation to Parliament. The bill introduced by Mr. C. P. Trevelyan, M. P., last session, the second reading of which was carried by a majority of 67, including 36 supporters of the Government, was promoted by this Municipal Conference Committee, and it is an open secret that the drafting of this bill was the work mainly of Mr. Whitley. The merits of the bill have been thoroughly discussed, and whatever may be its fate in the present session of Parliament it has certainly been the cause everywhere of much useful discussion on the practical legislative proposals of the movement for the Taxation of Land Values.

Mr. Whitley takes a keen interest in the important work of educating the public mind on the question. He brings his ripe experience to bear on the various business proposals brought before the League by its ever active officers and members. People instinctively feel in listening to Mr. Whitley, whether on the platform or in personal conversation, that he knows his subject well and that he is thoroughly devoted to the movement. His ability is equalled only by his sincerity, which is readily accepted by all who have the pleasure of his association.

In a very ignorant, or very sinister but also very well written article written in *Everybody's*, for April, entitled "Hooligan," the writer in what is a subtly concealed plea for Chamberlainism, says: "In York with only 75,000 inhabitants, official investigation shows that six per cent. of the population live in most unsanitary condition." Really? Only six per cent?