

the renters. There is but one statement, to which if we understand it correctly, exception may be filed. That is the following statement:

"The grand principle of the Single Tax does not depend upon the collection of the full rental value of the land, etc." It may be that this is an unconscious slip. The principle of the Single Tax, however, is the collection of the full rental value of the land. But in practice it may be found expedient to leave to landowners a small percentage of such value to facilitate its collection by providing a basis of assessment, determined by the small selling price that land would then have. Mr. George contended that it would not be possible to take more than ninety per cent. of land value. It is however true, as this paragraph from the renters protest goes on to state, that the Single Tax does "depend upon the judicious use of the rentals collected." If the rentals taken in Fairhope are something more than the land value, as is alleged, because of the reductions of assessed rentals in sixty cases, then improvement values are indirectly taxed. But if taxes take considerably less than the rental value then improvements in Fairhope must remain inadequate to the demands of a growing town.

It is clear that these are questions that only those on the ground can determine. In accordance with a recent concession of the voting members renters now have a voice in the disbursement of rentals. This is really an important concession, but it is a curious fact that few of the renters seem to regard the concession seriously, holding that this cannot really be done without a change of the constitution. But we are at this writing without data enabling us to say whether this is so or not.

Fairhope's troubles are of interest far beyond Fairhope. Therefore an investigation by an important committee whose findings will have weight with the Single Tax world, and whose decision must be accepted as a solution of the problem, seems to us imperative. We know now that all is not as it should be at Fairhope, and although it is quite true that success or failure of the colony means but little to the world-wide Single Tax movement, yet for its own sake and for such colony imitators as may come after, and perhaps, too, because it has been exploited in the public press as a Single Tax experiment, a strong effort should be made to set at rest the problem of its government, to satisfy the claimants of both sides of the controversy, if that be possible, and to determine how the Single Tax features of the colony may be preserved under a more democratic administration than seems to prevail.

To this end we suggest the organization of a committee to sift Fairhope's affairs to the bottom, and to be composed of members drawn from such men as Judge Samuel Seabury, Lawson Purdy, Hon. James G. Maguire, Hon. Robert Baker. We suggest

these men because of their legal, or judicial or legislative training. In the findings of such a committee absolute confidence could be reposed.

ROOSEVELT ON CAPTAIN "BUCKY" O'NEIL.

The following is a brief account from the pen of Theodore Roosevelt, of Captain O'Neill, once Sheriff, then Mayor of Prescott, Arizona, and later Captain of the Rough Riders, killed at San Juan Hill, but whose name will be held by Single Taxers in grateful remembrance because of his efforts to establish the Single Tax in Prescott. Captain O'Neill understood our principles, recognized their far-reaching import, and revered the name of Henry George. The editor of the REVIEW had the pleasure of meeting him in New York City before the Spanish-American War, when O'Neill, at that time Mayor of Prescott, was on his way to the Klondyke. It was the era of the Klondyke gold fever, and O'Neill, to whom the lure of adventure was forever beckoning, had turned his footsteps in the direction of the Alaskan gold fields. We recall him as a man at least six feet in height, with a face singularly handsome because of its combined strength and gentleness.

The President's account of his Captain of the Rough Riders is interesting as well as sympathetic. In passing, it is worth mentioning that Nicholas Vyne, of Emporia, Kansas, from whose pen a short article appears in this number, was a Sergeant of the Rough Riders, and knew O'Neill—though not of O'Neill's company—but did not know him as a Single Taxer:

"Most of the men had simple souls. They could relate facts, but they said very little about what they dimly felt. Bucky O'Neill, however, the iron-nerved, iron-willed fighter from Arizona, the Sheriff whose name was a by-word of terror to every wrongdoer, white or red; the gambler who with unmoved face would stake and lose every dollar he had in the world—he, alone among his comrades, was a visionary, an articulate emotionalist.

"He was very quiet about it, never talking unless he was sure of his listener; but at night, when we leaned on the railing to look at the Southern Cross, he was less apt to tell tales of his hard and stormy past than he was to speak of the mysteries which lie behind courage, and fear, and love, behind animal hatred and animal lust for the pleasures that have tangible shape.

"He had keenly enjoyed life, and he could breast its turbulent torrent as few men could; he was a practical man who knew how to wrest personal success from adverse forces, among money-makers, politicians and desperadoes alike; yet, down at bottom, what seemed to interest him most was the philosophy of life itself, of our un-

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?