

*Who's Who
in Georgism*
Alexander Hamilton



Born in Scotland in 1861, Alexander Hamilton was the son of what Sir Walter Scott would have called "a douce

guidman wha held his ain ploo." His childhood was spent on a ranch of about 350 acres which was improved so much by underdraining, liming, breaking up, etc., that at the end of his father's occupancy the rent was doubled. Of this Mr. Hamilton says, "A lesson in landlordism."

At sixteen he decided to learn a trade in order to work his way to the New World where he could be his own "laird." So he learned masonry and having earned his passage, came to America when he was twenty-one. When he told the immigration official his name, the officer said, "If you do as well in this country as your illustrious name-sake you will be all right." But Hamilton says he found he had "much more in common with Thomas Jefferson than with my illustrious name-sake."

For many years, in many States and in Canada Hamilton continued his "stone-hewing." He became a member of the Knights of Labor in Victoria. At the first meeting he asked for literature explaining more fully the aims and objects of the Knights and was handed a copy of "Progress and Poverty"!

In 1889, with W. W. Forrester and Thomas Turnbull he published from New Westminster a little monthly paper called "The Single Tax Advocate" which set in motion the influences that led parts of Western Canada to make a deep thrust against land monopoly. They took most of the taxes off improvements and levied them against land values.

He moved in 1902 to a farm on Pender Island but not till 1909 did he achieve his life's ambition: "to reach a position where I could apply my own labor to Dame Nature's breast directly—when it would become unnecessary for me to ask leave of any fellow creature for liberty to produce wealth."