

## Robert C. Macauley

IT is a real loss that the movement has sustained in the death of "Bob" Macauley, as he was known to his intimates, for many years editor of the *Pennsylvania Commonwealth* and candidate for President of the United States on the Single Tax ticket in 1920.

He died as chronicled in another page on his way to Chicago. He was on the programme as one of the speakers at the convention, so he died, as for so many years he had lived, in the midst of his work for the cause of which he was so uncompromising an advocate. He had given of the best that was in him though he was impatient at times with what he considered the hesitant steps of many of our leaders.

He was a fluent and effective speaker and a writer of clear, forceful and effective newspaper English. For this his journalistic experience and his early employment in publicity work had admirably fitted him. His paper he modestly called a "sales letter," and he had built up a circulation of over ten thousand. He had worked indefatigably, making two or more trips a year to secure subscriptions. The paper had become an effective instrument of propaganda. How really effective it was may be gathered from the thousands of letters received during the years of publication from those who were not Single Taxers but were attracted by the clearness and strength of the "sales letter" that arrived once a month.

In this work he was unique and we doubt if any living Single Taxer would be able or willing to do it. That is perhaps the highest praise that can be given him. And all the time his courageous heart kept pounding away at the frail tenement of his body until it broke under the strain.

"Bob" Macauley had many friends and even those who were not friendly respected and helped him in his work, which was wholly unselfish, and forever directed by a burning passion for justice.

He knew his economics. Few or none knew them better. He was not a patient man, and it must have seemed to many that he was intolerant of those who stopped even momentarily their work for the supreme cause to labor for minor reforms. But this impatience he never showed in the *Commonweal*. And, after all, his intolerance was a real measure of his devotion to the cause which he strove so jealously to guard.

Here was a man not afraid to walk alone, strong, self-reliant and supremely brave.

## George L. Record

THE death of George L. Record at the State Street Hospital in Portland, Maine, removes from the scene one of the out-standing figures in New Jersey politics. He was one of the advisers to Woodrow Wilson and twenty-five years ago served as Corporation Counsel of Jersey City under Mayor Mark M. Fagan.

He deserted the candidacy of William Jennings Bryan

in 1896 and was chairman of the Palmer and Buckner campaign committee in Hudson County, N. J., of which body the editor of LAND AND FREEDOM was also a member. Later Mr. Record joined the Bull Moose party. He was defeated for many high offices, among them that of United States Senator and member of the House of Representatives. He never attained to any of his highest ambitions. But he held many appointive offices, and he was counsel for many municipalities seeking lower rates of service from utility companies. His rapid changes from a Democrat to a Republican and then to a Progressive arose from his hatred of the machines of all parties. But he was at all times a Progressive. He was not a good "mixer" and held himself with a kind of aloofness that estranged him from his political associates. To this in part may be attributed the balking of his ambitions for high office, for which he strove so often but never attained.

Yet we are glad to echo the editorial comment of the *New York Times* which says of him, "His vigilance in the cause of good government was never a mere pose. He was a useful citizen. As a lawyer he stood high."

Mr. Record was a Single Taxer. It is but a few short months ago that he delivered a thought-provoking address before the Henry George School of Social Science at the Pythian Temple in this city. While it is undoubtedly true that he had real faith and knowledge of the Henry George doctrine, his methods of political propaganda seemed at times rather too devious.

At his best and in his early days he was a real orator, able to sway great multitudes with the ardor of his eloquence. But in later years he seemed to have lost much of this supreme quality, though he was never anything but ready and fluent.

He was seventy-three years old but scarcely looked it. A wife and sister survive him. He had no children.

## How To Balance the Budget

THE budget is now taking shape behind the scenes. The country will be fortunate if the struggle to balance it does not inflict further grave injury to its social life.

Here, in the windfall gains of land ownership, is a source of revenue which ought to be made to assist the nation in its present financial difficulties.

The argument against a heavier income tax, whatever it may be worth, does not apply here. For to reclaim for the community values created by communal development cannot possibly be held to "discourage enterprise" or "burden development."

Land values over a wide area will rise without landowners lifting a finger. Why should they receive the reward of others' enterprise?

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I FULLY admit this; I have stated it long ago in *Midlothian*—I hold it without the smallest doubt; if a time came when the British nation could think that the land ought to be nationalized, and that it were wise to do it, they have perfect right to do it beyond all doubt and question.—GLADSTONE, Speech at Hawarden, 1889.