

## ARTHUR J. MOXHAM

It was a regret to learn from the Postmaster at Odessa in Delaware that Arthur J. Moxham had passed away in May, 1931. It was from the Electro Company at Odessa that he wrote in the later years of his life. For many years previously he had been in close and intimate touch with the work of the United Committee through his correspondence with John Paul whom he counted among his dearest friends; but since 1929 no word had been received from him, except indirectly that he was in ill-health and had many business cares. He went to the States from Wales as a young man and was one of the brilliant associates of Tom L. Johnson of Cleveland. He became a Henry George disciple shortly after "Tom L.'s" own conversion in the early 'eighties and it is of him that the incident is related (in *My Story* by Tom L. Johnson) how as business partners they talked about *Progress and Poverty* together: "Mr Moxham read the book once, carefully marking all the places where, in his opinion, the author had departed from logic and indulged in sophistry. He wasn't willing to talk much about it, however, saying he wanted time to think it over and read it once more before he discussed it with anybody. By and by, he said to me, 'I've read *Progress and Poverty* again and I have had to erase a good many of my marks, but I don't want to talk about it yet.' And then in due course of time there came a day when he said, 'Tom, I've read that book for the third time and I have rubbed out every damn mark.'"

Readers of the *Life of Henry George* made Mr. Moxham's acquaintance in the description of his strength of character and high executive ability, which were attested by the people of Johnstown when the never-to-be-forgotten flood laid the centre of the city in ruins, killed 3,600 persons, and

sweeping away all established authority and order, gave place to horror, terror and frantic confusion. In that time of disaster Mr Moxham was made dictator, with life and death powers; and for three days he held that extraordinary office.

With all his interest in the Henry George campaign in America, both during the life of Henry George and afterwards, Mr Moxham was heart and soul with the propaganda in his native land. Richard McGhee and Edward McHugh were his friends and he gave generously of his means when in the 'nineties so much was done by them to spread the teaching by the circulation of the well-known *Lectures and Addresses*. He visited this country in 1907, shortly after the United Committee was formed, came to know John Paul, and realized how important it was to stand by the British movement with all his might—a testimony to which sentiment is the loyal support he gave as long as he could. Mrs Moxham died shortly after him. They are survived by their son Egbert to whom our sympathies are extended.