

CHARLES E. PRICE

By the death of Mr Charles E. Price, which took place at his home, Westlands, Weston Rhyn, Shropshire, on 7th July, the movement for the taxation of land values has lost a foremost supporter. Mr Price was born in 1857. After having been a partner in the firm of McVitie & Price, biscuit manufacturers of Edinburgh, he retired in 1901 in order to devote himself to public affairs. In 1906 he entered Parliament as member for Central Edinburgh, which he continued to represent until his retirement in 1918.

From the first he associated himself with the Land Values Group of Members of Parliament. After the General Election in January, 1910, he became Chairman of the Group. We can hardly do better than quote part of the tribute to his work in this connection which appeared in our issue of June, 1915 :—

“ He has been an ideal Chairman, fitted by temperament and courtesy to keep the forces together. Himself a Radical of Radicals, he knows how necessary it is, if any progress at all is to be achieved, to gain the support of those who will go part of the way without endangering or weakening the fundamental principle. He has used the same talents to restrain the vigour or even impatience of the extreme doctrinaire, persuading him and the more moderate politician to present a united front.

“ Mr Price, like a wise parliamentarian, has always been convinced that his influence in the House of Commons and that of his colleagues rests always on the strength of the sentiment in the community ; and in this conviction he has thrown himself eagerly into the campaign in the constituencies. He unites the skill of the politician with the ardour of the propagandist, and has figured on numerous platforms up and down the country, ever ready and able to state his case. In these campaigns, and especially in the East of Scotland, he has made a household name for himself as one who has nobly stood by his trust.”

Mr Price rendered many public services to Scotland and particularly to Edinburgh, in recognition of which he was in 1919 presented with the freedom of that city. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

His arduous public services had affected his health and in recent years he had not been able to take that active part in public affairs which he would have desired, but his interest in the land values movement continued unimpaired. He kept in constant touch with the United Committee and was a generous and enthusiastic supporter of its work and a wise counsellor in times of difficulty.

We tender to his relatives our most sincere sympathy in their bereavement.