

**Farewell Dinner to Edward McHugh—
Tom L. Johnson's Stirring
Announcement.**

Edward McHugh, on his return to England, takes with him probably one of the most pleasant reminiscences of an eventful life, in the recollection of the farewell dinner, at which he was entertained by the members of the Manhattan Single Tax Club on Tuesday evening, January 31st.

The dinner was held at the "Columbia," on Fourteenth street, and about seventy of the leading single taxers of New York met to do honor to the only "honorary member" on the roll of the club. Tom L. Johnson was there, accompanied by August Lewis, to say goodbye to the man who was among the first to welcome him on his first visit to England. Henry George, Jr., sat at the speakers' table, and Richard George among friends at another table. John S. Crosby, Lawson Purdy, Bolton Hall, Benjamin Doblin and James R. Brown were among the speakers. Several ladies were present, and two of these—Mrs. G. D. High and Mrs. Verelius-Sheldon—lent valuable aid in making the occasion enjoyable by their musical talent.

The chairman, Samuel Seabury, president of the club, in proposing the toast of the evening, said:

"On behalf of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, it gives me great pleasure to welcome so many of the friends of Edward McHugh as are here to-night, when the opportunity is extended to all to bid farewell to our friend.

"We shall, of course, be sorry to lose him, and the single tax cause here must necessarily be weakened by his absence, because we shall not only miss his active support, but his kindly words of encouragement. But our loss will be the gain of others. Wherever he goes the cause that he has never lost an opportunity to advocate here will find an earnest supporter.

"The number present here to-night is but an indication of the high appreciation in which the single taxers of New York hold him. In the short time that Mr. McHugh has been with us, he has enjoyed a liberal education as to our American institutions. He has been afforded ample opportunity of appreciating all that American liberty, as it exists to-day in the United States, really means. He has had a varied experience while visiting us, and has come in close contact with some of our institutions. He knows how much meaning there is left in the principles of our Declaration of Independence. I have heard him tell how he witnessed the Constitution of the United States overruled by a policeman doing duty along shore, in order to prevent a man being guilty of "disorderly conduct" in making a speech. He could tell you, if he were so disposed, how the right peaceably to assemble is carefully protected in the State of Pennsylvania, provided the assembly is convened within the jail limits.

"I have no doubt but that he will carry back to darker England, where the people are not in such a state of political enlightenment as exists in our country, and still submit to the rule of a Queen, rather than assert their independence and allow a political boss to select a President for them, much useful knowledge as to the constitutional right which our citizens enjoy.

"All these things have doubtless taught him the blessings of a Republican form of government, coupled with an aristocratic system of landlordism.

"He doubtless knows that, as administered to-day, this government is what Henry George called it when he said that it was a 'sham republic.'

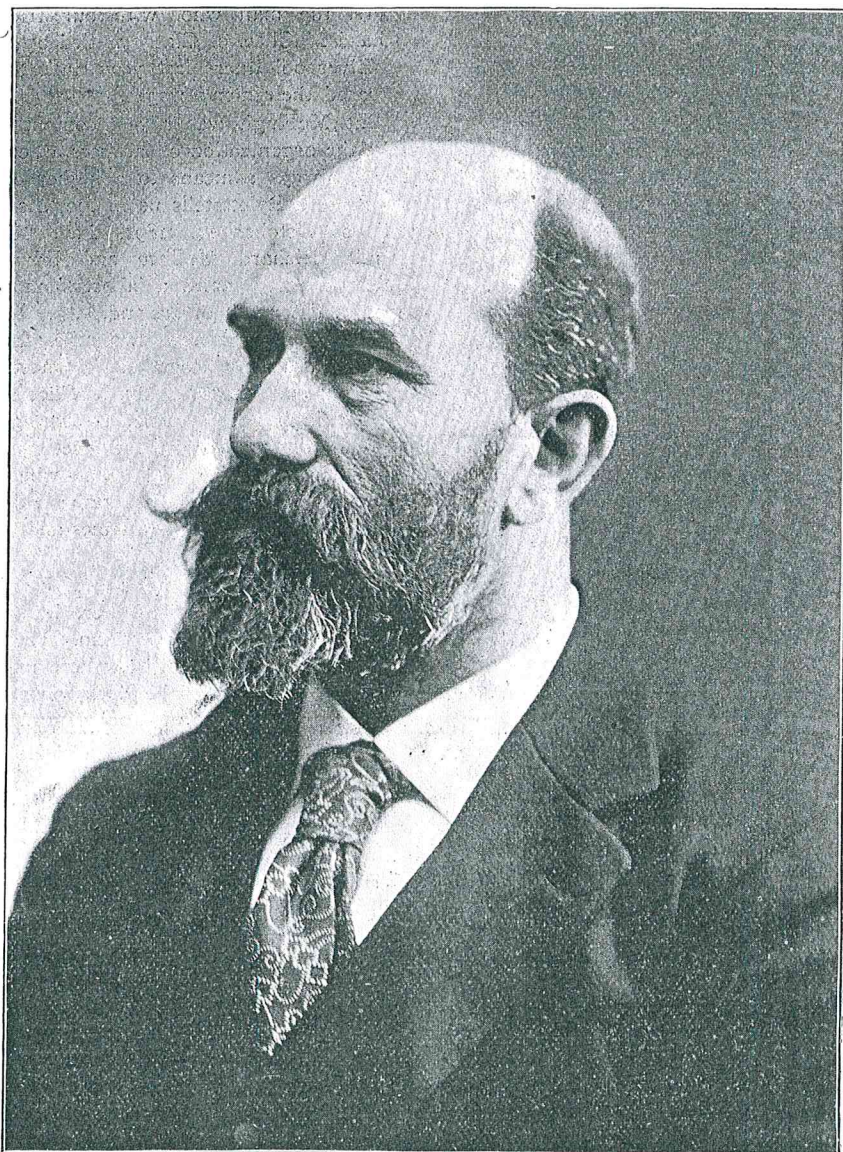
"I think that I give expression to the sentiments of all who are present here, when I say that no matter how far away Edward McHugh may go, no matter how long it may be before we are privileged to welcome him back to America, nothing can ever weaken, nothing can break the bond of friendship which exists between

Edward McHugh and the single taxers of New York."

Mr. Lawson Purdy was then introduced and responded to the toast, and said:

"Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: I am grateful for the opportunity to pay my tribute to our honored guest, Mr. Edward McHugh, and wish him God speed and a safe return to his home across the sea. When he landed in America he was no stranger to those of us who had read the 'Standard,' and he has gained a sure place in our hearts during the two and a half years of his sojourn with us.

"In the autumn of 1881 Henry George went to Ireland to write a weekly letter to the 'Irish World' about the Land League, and in October he made his first speech in Dublin. Mr. McHugh was living in Glasgow and had been prepared for George's teaching by his study of the works of Patrick Edward Dove. He first saw some chapters of 'Progress and Poverty' in a radical paper, and then read 'The Irish Land Question, and How Alone It Can Be Settled,' which is now



EDWARD McHUGH.

published under the title of 'The Land Question.' He was secretary of the first branch of the 'Irish Land League,' which had been established outside of Ireland, and learning of George's mission to Ireland determined to get him to make an address in Glasgow in the interest of the 'Land League.' He organized a meeting on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1882, and at this meeting Henry George made his second speech in Great Britain, and the first outside of Ireland.

"Henry George made his second visit to England in December, 1883, and spoke first at St. James' Hall, London, Mr. Labouchere presiding. In this speech he suggested that from the ground values of the Kingdom a pension might be paid to every widow, from the widow on the throne to the poorest of all. The radical character of the speech frightened the respectable classes, and when he spoke next in the Rotunda Lecture Hall, in Liverpool, the chairman was the only person on the platform beside himself. This meeting in Liverpool was organized by Mr. McHugh, and over three thousand people were present. Prominent persons advised George to advocate compensation to landlords, but instead he took for his text a pamphlet on land nationalization, published by a philanthropist, Samuel Smith, in which compensation was upheld. He spoke in his usual forceful and uncompromising manner, and exposed the injustice of any payment by the people for what was theirs by right. When he had finished one of the newspaper reporters moved a vote of thanks, which was unanimously adopted. In replying to the vote of thanks George told of the advice that had been given him, and asked all in favor of compensation to raise their hands. Five hands went up, and Mr. McHugh learned afterwards that two were brothers-in-law of Smith, and three were well-known land speculators.

"George spoke in most of the large cities after this, and all the meetings were arranged by Mr. McHugh, and he was present at them all.

"In a letter to the 'Standard' of June 1, 1889, Henry George said: 'McGhee, and Edward McHugh, who traveled with me to Scotland on my last visit, and who is now reading proof in Glasgow, have got up an organization in one of the very poorest paid of occupations, the dock laborers. In Glasgow the organization has already secured for the dock laborers an increase of wages equivalent to five shillings a week. . . . It goes without saying that wherever McGhee and Edward McHugh have any hand in organizing workmen in the single tax seed is sown.'

"Harold Rylett, in his letter to the 'Standard' of September 17, 1890, gives us a hint of what McHugh had done, and what he was doing. He says: 'Henry George spoke at a meeting under the auspices of the Financial Reform Association

at the Rotunda Hall in Liverpool, and Edward McHugh, the savior of the crofters of Skye, and now the working leader of dock laborers, was present.'

"The savior of the crofters of Skye,' strong words these, but they were deserved, for McHugh had organized the 'crofters' and secured a reduction in their rent of 72 per cent. I wish I could tell you all the story.

"We see that the Dock Laborers' Union, which Henry George referred to in 1889, was now established in Liverpool, and the next quotation from the 'Standard' tells us that in this year he helped the union carry on a successful strike. This time the letter is from Henry George, Jr., who writes to the 'Standard' of May 23, 1891, as follows: 'I ran on to Liverpool on the 20th, to meet Tom L. Johnson, as he landed from the "City of New York." . . . In the waiting crowd stood three other single-tax men—W. S. Callie, secretary of the Liverpool Financial Reform Association; F. L. Crilly, lecturer for the same association, and Edward McHugh, secretary of the National Union of Dock Laborers, the man who, with our friend Richard McGhee, of Glasgow, tied up the big Liverpool liners last year until they increased their men's wages.'

"But McHugh was never content to make the organization of laborers an end; it was always a means to a higher end, and Harold Rylett tells us in the 'Standard' of October 14, 1891, that: 'Our friends, Richard McGhee and Edward McHugh have started a laborers' movement in the north of Ireland. . . . Last evening, at Lissacurran, two miles from Lurgan, they got together a meeting of a thousand laborers. Mr. McGhee and Mr. McHugh, both preached the true gospel very vigorously, and the meeting resolved that the time had come when a National Union should be established to secure better wages, better homes and better conditions for laborers.'

"I know little of the details of his life from 1891 until his arrival here in 1896, but we can easily imagine them. We all know something of his work here in attempting to organize the dock laborers; how an organization was formed and the condition of the men improved, and how, from causes he could not control, the work has not succeeded as he hoped. It has not succeeded as he hoped, but we cannot estimate now the effect of his life and labors here.

"In 1897, when Henry George was a candidate for Mayor, McHugh organized meetings on the docks, and was always ready to do anything, to go anywhere, to help the cause. He was with George on the last night of his life, and walked beside his bier on that triumphal march from the heart of Manhattan to Brooklyn City Hall.

"With much of the public work of Henry George, McHugh was closely asso-

ciated, and though most of us here tonight may never look on his face again, we know from what his life has been that he is one of those to whom 'Progress and Poverty' was dedicated, 'who, seeing the vice and misery that spring from the unequal distribution of wealth and privilege, feel the possibility of a higher social state and would strive for its attainment.'

The memory of Henry George was honored by John S. Crosby in an impromptu speech, fervid with the speaker's eloquent appreciation of the great master and not unmindful of merits of the guest of the evening. He advanced the idea that we, who have known Henry George, the man, may not perhaps fully realize his great intellectual character because of that intimate personal acquaintance and the sentiment of personal devotion which blinds us in a measure to his superlative greatness, just as the followers and disciples of Jesus failed to recognize the master mind with the same clearness that it was perceived by St. Paul, who never saw the Savior in the flesh.

On being introduced to respond to the toast of "The Cause," Henry George, Jr., said, substantially:

"Mr. Toastmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen, and Mr. McHugh: It gives me real pleasure to speak to this toast, because we have in the person of our departing friend a type of the kind of true, straight men developed by our dear cause. Cradled in the temperance movement and nurtured in the Land League fight, Edward McHugh came to the maturity of his education in our great cause. And early and late, in season and out of season, he has been a most devoted believer and propagandist. Wherever circumstances would lend themselves but a trifle his way, he has embraced them to carry forward our faith.

"I had hoped to see here at this moment Mr. Stephens, of Philadelphia, to tell us why Mr. McHugh got into jail in that city; and Dr. James E. Kelly, formerly of Dublin (prevented from getting here by professional duties), was to have told how it was that Mr. McHugh kept out of jail while engaging in the Land League movement in the old country; and did we but have Mr. John Paul, of Glasgow, here, he would tell us why the landlords in the Hebrides would have delighted to jail Mr. McHugh while he was talking 'the land for the people' among the crofters.

"But seriously: It was the cause that brought Mr. McHugh to this country, and it is the cause that carries him back over the sea. And what is this cause—this thing that can so claim a man, that claims thousands upon thousands in the world to-day as it claims our guest? It is represented by a little seven-lettered word—*justice*. Justice is the essence of our cause. And now our guest goes over the sea to work for it in whatever way comes to his hand, just as he has worked for it

here. We lose his companionship, but our cause suffers no loss. Life is short and uncertain, and some of us may never see him again. But what of that? The main thing is that he, as we, should remain true whatever comes. To him we say God speed; and if he shall hold fast to the end, his children's children will gladly bear his name, for their generation will have embraced what we single taxers of to-day call 'the cause.'"

Mr. Doblin spoke on the "Single Tax," and, for the benefit of the few present not fully acquainted with our principles and aims, outlined these in a few words.

Mr. J. J. Murphy was next called on to present to Mr. McHugh a souvenir of the occasion. This was an illuminated address containing the autograph signatures of all present at the dinner. It was handed to Mr. McHugh after a neat address by Mr. Murphy, and received by the guest of the evening with much feeling.

Mr. McHugh spoke next. He modestly repelled the charge of another speaker that he was too modest in all that pertained to himself. After thanking the company present for the honor done him, he went on, with grim humor, to congratulate himself on the opportunities he had had to study the institutions of this free country, remarking on the curious fact that within two blocks from the hall where the Declaration of Independence had been signed an officer of the law summarily set aside the Constitution and arrested him. He did not regret his experience. He gloried in it, for had not the Master enjoyed the hospitality of English prisons on two different occasions. It was curious, however, that he, the speaker, who on various occasions had done things which under English laws he might have been sent to prison for, should have to visit America to obtain that experience. He spoke hopefully of the progress of the single tax cause in America, remarking the fact that in many parts of the country the possessors of great wealth are looking forward to and making provision against the time when taxes shall be laid solely on land values, putting their wealth into the most expensive buildings, which they hope to see in the future exempt from taxation.

While Mr. McHugh was speaking, Tom Johnson and August Lewis entered the dining hall, and quietly sat down among the guests. On the request of the chairman Mr. Johnson made an address which, considering the representative character of the audience present, and the statements made by Mr. Johnson, made the occasion something more important than originally anticipated, and probably making it a turning point in the career of the single tax movement.

Mr. Johnson began by warmly complimenting the guest of the evening, which he did in a series of tactful phrases, in which Mr. McHugh's merits were brought

to light through Mr. Johnson's statements of the things Mr. McHugh had done. Speaking of his own share in single tax work, he said he had had business troubles which required much of his attention—interests in which he was involved with others, and which he would rather not be in, but which he could not, in fairness to other parties, abandon. He had endeavored to free himself from these, and had succeeded. Now he was free to devote himself entirely to the one object he had in life—the advancement of the single tax. What means shall be employed to bring it into operation, or where; whether the attempt should first be made in America, or England, or the Antipodes, were matters yet uncertain, and to be decided by circumstances; but of this he was certain: The truth which Henry George first gave to the world shall prevail somewhere on earth, and that soon, and we can emigrate to the place that first puts it into effect. He spoke of an intended visit to England, and the pleasure he anticipated would be his to greet his friend, McHugh, at his own home.

Mr. Johnson's speech naturally evoked much enthusiasm, the more so that whispers are heard that many other men of wealth and influence are ready to devote their means and energies to the cause when a right opportunity offers, and only wait the opportunity and the leader. Much importance is therefore attached to Mr. Johnson's announcement.

After a graceful tribute to Mrs. McHugh, Mrs. George and the other ladies, by Mr. Brown, the company joined hands in singing Auld Lang Syne, and separated.