

advocate of the Single Tax. He is an eloquent speaker and the keenest and readiest of debaters. Many a "heckler" has found him a dangerous opponent. He is never at a loss on the platform. He can illumine the mind of an earnest inquirer with a few words; root a subtle adversary with his own weapons; and speedily reduce the superficial objector to a wiser silence. He has been described as a merciless debater, and occasionally has left opponents smarting, but only those who can make no allowance for Celtic impulsiveness would cherish a grievance against him on that account.

An interesting incident of his career is the leading part he took in founding the National Union of Dock Laborers in 1889. He has spent many years in endeavoring to organize the Ulster agricultural laborers, but the Orange bogey has stood in the way. He has, however, achieved some success in organizing labor in his own country. When the Lurgan Town Commissioners established works to supply the town with water from Loch Neagh, navvies were engaged at wages of from 10s. to 12s. per week. "Dick" McGhee, as his friends call him, organized men, and secured for them an advance of 3s. per week. In 1896 he was elected member of Parliament for South Louth. His many friends expected him to make his mark on the floor of the House of Commons, but Parliamentary life did not prove to be according to his taste; and to the wonderment of those who had witnessed his success on the platform, he remained practically a silent member. Probably better work lies to his hand outside the political arena, but there are many good land reformers in Great Britain who would like to see him in Parliament to-day lending his influence to the advanced Radical Wing which is making all endeavors to expedite legislation in the direction of taxing land values. If he is not so occupied, however, he still travels up and down the country lecturing, and wherever an adherent of the Single Tax faith is to be found, "Dick" McGhee is sure of a welcome. It is curious, almost paradoxical, that, equipped in so high a degree as he is with the powers that make public speaking effective, he is no lover of the platform as a means of education. Writing recently to a friend who is well known in the north of

England of the part he has taken in the movement, he said: "My conviction is that it is only by books, pamphlets and a very extensive use of the press we can successfully do the work of propaganda. Nor do I believe much in leagues, societies and popular organizations to carry a cause to success. Educate, educate, and still educate, is my doctrine. A master on the platform like Henry George was able to spread the light in that way, but the rank and file can only do effective and enduring work by circulating thought in cold type." He has acted strenuously on this belief, as the following list of literature which he has put into circulation during the years from 1884 to 1900 proves: "Rights of Man," 20,000 copies; "Land and People," 175,000 copies; "The Crime of Poverty," 25,000 copies; "The Single Tax Faith," 25,000 copies; "Thy Kingdom Come," 10,000 copies; "Moses," 10,000 copies; "Mineral Royalties" (by himself); 250,000 copies; "The Case Plainly Stated" (by H. F. Rring), 25,000 copies; "Individualism and Socialism," 20,000 copies; and about 200,000 other pamphlets from the writings of Henry George. "Dick" McGhee has made many friends in the course of his strenuous career as a reform agitator. Once on a day his home at Glasgow was the resort of men like George, Davitt, Prince, Krapotkin, and Dr. F. R. Lees, advocate of teetotalism. He is a singularly modest, unassuming man, and has made many sacrifices to a cause dear to his heart. There is no known gauge by which his influence on the movement in Great Britain can be indicated.

CHARLES HOLMES SMITHSON.

Mr. C. A. Smithson was born in 1866 in Halifax, Yorkshire, and has spent his life there. He was educated at Ackworth, a school belonging to the Society of Friends. As a young man his interest in social and political questions was early aroused, and his sympathy for those less happily situated than himself was rapidly carrying him into the Socialistic camp when, happily, a friend to whom he owes a debt of gratitude begged him to read "Progress and Poverty." He made a careful study of the book, and from that time forward has been an ardent Single Taxer. Coming of many generations of

Quaker stock, he threw himself into the movement for the abolition of industrial and economic slavery with the same religious zeal and fervour that distinguished the many members of the Society of Friends who in an earlier generation made themselves conspicuous as advocates of the abolition of chattel slavery. Marrying in 1894, Mr. Smithson has since that time had a devoted Single Tax helpmeet to encourage him and share in his work. He was able to establish very soon at his own house a circle for the study of Henry George's teachings and as the outcome of this circle a small society was formed for the propagation of the Single Tax faith. Since that date Halifax has had a constant succession of lectures and debates on the subject, until now it may well be said no town in England has a better knowledge of the economics of the land question.

Regarded, of course, as a fanatic and a faddist, Mr. Smithson, nevertheless, contrived by dint of hard and willing work to make himself so useful a member of the Halifax Liberal Party that he was elected a member of its inmost councils and was able to give most valuable assistance in promoting the candidature of Mr. Harry Whitley (now M. P. for Halifax and a member of the Liberal Government), who is a staunch upholder of the Single Tax and an ex-President of the English League for the Taxation of Land Values.

Very early in his devotion to the work, Mr. Smithson recognized the importance of being able to voice his principles on the platform, and he therefore set himself to acquire the art of public speaking, writing out and learning by heart his earlier efforts until he gradually developed the faculty of expressing himself, if not with ease, at least clearly and forcibly. Off his own subject, Mr. Smithson is no great speaker, but on the ethics and the economics of the Single Tax he is good for an hour's sound discourse any day in the week, and his obvious sincerity and earnestness of purpose add immense weight to his utterance, on this, the question of questions.

The fact that Mr. Smithson, with Mr. Fred Skirrow, as his colleague, now represents Yorkshire on the newly created United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, is an evidence of the high esteem in which

he is held by his fellow Single Taxers in Great Britain.

FREE INDUSTRY.

"The town of Faleide, Norway, imposes no tax on its lucky inhabitants," says the *London Bystander*. "During the last thirty years the authorities at Faleide have sold over \$5,000,000 worth of trees; and by judicious replanting, have provided for a similar income every thirty years. In consequence of this source of commercial wealth, there are no taxes in Faleide, and local railways and telephones are free, as well as education and drinks—upon the King's birthday!"—*News Note*.

WITH that part of the President's policy which has for its purpose the rescuing of the public domain from unprincipled and grasping plunderers, we are in thorough accord. But if it infringes upon the homestead policy to the extent of driving worthy settlers across the borders into another country, that part of it, at least, which works the wrong should be speedily remedied. We want good citizens—producing citizens—in the West as well as in the South. Our industrial conditions, and the acres of fallow fields and virgin forests and unworked mines demand them. It means less taxes, more prosperity. It means, further, the more equitable distribution of the earth's bounty as the "laws of nature and of nature's God" intended that they should be distributed.—*Tennessean*, Nashville (Tenn).

THE railroads should not be required to pay one cent more taxes upon their property holdings than an individual would have to pay on the same property. On the other hand, they should pay every cent as much and the *Tennessean* means to insist day in and out that they be compelled to do so.—*Tennessean*, Nashville, (Tenn).

It would appear that Premier Carruthers of New South Wales is one who keeps his pre-election promises. He is a Single Taxer in as well as out of office. All honor to him!