

animated as it has always been by a knowledge of local and national politics unequalled by anyone connected with the movement. Whatever may be his shortcomings and limitations, and all of us have our shortcomings and limitations, for nearly a quarter of a century Mr. Verinder has kept his Society pure and straight on the lines laid down for his followers by the immortal inspirer of our movement. During that time countless leaflets, pamphlets, manifestoes, etc., have been drafted and issued, and he can safely defy the most enthusiastic Georgian to place his finger on a single sentence, for which he can be held responsible, that is not in accord with the teachings of Henry George; a record it would, indeed, be difficult to parallel.

For some years the work of the League went on along the line familiar to all "agitators." Leaflets were issued by the hundred thousand; innumerable meetings were addressed, mostly at street corners, working men's clubs, or in the public parks, candidates were worried with questions, editors with letters, and Parliament with petitions. The promotion of our question from the street corner, through municipal council chambers and a sensational General Election, into the very forefront of practical politics, is for these columns much too long a story, which practically began in 1887, but in every chapter Mr. Verinder's work and influence are clearly traceable. His clear, forcible and convincing pen has never for long been idle. For some twelve years (1884-95) he was associated with his friend, the Rev. Stewart D. Headlam, in the editorship of *The Church Reformer*; and for some two years, till its amalgamation with Michael Davitt's *Labour World* he edited the *Democrat* and in both these papers he dealt, and dealt ably, with all phases of the Land Question. For some time he had almost daily articles on the question in the *London Echo*, at the time one of the best read and most influential evening papers of the Metropolis, one of his series in which was subsequently reprinted in pamphlet form, under the title "The Great Problem of our Great Towns." This is still in print, and is often asked for by those in search of telling facts and arguments on our subject. "A Just Basis of Taxation" is another of Mr. Verinder's

efforts, which is well known amongst our British co-workers, and which is still available and useful. However, the effort of which we have reason to believe Mr. Verinder is most proud, and over which, when reminiscent, he still indulges in an occasional chuckle, was his controversy with Mr. Herbert Spencer in 1894, which has also been reprinted in pamphlet form, and in which he made the Perplexed Philosopher seem very small and perplexed indeed.

In 1881 Mr. Verinder was married to Catherine Lovell, only daughter of the late George Beeby of Clerkenwell, whom he had the misfortune to lose by death in 1902. He has a family of nine children, six girls and three boys; and it is a privilege to be permitted to spend a day in his happy family circle. His eldest daughter, Florence, has undoubtedly inherited some of his literary talent, and has published two volumes of poetry, mostly religious and ethical in tone, which have been warmly received by those competent to judge of their merits. We need scarcely add that we are sure his co-workers will unite with us in wishing for Mr. Verinder a long continuance of his valuable activities.

#### EDWIN ADAM.

Edwin Adam is a Crossjale Single Taxer, second to none in the fighting ranks of the movement in Scotland for the Taxation of Land Values. He first came before the public in 1895 as a man who knew the land question, when he stood as Liberal candidate for Parliament for the Central Division of Glasgow. In the course of a ten day's campaign he bravely fought a forlorn hope for pure democracy, and especially for the economic enfranchisement of the people as set forth in "Progress and Poverty." Since that time he has been unceasing in his efforts, both by voice and pen and with financial support to keep before the public the never-ending war with land monopoly. The general election of 1900 found Mr. Adam once more a Liberal candidate for Parliament, this time for West Edinburgh. Even in normal times of political warfare this seat is reckoned as a stronghold of the enemy: and in 1900, when the country went jingo on Chamberlain's raging campaign in South Africa, Mr. Adam was again defeated. Two years previous at a

couple of bye elections at Edinburgh the land question occupied a very prominent position. In the course of the contests it became the question of the hour, and Adam figured throughout as the leading spirit in the campaign. He was soon recognized as the man who understood all about the question of taxing land values. Shortly afterwards the Edinburgh League for the Taxation of Land Values was formed, with Mr. Adam as president. The League has since done splendid work for the movement in Edinburgh and district. A great part of their activities have been carried on inside the ranks of the Liberal party, where Mr. Adam and his colleagues are always cordially welcomed. In April, 1905, in conjunction with the Scottish League, whose headquarters are at Glasgow, a Public Conference on the Taxation of Land Values was held in Edinburgh. Mr. Adam was appointed chairman, but indeed it may be said with truth that the great success of the convention was due to his own organization. The day's proceedings finished with a public demonstration in the evening, held in one of the large halls of the town. Mr. Adam is a member of the Scottish Bar and is M. A. and LL.B. of Edinburgh University. He was appointed an Advocate Deputy in December, 1905, when Mr. Balfour's government gave place to that of Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman.

Mr. Adam has been busy all these years by his pen and on the platform on behalf of the taxation of land values, and is rightly regarded as an authority on the land question. But probably his most distinguished service to the movement was his *Precis of Evidence* submitted last year to the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Land Values Taxation (Scotland) Bill. It was truly an able production. As Wm. Lloyd Garrison said, it was an education to read it and a work to keep for reference. Mr. Adam takes a keen interest in the organization of the Leagues for the Taxation of Land Values, and is ever ready to help to promote their educational efforts. Besides acting as president of the Edinburgh League, he is a vice-president of the Scottish League and a member of the United Committee of the Leagues, just instituted to more effectively conduct the propaganda in England and Scotland. He has several

times during the past half a dozen year crossed the border into England, where on many platforms he has made it plain that the tax question is at the root of social evils.

#### RICHARD MCGHEE.

Of all the apostles whom Henry George left in Great Britain to proclaim his evangel among men none has a clearer title to honor and respect than Richard McGee. Born in 1851 on the estate of Lord Lurgan, County Armagh, Ireland, he seems all his life to have been an agitator, for it is told of him that while attending the model school in the town of Lurgan he headed a revolt against pedagogic authority because of some grievance that weighed upon the boyish spirits of himself and his school mates. The son of an evicted Ulster Protestant farmer, it may be assumed that the cruel significance of the land question early came home to him. Endowed with an Irishman's combativeness, and moved by the Celt's fiery resentment against injustice we find him in his early manhood fomenting rebellion against the tyranny of agent and landlord until Lurgan became too hot for him. He therefore made his way to Glasgow and obtained employment at Laidlaw's as an engineer. He became a staunch trade unionist, and in 1872 took an active part in the Nine Hours movement. In 1878 he led a strike at Laidlaw's against an attempt to increase the hours of employment and was successful. A year later however he changed his occupation and became a commercial traveller. His former employers again opened the dispute with regard to hours of labor, and this time succeeded in securing their will in the matter. The next important step in his career as a reformer was taken in 1879, when he joined Michael Davitt in the Land League agitation. It was in this year that Henry George published his great book "Progress and Poverty," giving mankind new hopes of civilization and the inspiration of a new vision. McGhee read the book and thenceforth became a disciple of the author. When George came to Great Britain they became intimate friends, and in 1884 McGee helped to organize George's Scottish campaigns and to form the Scottish Land Restoration League in Glasgow. Ever since that time he has been an indefatigable and self sacrificing