

Being in London frequently, Mr. Smithson is able to give a good deal of attention to the work of the United Committee. His Municipal work has given him an insight into the many injustices of our present Rating system, and he gave evidence before the Select Committee of the House of Commons which considered the question of the adjustment of local and Imperial taxation and recently issued its Report of evidence. The first time he entered the Town Council Mr. Smithson was allowed a walk-over, but the most popular man is not allowed a walk-over in these days, if he is in favor of the Taxation of Land Values, so he had to fight for his seat on the last occasion. That was good for the movement, and it meant good propoganda and in Municipal, as in Parliamentary contests of late, the Liberal who puts Land Values in the forefront of his programme has always done better than the Liberal who fought on other questions.

FRED SKIRROW—Fred Skirrow is General Secretary of the Yorkshire League, and is well known in the movement. He is associated with those who believe that the best work is got by a circulation of literature and especially the works of Henry George. There are those—especially Richard McGhee—who have taken care to see that such literature is put on the market, and then such men as Mr. Skirrow come in and do the rest. If he cannot sell a book or a pamphlet on the Taxation of Land Values, it is because the man is determined not to have it, at any price, or no price. Born at Bingley in the West Riding of Yorkshire in 1862, he went into the factory eight years afterwards as a half-timer. In 1882 he went to Michigan, and after a year or two passed over to Canada. Settling in the City of Hamilton he first heard of Henry George about the year 1883. The occasion was a demonstration addressed by Mr. George. Among those responsible for the organization of the meeting was the society called the Knights of Labor, of which body Mr. Skirrow was a member. Some time afterwards he got some of the work which Protectionists propose for us all—the work of looking for employment. This sickened him of factory life and all its attendant incidents and accidents, so he determined to become a farmer, and took up 100 acres of bush land on Manitoulin Island. Here he experienced the effect of bad land laws so aptly illustrated by Henry George as forcing a man having to swim a stream to get a drink of water. Obligated to travel over miles of virgin land in the hands of monopolists he had to seek a home where land is dear even if you get it for nothing.

Such experiences should wake to action any thoughtful man and it finished Skirrow's Single Tax education. With all its drawbacks he enjoyed the free life, but had to abandon it on account of the health of Mrs. Skirrow. Being 40 miles from a doctor is rather too much under such circumstances, and Mr. Skirrow resolved to return to Hamilton. There he, along with others, formed a Club to advocate the Taxation of Land Values. This was in 1886, and two years later he returned to his native town—Bingley. Afterwards he settled in the neighboring town of Keighley, and became Liberal

Agent for the Division, and in this capacity he organized meetings for many Single Tax speakers. In 1903 he became General Secretary of the Yorkshire League, and since then has been settled both in the matter of work and of home. His platform efforts are a comparatively recent feature of his work for Land Values, but he is now kept busy speaking since the movement has widened out. He has in Yorkshire a band of earnest supporters and that county therefore has a prominent place in the movement.

WILLIAM REID, Yorkshire—William Reid has had a good deal to do with gathering the materials for this number of the SINGLE TAX Review and his most disagreeable task has been the following autobiographical sketch. Some years ago he was associated with John Cassels in the teaching of a Political Economy class in Glasgow, and his latest ventures in this field have been in Yorkshire. There does not appear to him very much that is interesting which he can say about himself. Born in Glasgow in 1870, he was educated at a school belonging to the "Auld Kirk." He learned to reason there, which he understands is a form of exercise not encouraged in the great seats of learning. His friends credit him with knowing some things, which is a tribute to the successful way he has managed to conceal his ignorance. Having satisfied the requirements of the Scottish Educational authorities in his twelfth year, and being in need of earning a little more money than he had hitherto done, he went to work in the newspaper business. This was the time the people like Joe Brady and Dan Curley were being arrested and tried for the Phoenix Park murders in Dublin. The work was onerous and lasted from 5.30 A.M. till about 8.30 P.M., so he looked about for something else. His occupations since then include electro-plating, clerking, liberal agent and his present calling.

In 1890 he heard Henry George speak in Glasgow, and he had read some of his pamphlets prior to that date. About that time he became acquainted with John Paul and the other Glasgow friends, and he succeeded John Paul and James Busby as Treasurer of the Henry George Institute, which continued for a session or two after the present League was formed in Glasgow. Afterwards he was Minute Secretary to the League for some years. During the Budget fight he was agent for J. Dundas White, M.P., for Dumbartonshire, a position he vacated to take up Land Values work in Newcastle. Eighteen months later he joined Mr. Skirrow in Leeds, where he is now resident. Amongst his other work he has taken up that of teaching Political Economy in Sheffield, Huddersfield, Leeds and other towns. Looking back on his connection with the Land Values movement he has no regrets, but would be pleased to live it all over again. He believes that the two toasts at all fraternal gatherings should be—to quote George Bernard Shaw—"Ourselves" and "The other poor devils."

JOSEPH FELS—Mr. Joseph Fels appeals to the imagination of Reformers and Conservatives alike. This does not mean that the political Tories