

FREDERICK F. INGRAM.

(See Portrait.)

Frederick F. Ingram is Democratic-Labor candidate for Congress from Detroit, Mich. The present representative from this district is a son of ex-Minister Denby, who was our ambassador to China. There is an adverse majority of about 8,000 to overcome, but Mr. Ingram thinks that he has a fair fighting chance. He will devote his time from now on to the campaign until it closes, and the voters of the city, in which he has long been known and with whose foremost interests he has been prominently identified, will hear some wholesome political and economic truths.

Mr. Ingram was born on a farm in the central part of Michigan in 1856. His first work was as a farmer. As a boy he made some money in addition to working on the farm by buying poultry of the neighbors, fattening it and shipping it to eastern markets. Later he was a telegraph operator in the railroad service, quitting this position in his eighteenth year to become a clerk in a drug store. After occupying different positions in that business he became in 1885 proprietor of a manufacturing business, of which he is still owner and manager.

As far back as he can remember he has been a Single Taxer, even before he heard of Henry George. He first read "Progress and Poverty" in the early 80's. It found a field already well cultivated and prepared through his reading of John Stuart Mill, Bentham and Herbert Spencer.

He was a member of the Detroit Lighting Commission during the period when it had a somewhat strenuous life fighting the corporations. He was elected its president two terms. He has held no elective office and has heretofore declined all suggestions of that kind.

The Michigan *Union Advocate* thus comments on Mr. Ingram's candidacy:

"Mr. Ingram is a man of large affairs with many personal and private interests to attend to, yet somehow he has a knack of managing that enables him to do many things and do them well, and that he will make a thorough and business-like campaign is a foregone conclusion.

The *Detroit Times* has been one of the few papers of Detroit to accord Mr. Ingram's candidacy any degree of prominence, and it was the only one that printed his platform. Such platform declares for ultimate public ownership of railroads, against ship subsidies, for tariff reform and the referendum.

Mr. Wm. F. Casey has started in to help the work of agitation to be carried on by the Manhattan Single Tax Club this winter. Mr. Casey is active and energetic as well as keenly intelligent, and the club is to be congratulated in having secured his services.

KEEPING THE FAITH.

A question has arisen among the members of the Fairhope colony that involves some considerations vital perhaps to its very existence. The constitution of the Fairhope corporation provides that all needed public services shall be paid for out of the land rentals and that no interest bearing or bonded indebtedness shall be created. Following are the two articles (X and XVII) covering these matters:

"No private franchise for the supplying of its members with such public necessities as water, light, heat, power, transportation facilities, irrigating systems, etc., shall ever be granted by the corporation, but it shall, as soon as practicable, erect and maintain the necessary plants, and perform such services, converting all revenues therefrom into the general treasury of the corporation."

"No bonds, or mortgages, or interest-bearing indebtedness of any kind shall ever be given or assumed by the corporation."

Now this means, if it means anything, that Fairhope must go without such services that cannot be paid for out of the ground rents. But some of the members seem desirous of setting aside this provision, in effect, by securing the passage of the following resolutions:

"Resolved: That the plan of securing public services through the intermediary of trustees, who shall be authorized to incur such indebtedness as may be necessary in installing such services, pledging the services thus secured and their revenues for the payment of such indebtedness and to administer such public services until the obligations assumed by them on account thereof are satisfied, is not in violation of the provisions of the constitution either with regard to the granting of franchises or the incurring of interest-bearing indebtedness and constitutes the most practicable plan and the one which should be pursued in securing needed public services."

It appears that the Water Trustees have incurred a debt, and that it is of course necessary to devise some way to meet it. It is this necessity which has induced the submission of this resolution to a referendum. As it is practically an amendment to the constitution, despite its assertion to the contrary, and as all questions involving changes in the constitution must be voted upon by all the members—resident and non-resident—a vote by the resident members alone would seem clearly illegal, and so the council has ruled. Twice defeated in their efforts to amend the constitution by indirect method, and nullify the provisions of Articles X and XVII the friends of the resolution have not abandoned the proposed departure from strict interpretation, and are looking forward to the adoption of this plan for meeting the cost of the water works, which has amounted to nearly double what the committee estimated at