

local league. In the making of the history of the movement it is not surprising to find that he has taken a lion's share.

Mr. Paul was born in the east end of Glasgow and in his earlier years picked up such political education as was to be got in a working class quarter. He had the ordinary education of boys of his class. This was just in advance of the more highly organized system of education which has come with the school boards.

But Mr. Paul's education did not end with the school. Going out into the world with his eyes open he has learned many things which are not to be learned in school. He has been a careful student of political economy and his views have been extended and strengthened by the experience he has had in the industrial world.

He came from the timekeeper's office of a large shipbuilding concern to take up the duties of secretary and editor?

It was about the year 1884 that Mr. Paul began to feel that there were some proposals in the political field worth striving for. It was not the traditions of the past that tempted him to take part with the progressive party. Neither was it the idealism for the future, much as his mind bends towards that. There were beyond these considerations the necessities of the present. Should the people remain in poverty if there were means by which they could be raised above the poverty line?

It is natural to turn to politics with hope and enthusiasm when one lingers to realize that poverty is not necessary. It is not to be wondered at then that we find Mr. Paul drifting towards a movement for the abolition of poverty. Hearing of Henry George and his gospel, he sought the first opportunity of hearing the man himself and of studying his works.

He joined the Henry George Institute in 1889, and was appointed secretary the following year. He was present at the formation of the existing organization which was formally opened by Henry George in 1890. Both these organizations continued to exist together for some time, the Henry George Institute devoting itself to the promotion of Sunday evening lectures and the other organization undertaking the wider propaganda.

Later the Institute passed out of ex-

istence and the efforts of the Glasgow Single Taxers were concentrated on the work of the existing league. In this organization Mr. Paul held at first the position of convener of the Literature Committee. In 1894 the organization resolved to start a monthly paper called "The Single Tax" and Mr. Paul was appointed Editor. He continued to follow his ordinary occupation, having to rise early and work late. A year later the League felt warranted in offering him the appointment of Secretary. Since that time he has devoted himself exclusively to the service of the movement.

He has been in the thick of the fight. Like the Paul of another movement he has written a great many epistles. He is well known in political circles all over Scotland and beyond it as a lecturer. He has done a great deal along with others catering towards the Liberal Party on the question of land value taxation.

There were those who while none too sympathetic themselves suggested that this was mistaken effort. The Liberal leaders would not look at the question of taxing land values. Mr. Paul had a large faith and it has been justified. The leaders of the Liberal Party have looked at the question and the Solicitor General for Scotland is at present leading the question.

The Glasgow League as a League may soon lose the services of Mr. Paul as these are in demand elsewhere. He has been appointed Secretary of the Parliamentary Campaign Committee at Westminster. This is a committee of members of Parliament who are watching the interests of the movement. While the League will be pleased to see Mr. Paul's services transferred to where they will be most useful the members will be sorry to lose his presence in Glasgow.

Mr. Paul has an attractive personality, he is a good comrade and a staunch friend. He brightens the circle with his sense of humour and he can be relied on to make a sound judgment. In as far as the Single Tax movement is concerned he has given a good account of his talents. His efforts would count for much even were these not backed as they are by his earnestness and enthusiasm.

FREDERICK VERINDER,

Amongst the best known, as well as

amongst the intellectually keenest and best informed Single Taxers of Great Britain must be included Mr. Frederick Verinder, who for over twenty-three years (since 1884) has been the General Secretary of The English Land Restoration League, known since 1902 as The English League for the Taxation of Land Values, and who consequently has watched over and to a great extent guided our movement in Great Britain from its very beginnings.

Mr. Verinder, whose portrait we are reproducing on another page, was born at Bethnal Green, in the East End of London, on October 14th, 1858, and is consequently no longer the very young man he is often taken to be by those who meet him for the first time. His grandfather was a Wiltshire agricultural laborer, a typical example of those whom Thorold Rogers so aptly describes as "the most portentous phenomenon of agriculture, a serf without land," who migrated to London in search of a living denied him in his native county. Mr. Verinder's father qualified as a dyer, but was thrown out of work by the introduction of new processes, and subsequently became a day laborer. For some years the family had a very severe struggle for existence, and was kept going mainly by the earnings as a skilled needlewoman of Mrs. Verinder, who is still a hale and hearty old lady, proud of her son, and a most regular subscriber to the League with which he is associated.

Mr. Verinder was educated at Parmiter's Foundation School, Bethnal Green. On his fourteenth birthday he was apprenticed as a Pupil Teacher at the National School in the same neighborhood (1872-77). During his apprenticeship he obtained three National scholarships to the Royal College of Science, South Kensington, where he studied Biology, Botany and Physics under Professors Huxley, Dyer and Guthrie respectively. After some work as lecturer on science, Mr. Verinder was appointed one of the masters at the Tottenham Grammar School. Whilst there he took up the study of classics and became an undergraduate of the London University, but abandoned his intention of taking a degree in order to devote his life to social reform.

Mr. Verinder's experience of the conditions of life and work in the East End of

London undoubtedly sowed the seeds of his keen and unabated interest in social questions, which, however, were quickened into active and useful life by his association with the Rev. Stewart D. Headlam, who was appointed Curate of Bethnal Green in 1873, who subsequently was one of the original founders of the English Land Restoration League, and who is still an active member of its Executive, as well as one of the best representatives of true progressive thought on the present (Moderate) London County Council. Together they founded (on June 29th, 1877) the Guild of St. Matthew, a society of Churchmen for the study of social questions, as Honorable Secretary of which Mr. Verinder served from its foundation, in 1877 till the year 1903. During the years 1881-84 Mr. Verinder took an active and useful part in the great struggle for religious and political liberty which followed the election of Charles Bradlaugh as M. P. for Northampton, and the prosecution of the Freethinker for "blasphemy." In connection with this work Verinder lectured all over the country, kept his very pointed and convincing pen busy on the Parliamentary Oath's Question and on the Blasphemy Laws, on which he was soon acknowledged to be one of the best experts and leading authorities in this country.

It was at one of the meetings of the Guild of St. Matthew, during the winter of 1881-82, that Mr. Verinder first heard of the publication of "Progress and Poverty," with the contents of which he very soon made himself familiar, and many hundreds of the cheap edition of which he personally sold at the Church Conference at Reading in 1883. And during the year 1883-84 he assisted to organize its author's first campaign in Great Britain. On May 7th, 1884, within a year of its foundation, Mr. Verinder was appointed General Secretary of the Society established to advance the teachings, politics and philosophy of this epoch making book (the English Land Restoration League), a position he has now occupied for over twenty-three years, often under conditions which might well have daunted a less persistent and determined, we almost said obstinate, individual.

It is impossible to overestimate the value to our cause in Great Britain of Mr. Verinder's steady, persistent, continuous work,

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