

1911, he stood for Auckland East against the sitting member, a wealthy brewer and monopolist, but was handsomely beaten in this his third forlorn hope.

HON. GEORGE FOWLDS.

*The Farmers' Weekly and Land Agents' Record* under the heading, "Men Worth Knowing," printed some time ago a sketch of Mr. Fowlds which in view of the fact that the paper is opposed to Single Tax principles is especially interesting. The article says in part:

"Although members of Parliament are not always spoken of respectfully by the man in the street, and in spite of the fact that noisy agitators pour contempt and contumely upon them at election times, some very sterling characters have found their way into the New Zealand Parliament, and will again face the electors at the coming elections—men of high moral character, irreproachable antecedents, and honorable dealing, whose presence in either the Upper or Lower House of the State Legislature is a distinct gain to the community. Amongst such men the Hon. George Fowlds, Minister for Education and Public Health, stands conspicuously forward. The hon. gentleman is one of those of whom it may be said that he, according to his own views of the best governing conditions, served his country faithfully and well. But, as a business man of many years standing in the city of Auckland, as a public man serving the interests of the ratepayers on local bodies, as a member of the State Legislature honorably associated with the political life of Auckland, and more recently of Grey Lynn, and as a Minister of the Crown, Mr. Fowlds has shown himself to be a man of high principle and—we say this in face of his known adhesion to and advocacy of Single Tax doctrines—moderate views on all other questions than those involved in land tenures and taxation. With a universal land tax, levied on such a scale as would cover all the expenses of the State, Mr. Fowlds believes the country would gain immensely, as all existing Customs duties and other forms of taxation could be swept out of

existence. Recognizing, as a true democrat, the right of the majority to rule, Mr. Fowlds does not, however, force his views unduly upon the party to which he belongs, nor, so far as we are aware, has it ever been charged against him that he has used his position, either as a member of Parliament or a Minister of the Crown, to place undue disabilities upon the man on the land by enforcing the Single Tax principles in which he so sincerely believes.

Mr. Fowlds is a native of Ayrshire, Scotland. He was born in 1860, and thus is now in his fifty-second year. His father, the late Mr. Matthew Fowlds, was a weaver, who celebrated his centenary in 1906, Mr. Fowlds travelling to Scotland to be present at the centenary celebration, which, it is somewhat interesting to remember, were also attended by Sir Joseph Ward, who was visiting Rome in connection with the Postal Congress of 1906, and found time to proceed to Kilmarnock to pay his respects to the old gentleman, and to assure him of the esteem in which his son was held in the country of his adoption. He was also for several years a member of the Mount Albert Road Board, and in 1899 stepped into the larger sphere of political life, standing as one of the candidates for Auckland City, which then returned three members to Parliament. At that time he was known as an earnest advocate of Single Tax principles, and he encountered a good deal of opposition on that score. He was, however, returned to the House as one of the representatives of the city, polling 5604 votes, or 840 more than the next successful candidate. He soon made his mark in Parliament, and came to be recognized as one of the most sincere and earnest-minded members of the House. In 1902 he stood for Grey Lynn, which had been created out of the old city electorate, and was, on that occasion, opposed by the late Mr. T. T. Masfield, whom he defeated by 118 votes. Again in 1905, when Mr. Fowlds sought re-election, he was opposed by Mr. J. Farrell, the then Mayor of Grey Lynn, who stood in the Opposition interest. On that occasion Mr. Fowlds was elected by a majority of 248 votes, and when Sir Joseph Ward accepted office as Prime

Minister in August, 1906, consequent upon the death of Mr. Seddon, and the retirement of Mr. Hall-Jones from the position he had temporarily occupied as Mr. Seddon's successor, during Sir Joseph's absence from the country, the member for Grey Lynn was offered, and accepted, the portfolios of Education and Public Health in the new Administration.

During his two years' term of office as Minister for Education, Mr. Fowlds has put in some excellent work. Under his administration of the affairs of the department it has become possible for any boy or girl to pass from the primary and through the secondary school into the University without the payment of fees of any kind, and to so obtain the very highest form of education, hitherto open to those who could afford to pay for the training."

In September, 1911, Mr. Fowlds resigned his place in the Cabinet in order to force a fight on real live issues, and though defeated at the general election in the December following, he was by no means disheartened as later events have shown. Indeed, he may be trusted to stay in the fight till the end of the war.

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FREDERICK MASKELL KING.

Frederick Maskell King, by profession a clothing manufacturer and by conviction a Single Taxer, was born at Yarmouth, Norfolk, England, in 1859. The family then removed to Ipswich, but in a few years he returned to Yarmouth to be educated at the local grammar school. He afterwards left Yarmouth to go to Bury St. Edmund's grammar school, and on leaving school he went into business with his father in Halifax, Yorkshire. The family subsequently left Halifax for Leeds where his father died, and young King then went to America, travelling through the United States and Canada and settling for some years in Chicago, where he became acquainted with Messrs. John Z. White, Edward O. Brown, and other noted Single Taxers. But when the depression struck America in 1893, he came to Auckland, New Zealand, where he has been honorary secretary to the National

Single Tax League (now the New Zealand Land Values League) ever since. He married in 1897, Bertha, the second daughter of Mr. Edward Withy, and "the royal family" now numbers six little Single Taxers.

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R. A. HOULD.

Richard Arthur Hould was born in London in 1839. He received an average education, and after a few years experience of office life he felt the attraction of the idea of the free life in the colonies. Breaking "the fetter of an office stool" he decided to emigrate and landed in Auckland in December, 1859, the happy possessor of an Order entitling him to forty acres of Crown land, and cheerfully confident of his ability to make a home of those "forty acres." The "forty acre system" then in operation was apparently devised by men who had secured for their four-legged cattle all the available land near the townships, and wished to induce some thousands of two-legged cattle to settle in the back-blocks, to give value to the land near the towns. Naturally these unfortunate bipeds were soon willing to pay the landlords tribute for permission to live within reach of some approach to civilization. Although a few, specially qualified for the struggle with the wilderness, succeeded in making homes for themselves, the great majority found they could do better in the towns. That was Mr. Hould's experience. Forty acres covered with impenetrable forest on the margin of a huge and dismal swamp, and miles away from any road or neighbor, was too tough a proposition. He gave it up, and had to take to "the office stool" after all. For fifty years he has watched the growth of landlordry in New Zealand. He was one of the first to join the Auckland Anti-Poverty Society in 1888, and had the honor of being the first man to welcome Henry George on this side of the world. He met him on the deck of the "Mariposa" at six o'clock one lovely summer morning early in March, 1890. Henry George was then on his way to Australia and only remained a few hours in Auckland. Other members of the Anti Poverty Society had