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A Profile of James Charlton

James Charlton was born in Manchester, England, April 24th, 1847. He came to America at the age of eighteen, landing in New York August 2d, 1865, with something less than three dollars in his pocket. He went to Northern Illinois in 1866 and worked at his trade in a country blacksmith shop. In 1868 he went to Nebraska but was driven out by the grasshoppers. Came South in 1869, and in 1872 located in Texas, where he has since resided. Mr. Charlton was married in 1876 and has a family of four children. About twenty years ago he established in Houston a general blacksmith shop. The business proved successful and he is still conducting it. Mr. Charlton is one of the best known and most esteemed men in Houston. He was one of the first trustees of the Houston Lyceum and Library—now known as the Carnegie Library. He served on the school board from 1898 to 1902.

Mr. Charlton became a Single Taxer in 1888, since when he has never failed to advocate it when possible. Mr. Charlton has probably talked to more men on the subject than any man in Houston. His shop was known, among his friends, as the Single Tax School. Mr. Charlton is a vigorous writer and it was one of his able articles that opened the eyes of Houston's business men to the beauties of home rule in taxation and caused every business and labor organization in the town to endorse the plan. He is, perhaps, the best posted man in Texas on the labor movements of the world, and has a grasp upon the money question which our statesmen might envy. A few months ago Mr. Charlton had the misfortune to lose his right hand, while repairing a machine. He came out of this ordeal with the same calm, cheerful disposition, the same loveable nature which endears him to all who know him.