

munity, and adding taxes to food for their own enrichment, they were not idle in other respects. By means of legislation passed by landlords some 4,000 Enclosure Acts were passed. Two thousand of these appear to have been passed between 1801 and 1845. They would no doubt receive the ready assent of the House of Lords which existed to prevent hasty legislation. This is a stinging comment on the type of man who had the brazen effrontery to refer to the doctrines of Henry George as doctrines of confiscation. Henry George compared their ancestors to Captain Kidd, and the only complaint that can be made against the comparison is that it was unfair to Captain Kidd. The industrial revolution introduced machinery and steam about the time that George III came to the throne. This no doubt has hastened the later enclosures, for coal was becoming a valuable commodity, and it seems to become more valuable to the landlords as generation succeeds generation.

With the widening of the franchise, the landowners no longer hold the field. They can only gain small privileges now by soft words, in place of the great privileges they formerly took by force. According to Mr. Bowles the Liberal Death Duties Act, called the Finance Act, 1894, was more favorable to agricultural landowners than it should have been. Two years later the Tories passed the Agricultural Rating Act. It was a disgraceful piece of legislation which could only be designed to put money into the pockets of the agricultural landowners.

Such is the sinful progress of landlordism. Statesmen and teachers know it as well—or better—than those who seek the remedy. This remedy is not far to seek. When the burdens are replaced on land, labor will be free.

MEN OF THE SCOTTISH MOVEMENT.

PETER BURT.—The leading men of the Scottish movement are undoubtedly Peter Burt and John Paul. The departure of Mr. Paul to London left Mr. Burt without a rival. It would only be the simple truth to say that there are many men in Scotland who might have led the movement, had these two not been to the front. Being there they left only the back seats for the others. As this sketch leaves no room for analysis no attempt will be made to explain the reason for this state of affairs. Whether it is accounted for by their untiring devotion, by exceptional ability or by both together, the fact itself is indisputable.

As in the earlier crusade Peter was an apostle before Paul. Among the repudiators of the Master this Peter will not be found. While others are talking down the Single Tax as a thing which it is unwise to mention in "polite society," he is talking it up as the one and only thing worth mentioning. His activities have been prominent in the counsels of the Scottish Liberal Party, the original and present Scottish Land Values League, the United Committee and the Glasgow Town Council. He it was who led the

movement in the latter body, and it was from that Town Council that the Municipal movement originally sprung. His first attempt to enter the Glasgow Town Council was in November, 1886, when he was defeated. In 1889 he was successful. Retiring in 1896 he returned for another term between 1899 and 1902. His election fights formed an important part of the propaganda, and these were later on augmented by the similar election fights of John Ferguson and David McLardy in the same constituency. Appropriately enough, such fights have been continued by W. R. Lester, John Paul and William D. Hamilton, the latter being elected in November, 1911.

Mr. Burt was vice president and finally president of the Scottish Land Restoration League. After the formation of the present league Mr. Burt became a vice president under the presidency of Mr. McLardy. In 1896 he was asked to become president; he accepted the position and held it for eight years. Valuable evidence has been given by him before three Parliamentary Committees held in 1891, 1901 and 1906. As soon as he was elected to the Glasgow Town Council he got a committee appointed to consider the whole question of the incidence of taxation and report. The committee a year later reported in favor of the principle of the Rating of Land Values, but the report was not adopted. It was shelved till 1895 when Mr. Burt not only secured the adoption of the report, but had included into the decision of the council a resolution to invite the co-operation of other assessing bodies in petitioning Parliament for powers to rate land values.

This Municipal movement culminated in the preparation of Bills presented to Parliament. These Private Members' Bills are, however, in the nature of shop-window goods; they usually get a certain length and are finally snowed under. Such has been the fate of the Glasgow bills, but they have led to the initiation of a propaganda in Parliament itself. Valuation of land is now proceeding, a Land Values Group exists at present in the House of Commons, the Rating question is up for settlement and everyone is agreed that the present system of assessing the composite rental of land and buildings must give way to something else. The landlords to save their skins will try to get a Municipal Income Tax, which will do nothing to prevent the withholding of the land from use. Mr. Burt is quite alive to the dangers of the present situation, and he is not altogether satisfied with the turn of events. For many years he has held a high position in the Scottish Liberal Party, and he continues to do what he can to keep the movement on straight lines inside that section of the British Liberal Party. Since the formation of the United Committee Mr. Burt has given a good deal of his time and attention to the work of the Committee. It is quite safe to say that few men anywhere have given the same time to the promotion of any principle as Mr. Burt has done in our movement.

The Land Values movement contains two distinct types. One—to which Mr. Burt does not belong—believes that land values like other things should be assessed for public revenue. Such people look on the devotion of Single Taxers as an obsession. To this latter type Mr. Burt belongs: He thinks

about the earned income of the community of which it is deprived, not of the unearned increment of the landlord of which the community should claim a share.

DAVID CASSELS (Senior)—Mr. Cassels is the Treasurer at present of the Scottish League. He is the father of four Single Tax sons and was the father of another who has "passed away." If we said he was the father of the Scottish movement we should not be guilty of great exaggeration. He is old enough to occupy that position, and there has been no largely decisive action taken from first to last about which he has not been consulted. He is more philosopher than politician and has not occupied himself very much with platform work. Neither has he set up as a candidate for any public body, though he has taken a keen but modest part in promoting the candidature of representative Single Taxers. He is a man with intellectual hobbies which run from Political Economy to Geology. Gifted with breadth of mind and depth of feeling he is the ideal Single Taxer as pictured by those who know what that means.

JAMES BUSBY, Secretary of the Scottish League—Mr. James Busby succeeded Mr. John Paul as Secretary of the Scottish League, when the latter was called on to take up his present position in London. He was appointed Secretary in 1907. He was formerly a worker in the textile trade. His connection with the movement dates from the last visit of Henry George to Glasgow. A little before then his interest had been awakened by John McTaggart, who was fondly remembered by Mr. George, and who was one of the men Tom L. Johnson wanted specially to see when he visited Great Britain in the Spring of 1910. Under the influence of Mr. McTaggart, Mr. Busby came under the spell of *Progress and Poverty* in 1900, and has continued to be devoted to the cause ever since. He is of the genial, easy going type, with a keen sense of humor, not the type of humor that the average Punch joker would understand, however. Beginning to attend the meetings of the Henry George Institute at this period he afterwards became Treasurer of the Society. Later he was appointed President of the same body, and he performed a most useful service in the Scottish League. He was Convener of the Press Propaganda Corps which did much useful work. Both under his own name and the nom de plume, "Impot Unique," many newspaper contributions on the subject have been published. Very few men have read and re-read *Progress and Poverty* so many times. Strange to say he has avoided systematic platform work although taking to it intermittently. In addition to the work of Secretary, which he has performed for the past five years, all his leisure time for twenty-two years has been given to the movement. His duties have been many and varied, and there was no job for the movement, from the distribution of hand-bills to more pretentious work, that he was not willing to undertake. Fortunately he had friends who were willing to join him in these efforts, and he was not altogether lonely. His appointment to his present position followed as a matter of course and was in no sense a contested affair.