

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.

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.

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

arranged to be at the wharf to meet the "Mariposa," but she came in too early for them. Mr. Hould has worked with the Land Reform party for over twenty years, and has acted as editor of the *Liberator* since its first issue in February, 1900.

GEORGE STEVENSON.

George Stevenson was born in Victoria, Australia, in 1880, and was one of a family of thirteen. In the year 1891, the great land boom in Victoria collapsed, and it was the misery and desolation wrought by the excessive price of land in Victoria at that time that first opened Mr. Stevenson's eyes to the necessity for a radical change in the land laws of Australia. In 1894, when he was only 14 years of age, industrial conditions were so bad in Australia that, along with a number of his brothers, he came to New Zealand, then enjoying the first fruits of the more than twenty years of progress and prosperity that has followed upon the carrying of the Ballance-Grey Land Tax in 1891. In 1901, Mr. Stevenson married in Auckland, and he now has five young Single Taxers to his credit, besides converts of voting age too numerous to specify. In business a staircase builder, he finds his time well occupied, but he still manages to take an active interest in political affairs, and especially in propagating the gospel according to Henry George. In 1908 he acted as Editor of the *Liberator* during Mr. Hould's absence in England and acquitted himself very ably indeed. In 1910, he conducted with good results a class for the study of "Progress and Poverty" at the Auckland Unitarian Young Men's Institute. Mr. Stevenson, who is a Vice-President of the New Zealand Land Values League, is still a young man, and it is probable that even more will be heard of him in the future. His brothers Edward and Joseph, of Hastings and Gisborne respectively, have also done good work for the cause; and his father-in-law, Mr. T. L. Stevens, is one of the old brigade of "Croasdale Single Taxers" who helped in the heavy pioneering work of pre-Land Tax times.

THOMAS WEBB.

Thomas Webb, president of New Zealand

Land Values League, was born in 1857, in Longton Staffordshire, England, his father being a China manufacturer. Educated at Longton Middle Class Commercial School, he came out with family as a boy of sixteen. Went on Bush Farm in Northern Wairoa District and roughed it for some years. Was appointed Hobson County Council Collector and Valuer, but resigned and entered the employ of Brown, Campbell & Coy. He afterwards represented the Northern Boot & Shoe Co., Ltd., for some five years, and in the year 1895, started in business as indent and commission agents. He saw the misery and destitution that was in the world. For some time it staggered him and his faith in God reeled until he realized that God was not to blame since he had provided enough and to spare. He had answered the prayer, Give us this day our daily bread; had answered it freely, literally, liberally. Mr. Webb reasoned that there must be an abrogation of His Law somewhere and this led him to see that His gifts, which were intended for all, were being appropriated by the few, and that the solution of the problem was that as rapidly as possible the wrong should be righted and land should, by the process of the Single Tax, revert to the people.

Mr. Webb has been president of the National Single Tax League (now the New Zealand Land Values League) since Mr. Fowlds resigned on entering the Ministry in 1906.

OREGON.

PREPARING FOR THE BATTLE IN NOVEMBER
—A. M. HIMES GOES TO BRITISH
COLUMBIA FOR AMMUNITION—THE
PRIVILEGED INTERESTS TRY TO SILENCE
H. W. STONE.

Oregon is getting along with her 38 state-wide and several county measures very well, thank you. The citizens are now receiving the State pamphlet of 252 pages of reading matter which contains all the measures in full, the numbers on the ballot for and against each measure, and arguments for and against them.