

Assemblyman Edward A. Miller, of Brooklyn, who introduced the bill, represents the 21st District of Kings County, and is the only Single Taxer in the Legislature. He was elected on the Democratic ticket in 1902, the district having previously been Republican, and he was re-elected last year.

DEATH OF JOSEPH FAIDY.

Joseph Faidy entered into rest at his home in New Orleans, on March 6th. By his sudden death the Single Tax movement loses one of its most staunch and devoted friends. He had made economics his special study for many years, and he took a keen intellectual delight in discussion. Everything that concerned the welfare of the people interested him. He might have said of himself in the words of the old Greek dramatist, "I am a man, therefore nothing human is foreign to me."

Mr. Faidy's death came as a painful shock to his family and friends. Returning home in the evening he was preparing to attend a Single Tax lecture when he was taken suddenly ill and died shortly after.

Mr. Faidy was a native of New Orleans and belonged to one of the oldest and most respected families in Louisiana. He was an only child, and it was but a few short years ago that both his parents preceded him to the grave.

Mr. Faidy was but thirty-two years old at the time of his death. He was singularly polished and cultivated in manner and speech, and had many friends. He had written much for Single Tax publications, and one of his articles is the occasion of the symposium on the interest question contained in the present issue.

Mr. Faidy's tenderness and the humane instincts which impelled him are shown in a bequest in his will, of which he was his own testator. In this bequest he leaves to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, of New Orleans, the sum of \$100 for the prevention of suffering among homeless dogs by merciful extermination. To Prof. James H. Dillard, of Tulane University, he leaves \$250, to be used at Mr. Dillard's discretion for the purpose of advancing the Single Tax movement in New Zealand. Following this bequest Mr. Faidy says:

"I believe that the purposes which Henry George sought to achieve can be sooner accomplished by the purchase of the land by the government than by means of the Single Tax, on account of the opposition which the latter arouses among land owners, and I believe that nationalization by purchase is practicable, because the ownership of ground rent by the State would abolish all interest. The objection which is urged against nationalization by purchase that it would create a large and perpetual burden of interest incurred, therefore disappears. I arrived at the conclusion after long think-

ing on it, but found that a German named Michael Flurscheim had made the same discovery eleven years ago. It seems to have been discovered also by the authors of 'The Story of My Dictatorship.' This bequest is made not so much for the good that it can do in itself, but as a suggestion to other Single Taxers who can afford to give more to not forget the cause in their wills.

"I think, too, that the greatest good can be done for the cause by trying to help it in the country where it is already most advanced, and so giving a practical demonstration to the rest of the world."

These words from the hand made so suddenly cold and lifeless have unusual solemnity. Not all Single Taxers are in agreement with Mr. Faidy in this opinion—perhaps few are—but all are one with him in the objective aim.

There have lived few men whose devotion to truth and humanity was so intense. All that is mortal of him is gone, but his work survives him, and his memory will remain a loving inspiration to those who knew him.

MISS VICTORIA M. JONES.
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

DEATH OF JOHN FARRELL.

The news reaches us through *Land Values* of Glasgow, Scotland, of the death of John Farrell, whose fame as a Single Taxer was international. It was John Farrell who accompanied Henry George on his Australian tour, and it was he who was foremost in upholding under the Southern Cross the banner of human freedom as Single Taxers see it. We cannot do better, in summarizing the great service John Farrell rendered the cause, than to quote Mr. Lewis H. Bereins' tribute to the dead leader and poet of Australia published in *Land Values* for March:

"John Farrell was no common man. As a poet his verses, more especially, perhaps, those entitled 'How He Died,' which are redolent with the best spirit of life in 'the bush,' have made him known throughout Australasia. As a Single Taxer, his great services to the cause, more especially his organization of Henry George's tour through Australia, have made him known to his co-workers throughout the length and breadth of the civilized world.

Born in South Africa of Irish parentage, John Farrell was early thrown upon his own resources, and unaided left to fight his battle with the world, getting the hard-bought knowledge of men and things that only comes that way. Seaman, miner, brewer, bushman, drover, now at one thing, now at another, as has been the lot of so many of the best men in Australia, he at last drifted into up-country journalism; and when I first heard of him (in 1888) was editing, as an avowed Single Taxer, *The Lithgow Enterprise*, still flourishing as *The*

Lithgow Mercury. Since that date he has always been on the firing line, in the very forefront of the great struggle on behalf of social justice and righteousness, which, in Australasia as elsewhere, has yet to triumph over privilege and monopoly. My personal recollections of John Farrell are but slight. I only met him twice, once in Lithgow, where he was running a paper, and once in Adelaide, when he was accompanying Henry George on his great tour. Slight as they are, they certainly bear out the truth of the following from the pen of one of his fellow pressmen in the *Sydney Evening News*:—"In personal character John Farrell was one of the best liked men in Australia. No one could talk with him for five minutes without seeing the earnestness of the man, and the wonder always was that one who had known the world and its ways so long could retain the fresh enthusiasm, the belief in humanity, and the kindliness of nature that characterized him. He was one whose character stood high, and whose friendship was valued by rich and poor alike."

"Such, then, was our earnest and valued co-worker, John Farrell, whose early death we must all deplore. But the good work in which he rejoiced, and his faith in which kept fresh his enthusiasm, still remains, and we cannot better honor his memory than by emulating his example, and devoting ourselves to it with the same energy and enthusiasm as he lavished upon it."

WESTERN STARR.

(See Portrait.)

Western Starr was born at Davenport, Iowa, in the year 1854. During the year 1859 his father moved to Rock Island, Ill., where the boy began attendance at the public school. His experience was that of the American boy until 1870, when he took a situation as a farm hand, subsequently worked on the St. Louis bridge, and afterwards (1877) in the mine mills in Colorado. In fact, he became one of those enterprising Western individuals known as a "rustler." And he was a true and successful representative of the type.

By 1877 he had "rustled" so well that a small fund stood to his credit, and he determined to extend his theoretical knowledge as a desirable addition to his attainments in the practical field; he, therefore, entered Oberlin in April of that year, and continued somewhat over two years. In 1880, he took his degree at Cornell, Ithaca, N. Y. Afterwards, he took the Columbia law course in New York City, and was admitted to the practice of law in the same city in 1882.

In June, 1882, Starr went to Chicago, and taught in a private school and practiced his profession until the following year, when a business engagement called him to North Dakota. The outlook for a young

and energetic man was good enough to induce him to remain, and he located at Dickinson, North Dakota, remaining there until February, 1889. During this period he was appointed assessor under the territorial government and also held the office of justice of the peace.

Starr returned to Chicago in 1890, where he carried on a real estate brokerage business, and also continued the practice of his profession. He still continues in the latter vocation. One of his experiences while enjoying the activities of a real estate broker was the sale of the same lot five times within five days. The first sale was at \$75.00 per front foot, while five days later the last holder declined an offer of \$200.00 per front foot.

For two years Mr. Starr held the position of secretary of the civil service reform committee of the Civic Federation of Chicago, and in 1901 was made chairman of the same body. He is also legal counsel for the Civil Service League—an organization composed of employees of the city of Chicago under the classified service.

Starr was born into a republican family, but since his residence in North Dakota, with the exception of 1896, he has voted with the Democratic Party. In 1896, he could not bring himself to feel that supporting the privilege of the silver mine owner was wholly justifiable—though he confesses that even then he was not clear as to why the privileges of the gold mine owner were any more sacred. The year 1900 found him on the stump for the success of the Democratic Party, and to-day the reformed and purified host has no truer and few abler supporters.

The capital of North Dakota was located in 1891, and the jobbery revealed in connection with this determination caused Starr to condemn as wholly evil the dishonest officialism shown in both the territorial and national governments. In collusion with this dishonest officialism the power shown by the great corporations—especially the Northern Pacific railroad—startled him, and was the immediate cause of his interest in the Single Tax. He found that this road had been granted every other section of land for a distance of forty miles on each side of its track. This of course being equal to a solid strip forty miles wide clear across the State. And when a settler had taken possession of a farm anywhere within these limits the road was permitted to take any unclaimed section within ten miles beyond the forty mile limit.

The colossal outrage involved in land grants of this character can in some degree be appreciated when we remember the mad rush made for homesteads when the lands of Oklahoma and the Cherokee strip were opened for settlement. The same sort of conditions that disturbed Starr in North Dakota riveted the attention of Henry George in California.