

their organs, and far and wide are their periodicals circulated. Are these not potent factors in the growth of socialism?—are they not in some measure an explanation of such growth?

DEATH OF D. D. PATERSON.

The death of Duncan D. Paterson, of Brooklyn, N. Y., on December 4th, was as untimely as sudden. It came with a sudden shock not only to personal friends, but to all of those who through a knowledge of his useful influence, may form some estimate of the loss which his death means to the community.

Mr. Paterson came to this country in 1889, from his native city, Glasgow, Scotland, and at once connected himself with the wholesale grocery house of Francis H. Leggett & Co., New York. He retained this connection until the time of his death, well merited promotion having advanced him to chief position in the imported goods department.

In this position all the responsibility of purchasing foreign groceries from all parts of the world devolved upon him. Although but 84 years old at the time of his death, his mastery of the necessary knowledge fitted him as few men occupying similar positions are fitted, to conduct this department of the wholesale grocery business profitably and successfully. A master of details and ever watchful of opportunities to extend the scope and business of his department, diligent and faithful, he can not but be sorely missed by his business associates.

Though thus attentive to business, his own estimate of success was, however, something above and beyond the possible limits of a mercantile life. In 1897 his attention was called to the writings of Henry George and his active, open mind at once grasped the philosophy therein expounded. At that time Mr. Paterson was an enthusiastic worker in the Baptist Church; believing that the regeneration of society depended upon the religious conversion of its individuals, he devoted his energies accordingly. He now became convinced, however, that present unhappy social conditions are continued not through designs of the masses who might change them, but through ignorance as to how the change might be accomplished, and his life, aside from business activities, was thereafter largely devoted to enlightening the public as to the ease with which social reformation may be secured by application of the Single Tax.

Although an idealist, bent upon the propagation of mighty principles, he was, however, too practical to ignore opportunities for advancing reform into which those principles entered only partially, and which are, therefore, too often neglected by propagandists. At the time of his death he was

Treasurer of the Brooklyn Single Tax League, and also of the Radical Democracy; he was active in the Brooklyn Municipal League, which contributed effectively to the campaign work of Mr. Coler as President of Brooklyn Borough and Mr. Hearst as Mayor of New York at the recent election.

At the time of his death Mr. Paterson regarded the church institution as an impediment to intellectual and social progress. In recognition of this conviction his friends arranged a quiet, informal funeral service, the speakers being chosen from among those friends who had been associated with him in his Single Tax work.

DEATH OF WALTER ROEBUCK.

The cause of liberty and true reform suffered a loss on October 23rd in the death of Walter H. Roebuck, editor of the *Temiskaming Herald* of New Liskland and formerly secretary of the Toronto Single Tax Association. At the early age of twenty-two years he closed a series of battles for freedom that justly won him an unusual prominence and which give him now a conspicuous place among those who have struggled and fallen for the cause.

Walter Roebuck was a young man whose bright and happy ways and whose forceful progressiveness and breadth of character made a remarkable impression upon those with whom he worked. He was as popular as a man should be. He had innumerable friends, and a few warm enemies. For with all his pleasant, free and jolly ways he was a born fighter, a descendent of a family of fighters, from the celebrated inventor of the sulphuric acid process to the still more famous English Radical of Gladstone's time.

Walter Roebuck's personality first came into notice when he accepted the secretaryship of the Toronto Single Tax Association, succeeding his brother to that office in March of 1903. During the months that he led the forces for land reform much progress was made in the cause of liberty. It was while he was at the tiller that the plans were laid for the present powerful movement in Toronto for the exemption of houses from taxation. It was during his term of office that *The Canadian Single Taxer*, the Single Tax organ of Canada, was first published, and that the young Single Taxers of the city formed the so-called "fighting wing" of the association. When the Police Commissioners issued their high-handed order to the police to forcibly prevent the Single Taxers, socialists and labor men speaking on the streets, it was his courage that won a signal victory for free speech, as mounted on his "soap-box" platform he hurled defiance at the authorities to arrest him if they dared.

But it is seldom that the more enterprising of young men are content with the

progress to be made in their native cities. Walter Roebuck resigned the secretaryship to strike into the northern Temiskaming District ahead of a prospective Government railway. His first job was driving a construction team on the railroad. He hoed potatoes and sawed wood. From this he stepped into clerking in a general store. But his chance came, as chances usually come in new countries to those who make opportunities.

The proprietor of the local newspaper in New Liskland needed a man, and in this case he wisely hired a boy. The paper was a "dead-alive" affair under the old management and in three months' time the young fellow bought out the entire plant, giving therefor his own guarantee and a deposit of \$100.

With Walter H. Roebuck as editor and proprietor the publication became a power for good in the new country. It attacked "graft" with unsparing vigor and it advocated freedom to the extent of all that word can mean. In less than a year the paper trebled its circulation, and under the management of the boy just past his teens, was fast becoming financially as well as editorially powerful.

Then came the blow. New countries claim many victims. "I have typhoid," read a telegram to his brother Arthur, "you must take my place," and on October 23rd he died in Toronto, at his mother's residence, thus closing a life at the age of 22 that had been as full of experience in well doing as many well intentioned lives of twice the duration.

FOR GARRISON AND GEORGE TABLETS.

It so happens that William Lloyd Garrison, the great leader in the abolition of chattel slavery, and Henry George, the great leader in the abolition of land slavery, died within a few doors of each other on Union Square in New York City. Steps have been taken to place suitable bronze tablets upon the houses in which they died, and a single committee has charge of both memorials. Upon this committee some of the leading men of the country have already agreed to act, and the owners of the two buildings have given their consent to the plan. Preparations have not yet gone far enough for the REVIEW to publish the details, but in our Spring number we hope to be able to announce the time of the unveiling of these testimonials to the fame of two men whose life-work was, in the last analysis, along the same lines.

The record price for land in lower New York was reached in a recent sale of a small plot in William Street, opposite the Cotton Exchange building, which changed hands at \$650 per square foot.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

MORAL CONSIDERATIONS PARAMOUNT.

It is not strange that reformers who expose popular wrongs should be out of vogue. The social fabric is adjusted to present conditions and disturbance brings discomfort to the prosperous. It is things of "good report" that are demanded. Optimism is essential to subserve a system based on foundations consciously unsound. The pickets of convention are watchful and alarm is sounded when unwelcome truth is declared.

Popular esteem is the bribe for subservience. The favorites of the day can be named by the dozen, satisfied and smiling, defenders of things as they are, welcome in lecture courses, of excellent repute in the press, preachers of the doctrine that principles change with circumstances. Magazines compete for their smooth essays and official honors fall easily into their laps. "Success" displays their smug pictures in its pages as object lessons to aspiring youth, and popularity in colleges brings rewards denied to scholarship.

Although worthless as contributors to current thought, these time-servers are powerful to hinder progress, discourage zeal, and obstruct earnest reforms. Gifted with the skill of ambiguous speech, shunning definiteness, they pervade humanitarian conventions, in which their platitudes often receive the loudest applause. Their vagueness has a charm for certain minds. They abhor plain speech, praise gradualism and are ever counselling effort on the line of "least resistance." Their association weakens movements that need fronts of granite and uncompromising purpose. They are more to be feared than unmasked opponents.

The anti-slavery cause furnishes many examples. Had the resolute leaders listened to these siren voices, modified their demands or diluted their stern language, the movement would have been wrecked. They never ceased to see the suffering victims of the slave power or to hear their beseeching cry for aid. They scorned expediences and reiterated the broad principles of human freedom which are scoffed at as academic, knowing, like Emerson, that "only the great generalizations survive." Until the infamy ceased no words could be too harsh, no demand too immediate, no action too vigorous. By this sign they conquered.

The Single Taxers have a cause similar in nature but covering the wide earth. American slavery was a concrete institution and its supporters were unconcealed. But the liberation of the land from monopoly encounters the organized privilege of the world. No greater incentive to holy knighthood ever appealed to mankind. The advocates of the Single Tax need to be on fire, for, like