

vided. "A lecture without literature is," he says, "like salt without a dinner, stimulating, perhaps, but not satisfying." At the beginning of last year Mr. Berens was somewhat seriously ill, but is now better, and almost as active as ever.

IGNATIUS SINGER, F. C. S.

Though his sympathy with the cause of social justice remains unabated, Mr. Singer, co-author with Mr. Berens of "The Story of My Dictatorship," has of late years led so retired a life that his yeoman's services to the cause in its earliest stages are comparatively unknown to the present generation of Single Taxers. That they are still well remembered and appreciated in Australia was made manifest in the warm welcome he received from our Australian co-workers when he revisited that country some few years ago after an absence of over seven years.

Mr. Singer was born in Hungary over fifty years ago. When quite a young man he emigrated to England, and for some time had a bitter struggle for existence in the heart of the richest city of the world; a struggle which greatly influenced the development of his powerful and original mind. As he once expressed it, in a remarkable letter to a South Australian paper, at the time of the great Dock strike in London—"Hunger tends to make a man either a criminal or a philosopher;" and we fear that this stern teacher did his part in helping to make Mr. Singer the philosopher all who to-day come into intimate contact with him soon recognize him to be. To occupy his leisure, when earning a miserable pittance in London, Mr. Singer wrote an Hungarian Grammar for Messrs. Trubner & Co., the first ever published in Great Britain, which was most favorably received by the critics, and which brought him some reputation, though but very little cash. Somewhat later a German gentleman enlisted his services to aid in writing a Political Economy. During their preliminary discussions, he continually interrupted Mr. Singer by saying—"Ach! that wont do. I see you are a Georgian." After this had happened several times, Mr. Singer asked his co-worker—"A Georgian? What is that?" Taking from his book-shelf one of the Sixpenny quarto editions of Progress and Poverty, he threw it on the table, saying, "Why, surely you have read this book." But Mr. Singer hadn't. However, he took it home with him, stayed up the whole night reading it, and returned it to its owner the following evening with the remark: "Yes, you are right, I am a Georgian"; and a Georgian Mr. Singer has ever since remained.

Finding that his colleague was solely intent on writing a Political Economy that would be favorably received by those in place and power, Mr. Singer soon relin-

quished the work, and shortly after emigrated to South Australia, settling in the beautiful city of Adelaide. "Times were bad," as the saying is; land monopoly in the new country, as in the old, was producing its poisonous fruits, and Mr. Singer soon found a favorable field for the exposition of the basic economic truths he had formulated for himself. Together with Mr. Henry Taylor, who we are glad to know is still foremost in the good work in the same State, Mr. Singer assisted to found and build up the South Australian Land Nationalization Society, or Single Tax League, as it was afterwards re-christened. The "Triumvirate," as Messrs. Singer, Taylor and Berens were called, kept the cause moving in Adelaide for some years, during which they published a little weekly paper, "Our Commonwealth," of which Mr. Singer was editor, and a bound copy of which is still amongst Mr. Singer's most cherished possessions.

In 1887 Mr. Singer returned to England, in connection with a patent Wool Scouring Machine of his own invention, which, however, did not prove the success that was anticipated. Some time later Mr. Berens joined him in England, and they worked together for some seven years—"The Story of My Dictatorship," "Government by the People," and "Some Unrecognized Laws of Nature" being the literary fruits of their joint labors. After helping to establish the Bradford Branch of the English Land Restoration League, or League for the Taxation of Land Values as it is now called—which is also still flourishing under the guidance of our enthusiastic and energetic co-worker, Mr. Fred Skirrow—Mr. Singer left for New Zealand, but soon returned to take up a position as Research Chemist to the Bradford Dyer's Association, and of whose well-equipped laboratory he is at the present time the head. As we have already said, Mr. Singer's sympathy for our cause remains as keen as ever; but he is kept too busy on the very different problems attendant on his official position, to be able now to devote much time to the cause he served so well when it was more unpopular and had far fewer devoted adherents than it has at the present day.

FRED SKIRROW.

Fred Skirrow is in the front rank of English Single Tax workers. Born at Bingley in the West Riding, of Yorkshire, in 1863, he commenced work in the factory as half-timer at eight years of age. In 1882 he went out to Michigan, but after a few years passed over to Canada and the same year joined the Knights of Labour, taking a very great interest in the work of the Order. After much wandering he finally settled in the City of Hamilton, and it was there that in the summer of 1882 or 1883 he first heard of Henry George, who was the

orator at a Demonstration held in the City of Hamilton by the Knights of Labour, Trades Union and Labour Unions. Never before had any appeal so struck him as this one did.

He then went through the experience of three months in the ranks of the unemployed, and saw more poverty and destitution than till that time he had thought it possible to exist. Sick of factory life he determined to become a farmer and took up 100 acres of bush land on Manitoulin Island. It was here, that cut off from all communication with the mainland for three months in the year, and 40 miles from the nearest village, he began to see the effect of bad land laws. Obligated to travel over scores of miles of virgin land in the hands of land monopolists to get to his farm he began to realize in his own person the waste of labour and capital which results in being driven hundreds of miles beyond the pale of civilization in order to find work. He had impressed upon him how unproductive is work under such isolated conditions, cut off from the advantage of exchange and association with others, and how the difficulty in getting and exchanging goods under such conditions lessens the return to labour, to the injury of both the individual and society.

Further pondering brought him to the next conclusion that this driving of men to work under adverse conditions was directly due to the action of land monopoly in populous districts, and explained why he had been obliged to travel thousands of miles from his home to find land, while millions of acres lay idle, beside the best market in the world.

Many other questions which had previously perplexed him also found their answer when on returning to the City of Hamilton "Progress and Poverty" came under his notice.

Still in spite of all disadvantages, Mr. Skirrow thoroughly enjoyed the free life of the farm and had only to abandon it because of Mrs. Skirrow's delicate health. His settlement was 40 miles from the nearest doctor, so it was necessary to go elsewhere.

In 1886 he returned with Mrs. Skirrow to the City of Hamilton, and taking up the work of propaganda with a few others organized a Club formed to advocate the Taxation of Land Values. One of the Club's first meetings was addressed by W. A. Douglas, B. A. of Toronto, who is still active in the movement. In 1888 he returned to his native town of Bingley, Yorkshire and there continued for some years his work of reform. Thence he went to the neighboring town of Keighley to fill the post of Liberal Agent, in which capacity he organized meetings addressed by nearly all the leading Single Tax speakers in the country.

In 1903 he resigned this post to become

the Yorkshire Agent of the English League for the Taxation of Land Values with offices at 2 Darley Street, Bradford, which post he has filled ever since with marked success. His work now consists of enlisting the services of Single Tax speakers from all parts and organising meetings for them in the Yorkshire district.

While himself a ready and effective speaker and debator, he considers it his province to bring others forward rather than to put himself into prominence. In this way he believes the best results are to be got, and it is not too much to say there is no one in England more successful in the work.

Being in close touch, and having the confidence of the Liberal party of the district, he is in a position to organize any number of meetings for any number of speakers, and this he does. His appetite for the work is insatiable.

Another phase of Mr. Skirrows activity is in placing before the people the Single Tax as the true alternative to Socialism. Socialism is strong in some parts of Yorkshire, and as Socialists do not appreciate his attentions, many are the hard knocks which in consequence he both gives and takes.

A more earnest, untiring and active worker in the cause is not to be found in all England.

One more word remains to be said. To the support and encouragement he has always received from Mrs. Skirrow he largely attributes the success which has attended his efforts.

PETER BURT.

Ex-Bailie Peter Burt, of Glasgow, Scotland, occupies a prominent and enviable position in the Single Tax movement. He was one of the men who welcomed Henry George when he came on his first visit to Scotland, and he has been in the forefront of the movement ever since.

It was about this time that he stood first as a candidate for the Glasgow Town Council. His first attempt to enter this body was in November, 1886, and it is almost needless to add that he was defeated. Ideas like his had not then got a sufficient hold on the public mind, and it was not until three years later that he managed to secure a seat in the City Council. Many things have happened since then in connection with the Glasgow movement, and in all of these Mr. Burt has taken a prominent and often a leading part. He sat in the Glasgow Town Council from 1889 till 1896, when he retired. He returned again to the Council in 1899, retiring when his term expired in 1902.

He was a vice-president and finally president of the first Scottish Land Restoration League. Later he was for some years vice-president of the present organization and