

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