

foodstuffs that can be grown in its climate are concerned, but if this can only be accomplished by increasing the cost of living to the 60,000,000 urban population, there would appear to be little or no gain from that policy to the American people as a whole. If the city workers must pay more for food, they will soon demand higher wages, which will inevitably be charged over to the selling price of the manufactured articles the farmers must buy. How close the relation is between wages and prices of goods was shown in the statement by Senator Smoot, in the course of debate on the present tariff law, that the increased duty on women's stockings was made necessary by the high wages paid to operators of knitting machines. If it is accepted that high prices for cotton and all other farm products are desirable, it should logically follow that prices of manufactures should also be high, thus arriving at the conclusion reached by the English cotton workers, who showed their detestation of low prices by smashing the machines which made for cheapness by greatly increased production.

## James A. Robinson

NATIONAL ORGANIZER COMMONWEALTH  
LAND PARTY, AND FIELD LECTURER  
FOR THE SINGLE TAX

EVERY Single Taxer knows James A. Robinson—"Robby," his intimates call him—but very few know anything about him. That is because very few persons have ever heard him talk about himself. He prefers to talk about the great cause he has at heart, and which he never wearies of explaining and discussing. Let him speak now from a recent letter received at this office:

"I am convinced that the divers forms of taxation imposed upon the people, inquisitorial and socialistic in tendency, are gradually creating a revolution, and the time to present our programme is now. Not merely as a relief from our tax burdens do I feel that our proposition should now be pressed, but because the public eye has discovered that all methods and social palliatives now being tried not merely fail to give relief from the economic evils from which we suffer, but in a greater or less degree involve an impairment of our ancient liberties."

Mr. Robinson was born in 1865 on Staten Island, attended public schools and high schools there, and then spent four years in law school. The reading of *Progress and Poverty* was a turning point in his life, for his attention was then diverted to political economy. He devoured all the economic literature extant, Smith, Mill, Spencer, Marx, etc. He found only the Georgian philosophy in accord with the true laws of property and the enfranchisement of humanity. He embraced it with all the ardor of his liberty loving nature.

Since that time he has found the greatest pleasure of his life in spreading the knowledge of our doctrines. After

many years of work in the field he is convinced of the necessity of conserving results by developing a political party with the sole objective, "The collection of the rent of land, in lieu of taxation." For the past six years the Single Taxers of the country have made it possible for him to devote all his time to the work. He has been able to do this by reason of the devotion and generous co-operation of his wife, Mrs. Kittie Robinson, to whom a debt of gratitude is due as great as that we owe to Mr. Robinson himself.

It is but recently that arrangements have been perfected by which Mr. Robinson will remain in the field as National Lecturer and Organizer. During a few days stay in Chicago preparatory for his departure for Ohio, the field selected for his present activity, he addressed the New England Forum, the Anthropological Society, and the Municipal Ownership League. Other invitations to talk may keep him in Chicago somewhat longer than intended.

Those who have not heard Mr. Robinson talk will do well to seize the first opportunity. They will hear our doctrines expounded without apology, not as a fiscal reform merely, but as a far reaching measure of emancipation. They will hear the best debater in the movement, a master of the platform, a rare combination of logic and emotion, and a moving orator.

## Hon. Geo. H. Duncan

OWING to impaired health John Z. White will in future confine himself to local lecture work. His place as Field Lecturer for the Henry George Lecture Association, of which Mr. F. H. Monroe is Director, will be taken by Hon. George H. Duncan, of East Jaffrey, New Hampshire, who has already started on a trans-continental tour. (See Jan.-Feb. LAND AND FREEDOM page 31)

Mr. Duncan was born in Leominster, Mass., Dec. 23, 1876. His paternal ancestors settled in Hancock, N. H., in 1775. His maternal grandfather was a Methodist preacher, one of the early Abolitionists, and his house, in pre-Civil War days was frequently used as a station on the "underground railway." One of his maternal ancestors was wounded at the battle of Bunker Hill. He was educated in the schools of his home town (Jaffrey), and at Amherst College in the class of 1899, being forced to leave during senior year by the death of his father. He took up his father's business (druggist) which he has since continued.

He has held about all local town offices, assessor, tax collector, school board, judge of police court, postmaster, moderator. He was a member of the New Hampshire Constitutional Convention of 1912 and 1918; also member of New Hampshire House of Representatives, 1915, 1923, 1925, in the latter body being Democratic nominee for Speaker. He became interested in the Single Tax after an experience as assessor, the unsatisfactory workings of