

and speaking on the subject, he published in 1903 a book entitled "Economic Ideals," of which the first chapter contained a systematic treatment of the land question. Later in that year he was invited to contest Dumbartonshire, and won that seat from the other side at the general election in January, 1906. At the general election in January, 1910, he was returned by a doubled majority, and, although he decided not to offer himself for re-election at the general election which followed in December, 1910, the seat continued to be held for the party of progress. In July, 1911, Mr. White was invited at a by-election to contest the Tradeston Division of Glasgow, which he now represents.

Both in Parliament and outside it, Mr. White has done active service for the cause. Shortly after entering the House of Commons in 1906 he drafted and introduced a Bill to provide for the valuation of landed property throughout the United Kingdom on the basis of land value; in the same year he was a Member of the Select Committee of the House of Commons which considered the Land Values Taxation, &c. (Scotland) Bill introduced by Mr. J. E. Sutherland, M. P. He did useful work in support of the Land Values (Scotland) Bill in 1907 and 1909, and also in support of the land clauses of the great Finance Act. His series of questions in the House of Commons contrasting the prices paid for various lands with their rating valuations has been of the greatest service to the movement, while among the other Bills which he has drafted and introduced may be mentioned one dealing with rights of way in Scotland, another providing for the abolition of hypothec—the Scottish equivalent of distraint of goods for rent,—another for providing that in case of compulsory purchase the full site value as adopted for Finance Act purposes should be the basis of the price of the site, and the Land Values (Scotland) Bill, embodying the provisions of the Government Bill of the same name which passed the House of Commons in 1907 and 1908, with various additions bringing it up to date. Besides Parliamentary and platform work, he has made a number of contributions to the press, and among his publications may be mentioned Economic Ideals, already referred to, Island Economy, Land and Labor, The Truth about Tariffs, Land Reform in Theory and Practice, and The A. B. C. of the Land Question.

ALEXANDER URE, K.C., M.P., Lord Advocate—Mr. Ure is today the foremost figure at the Scottish Bar—a position he has attained by sheer capacity and brilliant work in his profession. In the political field he has been remarkable for his advocacy of the taxation of land values. He has preached that faith when it seemed far enough from attainment. Therefore it is well that he should be remembered now when the 1909-10 Finance Bill is putting into practical form a proposal for which he has labored so ardently. Mr. Alexander Ure is fifty-nine years of age, and he has been seventeen years in Parliament, holding office during the last four years. He did not come to Westminster until he had made a great name for himself at the Bar. A son of the late Mr. John Ure—a former Lord Provost of Glasgow—the Lord Ad-

vocate had none of the early struggles of his predecessor in that office. He went to Glasgow University and left it with a great reputation. Having taken the M. A. degree, he added to it the LL.B. of Edinburgh, and thus equipped took his place in the Faculty of Advocates. Briefs are neither so plentiful nor so remunerative in Scotland as in England, but a full share fell to Mr. Ure, who quickly gained renown for the thoroughness of his work. In due time he took to practice as a senior council and developed his powers of advocacy, winning meanwhile the respect and esteem of both Bench and Bar. His close knowledge of law and the soundness of his practical training had brought him the post of Lecturer on Constitutional Law and History at Glasgow University. Before the budding lawyers whom he had to instruct he found ample occasion for the display of that power of memory which is one of his strongest weapons in controversy. Nothing that he has once learned escapes him; all is stored for future use.

Though he is Lord Advocate, Mr. Alexander Ure is more interesting as politician than as lawyer. It was in 1892 that he first contested West Perthshire as a forlorn hope in view of the popularity of the late Sir Donald Cuirre, then the Conservative member. A year later he was not far from victory in West Lothian, which returned him at the General Election in 1895, and having found a good man has shown no disposition to part with him since. Ten years of Opposition gives a Parliamentarian who is determined to get on, unusual opportunities of distinguishing himself. Mr. Ure was not a frequent talker. He confined himself mainly to Scottish questions, which he handled in a manner that betrayed the philosophical temper of his mind. On one topic, however, Mr. Ure was an enthusiast. He believed from the beginning in the taxation of land values, and he set out as a missionary of the cause. Perhaps no man has had so much to do as he in the conversion of Scotland to a belief in this reform. For years he has talked of land taxation on the platform, and has talked of it with a logical directness and personal conviction that have won converts throughout the country. Scotland today is overwhelmingly in favor of the principles for which Mr. Lloyd George is preparing the way. That fact deserves to be ascribed in large measure to Mr. Ure, whose eloquence has won many an audience to his way of thought.

Office came to Mr. Ure in 1905, when he was made Solicitor-General for Scotland. The post is not one that offers opportunities for distinction in the House of Commons. Intervention in debate is confined almost entirely to those rare occasions when Scottish affairs are under discussion. These were the occasions when Mr. Ure shone. The Scottish member is always suspicious of those who are directing the affairs of his country. He is a born critic. It says much for Mr. Ure's command of Scottish questions and for his persuasive eloquence that he satisfied the Scottish members, and made a deep impression upon the House by his sturdy Radicalism and the frankness with which he expressed his opinions in bold and unmistakable language. In 1909 when Mr. Thomas Shaw became a Lord of Appeal Mr. Ure succeeded him as Lord Advocate, a position which has given him more work and more occa-

tions for intervening in discussions. Even now, however, it is his speeches away from Westminster that attract most attention, with their clear-cut logic, their inspiring faith in Liberalism, and their outspoken support of the most bitterly attacked reform of the day. He presided most acceptably over the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Land Values Taxation (Scotland) Bill 1906. (See article on Parliamentary movement).

Since the Budget of 1909 was introduced with its land valuation clauses Mr. Ure has spoken a good deal on that subject, and with point and effect. In the campaign which has been inaugurated he may be expected to play a part of real vigor. He brings to his task far more than the enthusiasm of the party leader. He has studied the questions with which it deals, as they are studied by the constitutional reformer, and with philosophical temper. He has won his way to his conclusions step by step, and he treads his way through the maze of intricacies—in which land taxation is necessarily involved—with sure footsteps. Mr. Ure might claim, were he not a modest man, that he has done a vast deal of the spade-work of preparation, and he will show no faltering now that the way has been opened to achievement. He has taken off his coat and has pledged his word to keep it off and work for the cause. It should be added that Mr. Ure is not a Single Taxer. Though out for the taxation of land values, he believes in other kinds of taxes. He is, however, against taxes on buildings, machinery and other improvements on land.

Physically Mr. Ure is a big man with a large, pale face. His broad forehead is a sign of intellectual strength. His frame tells of physical power. Out of doors he has found entertainment in many directions—in yachting, motoring and as a cyclist. But it is as a walker that he is chiefly remembered, the distances which he has covered on foot being such as to debar any but the strongest from thinking of competition with him. All these forms of exercise, however, are being abandoned one by one with the pressure of affairs—a pressure that is driving Mr. Ure onward to even a higher place than that which he now holds.

LEADERS OF THE POLITICAL ECONOMY CLASSES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

WILLIAM CASSELS, GLASGOW.

William Cassels was born in Glasgow in 1869. He comes of a radical stock both from the paternal and maternal side. He received the usual school board national education up to his fourteenth year, then began to take steps to earn his living in various occupations until he went into the business of pattern-book making with his father and brothers.

At 14 under the influence of his father he began to take an interest in things political and social. The father held peculiar ideas, among others he had the idea that land should not be private property, but had then no recognition of any method for bringing about the desired result.