

unnecessary to speak. As a matter of fact it speaks for itself. Alike in lecturing, writing and organizing Mr. Verinder has proved his ability, and his never failing courage has brought him well through the most difficult periods of the movement.

CHARLES H. SMITHSON, President of the Yorkshire League—Mr. Charles H. Smithson was elected to the Halifax Town Council for a second term of three years on November 1st, 1912. He is president of the Yorkshire League, and the foremost man in the movement in that part of the "vineyard." He also is on the Executive of the National Liberal Federation, thus occupying the same position in English Liberalism as Ex Bailie Peter Burt does in the Liberalism of Scotland. Besides he is president of the Halifax Junior Liberals, and their guide and philosopher on Economic questions. For some time he conducted an Economic class at the Albion Street Adult School which was held on alternate Sunday afternoons. It takes a busy man to do things and Mr. Smithson is a busy man apart from politics. He is chairman of the firm of Joseph Smithson & Sons, Ltd., textile manufacturers, dyers and printers. In his earlier years he was associated with the present Deputy-Speaker of the House of Commons, Mr. J. H. Whitley, M.P., in trying to uplift the youth of the town of Halifax. They had an evening school of an educational and recreative nature. They also had a boys' summer camp, which is still in existence and Mr. Smithson still takes an interest in this work for he is fond of camping, caravanning and open air recreation. The Daylight Saving Bill which has been before Parliament would hardly provide enough daylight even in summer for all the work which Mr. Smithson is willing to undertake.

Born in 1866, Mr. Smithson is of "Quaker" stock. He was educated at the Friends' School at Ackworth and afterwards at Scarborough, where he matriculated at the London University. About twenty years ago he became associated with the Land Values movement, and was glad to discover that there were organizations in the country promoting the propaganda, for he was already interested in Progress and Poverty. He learned of the existence of the English League from Chapman Wright, who is now Secretary of the Midland League in Birmingham. In 1894 the *Single Tax* was published by the Scottish League in Glasgow and this paper, now called *Land Values*, was introduced to him by Fred Skirrow, and thus began a friendship between Mr. Smithson, who often visited Glasgow, and the Scottish League. When Crompton Ll. Davies was president of the English League attempts were made to promote or strengthen branches in the provinces. Mr. Smithson called a number of friends together to meet Mr. Davies at his house. This was the beginning of the Yorkshire Branch of the English League, now the Yorkshire League.

Mr. Smithson has been chairman continuously of this League which succeeded the Bradford Branch, and which has grown out of his work, together with that of L. H. Berens, Ignatius Singer, H. H. Spencer, William Thomson, Fred Skirrow and others.

Being in London frequently, Mr. Smithson is able to give a good deal of attention to the work of the United Committee. His Municipal work has given him an insight into the many injustices of our present Rating system, and he gave evidence before the Select Committee of the House of Commons which considered the question of the adjustment of local and Imperial taxation and recently issued its Report of evidence. The first time he entered the Town Council Mr. Smithson was allowed a walk-over, but the most popular man is not allowed a walk-over in these days, if he is in favor of the Taxation of Land Values, so he had to fight for his seat on the last occasion. That was good for the movement, and it meant good propoganda and in Municipal, as in Parliamentary contests of late, the Liberal who puts Land Values in the forefront of his programme has always done better than the Liberal who fought on other questions.

FRED SKIRROW—Fred Skirrow is General Secretary of the Yorkshire League, and is well known in the movement. He is associated with those who believe that the best work is got by a circulation of literature and especially the works of Henry George. There are those—especially Richard McGhee—who have taken care to see that such literature is put on the market, and then such men as Mr. Skirrow come in and do the rest. If he cannot sell a book or a pamphlet on the Taxation of Land Values, it is because the man is determined not to have it, at any price, or no price. Born at Bingley in the West Riding of Yorkshire in 1862, he went into the factory eight years afterwards as a half-timer. In 1882 he went to Michigan, and after a year or two passed over to Canada. Settling in the City of Hamilton he first heard of Henry George about the year 1883. The occasion was a demonstration addressed by Mr. George. Among those responsible for the organization of the meeting was the society called the Knights of Labor, of which body Mr. Skirrow was a member. Some time afterwards he got some of the work which Protectionists propose for us all—the work of looking for employment. This sickened him of factory life and all its attendant incidents and accidents, so he determined to become a farmer, and took up 100 acres of bush land on Manitoulin Island. Here he experienced the effect of bad land laws so aptly illustrated by Henry George as forcing a man having to swim a stream to get a drink of water. Obligated to travel over miles of virgin land in the hands of monopolists he had to seek a home where land is dear even if you get it for nothing.

Such experiences should wake to action any thoughtful man and it finished Skirrow's Single Tax education. With all its drawbacks he enjoyed the free life, but had to abandon it on account of the health of Mrs. Skirrow. Being 40 miles from a doctor is rather too much under such circumstances, and Mr. Skirrow resolved to return to Hamilton. There he, along with others, formed a Club to advocate the Taxation of Land Values. This was in 1886, and two years later he returned to his native town—Bingley. Afterwards he settled in the neighboring town of Keighley, and became Liberal