

he was the first man who publicly introduced the question into the county. He was booked to lecture in Bradford on the "Rights of Property," and his chairman in introducing him said, that it was interesting in these revolutionary times to hear that property had any rights. He evidently expected to hear something which Mr. Singer had no intention of saying. His position is that men and not things have rights, and that property owners have no more and no less rights than people who own no property. This is a simple proposition but the average politician requires a surgical operation to get it into his head.

FRED VERINDER—Mr. Verinder is a veteran in the movement, and yet carries his years so well that a first look or a short acquaintance would hardly convey the fact. Not only does he preserve his physical freshness, but his mental energy is something at which to marvel. If he could have been discouraged in his work, he was surrounded by all the elements capable of accomplishing this feat. Working for a generation in an office overlooking a thoroughfare filled continually with a passing throng of people in feverish pursuit of business, or a no less feverish pursuit of pleasure, his search for kindred spirits must have got fairly near to the proverbial needle in the haystack. But everything comes to him who works while he waits, and the probability is that Mr. Verinder's present trouble is to find time to attend to his friends and the work he wants to do at the same time. There is nothing musty in his knowledge, but on the contrary he keeps himself well up to date, and has always a word of advice in reserve should that be needed in connection with any new departure.

He was born in 1858, and educated at Parmiter's Foundation School, Bethnal Green. When he reached the age of fourteen he was apprenticed as a Pupil Teacher at the National School in the same neighborhood. There he obtained three National Scholarships to the Royal College of Science, South Kensington, and studied Biology, Botany and Physics under Professor Huxley, Dyer and Guthrie respectively. Being appointed one of the masters at the Tottenham Grammar School, he took up the study of classics, and became an undergraduate of the London University, but abandoned his intention of taking a degree in order to devote himself to social reform. He became associated with the Rev. Stewart D. Headlam, and together they founded the Guild of St. Matthew on June 29th, 1877. This was a society of Churchmen for the study of social questions and Mr. Verinder became Honorary Secretary. It was at a meeting of this society in the winter of 1881-2 that Mr. Verinder first heard of the publication of *Progress and Poverty*, and he soon was familiar with its contents. Two years later he assisted in the organization of the author's first campaign in Great Britain. On May 7th, 1884, he became General Secretary of the English League—then called the English Land Restoration League—a position he has held continuously for twenty-eight years. This gives him easily the first place among the men who are employed in the movement in Great Britain. Of his work during that time it is

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.