

**OBITUARY****ARTHUR W. MADSEN, B.Sc. (Edin.)**

We regret to report that Mr. A. W. Madsen, B.Sc., died on Sunday, 7th April, at Bostall Heath, Woolrich, Kent, the day after his 77th birthday. He was Secretary to the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, Ltd.; Editor, "Land & Liberty"; Hon. Secretary, International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, at the time.

Mr. Madsen died in harness, as those who knew him well believe he would have wished. His wife and niece were present, and he was surrounded by many of his friends and associates in the Henry George movement, to which he was dedicated and which he had served with such notable distinction for more than half a century.

He was attending a weekend conference on Housing organised by the Henry George School of Social Science, to which as Principal, he had looked forward with keen interest, delighted at the record enrolment of new students from whose company he derived always so much pleasure and satisfaction. His death occurred during the discussion on the address by the guest speaker who had just outlined the Labour Party's policy for the municipalisation of rented house property. A few minutes earlier he had contributed to the discussion a cogent, reasoned and persuasive case against that policy; fundamentally the housing problem was a poverty question, a by-product of land monopoly.

Born in Edinburgh of a Scottish mother and Danish father, A. W. Madsen attended The Royal High School, Edinburgh, and graduated B.Sc. at Edinburgh University, 1902. Educated also at the Marburg University, Germany, where he attended lectures in 1900. In 1902 he went to South Africa where he was with a large importing house (Dunn & Co.) until 1909. It was during this period that he met his life-long friend (now Councillor) E. J. Evans, from whom he learned of Henry George's teachings. Together and with other young men they created a public sentiment that culminated (after his return to Britain in 1909) in the introduction of land-value legislation.

On his return from South Africa, Mr. Madsen was for a while secretary to the Edinburgh League for the Taxation of Land Values. He came to London in the summer of 1909 to help to organise the great Hyde Park "Land for the People" Demonstration. The visit was to have been a temporary one but, at the invitation of John Paul, he joined the staff of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, succeeding him on his death in 1933 as Secretary to the United Committee and Editor of its journal "Land & Liberty."

Widely travelled and an accomplished linguist, author of a number of books and pamphlets and an able speaker much in demand, Mr. Madsen was internationally recognised as the foremost exponent and authority on the rating and taxation of land values and related subjects. He was one of the great men of this century, a statesman in every sense of the word, whom few could equal. Had he so chosen, he could have employed his considerable talents and his character for personal advancement and enrichment. Instead he preferred the more lonely path of the uncompromising social reformer, thereby earning the love, gratitude and respect of men and women in every walk of life, from the humblest to the most influential, in Britain and throughout the world.