Death of Will Atkinson

THE Henry George movement has suffered a severe loss in the death of Will Atkinson at Capon Springs, W. Va., on April 15 at the age of 74.

His distinguished services to the cause had given him a wide reputation. At his best he was an impressive and fluent speaker, a good story teller and a charming companion with a talent for repartee. He was heard with delight at a number of Henry George congresses.

He knew how to get publicity for his activities. Being in charge of the committee of arrangements at a dinner to be given to Joseph Fels in Seattle, he placarded the city with announcements that the subject matter of Mr. Fels' address would be "The Autobiography of a Thief." Joe was a little nonplussed at this announcement and was inclined to resent it but became reconciled to it before the speech was delivered.

Mr. Atkinson married the daughter of Henry George and a son was born to them and bears the name of Henry George Atkinson, prominent in Single Tax affairs and a member of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation.

Will Atkinson was a poet of no mean ability. His collected verses were assembled and published a few years ago under the title "For Freedom."

He was buried in the family plot at Camden, N. J. Reverend E. A. Harrar of the First Baptist Church, officiated at the services and read the following verses from the collected poems of Will Atkinson.

"God of our Fathers! Grant me faith and trust
Though all the world shall crumble into dust!
Help me to voice the prayer that God is just;
Give me the will to lift those crushed beneath life's wheel,
The strength to shelter those the storm would blast,
The joy of bringing in Thy Commonweal,
The endurance to help others to the last."

A SUCCESSFUL LIFE

Will Atkinson had the large scale mind which is so much needed in our propaganda. He thought always in millions and that attitude enabled him to get in touch with millions, both of people and of money.

He tried several promising business schemes and, probably due more to his sanguine disposition, some of them either failed or were captured by rivals, making for him some bitter enemies, as well as many warm friends like myself, but in our long and intimate acquaintance I never knew him to say anything that I did not feel sure that he believed.

He was the most effective wholesale propagandist I have ever known. Propaganda may be divided into two classes; the general in Will Atkinson's manner, and the individual. The general aims to reach a large number of persons, necessarily in an impersonal manner, whether the persons be indifferent or opposed to the doctrine or not. Will was successful in producing millions of copies of "Protection or Free Trade," of "Progress and Poverty," and of others of George's books. The individual deals with those whose ideas we know by personal contact or by their utterance.

Some persons have the talent for one and some for the other, and each should enlist the utmost energies of those who believe; but no one will excel Will Atkinson's zeal, energy and resourcefulness, devoted to the cause of his friend and leader, Henry George—BOLTON HALL.

Miscellany

NEW ZEALAND NEWS

Adjustments in the incidence of land taxation were sought by a deputation from the New Zealand Land Values League which waited upon the Government yesterday. The deputation advocated a flat tax on land without exemption or graduation, and asked that the system of rating on the unimproved value be made mandatory, that the legislation authorizing local bodies to apply trading profits to the general account be repealed and that statistics be furnished giving particulars of land value taxation in the Dominion. It was contended that a flat tax on land would produce sufficient to permit the wiping out of the sales tax, the gold export tax and the more obnoxious of the Customs duties. Sympathetic consideration of the representations was promised by Ministers, who remarked that the deputation had put forward a strong case.

The representations were heard by the Prime Minister, Hon. M. J. Savage, the Minister of Finance, Hon. W. Nash, the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. W. E. Parry, the Minister of Railways, Hon. D. G. Sullivan, and the Minister of Lands, Hon. F. Langstone. The deputation was introduced by Mr. R. McKeen, M.P. for Wellington South.

The chief speaker for the deputation was Mr. P. J. O'Regan, who said the league asked for the furnishing of proper statistics giving particulars of the incidence of land value taxation in the country, the number of owners, the classification of these owners, how many were the owners of rural property, and how many were owners of town property. Although there was on the Statute Book a Statistics Act providing for the compilation of statistical information, there appeared to be no obligation whatever to provide statistics as far as the land tax was concerned. It had been the settled policy of the powers-that-were to foster the impression that the land tax was a class tax on farmers. The deputation submitted that the very opposite was true; that the land tax was pre-eminently a levy on city and suburban property.—*The Dominion*, Wellington, New Zealand.

STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER TALK

We stand unreservedly for the doctrine indelibly associated with the name of Henry George, though he was not the first to enunciate it—that the land is by natural right the common property of the people—of all the people. The enunciation of that principle, however, is of little practical importance unless we show a means of realizing it, and assuredly there can be no more effective way of asserting and securing the common right to land than by the collection of the community value by the lawful and constitutional use of the taxing power. Accordingly, our aim is to collect the whole of the community value of land by taxation and to abolish all other taxes.

HON. P. J. O'REGAN in address before the government board as reported in the Wellington, New Zealand, *Evening Post*.