

couple of bye elections at Edinburgh the land question occupied a very prominent position. In the course of the contests it became the question of the hour, and Adam figured throughout as the leading spirit in the campaign. He was soon recognized as the man who understood all about the question of taxing land values. Shortly afterwards the Edinburgh League for the Taxation of Land Values was formed, with Mr. Adam as president. The League has since done splendid work for the movement in Edinburgh and district. A great part of their activities have been carried on inside the ranks of the Liberal party, where Mr. Adam and his colleagues are always cordially welcomed. In April, 1905, in conjunction with the Scottish League, whose headquarters are at Glasgow, a Public Conference on the Taxation of Land Values was held in Edinburgh. Mr. Adam was appointed chairman, but indeed it may be said with truth that the great success of the convention was due to his own organization. The day's proceedings finished with a public demonstration in the evening, held in one of the large halls of the town. Mr. Adam is a member of the Scottish Bar and is M. A. and LL.B. of Edinburgh University. He was appointed an Advocate Deputy in December, 1905, when Mr. Balfour's government gave place to that of Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman.

Mr. Adam has been busy all these years by his pen and on the platform on behalf of the taxation of land values, and is rightly regarded as an authority on the land question. But probably his most distinguished service to the movement was his *Precis of Evidence* submitted last year to the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Land Values Taxation (Scotland) Bill. It was truly an able production. As Wm. Lloyd Garrison said, it was an education to read it and a work to keep for reference. Mr. Adam takes a keen interest in the organization of the Leagues for the Taxation of Land Values, and is ever ready to help to promote their educational efforts. Besides acting as president of the Edinburgh League, he is a vice-president of the Scottish League and a member of the United Committee of the Leagues, just instituted to more effectively conduct the propaganda in England and Scotland. He has several

times during the past half a dozen year crossed the border into England, where on many platforms he has made it plain that the tax question is at the root of social evils.

RICHARD MCGHEE.

Of all the apostles whom Henry George left in Great Britain to proclaim his evangel among men none has a clearer title to honor and respect than Richard McGee. Born in 1851 on the estate of Lord Lurgan, County Armagh, Ireland, he seems all his life to have been an agitator, for it is told of him that while attending the model school in the town of Lurgan he headed a revolt against pedagogic authority because of some grievance that weighed upon the boyish spirits of himself and his school mates. The son of an evicted Ulster Protestant farmer, it may be assumed that the cruel significance of the land question early came home to him. Endowed with an Irishman's combativeness, and moved by the Celt's fiery resentment against injustice we find him in his early manhood fomenting rebellion against the tyranny of agent and landlord until Lurgan became too hot for him. He therefore made his way to Glasgow and obtained employment at Laidlaw's as an engineer. He became a staunch trade unionist, and in 1872 took an active part in the Nine Hours movement. In 1878 he led a strike at Laidlaw's against an attempt to increase the hours of employment and was successful. A year later however he changed his occupation and became a commercial traveller. His former employers again opened the dispute with regard to hours of labor, and this time succeeded in securing their will in the matter. The next important step in his career as a reformer was taken in 1879, when he joined Michael Davitt in the Land League agitation. It was in this year that Henry George published his great book "Progress and Poverty," giving mankind new hopes of civilization and the inspiration of a new vision. McGhee read the book and thenceforth became a disciple of the author. When George came to Great Britain they became intimate friends, and in 1884 McGee helped to organize George's Scottish campaigns and to form the Scottish Land Restoration League in Glasgow. Ever since that time he has been an indefatigable and self sacrificing

advocate of the Single Tax. He is an eloquent speaker and the keenest and readiest of debaters. Many a "heckler" has found him a dangerous opponent. He is never at a loss on the platform. He can illumine the mind of an earnest inquirer with a few words; root a subtle adversary with his own weapons; and speedily reduce the superficial objector to a wiser silence. He has been described as a merciless debater, and occasionally has left opponents smarting, but only those who can make no allowance for Celtic impulsiveness would cherish a grievance against him on that account.

An interesting incident of his career is the leading part he took in founding the National Union of Dock Laborers in 1889. He has spent many years in endeavoring to organize the Ulster agricultural laborers, but the Orange bogey has stood in the way. He has, however, achieved some success in organizing labor in his own country. When the Lurgan Town Commissioners established works to supply the town with water from Loch Neagh, navvies were engaged at wages of from 10s. to 12s. per week. "Dick" McGhee, as his friends call him, organized men, and secured for them an advance of 3s. per week. In 1896 he was elected member of Parliament for South Louth. His many friends expected him to make his mark on the floor of the House of Commons, but Parliamentary life did not prove to be according to his taste; and to the wonderment of those who had witnessed his success on the platform, he remained practically a silent member. Probably better work lies to his hand outside the political arena, but there are many good land reformers in Great Britain who would like to see him in Parliament to-day lending his influence to the advanced Radical Wing which is making all endeavors to expedite legislation in the direction of taxing land values. If he is not so occupied, however, he still travels up and down the country lecturing, and wherever an adherent of the Single Tax faith is to be found, "Dick" McGhee is sure of a welcome. It is curious, almost paradoxical, that, equipped in so high a degree as he is with the powers that make public speaking effective, he is no lover of the platform as a means of education. Writing recently to a friend who is well known in the north of

England of the part he has taken in the movement, he said: "My conviction is that it is only by books, pamphlets and a very extensive use of the press we can successfully do the work of propaganda. Nor do I believe much in leagues, societies and popular organizations to carry a cause to success. Educate, educate, and still educate, is my doctrine. A master on the platform like Henry George was able to spread the light in that way, but the rank and file can only do effective and enduring work by circulating thought in cold type." He has acted strenuously on this belief, as the following list of literature which he has put into circulation during the years from 1884 to 1900 proves: "Rights of Man," 20,000 copies; "Land and People," 175,000 copies; "The Crime of Poverty," 25,000 copies; "The Single Tax Faith," 25,000 copies; "Thy Kingdom Come," 10,000 copies; "Moses," 10,000 copies; "Mineral Royalties" (by himself); 250,000 copies; "The Case Plainly Stated" (by H. F. Rring), 25,000 copies; "Individualism and Socialism," 20,000 copies; and about 200,000 other pamphlets from the writings of Henry George. "Dick" McGhee has made many friends in the course of his strenuous career as a reform agitator. Once on a day his home at Glasgow was the resort of men like George, Davitt, Prince, Krapotkin, and Dr. F. R. Lees, advocate of teetotalism. He is a singularly modest, unassuming man, and has made many sacrifices to a cause dear to his heart. There is no known guage by which his influence on the movement in Great Britain can be indicated.

CHARLES HOLMES SMITHSON.

Mr. C. A. Smithson was born in 1866 in Halifax, Yorkshire, and has spent his life there. He was educated at Ackworth, a school belonging to the Society of Friends. As a young man his interest in social and political questions was early aroused, and his sympathy for those less happily situated than himself was rapidly carrying him into the Socialistic camp when, happily, a friend to whom he owes a debt of gratitude begged him to read "Progress and Poverty." He made a careful study of the book, and from that time forward has been an ardent Single Taxer. Coming of many generations of