

the country, and often wondered why it was that the man who did the hardest work secured for his use the least money. I saw that the farmers, who produced everything, retained very little of what they produced, while the middle man and speculator reaped a rich harvest. The Single Tax would remedy this, and be a greater benefit to the farmer than any other class of workers.

WHAT "EQUAL TAXATION" REALLY MEANS.

The late political campaign in New Jersey was fought over the question of equal taxation, in which conquest both parties faced each other in what for the most part was a sham battle. Railroad properties in the State are taxed much less proportionately than other properties, and this has been a sore point with the citizen whose civic or direct interest as a taxpayer outruns his apathy. No one believes in the sincere intention of either party to remedy this state of affairs, for the railroads of New Jersey themselves are the final arbiters of the law-making power of the State—for such they have proved themselves to be since the time Charles Sumner confronted with scathing arraignment one of their chief representatives in the United States Senate. The nominating powers of both parties, especially in Hudson County, long the chief sink of political debauchery in the State, are hopelessly corrupt. It is therefore refreshing to read in the *Observer*, of Hudson County, an interview nearly a column in length with Mr. James McIlvaine, of Hoboken, recently appointed chairman of the New Jersey Single Tax League for Hudson County, in which he says:

"Equal taxation is or may be a good thing because of its tendency to equalize the burden of taxpayers, but it does not really mean what its name implies, nor does, nor can anything other than Single Tax, as we Single Taxers advocate, mean equal taxation.

WHAT IT MEANS.

"By Single Tax we mean the taxing of land only at its real value, that is, its market value. If that were done you would not have so much land lying idle, reducing often the value of adjoining property and not infrequently a menace and an eyesore to the community. Take, for instance, that meadow swamp in which so many lives have been endangered and lost and which came near swallowing up a team of horses with a driver and a large truck a few nights ago. That is certainly a public menace. If I am not mistaken the law requires that such property should be filled in, but you see it has not been done.

"If land were taxed on its real value, as we propose that it should, that property, which is now a menace to life and a detri-

ment to property, would long since have been reclaimed and built up.

"Why does your property owner let his land remain idle? Because he is waiting for the value to increase. Who increases the value of land but the community at large, and is it not just then that they should reap the benefit of that increase?

"With land taxed at its real market value all other taxation would be unnecessary and could therefore be abolished. Your railroads would certainly then pay more than the nominal tax which they are now compelled to pay and they would not allow so much land to lie idle. It would not pay to let it lie idle. They would build it up or dispose of it to some one else who would build. The result would be work and wages and better living all around."

GEORGE L. RUSBY.

(See portrait).

George L. Rusby is one of the strong men of the movement whose devotion to the cause is for ever at a white heat. One cannot fail to watch the intense earnestness of his attitude, the strained attention with which he inclines his ear to the arguments for the rebuttal of which he is developing the forces of his keenly logical mind, without feeling that profound interest that comes in observing a man who is intellectually alive in every pore and fibre.

It was said of Thomas Brown, of Rugby, that he rose each morning with the conviction that every question was an unsettled one. Mr. Rusby's mental attitude is of a different sort, but it leads him to regard the questions that mankind have looked upon as impossible of settlement as by no means insoluble in view of the new revelation which Henry George has given to the world, and that all such questions call for a reexamination in the light of the new truth. This manner of regarding the great problems of the universe lends an inexpressible charm of freshness to his speech and conversation.

As a speaker Mr. Rusby is calm, logical and convincing, with an excellent platform presence. His accession to the forces of the Henry George Lecture Bureau, and the fact that the management of this most efficient Bureau under Mr. Frederick H. Munroe will be able to command the services of Mr. Rusby in the lecture fields, mainly in New Jersey where he is best known, is good news for that corporation and monopoly-ridden state. It ought to put new life in the movement in New Jersey where the agitation has been allowed to wane. We desire to call attention to the article from Mr. Rusby's pen on another page.

The Ethics of Democracy is one of the books of the New Church's Educational Association's Reading Course.