

Activities of The Manhattan Single Tax Club

THE following personal public appearances were recently made by President Ingersoll:

Montefiore Congregation, Macy and Hewitt Place, Bronx, N. Y. Appointment secured by Edward Polak, who has addressed this audience repeatedly, and has them fairly educated. Talked 40 minutes and had about equal time for quiz. Very intelligent questions and effective meeting. Appointment made for course of thirteen lectures and lessons in "Democratic Economics."

Beth Shalom Congregation, Washington Heights, N. Y. Audience of eighty. Intensely interested, especially in reference to Moses as the greatest early statesman and predecessor of Henry George. Three-quarter hour talk and half-hour quiz. Appointment through radio station WWRL. Sold fifty Moses pamphlets.

President Ingersoll has also made other short talks at:

The Alexander Forum, at the Waldorf-Astoria, mixed audience of 500. Invitation of Melinda Alexander, the director.

The Sunrise Club, Hotel Wellington, New York City. At two meetings, one of which was addressed by Whidden Graham on "Freedom of the Press."

Mr. Ingersoll was the guest speaker at the Sunrise Club on March 23. His subject was "Monopolism, Communism or Democracy?" This club will also shortly have a debate on this subject with Mr. Ingersoll representing Georgian democracy.

He was also the guest speaker at the banquet of the Officers Association of the Police Reserves, at the Hotel McAlpin on March 25, guest of Major John B. Morrow, Chairman, and Major Arthur M. Wortham, Vice-Chairman.

The following is Mr. Ingersoll's current radio schedule, and some of his typical broadcast items:

WOV, Wed., 10 a. m.; WHOM, Tues., 3:45 p. m.; WCNW, Mon., Tues., Wed., Thur., 2:30 p. m., Sat., 7 p. m.; WWRL, Wed., 1:15 p. m.; Sat., 11 p. m.; WLTH, Tues., 1:15 p. m.; WDAS, Fri., 1:00 p. m.; WILM, Fri., 3:15 p. m.

EXTRACTS FROM MR. INGERSOLL'S RADIO BROADCASTS:

"What Price Bureaucracy?" is illustrated wherever there is government: in our cities, our states, and at Washington: just now the mask is being torn off at Albany: the Assembly is budgeting a million dollars to pay for thirty-seven inquisitions, i. e., investigations of such things as unfair trade, origin of crime, municipal finance, un-American activity; these are very sober compared with some of the subjects; and then we might list up twenty-eight "commissions" that have already been financed, such as public utilities, which have cost us \$577,000, mortgages \$500,000; all these have cost us \$1,332,000 total: and results ???

A statement of this sort can be nothing but a breeder of pessimism and cynicism, and accounts for the authorship of such books as Albert Jay Nock's "Our Enemy, the State;" and furthermore, there is but one way out: and that way is known to relatively few people—those who understand the meaning of Jefferson democracy and its opposite, bureaucracy:—this maze of confusion and misgovernment would disappear with a survey of property and values that would draw a line

definitely between what individuals create and own, and the value that are collectively produced: the first group would contain all wealth and the other, all social values; these inquiries can practically all be traced to this confusion, with monopoly and racketeering as the underlying cause.

* * *

"Liberals" of the world are holding their breath, watching an experiment station in what they consider a great reform:—Alberta, which has swallowed the Townsend Plan, only modified fifty per cent as to amount, but not limited as to age, is now facing the reality of finding the cash to start this heroic pump priming freak experiment: they have to have \$160,000,000, and as they already owe their mother government \$80,000,000, the "money changers" all the way up to Fleet Street in London, are having a say about this Douglas style of social security: he—Major Douglas—is the originator of this idea of making money circulate fast; and Premier Aberhart was elected almost unanimously, because these Alberta voters liked so well this Townsend-Douglas idea of giving themselves each \$25 a month.

This is pure state socialism: and it is set opposite to pure Jeffersonian democracy, which was, in fact, made a part of the original plan:—Premier Aberhart originally stated that the fund for this "dividend" was to be gotten from a tax upon all social values—economic rent, natural resource royalties, and franchise earnings: this only, could justify, and at the same time make unnecessary, such a cash distribution; because such a tax would remove the poverty-cause of this extraordinary draft upon charity, by relieving labor and industry of its tax burden, and breaking down monopoly of the sources of their employment.

In these hair-trigger times, it is quite the thing to demand quick action and remedies that are showy:—the New Deal is a splendid example: Tugwell and Moley said "something must be done!" so everyone gathered round the President "and they done it!" all those things being "dead" now, and most of them buried, a new crop of one hundred per cent statesmen, captains of industry, editors and broadcasters will come together and launch another flock of nostrums.

The medium of publicity, including the air, hardly condescend to even honor serious, scientific and sensible proposals with a decent burial or a decent announcement of demise, such as Lowell Thomas accords to the Georgian philosophy; so perhaps we should feel honored when it does happen; and possibly the fact that Lowell gives us fifty-three and a quarter seconds of his valuable time is some evidence that we are not so dead, even if we are not so hot:—for the enlightenment of broadcasters, big and little, let me say that the destruction of monopoly is what Henry George demands, and by the expedient of removing all of the tax burden from industry, labor products, and consumption, and displacing those taxes with the income from social values—economic rents, franchises, etc.—now being monopolized by big racketeers.

* * *

The Hearst papers are doing yeoman service against communism: they insist that this includes Tugwellism, and they trace Tugwell back to Columbia University and say that all his preaching of class conflict—in a recent Los Angeles speech—is worse than that of the leader of communism, Browder, and that it is up to our leading university to explain; and that communism is not coming—it is here "We have communism in everything but the name!"

This full page editorial, with what will follow, and their continuing influence, would undoubtedly go to the bottom of this most tragic conflict—the teaching of communism in our 1,600 colleges and universities and thousands of high schools—but for that detail of Hearst editors' ignorance of economics: I wish we could say that need make no difference:—but it is the absence of economics in our educational system that creates the complex: and advocating tariffs and "buy-American" shows an illiteracy that will make their attack on communism superficial and futile, I fear.

* * *

"Monopoly" is illustrated, in the popular imagination, by enter-

prises like the Krueger match trust, based on two forms of monopolistic advantage, (a) exclusive government concessions, and (b) combination between different manufacturers and in different countries; the Krueger monopoly, like most of them, was so waterlogged with graft and corruption, that it fell apart of its own weight, as Insull's aggregation of franchise values did; probably the change of habit—and mechanics—from wood matches to paper, and giving them away instead of selling, entered into this: now, anyone can buy a machine for \$6,000, that will deliver so many thousand "cartons" of paper matches per day, all printed; this type of monopoly, however, is only a fleabite to the monopoly of natural resources and economic rents that should have first attention: industrial monopolies can be taken care of, thereafter, very easily.

FAY CAPPEL, Office Secretary.

The California Campaign

LET all who are strong enough for combat, who enjoy the "rapture of the fight," come to California and they will be satisfied to the fullest. And their conflict will not be of a physical nature but that of ideas. On the one hand we have ranged in ranks of battle the strongly entrenched Real Estate Boards, accustomed to rule the State, Chambers of Commerce seemingly incapable of any comprehensive view of public affairs, the great newspapers influenced it may be by the large landholdings of their owners and the patronage of real estate brokers, a large proportion of the farmers who fail to realize the difference between "land" and "land values," and office-holders who are faithful to the voice of their real masters, the influences which obtained for them the little positions they may chance to hold. (Of course there are a few notable exceptions among the latter.) And then the greatest of all obstacles—inertia.

Against all these elements we have to oppose the organized influences of Labor—an influence our friends have been too prone to overlook in the past, the favorable attitude of the Epic movement, the general disgust with the sales tax, and the feeling that something is radically wrong with our social system. Above all we have the conviction that we are right, and "thrice armed is he who hath his quarrel just."

Since I last wrote LAND AND FREEDOM the Governor has had a handpicked conference meeting at Sacramento, comprising about 100 men and women. *The Real Estate Magazine* boasts that approximately half the membership belonged to the Real Estate Boards. The prime if not the only real purpose of the conference was to devise, if possible, some way of defeating the amendment in which we are interested. Its two days of session emphasized the danger to its sympathizers of the adoption by the people of our amendment and the necessity of work to defeat it, but no plans were discovered of any importance to this end, or if they were they escaped public consideration. I spoke as an outsider for twenty minutes before the resolutions committee, but of course without visible effect, though with the manifest approval of a large

number of listeners off the committee. The conference of course resolved unanimously against us.

We have been the object of attack by what is known as the State Board of Equalization, which has charge for the State of the collection of taxes. To the action of the Board I have just made a comment, copy of which I enclose herewith. This Board never was created to advise the citizens of the State, and has no business to do so, particularly against the interest of the general public. But it has blundered on and must take its punishment.

It has long been a favorite contention of mine that nothing could be more educative than a public campaign upon a clear-cut matter of principle, not complicated by any partisan consideration. Certainly the present California fight can be cited to support such a theory. We are now about eight months before the election and from day to day the discussion grows in intensity. An illustration is the fact that for the month of February I was furnished with 400 clippings from the papers of northern California alone touching upon the question of taxation and nearly all of them about the amendment.

The burden of the fight on our side falls upon comparatively few men. In Los Angeles R. E. Chadwick and George W. Patterson are in charge and doing valiant and self-sacrificing work from the Philharmonic building and with Laurie Quinby, Haggerty Woodhead and others effectively speaking. In San Diego, E. M. Stangland is working usefully and tactfully. In San Francisco, Noah D. Alper is in charge at 83 McAllister Street. In Modesto, George Cartwright looks after matters and is furnishing a lot of important news to the press. Too much cannot be said of their devotion to the cause. But much ground has to be covered and the workers are all too few.

Will we succeed? In the broad meaning of the word, the campaign is already a success. More people in California today know more about our cause than might have been dreamed possible even three months ago. Real thought is going on. But you may mean by the imaginary question, will we succeed at the election? Who can tell eight months in advance when so much remains to be done? I believe we will, and from this belief have never wandered, despite almost literally "the gates of hell" against us. I could give you many straws, but will confine myself to one. Of fifty housewives in Los Angeles interviewed over the telephone a few days ago forty-eight declared themselves for us.

What work have we to do? In the course of the next six weeks we expect to get out a broadside which will go to not far from a million homes in the State and give our position and the arguments for it. This will be costly but essential, and there must be at least two repetitions before election. Then there is constant speechmaking before all manner of organizations, and our speakers as I have intimated are all too few. Besides