

the problems of unemployment without references to man's relation to the earth, the natural resources from which all sustenance must be drawn? How attempt to determine the causes of bad times without a knowledge of what is property and the consequences of the legal treatment of things we call property? How discuss monopoly without some conception of the natural laws of society, the apprehension that somewhere distribution is interfered with, that monopoly must originate in obstructions to freedom?

WE are more and more reconciled to the great disparity in wages between college professors and bricklayers. But let us be perfectly fair and add that, in view of the experience of our friends Walter Fairchild and Chas. LeBaron Goeller, there are shining exceptions among professors of economics. It is impossible to speak in terms of unqualified disrespect of a class of teachers that includes such men as Prof. John Dewey, Prof. Harry Gunnison Brown, Prof. F. W. Roman, and others who might be named, and to recall these names may well soften the asperities which are provoked by the attitude of so many of the professors of economics.

### A Professor's View

IF a man saves and improves his property, he must pay more taxes. If he is lazy and thriftless his taxes remain low. If, constructing a great factory, he increases the efficiency of hundreds of thousands of workmen and so adds to the sum of commodities which all may enjoy, he is punished by increased taxes.

But if, instead, he keeps a piece of land vacant and unused until the activities around him and the growth and development of the community have given it high value; if he then makes money out of what these others have done, requiring the person who would use the land to pay him a high price for advantages of situation for which not his activities but the activities of others are responsible: we keep his taxes low.

And this we do notwithstanding the fact that such holding of land out of use amounts to a public nuisance. For, because of it, gas pipes, electric light and telephone wires must be extended farther, street railway lines must run longer distances, retail store delivery service must cover larger area, and pedestrians must walk longer distances to and from their work; yet the holding of land out of use for speculative gains tends to make land dearer rather than cheaper, so that the individual householder may have somewhat less garden space than otherwise.

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## International Conference July 29 at Edinburgh

THE draft of the program for the Fourth International Conference to Promote Land Value Taxation and Free Trade to be held at Edinburgh, Scotland, in the week commencing July 29th has been completed by the committee of which Mr. Ashley Mitchell of Great Britain is chairman. The opening of the session will not begin until Monday afternoon, July 29th, when Bailie Peter Burt, Chairman of the Arrangements Committee, will formally welcome the Conference to Scotland. There will be, it is stated, a social gathering on the preceding Saturday evening, and an informal program on Sunday for the early arrivals. The formal address of President Charles O'Connor Hennessy of New York will follow the address of Chairman Burt, and this will be followed by short speeches from representatives of various countries represented.

The following days will be taken up chiefly by discussions relative to various formal addresses which have been prepared on such subjects as "Free Trade in Its Fullness;" "World Competition and World Markets;" "Foreign Exchanges and International Trade;" "Economic Rent—The Dividing Line Between Common and Private Property;" "Land Valuation—Methods and Results." This latter subject will be a symposium of papers from Denmark, the United States, Australia, Hungary, and other countries. Discussion on these papers will, incidentally, deal with the question of whether selling value or annual economic rent should be the basis of taxes. Other papers will cover aspects of the land question in various countries under such titles as "Public Lands in German Communities;" "The Expropriation and Subdivision of Great Estates in Eastern Europe;" "The Victory of Georgeism in Denmark;" "Typical Objections Met and Answered."

A review of the progress of land value taxation in the United States since the publication of "Progress and Poverty" fifty years ago is to be undertaken by John J. Murphy of New York. One of the most humanly interesting and significant papers will be prepared by Chester C. Platt, dealing with the land boom in Florida and its social and economic effects, with incidental references to the curious taxation system by which Florida represses the growth of business and industry.

One of the desirable features of the Conference that the Arrangements Committee has provided is the printing in advance of all formal papers, which will not be read through at the Conference, but will be summarized in brief talks by their authors. The widest latitude will then be allowed for inquiry and discussion.

The local committees have provided various entertainments and sightseeing trips for the visitors, and on the evening of Tuesday, July 31st, there will be a social gathering for the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Publication of "Progress and Poverty," at which a special