

Activities of the Manhattan Single Tax Club

THE Ingersoll broadcasts are progressing in "distribution" as well as economic quality besides some minor improvement as shown in the schedule below:

Mr. Ingersoll has been given a very favorable place for his weekly current events by one of the larger stations. WBIL, just taken over by WOV, is a 5,000 watt station. Mr. Ingersoll is giving closer study to simpler language for presenting economics to the ordinary public.

To do this, without weakening the force of the Georgeist position or laying himself open to the "step-by-step" charge, requires careful thought. Below are given a number of examples illustrating this particular object and upon which Mr. Ingersoll would be glad of comment from LAND AND FREEDOM readers.

Mr. Ingersoll believes that in the solution of the problem of presenting scientific economics *to the public*, lies the answer to our progress: this is the old problem of distribution—as distinguished from that of production. We have any amount of first-class economic material, but no one has concentrated definitely on putting it in form such as the public will absorb. One reason for this weakness may be that we have put too much reliance on converting the highbrow and so have not developed the best presentation even for him.

CHARLES H. INGERSOLL'S WEEKLY BROADCASTING SCHEDULE

Mon., WCNW, 2:30 P. M.; WWRL, 11:15 P. M.
Tues., WCNW, 5:30 P. M. ("Romance of Time"); WBIL, 6:45 P. M. Thurs., WLTH, 8:15 P. M. Fri., WDAS, 1:00 P. M.; WSNJ, 3:00 P. M.; WRAX, 4:45 P. M. (Phila.) Sat., WWRL, 11:00 P. M. Sun., WOV, Public Service Forum Hour; 6:30 P. M. to 7:00 P. M. (C. H. I., Chairman and Director.)

All kilocycles 1400 to 1500 except WOV, 1130—1000 watts; WBIL, 1100—5000 watts.

DORIS ANGEL, Office Secretary.

Radio Broadcasts

BY CHARLES H. INGERSOLL

PHILADELPHIA IS FOR THE MOMENT LEADING THE WORLD IN A VERY IMPORTANT MATTER. Her handling of the vacant lot question; it proposes to charge every lot 10 per cent on its income. If Philadelphia would only follow up this move of collecting "unearned increments," it would have no more financial troubles. These lots get their ability to earn income only from one source, the people of the city; and so—not 10 per cent, but all—of that income should go to support the people's government. And, obviously, the vacant lots are the least logical for this collection of social values. The lots having rich properties and profitable businesses on them, make up the bulk of the vast fund of economic rent, awaiting the Philadelphia statesmen, on whom the first light of economic wisdom will dawn.

AT LAST WE ARE TO HAVE A CENSUS OF THE IDLE. Congress promises it by April. And the number of unemployed will be substantially reduced by the expenditure of \$5,000,000 taking this fateful census. It seems as though there was considerable doubt whether we want this census or not—we have been so long deciding it. Some of us would really prefer not to be reminded of the exact number of millions of unemployed. There has been a big spread between the various estimates, from the White House to Republican headquarters. The fact is there should be no such thing as unemployed. The shoe should be on the other foot. Labor should always have two jobs looking for every worker. A strike—or any labor dispute, should be unknown.

PICKETS ARE ABOUT AS MUCH IN POSSESSION OF NEW YORK STREETS AND SIDEWALKS AS SIT-DOWNERS ARE IN PENNSYLVANIA, MICHIGAN, AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL STATES. I was brought up to believe that when a man paid rent for store, he had very definite property rights—that the public was his "property"—but apparently the people are right who say that law—even natural law—is subject to frequent revision. Everywhere we see the swirling, shouting, threatening mobs, politely called picketers, keeping customers away from stores that pay hundreds of dollars daily rent; and the police seem to be protecting them.

REV. HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK COMMANDS AN AUDIENCE OF 4,000 EVEN IN MID SUMMER AND DOES NOT FEAR TO TACKLE A TECHNOLOGICAL SUBJECT. He says our machine age has brought us confusion rather than freedom, as in theory it would. But his solution is disappointing.

Dr. Fosdick could help the solution of the complex he so effectively presents; and it could not well be spiritual; it must be economic. Machinery is always making an excess of products; modern tools—capital—put in the hands of man have so multiplied his productivity as to "overproduce," produce surpluses that amount to confusion.

The answer is not to stop production as unionist illiterates would, to socialize and redistribute it as collectivists would, or to regard it in dumb confusion as our leaders generally do. The answer is to notice the social services performed by the machine and socialize them, and them only.

Dr. Fosdick understands of course that in referring to the machine he means all that dynamic fabric of activity that, in the hands of 125 million "workers" produces everything those same people want. It is the coordinate arm of production, capital—the twin-brother of labor. But the Doctor may not understand that these two produce an intangible social dollar, for every tangible private dollar they divide among themselves.

That is the surplus energy of the machine which, permitted to go astray, makes this confusion the Doctor dramatizes. It makes the socialist think he should capture the machine, the communist think wealth should be divided, and the bureaucrat that laws should be piled higher.

But is it not much easier to see that the social lost dollar should be recovered and used to do two vital things? (a) displace the burden of 15 billions of taxation that now crushes the consumer, halves his buying, shuts down factories and makes millions of unemployed; (b) put this tax all on the monopoly that now takes this surplus dollar—taxing monopoly *out*, instead of industry.

THE problem of true property rights would be solved with justice to all people by collecting for public revenue the rental value of land, and removing all taxation from labor products. Land would then be held by the producers only, and not by the speculator.

JOHN T. GIDDINGS, in *Providence Journal*.