

houses, we were to shift these taxes on land values, we would not have to pay fifty thousand dollars an acre in the very worst slum districts of Cincinnati for slum clearance land. The more we tax the land, the less it will cost. Tax down the price of land. That's good for everybody but a private monopolist. Untax houses. That will make for slumless cities.

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At the meeting of the Woman's Single Tax Club, held on March 1, plans were announced for a complimentary dinner to be given in honor of our four Single Tax Congressmen, and April 11 is the date which has been tentatively set.

Representative Crosser of Ohio had been expected to speak, but in his absence, the club was addressed by Mr. Washington I. Cleveland, Manager of the D. C. Motor Club of the A. A. A. on the proposed plan to increase the tax on gasoline and also to divert the proceeds to other purposes than those for which it is supposed to be used. Mr. Cleveland said in part:

As a result of the report of the Jacobs Committee on the subject of Fiscal Relations between the United States and the District of Columbia, dated January, 1937, the citizens of the District of Columbia are confronted with the prospect of an increase in taxation totaling a sum of more than \$10,000,000. The District of Columbia Motor Club of American Automobile Association has joined with the many civic organizations and business establishments in Washington in opposing the proposed increase in taxation.

This Organization is virtually unanimous in its opinion that Congress should pay its fair share of the expenses of the District of Columbia. If this were done, the threatened increase in taxation would not be needed.

One of the proposed taxes is to increase the Gas Tax. The present gas tax in the District of Columbia is 2 cents per gallon, and produces approximately \$2,600,000 annually. There is an unexpended balance in the District of Columbia gasoline tax fund of \$600,000, making a total available for street and highway financing of \$3,200,000. Against this there is a budget item for streets and highways of \$2,900,000. From an examination of these figures, it is apparent that an increase in the gasoline tax, producing \$1,300,000 for a 1 cent increase, and \$2,600,000 for a 2 cent increase, would not be needed to meet the budget requirements for streets and highways, but would be diverted to other purposes. If the increase in the gasoline tax fund were used for the purpose of carrying out the recommendations of Captain Whitehurst for street widening and highway construction, the opposition to the increase would lose much of its force.

The prospect, however, of diverting gasoline tax funds to purposes other than highway maintenance and construction is a matter of the utmost concern to each motorist, because nothing is more unjust or more economically unsound than to tax the motorist for schools and general Governmental expenses, on the basis of the amount of gasoline consumed.

Already more than 17,000 ballots protesting against the increase in the gasoline tax and the diversion which would follow, have been received, showing conclusively that the citizens of the District of Columbia are opposed unalterably to the proposed increase in taxation.

—GERTRUDE E. MACKENZIE.

Activities of The Manhattan Single Tax Club

MR. CHAS. H. INGERSOLL has had some very interesting personal meetings since the first of the year which have inspired him to renew his lecturing experience of 1932 as reported in your last number.

THE LUMBER SALESMEN'S ASSOC. OF NEW YORK: January 21. At the Republican Club on West 40th St. dinner, fifty present with Mr. Ingersoll as guest of honor. Appointment procured by Mr. Hiram Newman.

Mr. Ingersoll's talk especially analysed the subject of natural resources and brought questions from practically everyone of the audience; an unusually complete and satisfying discussion; reported in the N. Y. *Lumber Trade Journal*. Mr. Ingersoll was accorded a hearty round applause for his interesting address.

THE YOUNG MEN'S HEBREW ASSOC. of Paterson, N. J.: January 26. This is one of a series of annual invitations filled for many years by James R. Brown and Mr. Ingersoll. This audience is somewhat "trained" and usually interested in our topic. The talk was especially directed to current industrial and political conditions and an hour's question period thoroughly exploited our remedy. 200 present.

VETERAN DRUGGIST ASSO. OF NEW YORK. February 23, 60 present, with Mr. Ingersoll as guest of honor at a dinner at Hotel Bretton Hall. Very old and conservative association, the president of which is one of Mr. Ingersoll's radio audience. Mr. Ingersoll's long experience in merchandizing gave him unusual interest and appreciation. Questions lasted until nearly midnight. The intense interest shown by nearly all these audiences stresses the need for organization of lecturing on economics.

THE PUBLICATION OF *Democracy*. A news stand edition of *Democracy* has been issued which gives eight solid pages, tabloid size, principally of the Ingersoll radio broadcasts. These the editor has arranged in such a variety as to make them entertaining and attractive, as well as educational in economics. In addition to this edition, the editor is producing weekly the *Economic Proofsheets* designed particularly to serve friendly newspapers and periodicals and stimulate the use of an Ingersoll column "Tick-Talks by Ingersoll" is suggested for his column caption; the material, as usual, is from his broadcasts.

MR. INGERSOLL'S BROADCASTING SCHEDULE

Mon. 8:45 A. M., WOV; 2:30 P. M., WCNW; Tues. 2:30 P. M., WCNW; Wed., 8:45 A. M., WOV; 1:15 P. M., WWRL; 2:30 P. M., WCNW. Thurs., 9:00 A. M., WLTH; 2:30 P. M., WCNW. Fri., 1:00 P. M., WDAS (Phila.); 3:15 P. M., WILM (Del.). Sat., 1 P. M., WWRL.

EXAMPLES OF THE INGERSOLL CURRENT BROADCASTS

"THERE IS A NEW ERA!" "WE MUST HAVE A DICTATOR. LET'S GET IT OVER WITH!" These are the kind of expressions going around;

and they make us think very seriously about a real remedy. There can be no settlement with labor that does not check back to science and nature. Labor produces everything and its assistant, capital, should be the only one to question the division of what is produced. They must get together and make simple changes in our economic system that will remove the present burden of taxes from business and the consumer—who are also capital and labor—and do this by using something like \$15,000,000,000 of monopoly or social values that are now being taken by basic monopolies. This is the necessary approach to the labor problem.

GENEVA IS HOLDING A BUSINESS MEETING OF RARE IMPORTANCE. Fifteen nations are meeting to talk over raw materials. This is the conference I have been watching for since 1935 when Sir Samuel Hoare, the British foreign secretary, launched this question for consideration. The idea is to take every important item such as coal, petroleum, iron, copper, lead, zinc, etc., and find out where the deposits are and see what may be done to remove them from the danger zone as the cause of war. Of course there can be a lot of talk before this gets very far. But I was afraid it never would come up again. This and the tariff question are the only things worth talking about as a road to peace and away from war; and it now appears that Geneva may do some effective talking on the subject.

THE COAL BOOTLEGGERS ARE INNOCENTLY SHOWING HUMANITY THE WAY OUT OF ITS MUDDLE. They are showing just exactly how, under the "natural law of wages" labor would protect itself from the present condition that has created anarchy and threatens communism and chaos. Industrialists see plainly that the prevailing method of dealing with labor is no method at all. They are asking to be shown the method; and these "bootleggers" are giving them the answer. "What shall wages be?" is the universal question, essentially an economic question, to be settled—not by parley, bluff, and force—but by the normal operation of natural law. Wages will be what labor can earn; by the alternative to working for wages, working for itself. Originally jobs were unknown; they are a growth; nature's way was Crusoe's way; he had no boss; and nature's law governs now as always (if it can escape interference).

The job masters of the coal industry failed; left 100,000 miners jobless and 400,000 half jobless; 25,000 have followed nature's law and are starting to regulate wages in the coal industry, by determining how much labor can earn working for itself. The handicap of labor working without capital is very great; and these boys say, over and over, that they wish the operators would start; but they are not afraid of starvation, and they do set up the only minimum wage law that is natural and practical.

WHAT IS FASCISM? VERY FEW KNOW. It is essentially Marxism or collectiveism, because it makes the State supreme under a dictatorship. Having no division between monopoly and capital, business and industry, Fascism is simply intensifying our false democracy that the socialists have dubbed capitalism. Why are so many people, especially collectivists, so mixed, in denouncing capital, and failing to see monopoly? Because our substantial interests have permitted themselves to be identified with monopoly—so entangled that our capital, business and industry do not themselves realize their entanglement. So Fascism is only a new name for a capitalism, glorified by the same process as communism employs in its proletarian dictatorship. Fascism is the same radical move away from democracy and liberty as communism; the same move to State Dictatorship. And the relationship of monopoly to business in our capitalism, in Fascism, and in Communism, is practically the same. Fascism is nothing but a "capitalistic communism."

THE NATURAL LAW OF WAGES IS THE VITAL THING TO FIND AND ENFORCE. This is the only way to settle "the labor problem" and so end our civil war called strikes and sitting-down; and if the constitution and court did nothing but find and enforce this law, it would

have little else to do, because all our problems—of every human kind—center on the wage and job problems.

Henry George is our greatest authority in Economics. He asserts that while the labor problem—as every human problem—centers in the earth, the land, as the source of materials necessary to all subsistence, the universal problem is that of wages that governs the payment of labor. This may be called the administrative phase of a natural principle or law, and a constitution and court could have little else as a function than to preserve balance in this administration—keeping our lawmills from trying to improve on natural law—because this would eliminate other problems. The law of wages is to give labor all it produces, and that can only be done by keeping taxes off labor's back, and giving labor access to the raw materials of the earth so it could regulate its wage exactly and without controversy with capital.

THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LABOR PROBLEM. If we follow closely this relationship it will lead us to the whole solution—of the constitutional and labor questions—which certainly will be a big step outward from our whole muddle.

Labor civil war, labor exploitation, and low wages behind them are due mostly to foolish laws intended to help, a grand example is the Wagner Act; another is the Guffey bill—new and old. Therefore if we can stop these laws and stop their authors breeding them, we can concentrate on our first problem—that of labor, jobs and wages, and let the natural solution do its work.

This situation reveals the purpose of the Constitution and Court; they were designed to stop—or prevent—the monkeying with nature of statute lawmakers.—DORIS ANGEL, Office Secretary.

It Happened in Northport

NORTHPORT is a town on Long Island, about thirty-five miles from New York. It has a population of 2,530. Probably half of the residents are commuters—people who work in New York and sleep in Northport. The other half consists of townspeople.

Heman Chase is a graduate of the Henry George School of Social Science. He took the "Progress and Poverty" course, also the course in "Protection or Free Trade" and the Teachers Training Course. He's a teacher in a progressive school in Port Washington, which is another small town on Long Island.

After having trained himself Heman decided that it was time that he did what every graduate of the School should do—teach others. He was impelled to teach not only because of his loyalty to the School and to its ideals, but because he felt as a citizen of this country he was in duty bound to help spread the doctrine of economic freedom, with the hope that the leaven of truth could be broadcast in sufficient time to avoid or at least mitigate the cataclysm which the prevailing seething unrest portends.

So Heman started a class, first in Port Washington. Not satisfied that he was doing enough by conducting only one class, he spoke to John Lawrence Monroe, the Field Director, about it. Where was another center in which he could start a class? Northport seemed a likely place. It was only twenty miles from Port Washington, an easy drive. Furthermore Heman had spoken in Northport a year or so ago, before the Rotary Club, and knew