

my suggestion, I took the matter of meetings and broadcasts in the conference-city, assuming that it is possible to arrange many of these if suitable attention is given both in the city and through the mails to all Georgeists in the country.

The value of the Congress could be multiplied by developing technique of arranging meetings and securing speakers in advance. Another example is an organization of business as so ably presented by Mr. Averill, Editor of the *Birmingham Eccentric*, in the closing session. If this could be made a continuing programme, I think we might hope to accomplish this most important of all objects—as Averill put it, “demand a million dollars from business men to be used in their own and others’ conversion.”

Excerpts from the Ingersoll Broadcasts:

THE PRESIDENT’S PLANNING A “BUILDING BOOM” TO STIMULATE FLAGGING INDUSTRY, is the most unsound thing he could think of, if it is planned along usual housing, slum clearance, resettlement lines such as all such plans have so far been. The reason for its unsoundness is primarily that from a quarter to a half of its investment will go into land values, which is, economically, like burying the investment in the ground. Nothing can modify this waste and nothing can prevent this waste sabotaging any boom or plan upon which it is loaded. There is one way and one way only, by which a building boom could be created and one that would not only stimulate flagging industry, but restore it permanently; that way is so simple and obvious that there can be no doubt or dispute about it. It is to remove two embargoes that have all but stopped building, and have deprived the masses of their homes, created slums, etc. Those embargoes are: (1) The taxing of everything going into buildings—the production of all building materials, which probably makes them cost double. (2) Is the failure to tax monopoly and speculation in building sites—which has (a) caused taxes on materials; and more important, taxes that fall on the upkeep of homes—on all the necessities of living; (3) created high land values and ground rents, that have closed opportunities for profitable building, employment of labor, and supply of cheap houses.

RAMSAY MACDONALD HAS CLOSED HIS COLORFUL CAREER. He started it very auspiciously—on the right track—killing off England’s worse curse, which is landlordism. He worked shoulder to shoulder with Lloyd George, Phillip Snowden, and many other big statesmen of England who had the idea that “the people of England should not be prepassers on their own soil,” farther advanced than it has been in any other country of the world. But Macdonald, like so many other reformers, got off on the more alluring communistic trail, became a “Laborite,” and then was ground between conservatives, Tories, and liberals.

HERE IS EXTRAORDINARY NEWS. Up in Quebec, the Premier has sent his police to close up a communist paper, *The Light*. In our country—and I’m sure in most other countries—the communists are closing up the papers they do not like. Examples are the *Newark Ledger*, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, *Toledo Blade*, and the *Brooklyn Eagle*. President Heywood Broun, of the writers Guild Union of course will deny that he is a communist, or that that Guild is; and I admit it so far as names and labels go. But before long we have got to find a way of testing communism by what people do, say, and think.

THE NEW JERSEY LABOR PARTY IS IN THE PROCESS OF BUILDING, out of A. F. L., C. I. O. and non-partisan League material. The

move is inspired by the defeat of the Progressive Rev. Clee by the republican and democratic machines. There is no doubt about the need for a third party there, as elsewhere in the country; but this material will not produce the right kind of a party. The Republican party is guilty of monopolism. The Democratic party is guilty of not challenging monopolism; but none of the third party advocates have got any concept of monopolism. They all are chasing big business and the rich man.

MAYOR LAGUARDIA IS LOSING NO TIME IN MOVING UPON THE FAMOUS TAMMANY INSTITUTION.—The Transit Board. Their last popular act was to give Jimmy Walker a \$12,000 job with a \$12,000 pension tied to it. Before that, they killed a half billion dollar deal of buying subways, etc. Whatever virtues and merits the Board can claim for itself, it may as well throw up its hands, unless Tammany is prepared to do a little job of house cleaning. Tammany needs to have the word Jefferson rubbed into it; and not merely the word but the spirit and principles of Jefferson, must be agreed to as being no monopoly, and no bureaucracy. On this foundation, Tammany could build back—and perhaps quite rapidly.

A CUSTOM HOUSE oath is a by-word; our assessors regularly swear to assess all property at its full, true, cash value, and habitually do nothing of the kind; men who pride themselves on their personal and commercial honor bribe officials and made false returns; and the demoralizing spectacle is constantly presented of the same court trying a murderer one day and a vendor of unstamped matches the next!

PROGRESS AND POVERTY.

Opposed to Buying Out Landowners

THE point that interests me is why certain individuals in this country are in the happy position of holding between 30,000 and 40,000 acres of undeveloped land. Apparently they themselves do not want to use it. They are practising a dog-in-the-manger attitude, and will not permit it to be utilized by any other individual. Why should the Government use the taxpayers’ money to buy back what already belongs to the people? We were assured by the Commissioner of Crown Lands that up to date about 70,000 acres had been repurchased. I am totally opposed to the repurchase of land in any shape or form. There is no justification for it, because usually when the Government is in the market to repurchase the price of the land is lifted against it. Not only that the Government has to buy a big tract of country at an average price. Quite a lot of it may not be suitable for cultivation, and the result is that when people are placed on the better portion the price of the land has to be loaded to compensate for the inferior section, with the result that many settlers are not able to make a success of their holdings. The logical way of dealing with the question is not to buy out landowners at the expense of the general taxpayer, but to call upon all those owners who are in possession of land which they do not use to pay the full annual rental value into the public Treasury. When