

Edward Polak Dies

EDWARD POLAK, a former president of the Manhattan Single Tax Club and a director of the Schalkenbach Foundation, died September 9. Funeral services were held on Sunday, September 12, and at the conclusion of the religious service, Lawson Purdy read the last chapter from "Progress and Poverty."

Surviving are his widow and five daughters.

When Bronx County was created, the office of Register was provided for. Mr. Polak was elected to that office, holding it for twelve years. Being the latest of the Register's Office in the greater city, Mr. Polak introduced a system that greatly simplified the recording of deeds, and their examination.

Although Mr. Polak held political office, he never failed to make every effort to advance the principle of the taxation of land values.

He thought he saw the entering wedge through exempting improvements to the amount of \$3,000.00 from taxation.

He persuaded the editor of the *Evening Telegram* twenty-five years ago of the value of his views. The editor set aside one page a day for three months for the use of Mr. Polak and his friends who would fill the page with reasons why limited tax exemption on buildings should be approved.

He was a prolific writer on taxation and did much work in getting assignments for Single Tax speakers before various political and social organizations as well as churches.

Mr. Polak lived in the Bronx for the past fifty years, where he conducted a real estate office.* He was born in New York City in 1862.

He took an active part in the 1897 George Campaign.

Activities of the Manhattan Single Tax Club

THE most important development in President Ingersoll's broadcasting recently has been in the promotion of the WOV Public Service Forum Hour from station WOV with 1000 watts power to station WBIL, 5000 watts, which reaches out to Boston, Albany, Washington, and farther points. The hour has also been greatly improved in being advanced from 6:30 o'clock Sunday p. m. to 4 o'clock.

Recent forums have been:

Aug. 1: A. L. Wirin, Counsel, Civil Liberties Union. Aug. 8: Alfred M. Bingham, Editor of "Common Sense." Aug. 15: Arthur L. Marvin, Assistant Corporation Counsel. Aug. 22: Walter Weis, Organizer, City Fusion Party. Aug. 29: Francis X. Giaccone, Deputy Fire Commissioner. Sept. 5: Senator Royal S. Copeland. Sept. 12: Dr. Harry W. Laidler, League Industrial Democracy. Sept. 19: Mendel N. Fisher, United Palestine Appeal.

While these speakers and their subjects do not always lend themselves to discussion of economics, Mr. Ingersoll's questions usually

secure this result. His introductions are even more effective in this respect.

The following are typical of his questions:

(1) The great opportunity of Palestine is to demonstrate what the whole world is breathless to see, that its landlords are its only exploiters and that they are so few as to make only an imaginary opposition.

(2) You have taken 400,000 wealth producers to Palestine; if they are worth as much "per head" to your land owners as are our 7,000,000 to our Astors, Goetts, and Trinity Church, you have presented them with 800 millions dollars worth of land values. Are you getting credit for that against your further purchases of land?

(3) Speaking of Birobidjan, where a large territory, probably the equal of Palestine, without any Arab or English landlordism as a handicap, will be deeded to the Jews, have you considered the *economic* handicap to you, of this allurements of Soviet Russia?

(4) Do you not think that this "gesture" of Russia should be so presented to England as to compel her to force her Arab (and other) landlords to let go in Palestine?

Mr. Ingersoll's current weekly schedule follows:

Mon., 2:30 p. m., WCNW; 11:15 p. m., WWRL; Wed., 3:45 p. m., WCNW; 6:00 p. m., WBIL; Thurs., 8:15 a. m., WLTH; Fri., 1:00 p. m., WDAS (Phila.); 3:00 p. m., WSNJ; Sat., 11:00 p. m., WWRL; Sun., 4:00 p. m., WBIL Public Service Forum Hour.

Radio Broadcasts

BY CHARLES H. INGERSOLL

OUT OF THE FLOTSAM AND JETSAM OF LEGION CONVENTIONS AND PATRIOTIC TALKS, including plenty of platitudes with long whiskers, comes this statesmanlike paragraph from the head of all the legions, Mr. Colmery. He is responding to the demand that the legions stop wars. "Why cannot an intelligent and accurate survey be made of the natural resources need of all nations, and a programme of solution be evolved?" These few words are worth more than all the speeches reported, and they match up with what has been demanded by several leading authorities on world affairs, and especially what caused war.

WHY DO I SAY THE SUPREME COURT'S ONLY JOB IS TO DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION, and that its only job is to defend private and public property rights?

Because, while private and public "property" is about equal in value around 200 billion dollars each in the country—the public half not having had any protection from Court or Constitution, is absorbed by racketeers; not being used for social or public purposes, government, is supported by 15 billions of taxes squeezed from the masses, the workers.

This cuts their wages in half, slows down the factories and makes millions of unemployed compete against each other for starvation wages, makes labor civil war, and "poverty amid plenty"—all because it was no one's business to protect public property rights. Exactly as our courts generally are kept so busy with the petty criminals that the big ones get very little attention.

The size of this job of keeping speculators and monopolists from taking any of the publicly created values in lands, in natural resources, and franchises, is enough for any court; and restoring this lost half of the earnings of both labor and capital will make easy the settlement of many confusions that now leave all courts with no time for fundamental questions.

UNCLE SAM IS NOW AFTER THE COAL MEN OF PENNSYLVANIA, demanding that they forthwith agree among themselves on minimum prices, according to the formula of the famous Guffey Act. This is the one that provides for higher wages and other costs of production

and for the ultimate consumer to cheerfully pay all the increases. This process has been in vogue from time immemorial; but it remained for the Guffey new deal type of statesmanship, to write it into the law of the land. Meantime, of course, the collectors of big royalties on the rich coal lands, and other minerals, keep on collecting.

Protection or Free Trade Manualized

THE School announces the publication of a manual for "Protection or Free Trade." The demand for additional courses by graduates of the course in Fundamental Economics has been met by a six lesson course in the principles of international trade, based on the classic on this subject by Henry George. Heretofore this course has been given by various instructors without the aid of formal questions. Each instructor depended on his own notes. These notes formed the basis of a series of questions and answers, which are incorporated in the new manual.

The course in "Protection or Free Trade" is offered only to those who have studied "Progress and Poverty," and is intended primarily for prospective teachers. In his book on international trade George gives a demonstration of how an economy based upon interference with natural law must result in an incongruous and anti-social situation. Thus the study of fundamental economics in "Progress and Poverty" is reinforced by a study of their application to a false fiscal policy. The last chapters of "Protection or Free Trade" are particularly effective as a review of the students' knowledge of the philosophy of a free economy.

The "Protection or Free Trade" Manual is offered at thirty-five cents.

PRICE OF TEACHERS MANUAL REDUCED

The first printing of the third edition of the Teachers Manual is nearly exhausted. A new printing will be ordered this month. Since the cost of composition will be eliminated, it is possible for the school to reduce its price of the Manual from one dollar to thirty-five cents.

This new price goes in effect on October 15. In ordering the Manual please stipulate that you want the Manual on "Fundamental Economics" to differentiate from the new Manual on "Protection or Free Trade," which is offered at the same price.

WHAT is by nature the common birthright of all, we have made the exclusive property of individuals; what is by natural law the common fund, from which common wants should be met, we give to a few that they may lord it over their fellows. And so some are gorged while some go hungry, and more is wasted than would suffice to keep all in luxury.

THE LAND QUESTION, BY HENRY GEORGE.

Landlordism

BY JOSEPH S. THOMPSON

IF your house were on fire and your piano needed tuning, to which would you telephone first: The Fire Department or the piano tuner?

If a sane, intelligent ism-less means for ending our economic distress were at hand and a host of futile panaceas were also before you, which would you choose: Ending your evils or poulticing your wounds?

If you were laboring, struggling, striving and failing under an ism that was certain to keep you in misery, why would you care if you were threatened with Communism or Fascism or Bolshevism in exchange for your present ism?

Well, your house is on fire and the remedy is at hand and you are struggling against as miserable an ism as any that you fear, so why don't you wake up Mr. Business Man and Mr. Professional Man and Mr. Farmer and Mr. Working Man and Mr. Artist and Mr. Artisan and Mr. Merchant and Mr. Inventor and all you Misterys who have ideas and products and services to sell or provide, and who do good work and who ought to be well rewarded for it!

For the ism you labor under is *Landlordism*' And *Landlordism is respectable racketeering*.

And the remedy, so simple, so long before us, so thoroughly explained and so clearly described (with the burdens and woes due to ignoring it, so marvelously prophesied) is simply this:

Meet publicly created needs by publicly collecting publicly created wealth. Leave privately created wealth in the hands of those creating it.

And what is publicly created wealth? And what is privately created wealth?

Publicly created wealth is the value of the land; privately created wealth is money earned. Only the presence of the people can give value to land. The value appears in rent that rises in proportion to the numbers of the people. *Put that rent in the public treasury.* Stop taxing homes. Stop taxing industry. Stop taxing the fruits of labor and of genius. Stop taxing anything unless you want to destroy it. A tax is a fine. Get your public revenue from the value you publicly create.

We own our United States. We Americans. We surely own our own country. You don't own it. I don't own it. But WE do. And we prove it by taking a part of the land rent that we create in the form of a tax. And if the holder doesn't pay the little portion we now take he forfeits the land. *But we let landlords who give nothing take the most of it* and then we burden ourselves in our capacity as industrialists and workers and capitalists, and in all other forms of serving our fellows by taxing ourselves to make up the money they get for letting us live in our own United States.