

hesitate to take a chance by bidding for the court house square.

It is proposed by the Committee to get paraders with banners reading:

"The annual rental value of the Court House Square was created by all the people of Denver and it rightfully belongs to all. Therefore the voters should see that this rental value goes into the public purse and not into private pockets."

It is believed that banners so inscribed will hasten the getting of signatures to the petition and arouse the citizens to the real situation.

Chicago Activities

THE first dinner of the season of the Chicago Single Tax Club was significant for three reasons: first, the speech of John Z. White showed that twenty-five years of continuous propaganda has only inspired him to greater heights; second, the speech of Professor Paul H. Douglas was a word from the enlightened currents of thought in American universities; and third, the talk of Theodore Saunders demonstrated that a new generation has caught the spirit of Henry George.

John Z. White said that our government is an aristocracy with some democratic modifications, with property rights protected and human rights denied and neglected. The real question is not, as Malthus contended, that there are too many people, for Ireland had the same trouble with 4,000,000 people as it had with 8,000,000. Mr. White referred to one of H. G. Wells's satirical novels in which in a time of business depression the laboring people were put to sleep until "times grew better."

"Democracy to be a success," said Mr. White, "must be simple." But he pointed out, the Supreme Court has been complicating the simplicity of our government. "We do not live under the Constitution of the United States but under the decisions of the Supreme Court." The Dartmouth College Case decision used the power of the whole people to give the power of taxation to a privileged few, and a government is not sovereign if it can not levy taxes and levy war. One way to regulate land is to tax it. A way to regulate public utility magnates like Samuel Insull is not to permit them to put in their price any public value.

Mr. White condemned the Democratic Party for not having said "a word of democracy in fifty years." Like the Church, the Democratic Party has neglected its duty. Since they gave up to slavery they have given up every democratic principle that Jefferson gave them, Mr. White contended. It should be the purpose of the Democratic Party to be constantly holding up before the people democratic ideals. The Church should not build great places of worship while a single person dies of hunger. "The

ground is ours," he asserted. "It must be administered with equity and justice."

PROFESSOR PAUL H. DOUGLAS

Professor Paul H. Douglas, of the Department of Economics in the University of Chicago, told of the importance of proportional representation to all liberal, minority groups such as the Single Taxers. He said he was in complete harmony with the great principle of collecting the community created value of the land but that he didn't believe in the *Single Tax*. He also favors such taxes as the Inheritance Tax. He said that the struggle for public ownership will be comparable to the struggles for abolition and prohibition.

In bringing out the vital necessity for proportional representation, Prof. Douglas said, "Creative forces are trying to break into existence. When young they are weak. Our whole political system makes it difficult for new ideas to come in. It keeps down real issues."

Under the present electoral system when the majority wins, 49% may have no representation at all. Al Smith got 40% of the vote but only 15% of the electors, Prof. Douglas pointed out. By helping to elect the man we like best we often cause the election of the man we like least.

Prof. Douglas explained the Hare System of proportional representation. Under this system each group could always have a forum to keep alive issues and arouse discussion, at the same time with a hope for political victory.

THEODORE SAUNDERS

"I sometimes fear, ladies and gentlemen, that we still live in a weak and insufficient age." So began Theodore Saunders in his talk on the "Relation of Art to Henry George's Theory of Economics." "We devote ourselves to superficialities and polish the surface till we rub it thin," continued the twenty year old artist. "We follow to the seat of government men who walk backwards in circles with their mouths continually open and leaving a stream of platitudes and glittering trivialities."

"In hoping for order we endure imperialism. We allow to spring up about us a caste system worse if anything than a system which evolves through religious distinctions, in as much as it strikes more deeply." Mr. Saunders further stated that the need of the artist for artistic expression is satisfied when he has finished his picture, but that the same need of the public is not satisfied until the picture is hung. It is that lapse between the time the painting is finished and the time the painting is hung, in which the artist must live, and which makes economic conditions of prime importance to him. The Public, in addition, must be economically able to enjoy art. Mr. Saunders concluded by saying, "St. Gaudens looked upon the Single Tax as a symbol of perfect democracy and perfect freedom."

Dr. Walter Verity told how Chicago is 50% Single Taxed already in so far as its public improvements are largely paid for by the land values which they create. Henry H

Hardinge made an appeal for financial aid for the Chicago Single Tax Club. Clayton J. Ewing, president, told of plans for the coming season, while George Strachan as toastmaster told a flock of good Scotch jokes and stories.

At its second dinner of the season, on December 13, the Chicago Single Tax Club had as its guest of honor and principal speaker George H. Duncan of New Hampshire. In an informal but exceedingly practical and encouraging talk, Mr. Duncan told of the progress that Single Tax is making in all parts of the country. He pointed out that the fact that the American Farm Bureau Federation and the Assessors of New Hampshire had asked him to speak before them on the Single Tax was evidence in itself of great advance.

Mr. Duncan said that the gasoline tax was a tax in the right direction in so far as its advocates say, "He who benefits should pay the bill." The Auto Association of California has already come to ask, "But why should the motorist pay the bill for good roads when the land along side the good roads gets the benefit in increased land values?"

The Occupation Tax of Minnesota is an application of the Single Tax in regard to the natural resources such as iron and coal. It has been tested satisfactorily in the State Court and the Supreme Court of the United States. In other states it is known as a Heritage Tax as distinguished from the Severance Tax.

The taking of any value created by special governmental privilege, Mr. Duncan pointed out, is akin to the Single Tax and should be encouraged.

Most important of all, Mr. Duncan said, we must be patient.—We must understand underlying principles and be practical politicians taking advantage of every opportunity. He commended the work of such men as George Strachan and Clayton J. Ewing in their work with the Farm Bureau people. Since we want more and better things all the time it is foolish to talk of reduced taxes; rather, we should talk of taking community created values to pay for those more and better things.

Mr. Henry L. T. Tideman made a valuable contribution to the problem of how to "Talk the Single Tax." He said that a tax should be explained as a payment for public service, that the annual value of the land should be pointed out as the reflector of the value of the public service rendered, and that this annual land-value should be spoken of as the basis of payment for the public services rendered. Mr. Tideman emphasized the absurdity of such "solutions" to our economic problems as birth control, prohibition, consumer's cooperation, and tinkering with the tariff, in lieu of the far reaching effects of land-value taxation.

The programme was opened with a tribute to the character and life work of the late Warren Worth Bailey by John Lawrence Monroe. Hon. Abram D. Gash, noted Chicago attorney, was toastmaster.

BOOK REVIEWS

HISTORY OF SINGLE TAX ENCLAVES

We have received Vol. VI. of the series of Enclaves of Economic Rent, fathered by Fiske Warren, and giving the history of Single Tax colonies, including Fairhope, Arden, Free Acres, Halidon, San Jordi, and Tahanto, the last three named established by Mr. Warren.

This volume contains "How to Destroy the Rum Power," the notable essay by Henry George which appeared in the *Arena* during the editorship of B. O. Flower. Besides this is an Historical Account of the Application of the Single Tax, consisting of extracts from the writings of James Dundas White, Emil O. Jorgensen and Joseph Dana Miller, forming when combined a singularly impressive record of progress.

The volume contains 283 pages which give an accurate survey of pretty nearly everything the reader will want to know about the advance of our movement in legislation and the principles and mode of operation of these Single Tax colonies. It will be sent for 25 cents postpaid by Mr. Warren to any one who applies. This offer includes editions of the volumes dealing with enclavial history and progress for 1921 and 1926, editions for 1920 and 1927, in accordance with the plan of publication, being quoted at a higher figure. Address Fiske Warren, Harvard, Mass.

—J. D. M.

DR. BRUNK GIVES US A NEW BOOK*

Our readers know Dr. Brunk. They know how indefatigably he has investigated the little known facts regarding land ownership in America, and with what effectiveness he has marshalled the often disgraceful revelations affecting the Fathers of the American Revolution. So, knowing his temper and his skill as well as his courage, they will be glad to welcome this new volume from his pen, a forcibly written book instinct with passionate hatred of injustice.

Some of his sentences are arresting, such as "Property in land has been the source of five sixths of our law and nearly all our law suits." "Feudal ownership of fertile or valuable lands has been at the root of all War and War preparation."

Under the heading, "The World a Single Economic Organism" the author tells us of the natural forces of justice, and he exults: "Take courage, brother. Nature is on your side. It is the foe of all the bubbles and frailties of man." And when he musters his array of facts that are to determine the final struggle whether there shall be a Wealth or Labor domination he does it in a way singularly impressive. It is a note of hope he sounds in these 260 pages.

It is nothing less than a new constitution that Dr. Brunk proposes. He has worked on the details with great care, dividing the United States into 12 provinces in place of 48 states, which would admit of the abolition of a multiplicity of laws as well as the laws that conflict. What he says of the Precinct Unit, which he calls the "basis of Mass Government," would take more space for its consideration than can be given to it here.

There is perhaps too great a tendency to provide for too many things, a fault of nearly every writer who has hitherto attempted to create a Utopia. Dr. Brunk, however, does not belong to this school; he would reduce government to the minimum, and whatever is necessary to be done by the community in its corporate capacity he would bring close to the people.

We would not without further consideration reject all the multiplicity of suggestions Dr. Brunk has set down. No blanket verdict is possible with reference to a book such as this. It is something to be studied and argued about—not to be dismissed in a column book review.

*Mass Rule Government by Thomas L. Brunk. Paper cover, 261 pages. Price \$1. Union Advocate Press, Sioux City, Iowa.