

through increased rents. There were about 200 people present at the Conference at this session and they seemed very kind and appreciative and were very friendly in their attitude towards our proposition.

For the rest of the summer we will have an odd speech now and again, but we are making no attempt to get dates as other work, very important, will absorb our time and efforts until the fall.—JAMES R. BROWN.

Announcement

THE Manhattan Single Tax Club through its officers is developing a plan for a Single Tax University Lectureship.

It has long been apparent that James R. Brown could not fill all the invitations extended him, and the lectureship is proposed as an extension of the work now carried on by him through the Manhattan Single Tax Club. Mr. Brown has been delivering more than two hundred lectures a year and this is considered the limit of the capacity of one man.

As the proposition is to provide a lecturer for the economic classes of colleges and universities it seems desirable to employ a man of academic standing. The compensation to be paid him should be commensurate with the salary of a professor of economics and should be at least \$5,000.00 a year. Travelling expenses and literature will probably amount to as much more, making a total of \$10,000.00.

A plan to finance this university lecture work has been considered and agreed upon. It is thought that there are at least forty men who would guaranty \$250.00 a year to underwrite this lectureship, and that some would contribute larger sums. Obviously, say the Manhattan Club officials, the contributions must be separate from and in addition to the contributions now made to the Manhattan Single Tax Club for the reason that they propose to use the organization and machinery of the Club and the services of James R. Brown as director; also to continue Mr. Brown in the lecture field as heretofore.

News of how the work proceeds will be given our readers from time to time.

Two Policies

FROM the *Manchester* (England) *Guardian* I get two interesting statements:

1: Mussolini confiscates 6,500 acres near Rome because the owner kept the land idle.

2: City of Manchester confiscates or takes \$585,000 of the people's money (calling it taxation), pays it to a landowner for unused land, to give jobs to 450 unemployed. If my arithmetic is not faulty, that's about \$1,300 per man which the man who would not use the land got for letting the 450 work.

Which policy do you prefer?

—H. M. HOLMES in the *Cleveland Press*.

The Arbitrator Stumbles

IT is always a surprise to us when an intelligent man, one who like the editor of *The Arbitrator* conducts a journal which calls itself "a digest of news of social significance," writes the veriest nonsense on the subject of taxation.

Replying to a recent communication from John S. Codman *The Arbitrator* says: If the total amount from all sources is to be raised by taking the rental value of land * * * * * the owners of the land will raise rentals in an endeavor to make the land profitable."

The rental value of land, all economists agree, cannot be raised at the will of the owner. If he could do that he would do it now.

The rental value of a piece of land remains constant as long as population and public services remain the same and varies only with its greater desirability due to increase of population and production or better public services, declining when these decline.

Calmly ignoring this elementary fact, *The Arbitrator* goes on to state that these increased rents will thus prove a greater burden on the people than the income tax—a begging of the question that is very naive in its simplicity.

To tax land values is to take a revenue which if it does not go to the state must go into private pockets.

"Very little land is held out of use, for it is to the advantage of the private owners to have it used," says *The Arbitrator*. We think it is rather late in the day to deny that a great deal of land is held vacant or so poorly improved as to be practically vacant, for speculation—much of it in the heart of our great cities as well as great tracts of rural land. We do not believe that *The Arbitrator* is ignorant of this fact.

Therefore, this organ of the news of social significance is not informed on certain facts which most people know, namely:

That the landlord does not determine the rental value of his land.

That a tax on the value of land cannot be shifted.

That a great deal of land is held vacant or only partially improved for speculative increase.

There are other fallacies in this short article which the editor has managed to crowd in to a very small space, such as this: "Unemployment is due to the greed of corporations," which is a discovery remarkable as "news of social significance."

THE delay in tax reform is because nobody can follow the tax question to a logical and sane conclusion without becoming a Single Taxer.—DAVID GIBSON.

LIBERTY means justice and justice is the natural law.

—HENRY GEORGE.