

this law would have tremendous publicity throughout the United States and possibly other countries?

And, if this is possible, would it not be decidedly advisable for every Single Taxer to do every thing in his or her power to aid in obtaining the proposed legislation?

Newark, N. J.

L. R. BONTA.

QUEER ECONOMICS IN THE HIGH SCHOOLS OF NEW YORK

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

What we poor benighted mortals need to get us out of the depression and set us upon the road to recovery and reform is a Planned Economy to be effected by:

(1) A National Planning Board—composed of statisticians, economists, employers, employees (nominated by unions), government agents, consumers' representatives, to plan for industrial expansion on the basis of consumption needs and industrial capacity, and to coordinate all other boards and to decide upon production quotas for each industry. Members to be nominated by the President and ratified by the Senate. Twenty-five to thirty members.

(2) Regional Planning Boards—subordinate to the National Planning Board and similarly composed, to administer the plans of the National Board and to allot to each business enterprise within the region its production quota, and to regulate wages and hours so that purchasing power dovetails with volume of goods produced. Members to be nominated by the President and ratified by the Senate.

(3) A tax to be levied upon all business enterprises to ensure compliance with the national plan.

(4) The stagger system to be applied. Members of the planning boards to be in office for a four-year period. Plans to be submitted to the Congress for enactment.

Perhaps you do not approve of the above. You may have no faith in statisticians who are able to make figures prove anything that they wish to prove. Or you may wonder where the economists were when we were working up to the great disintegration of 1929, or why they are to be consulted now on how to get us out of our mess when they proved so incapable of preventing our descent nine years ago. You may ask how, short of a miracle, any one can foretell what our consumption needs will be in order to plan for providing the future feet with shoes, lips with lipstick, stomachs with food, etc. And since statisticians, economists, both false and real, employers and employees, whether union or non-union, are all consumers, you may be puzzled as to how consumers' representatives will function on boards with consumers. You may have misgivings as to how production quotas will work for the good of the people at large when some of the production quotas tried to date have not benefited the people who have never been able to have sufficient amounts of the products curtailed by the quotas. When millions of children have no milk and few potatoes, and dress in rags during periods of so-called overproduction of potatoes, milk, and cotton, will they have these things when less of them are produced?

You may even be so perverse as to inquire how regulation of hours and wages will enable an employer to pay more wages to employees who work less, or to pay the same wages to each of a greatly enlarged force of employees, each working less hours than formerly. And naturally you will want to know how an employec who could hardly get a decent living under the old wages at full time will get along now on reduced time. For of course no one will be able to see how employers can pay more wages for less work unless more is produced and when wages and hours are spread over a greater number of workers how can the demand for goods or services be expected to increase? In fact how can it be expected to remain even as it was?

And then you may have your doubts about the efficiency of any system depending upon a National Planning Board and a Regional Planning Board for each region when we have a vivid example of how such a system works out in the case of our National Legislature and our State Legislatures. How can sectionalism be kept out?

Finally you may suspect any system which depends upon a tax to make it work. You may have the old fashioned idea that taxes are not levied primarily for punitive purposes nor to compel compliance with objectionable provisions of law, but are a poor source of revenue for carrying out necessary social services, not levied according to justice but according to ability to pay. You may think of money paid for punitive reasons as fines and money exacted for assurance of compliance with a statute as tribute. Surely in either case there is no evidence of value for value received.

If you have any of the doubts expressed above you are out of tune with democracy as carried out through the economics department of the High Schools of New York City. They are part of an "economic programme for recovery and reform" drawn up by the students in the economics classes of Mr. Louis Walinsky of Abraham Lincoln High School, and submitted to Mr. Philip F. La Follette, Governor of Wisconsin, as a programme for his new party to adopt. Mr. Walinsky gives credit to the Mordecai Ezekial plan for industrial expansion for the suggestions made above.

The programme goes on to take in agriculture with cooperatives to be encouraged, more Regional Planning Boards, reduction of over-produced *cash crops* (cotton, cereals), more production of green vegetables and dairy products, and right here one truth is told; there is really a shortage of these products based upon consumption need, although the agitation to tax Canadian milk was based upon a supposed oversupply. Housing is taken up in a plan to spend two billion dollars a year toward low-cost housing which will neither be low-cost to the taxpayers nor will it aid recovery since houses can not be built in the air but must rest on land and before houses can be built the privilege of building them must be obtained by payment of extortion money to those who give no service in return.

Under labor the idea is advanced that government should sponsor education for all in respect to the need for labor organization and thus passive acceptance of the idea that there will always be a struggle among men for the opportunity to labor is betrayed. That no labor organization can do more than raise wages and better conditions of its adherents for a time, because the rising costs of living will overtake and pass the benefits received from collective bargaining, and that the conditions of living can not be improved for an entire people as long as there are more men than opportunities to work, seems never to have occurred to the promoters of this brand of economics, and yet that such will be the case is inevitable, the result of a natural law that men seek to gratify their desires by the least exertion. This law is more fixed than the laws of the Medes and Persians, but no mention of its existence is made in the economics courses. Following in line with the fallacious reasoning that accepts labor organization as contributing to the welfare of an entire people we find the programme outlawing company unions, and trying to outlaw anti-union methods such as strikebreakers, blacklists, and the use of spies. Strict punishment under Federal jurisdiction is proposed but we look in vain for curbing of picketing that ignores the rights of citizens to walk their own streets without danger to their ear drums. Social Security is adopted and extended to all workers without considering that the only successful social security can be obtained by permitting justice and liberty full sway and the abandonment of privilege. The stupid plan of trying to legislate a maximum hour law of forty hours is proposed although no known plan of enforcing such a law has ever been successful and can not be when men need work. Self interest can not be legislated out of existence by laws that take upon themselves the complexion of totalitarian statutes and it should not be, for it is because of self interest, of man himself as well as his immediate family, that the world progresses. Submerge that self-interest in the interest of the state or of the race, and ambition and energy will peter out, the civilization will become static and what was hoped for will never be obtained. Child labor is included with a provision for a dole to permit study in high school and college, the taxpayers able to pay taxes providing the dole.

So the programme continues through banking, railroads, public

utilities and munitions, and if any socialistic plan for control of these activities has been overlooked the writer hasn't noticed it. Revenue is treated in a demand for regulation of taxes by graduating inheritance and income taxes, taxes on transfers of property, and confiscating incomes from illegal sources. Thus the principle of taxing according to ability to pay is strictly adhered to, and the poor are relieved of burdensome indirect taxes, which is a tacit acceptance of the permanency of low income groups. Cooperatives are strongly urged and government aid is pledged to encourage their growth. A new department is proposed, The Department of the Consumer, to educate him to accept cooperation, etc., and to protect his rights as a consumer. Farmers are to pool resources (land and machinery), and issue bonds using land and machinery as collateral. Of course the Federal Government is to guarantee such bonds, and a bank is to be established by sales of these bonds. Court reforms call for fifteen year terms for judges and political reform calls for the initiative, referendum, and recall, the only worth-while suggestion in the entire programme.

This programme was sent to Governor La Follette and he acknowledged its receipt and promised to give it his attention and to refer it to a committee for study. Which is just what we would expect a man of his political ideas to do. The entire programme except for the political reform suggestions is one of Socialism. That some of its provisions are favored by the President of the United States does not alter the fact that they are not economic in the true sense of economics. They are class legislation, a denial of democracy and freedom. They pave the way for a regime dedicated to the worst features of the totalitarian dictators, a denial of freedom and justice to the individual in the hopes of making it possible for him to get more of this world's goods, not as an individual, but as an infinitesimal morsel in a greater whole, the state. This is supposed to be economics. Nearly all of the proposals have been made before and nearly all have been shown to be unworkable by Henry George in "Progress and Poverty." Yet under the guidance of Mr. Louis Walinsky the young people of his classes make these proposals in good faith. Shall we blame them? Not while instructors with the views of Mr. Walinsky are permitted by the Board of Education of the City of New York to teach a hybrid doctrine called economics to immature students with minds hungering for proper guidance.

Let us consider Mr. Walinsky's estimate of his role as an instructor of economics. He says: "The teacher of economics is today unusually privileged and uniquely responsible: privileged because his subject is vitally important and dynamically useful; responsible, because his opportunities must not be permitted to go to waste. Chief among his responsibilities, I believe, is the need for *communicating to his students* four important ideas, or groups of ideas; the importance of economics as the key to control of our economic system; the weak points in the workings of that system; the possible correctives; and most important of all, the personal responsibility of each student for such corrective action." Yes, Mr. Walinsky, economics is vitally important and dynamically useful, but not the pseudo-science that masquerades under the name of economics in our higher institutions of learning and which the victims of such pseudo-science bring with them into the class rooms of our high schools with the avowed purpose of communicating it to our young people who, by no stretch of the imagination, can distinguish between the true and the false in such a complicated subject as economics as it is presented, when it is as much as they can do to separate the truth from the non-truth in such simple phenomena as are considered in elementary science. The economics as taught in our public schools needs to be revised in the interest of truth.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

JOHN LUXTON.

UNCOLLECTED LAND TAXES

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

While writing and working to gain new friends and supporters for the teaching of Henry George, should we ignore the fact that there

are millions of acres in this nation, today, on which the holders have paid no taxes for many years, and which are still controlled or in the possession of tax defaulting and tax evading holders?

Obviously, it is not only important that taxes be levied on land values, but it is also important that they be collected. If the comparatively small tax rates that have been levied on land values are permitted to go indefinitely uncollected, what is the point in seeking heavier levies?

Schools, roads, etc., formerly paid for by the owners of real property in the local taxing unit, are now largely being "assumed" by the states. The states in turn have had no difficulty getting billions for the asking from Uncle Sam. Under the New Deal this totals around twenty-six billion dollars, of which nineteen billion have been outright gifts and grants. Not only are the taxes that have been levied not being collected, in many states, due to tax sale moratorium laws, the "realtors" have gotten the legislatures to enact, but there has been a shift in the tax burden from land holders, to industry and the products of labor, far greater than is commonly realized.

It is said that over half of all the land in Florida has paid no taxes of any kind in more than ten years, yet it has not been foreclosed by the state, and can be "redeemed" by the original title holder, often without any penalty.

In a baseball game, if the umpire allowed a player to keep the bat after he'd had three strikes, there would surely be eight unemployed members of the team keeping the bench warm. The slump has left a vast new frontier on the doorstep of the states for unpaid taxes. It badly needs some attention, but industry merely "complains" that taxes are too high, and doesn't see that landholders have shifted a big new tax load on them.

San Francisco, California.

J. RUPERT MASON.

PARASITE AND BUBBLE

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Some of our Georgeans do not want to admit into their theory George's terms "monopoly" and "speculative" rent. Well, then, how about this—economic, parasitical and bubble rent?

Economic rent is the pure, delimited rent best seen in the Single Tax system, if ever; parasitical rent is that abnormal growth hatched in land monopoly and feeding on the wages of labor; and speculative rent is of course, the swelling up of the parasitic bubble until it bursts (if not eaten up before that by fellow parasites).

In our thought about rent, you see, we should distinguish between rent as it would be in the Single Tax system and as it is in our monopolistic system.

Incidentally, we should study not only the words of Henry George but his thought as well; and some of us would appear less ridiculous if we would try to catch up with the old boy before attempting to jump over him.

Waterbury, Conn.

ROYAL E. S. HAYES, M.D.

FROM A REPRESENTATIVE LABOR JOURNAL

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

The following appeared in the *Amalgamated Journal* of Pittsburgh, Pa., Nov. 17, 1938, which might be of interest to your readers:

"By the way, Firpo, what do you think of the \$30 every Thursday plan? A sort of a guaranteed income, don't you know? just what we need to create a buying power and a demand—money in the pocket, ham and eggs, etc. Say pal, next time you see me, ask me about the correspondence course in the Henry George School of Social Science. The text book is "Progress and Poverty." If you take the course and finish the ten lessons and still say it isn't a "cure all," I'll buy you a box of good 10c—er, ah—well, 5c cigars. Are you interested? No kidding, friend, it makes the book interesting from beginning to end and breaks it down to where guys like us can get the straight of it all. I'll go so far as to extend that offer to anyone else who cares to try it.

Well, I have heard that nomination of officers took place at last meeting, but I am working every meeting night so haven't got the