

are valueless. The increased rent is reflected in increased land values and nothing else. A tax on these land values, that will bring them into the public treasury would soon stop the practice. Nothing else ever will. Not only will it stop this most miserable form of hold-up, but it will open up the acres around Washington that the national government needs. It would stop the spoliation of the beautiful parks, relieve congestion, and keep from private pockets the values that the thousands of new residents are bringing here.

The only thing that will cure conditions in the Capital is a large dose of Single Tax.

#### NEWS FROM DAKOTA

A few days ago I had an interview with Judson King, Secretary of the National Popular Government League. Mr. King had just returned from a long speaking trip through the Northwest and he was enthusiastic over the prospects of the Non-partisan League, convinced of their patriotism, and inspired by their intelligent understanding of fundamental questions. He told how he would go to some town of about 75 people far out on the prairies, the thermometer about 20° below, and yet at the meeting hour the hall would be packed with farmers who had driven in from miles around—some of them living as far as 15 miles away. And they were intelligent men, he said, who were disgusted with quackeries, and who would listen to you by the hour if you had a real message for them as to how they could get to the root of the nation's social ills. He said they had worked out a comprehensive plan of popular government. They were to have a short ballot, elect only the governor and hold him responsible for the proper administration of the laws; they were to have a one chamber legislature, and would have a check on the action of every official by means of the initiative, referendum and recall. He said while they were not talking Single Tax directly they were doing it indirectly. They were talking of the removal of taxes from farming implements, personal property and improvements, and they were denouncing in unmeasured terms the land speculator and the man who would not put his land to productive use. He said that there were no slackers in the Northwest, that the farmer boys were going gladly to the battle-front, that the farmers were putting in larger crops than ever before, that there was no sedition or treason except in the eyes of the Milling interests, and Special Privilege, and Big Business, that had been fattening for years on the labor of the farmers. Mr. King suggests that every real democrat keep his eyes on the Northwest. Upon the prairies they have passed the propaganda stage and their decks are cleared for action.

B. F. LINDAS.

THE Limitation of Output and a Better Plan, is a pamphlet by W. R. Lester, published by the United Committees for the Taxation of Land Values, at 11 Tothill St., London, S.W., Eng. It is admirable, as is all that comes from Mr. Lester's pen.

## James F. Morton's Lecture Work

FOLLOWING the present policy of THE SINGLE TAX REVIEW, I present a brief summary of my field and lecture work since the period covered by my last report. My annual record, to appear later, will give more details.

Unusual difficulties prevented an early start in the Fall; and the work throughout the year has suffered through lessened co-operation in certain quarters, due to unfortunate events which could not be foreseen, as well as to the extraordinary conditions existing during the war. Nevertheless, thanks to the help of certain friends of the Single Tax cause, the continuity of the field work has not been broken.

Of special importance has been the co-operation of the Farmers' National Single Tax League. Commissioned as its field secretary for New York State, I have been able to reach a number of granges, where the planting of Single Tax thought has proved of special value.

Up to the Christmas holidays, my work consisted of sporadic lectures not far from New York City, with the exception of a short trip during which good meetings were held with various organizations in Hudson, Albany, Troy, Schenectady, Saratoga Springs, and smaller communities in the neighborhood of these cities. In January, a brief visit to Middletown included several lectures with satisfying results. Then followed a longer trip, with lectures in numerous communities in Herkimer, Oneida, Madison, Onondaga and Broome Counties. The present trip, not yet completed, following a short but very busy period in Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties, and a flying visit eastward to debate the Single Tax in Philadelphia with Professor Hollander, of Johns Hopkins University, has taken me to divers points in Erie, Niagara and Orleans Counties, with further engagements waiting to be filled.

JAMES F. MORTON, JR.

## Missouri

FOR sixteen years I have worked from day to day on the front end of this car with the ambition in mind to some day have a home of my own, but today I am about as far away from it as I have always been. The working man doesn't stand much show under the present system." These were the words of a motorman in the employ of the street car monopoly in St. Louis, Missouri, when the programme of the Homestead Home and Land League was explained to him.

The speaker was a man of more than ordinary intelligence and capabilities. He is the father of six children, and he and his wife have always endeavored to provide them with the common advantages of schooling and freedom from early wage slavery. As a consequence, the father's small wage has been insufficient to do more than provide for the family needs, with nothing in addition for the establishment of real economic independence. The man went on to tell of instances with which he was familiar