

Activities of the Manhattan Single Tax Club

THERE has been a notable increase in the number of visitors at the new quarters of the Club at 1165 Broadway, particularly by out-of-town Single Taxers.

The plan for placing the finances of the Club on a stable basis by securing pledges for definite monthly contributions is now assured of success, though the expansion of activities now under way will use advantageously the further financial support which, from present indications, is sure to be forthcoming in generous measure during the first six months of 1935.

Our Radio Broadcast Manager, Thomas Lane, claims that our President, Charles H. Ingersoll, will during 1935 far eclipse his pace for last year when he established an all-time world's record for radio propaganda publicity by emitting more than 600 broadcasts which carried his pungent economic sermonettes to many millions of hearers.

Provision has been made for the weekly printed publication and extensive circulation of these Radio Broadcasts which will be interspersed with interesting current economic items, all focusing on the Single Tax plan for industrial rehabilitation.

The Club is vigorously promoting a plan for inducing the Single Taxers of the metropolitan area to connect themselves with, and to aggressively enter into the work of the local organizations of the two major political parties.

The door of opportunity for work of this kind is wide open for all Single Taxers. Amidst all of the numerous fallacious schemes of the two parties for improving the deplorable conditions which are due to economic maladjustment, the simple and all sufficient formula of the Single Tax, if tactfully presented, is sure of an interested and respectful hearing.

Greater results at less expense can be achieved by Single Taxers in the arena where the actual, practical battles of politics are fought in the local political organizations and clubs and societies, than are possible by any other method. If all of the Single Taxers of the United States will eschew their metaphysical arguments among themselves and go vigorously to work in the great field provided for them by the two major political parties, they can make the Single Tax a live political issue within a year and can accomplish its adoption within a decade.

Pittsburgh should serve as an example and an inspiration for the Single Taxers of this country.

CHARLES S. PRIZER.

ADAM SMITH defined man as an animal that makes bargains—no other animal does that; no dog ever exchanges bones with another.

Limiting Production

THE proposals which apparently originated in the United States to limit the world production of wheat, and which were considered at the World Economic Conference in London, appear to us to be dangerous in the extreme. In the United States it was proposed to bonus farmers to reduce their acreage of wheat by a certain percentage. Whether or not it is intended that other countries shall adopt the same method of limiting production has not been made clear. A few of many objections we see to this scheme are as follows:

First of all, the statistics available as to world production and supplies are not reliable. The best that can be said for them is that at times they have proved to be reasonably accurate and that they furnish an indication of approximate production. Before the world-wide slump in the price of wheat, which set in during the fall of 1929, all manner of statistics were quoted to prove that the prevailing price of wheat was justified by world production and market conditions. It was because the Western wheat pools relied on this information that they lost millions of dollars and were almost put out of business. To attempt, therefore, to restrict world production on the basis of available statistics is risky in the extreme.

Supposing a country like the United States decides to reduce its total acreage by fifteen per cent. At the time such a decision is reached, conditions might seem to justify such action. But, suppose a crop failure was to follow. Instead of production being decreased fifteen per cent, it might under such conditions be decreased fifty per cent and the results be far from what was intended. How could such a contingency be prevented?

Sometimes what is considered to be over-production is really under-consumption. Today, there appears to be more wheat available than the demand justifies. But, supposing business conditions improve, as there are indications that they soon will, and hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of men now out of work return to employment. The present surplus of wheat would be likely to disappear as though by magic. In such an event, reduced production would mean nothing but loss both to producers and consumers alike.

It has been estimated that some 200,000 additional civil servants would be required in the United States to supervise the enforcement of restrictive enactments on several million farms. Tens of thousands of farmers hearing of the efforts to reduce production, might conclude that the price of wheat was likely to improve and each arrange to increase his acreage by small amounts. How is any government or organization, even with the assistance of 200,000 extra civil servants, going to check the production of tens of thousands of farmers scattered all over the continent? What assurance could farmers in Canada have that farmers in Russia would not increase their production were we to decrease ours? True, Russian Government might undertake to supervise production in that country, but its efforts in that direction so far have proved far from successful. It looks to us as though the less we mix up in undertakings of this kind, the better it will be for all concerned.—*Farm and Dairy*, Peterboro, Ontario.

A POOR tailor in need of work pressed a suit for 35 cents when the code price is 40 cents. For this he was sentenced to \$100 fine and thirty days in jail. No, this is not a tale taken from a history of mediaeval Europe. It happened in 1934 in Jersey City, U. S. A. Proceedings were under the N.R.A., the brain product of economic illiterates who have not advanced beyond mediaeval ideas. They believe a term in jail is the ultimate answer to all economic problems, probably figuring that if enough workers should be sent to jail pressure on those left outside would be relieved and the unemployment problem solved.