

## Spain

FROM the June issue of *El Impuesto Unico*, the official organ of the Spanish Single Tax League, we extract the terms of the Bill presented to the Spanish Cortes, April 20, 1918, by D. Filiberto Villalobos, of the Reform Party. The general purpose of the Bill is to protect the tenant farmer. Some of the provisions are of special interest to Single Taxers:

ART. 1 It shall be understood that leases of rural property are for a period of twenty years, even though a shorter term be specified.

ART. 2 The leaseholder shall be entitled to a reduction in the rent, whenever he shall have lost his harvest by fortuitous or unusual causes, such as fire, disease, floods, unexpected drought, locusts, earthquakes and other extraordinary causes.

Any clause in the contract surrendering this right shall be null and void.

The reduction in rent shall be proportional to the damage caused to the harvest, and the part of the rent remaining for the proprietor may be spread over the remaining years of the lease.

ART. 3 All clauses in the lease by which the tenant is obliged to pay the ordinary and extraordinary taxation upon the land shall be declared null and void.

ART. 4 In no case shall the rent of the land exceed the net amount taxable under the National assessment returns.

ART. 5 Should the tenant increase the value of the land by improvements effected by himself, the proprietor shall indemnify him therefor on conclusion of the term of lease.

ART. 6 Should a proprietor not cultivate his land and yet refuse to lease same, the State shall expropriate it, and distribute it by lease amongst the tenant farmers of the locality or, in default of these, amongst those who own the smallest allotments according to the assessment roll.

ART. 7 Land suitable for cultivation, but used by its owners for sport, shall bear a surtax, which in no case shall be less than ten times the regular land tax. ART. 8

ART. 8 The purchaser of a leased farm shall have no right to terminate the lease which was in force at the time of sale.

ART. 9 Article 1,576 of the Civil Code shall be annulled, where it says: "Neither shall the tenant have the right to a reduction in rent, when the products of the soil have been lost after their separation from their root or stalk."

ART. 10 and ART. 11 . . . refer to technical adjustments of existing laws to the terms of the Bill.

ART. 12 All disputes, including suits for eviction arising out of the fulfilment or non-fulfilment of contract, shall be decided by the Provincial Court, composed of an equal number of representatives of the tenants and proprietors with the president of the Provincial Court of Appeals, and the technical assistance of the the chief engineer of the survey department of each department, though as a final appeal the litigants may recur to the Supreme Court; and

ART. 13 Whatever dispositions may be contrary to the

execution of this project of law are hereby declared to have no legal effect.

The *El Impuesto Unico* is a monthly review of 16 pages, well printed and full of well written articles, some of them by the best literary pens in Spain. The Single Tax movement in Spain is evidently a sound, well equipped one, and we must be prepared at any moment to find, as in South America, that the Latin race has again advanced beyond us in practical legislative achievement. It is well to remember that venerable old Spain is today in the running with the democracies of the world. Having already a broad political franchise system, she may any day surprise her competitors by forestalling them in more fundamental readjustments.

## Friends of The Great Adventure Meet at Arden

A VERY interesting and inspiring meeting was held on July 4th, at Arden, Delaware, under the direction of The Great Adventure Contributors' League.

Edwin S. Ross read the Declaration of Independence, followed by an extract from one of Abraham Lincoln's speeches by the Chairman. Wm. L. Ross, who presided, paid an earnest tribute to the work of the founders of our government and introduced Mr. H. D. Albright, Assistant City Solicitor of Philadelphia, who made a great impression on the audience by showing how food will win the war. He said that making speeches and waving the flag alone would not bring success, but that we must feed our armies and our people at home as well. He called attention to the rich and fertile land of California and of The Great Adventure in that State to throw open to use twenty million idle acres of the finest land in the world for growing food.

A. R. Saylor, of Wilmington, L. W. Marks, of Philadelphia and John Goldsmith, also of Philadelphia, made earnest appeals for funds to be sent to California. As a result \$78.00 was collected from an audience of about a hundred people.

Mr. Lucius Cole, leading violinist of the Philadelphia Orchestra, delighted the audience with several selections and H. P. Page, a finished artist in his line, sang at the request of the Chairman.

The meeting was considered by many to be the best ever held at Arden.

## How to Build a Bridge

THIS money was secured by the Atascadero management by collecting in advance some of the land value increments from the purchasers of Atascadero lands and lots. In other words, Atascadero reasoned this way: These lots are worth so much; they will "grow in value"; if, now, these people pay now what the lots will be worth by and by, the extra money can be put into bridges, roads, water works, etc., that will right away make the lots worth that much. It was done.

*Atascadero (Calif.) News.*