

have passed out of the hands of the Government and are in private hands, though there are several of the largest bodies of lands needing drainage, which are in the hands of the States.".....

"The energy and talent which he (the soldier) has been expending for an ideal and \$30 a month he can now use to make a home for himself."

THE LIMITATION OF IT:—"There is one other feature which should be incorporated in any such scheme of land developement,—the acreage should be limited to that which will be sufficient to support a family. Revolutions come from great land holdings, and it should be the first policy of the Nation and the States to discourage in every way possible the gathering into one hand or a few hands large bodies of lands....."

FURTHER LIMITATIONS:—"So these farms should not be speculative ventures in unearned increment, but they should be non-transferable to anyone holding any equally large tract of land in the same State."

YET FURTHER LIMITATIONS:—"To compel their use, the owner might well be required to live on the land for five years before gaining sufficient title to make any transfer, and during the full period prior to the last payment three years of idleness should make the land subject to forfeiture to the Government upon repayment of the three payments which have been made.....We wish no slacker lands. Enough land for a family, but not enough to make a new draft on the labor supply."

SLACKER LANDS IN PRIVATE HANDS:—"I have been surprised to discover how much land in the older States, such as Massachusetts and New York, for instance, there is that is unused, which once was tilled and which now, with modern methods of farm development and with the advantage of nearness to the great markets, can be again profitably put to use.In New York land by the tens of thousands of acres has been deserted and is advertised by the State....."

"In almost every Southern State instances can be cited where white men under the wise direction of the Department of Agriculture support their families and make an excellent living upon small farms of from 10 to 30 acres. Yet between this city and New Orleans, there are over 40,000,000 acres of unused land."

THE PEOPLE'S FAULT, OF COURSE:—"No one, I believe, can make a study of this question without being convinced, as I have been, that this country can support a population of from three to four times that which we now have,—if the people will give over their desire to congregate in industrial centers....."

MR. LANE'S QUESTION:—"Is there a better way to insure the future than to direct these strong-armed, big-chested soldier men into a battle against the wanton wastefulness of nature?"

MR. LANE'S ANSWER TO HIS QUESTION:—"Go to the swamp and the desert!"

James R. Brown's Lecture Work for 1918

DURING 1918—or rather from December 1, 1917, to November 30, 1918—Mr. James R. Brown, president of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, delivered 157 addresses distributed as follows: Universities and High Schools 45; Business Men's Organizations 33; Forums 16; Churches 15; Single Tax Meetings 9; Labor Unions 5; Granges 4; Patriotic 30. His auditors, independent of the patriotic meetings, numbered about 15,000. Newspaper reports of addresses amounted to some 70 columns.

Mr. Brown distributed during his various tours in this period about 12,000 tracts. Wherever he went he found interested and eager hearers. His work in Canada is likely soon to result in some important legislative changes—and this is the vital thing.

We are pleased to note the following from this Report: "Co-workers in tax emancipation are welcome at the Manhattan Single Tax Club, and we are happy to serve all who are seeking our vision in any way we can."

The temptation is too strong to contrast this with a recent utterance in the *Bulletin* in which the General Manager of the National League says: "By this plan we aim to bring to an end the competition which has prevailed" i. e., between the various activities of the State Associations and the National.

We had thought that the lamentable results under the Fels Fund Commission in the pursuance of this policy, the stifling of individual as well as organized initiative everywhere under that regime, would have been a sufficient lesson to even the most inexperienced.

We think Single Taxers everywhere will prefer Mr. Brown's theory of Single Tax activities that offers a generous welcome to the freest competition of all those who are doing genuine work for the movement.

Thomas G. Shearman on Railroad Franchises

THE franchises.....consist so obviously of mere privileges to use unimproved land as to need no explanation. Street railways.....so palpably own no privileges other than the mere right to run over bare land that it seems almost an insult to the understanding of any reader to explain the case. None of these corporations have any other franchises than these rights over land.....Upon these franchises they have issued vast amounts of stocks and bonds. One such corporation, after purchasing all the rails, equipment, and other productions of human labor connected with the road for about \$200,000, proceeded to issue \$8,000,000 of stock and bonds upon its land privileges.....More than three quarters of the whole market values of the stocks and bonds of corporations, having these municipal privileges, consist of pure land values.