

hairsplitting over trivialities and their befogging of anything regarding economic justice—with the interesting and relatively frank books of Professors Commons or Ely.

No! the problem of making our college departments of political economy as fearless in their utterance of scientific truth as those of physics or engineering lies deeper than even their release from the interference of dishonest politicians, or bigoted trustees on the outlook for economic heresy; though of course this release is a first step for any attempt at reform. At present the teachers of economics are generally pure theorists, who have graduated direct from their studies into teaching and know nothing of those economic struggles of humanity which go on beyond the walls of the college cloister. They must have comfortable houses, elaborate meals and artistic surroundings as a *sine qua non* of their lives; they naturally have as social friends many of the privileged and even predatory class, and often find them decent and law-abiding in their family relations. The cause of the oppressed masses, as advocated by such authors as Henry George, thus finds little response among such college teachers, for it seems too far away to be real or important; its espousal would certainly be troublesome and might even lead to ejection from their only means of gaining a livelihood worth having. But when economic students must prepare by a practical apprenticeship, and gain their living by manual and mental labor, in various factories and businesses before starting to teach we shall then see as great a change in our college departments of economics as occurred in those of engineering when the original pure theorists were replaced as professors by successful practitioners. Our American economic professors are now closely akin in training to the native engineers of Spanish America. The latter are scions of the feudal aristocracy and consequently carry out in their engineering course all the peculiar caste ideas of their families regarding the degradation of manual labor. As such branches of engineering as mechanical or mining cannot be mastered except by the practice of much dirty and disagreeable manual labor, the Spanish youth never get beyond the hopelessly incompetent stage in these professions. In civil engineering in which work can be done by only learning the cleanly roles of the draughtsman and surveyor, the young aristocrats do better, but even here their fear of personal contact with the raw material and the oily machinery of engineering are such handicaps to practical achievement that nearly all such work in Spanish countries is entirely dependent on the foreign expert for its accomplishment. ROBERT B. BRINSMADE.

John Z. White's Lecture Tour.

DURING the months of February and March, Mr. John Z. White has addressed audiences in Worcester, Mass., Providence, R. I., Steubenville, Ohio, Akron, Ohio, Dayton, Ohio, Logansport and Bloomington, Ind., and in cities and towns in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Kansas. On April 8th he will speak in Kansas City, Kansas, and on April 14th in Jefferson City, Mo.

Our Washington Letter

ONCE more it is quiet along the Potomac. The Capitol on the hill is deserted. The vaulted halls of congress no longer echo to the outbursts of furious oratory, as the War Congress passed into history in a maze of puerile bickerings. "Words—words—words."

Here are some of the bills left in the clogged Committee rooms: The bill to open the land to the soldiers, all reconstruction measures; the appropriations to look after the employment of the returned soldiers and idle men. They even failed to provide money to clean the streets of Washington and to keep the night schools open. And yet many of these same brilliant statesmen are afraid to let the people enact their own laws.

Here is a high-ceilinged, luxuriously furnished apartment in the Senate Office building. The sunlight is reflected from the huge polished table, around which is seated a group of well-dressed men, pompous, nonchalant. At the head of the table is a prosperous individual speaking in a drawling, confident tone. The government, by the way, is investigating the "Packers."

"And what," asked one of the senators politely, "is this item of nine million dollars in your estimated cost of production?"

"That is our income and excess profit tax."

"And you figure that as a production charge and add it to the price of the product?"

"Most certainly," and the witness smiled, and the senators looked at each other knowingly, and also smiled.

Is any further comment needed?

All the daily papers of Washington carried this "ad" a few days ago.

"Millions can and will be made in the next few years on properties now offered for sale. To buy at pre-war prices means that you get the increment in your land of 35% increase in population—75 to 100% increase in the buying power of the Washington public."

The government clerks in Washington, after an almost life and death struggle succeeded in getting a 20% salary increase from Congress. It does not require deep study to see where the greater bulk of this increased pay is going.

About the time the Washington public was being edified by this attractive "ad," William Kent, of the U. S. Tariff Commission, made a speech that should be read along with the "ad." This is a quotation from it:

"The City of Washington is merely the seat of the Federal Government. Since the time of its founder it has been the subject of land speculation. For well over a hundred years successive generations of speculators have carried away the proceeds derived from the needs of others and there seems no end of the story. Let us suppose the fee-simple title had never been granted in the City of Washington. The accruing rentals would have built the streets, provided every

modern convenience and the people would have paid in ground rent not a tenth of what is now being paid."

A few weeks ago the Association of American Bankers met in Washington. After careful deliberation they decided that farm tenancy was the greatest menace to America and urged all Americans to own their own home.

I learned from Walter Swanton of the U. S. Reclamation Service that over 1,000 letters a day are received from soldiers looking for land.

There is undoubtedly plenty of land. Millions of people are looking for land. Why don't the landless man and the manless land connect? The Bankers could have answered it. Because the land is held for gambling purposes. Tax the land out of the hands of the speculators, and the soldier can get all the land he needs, farm tenancy will cease, and this ever present menace to American institutions will be removed forever.

Notable Action of Governors and Mayors at Washington

FAVOR THE TAXATION OF IDLE LANDS.

MOST of our readers have read the lengthy press despatches detailing the proceedings of the Conference of Governors and Mayors at Washington, on March 3, 4 and 5. Yet there was no mention of the most notable action taken by that convention which arose over a resolution presented by the Mayor of Lynn, Mass., Walter H. Creamer.

This resolution proposed that the convention recommend to the States the taxation of all idle land or natural wealth held out of use for speculation, and that the money so obtained be used for a permanent fund to solve the labor problem. This resolution occasioned the most interesting and hardest fought debate of any of the sessions. Mayor Creamer and Councilman R. J. Wheeler, of Allentown, Pa., led the fight for the resolutions. The opponents of the measure claimed that it was a violation of the constitution, to which it was retorted that the Southern child labor exploiters used the same argument.

When the smoke of the battle cleared away it was found that the friends of the resolution had won by the substantial victory of 32 to 10.

The letter addressed by New York Single Taxers to this conference and which is printed on another page, was in the pockets of each of these Governors, and may not have been without its influence. Be that as it may, the victory is a notable one, showing how more profoundly than we suspect the radical agitation of the new movement among Single Taxers is influencing official opinion.

Congratulations to Mayor Creamer!

Our readers are urged to send us news of importance from their localities, and all newspaper clippings which may be pertinent.

News From Many States.

CALIFORNIA.—There is no particular news to report from California. There will be no halt, however, in the campaign for the Great Adventure. Mrs. Griffes, Mrs. Lona Ingham Robinson, and others associated with Luke North, will continue the work. A memorial number of *Everyman* is in preparation. It will contain many of the posthumous writings of North, with tributes to the dead leader from his friends throughout the country, *The Great Adventure Weekly* will be continued.

There seems to have been some misunderstanding as to what Gerrit Johnson advocated in the latter printed in the last number of the *SINGLE TAX REVIEW*. Mr. Johnson's proposal is that those who want a local option amendment on the ballot should go ahead and get it, while those who want a measure for straight Single Tax should do the same. We are not prepared to say that this is not entirely practicable. But as a "get together" measure it seems to possess difficulties peculiarly its own.

The following officers have been elected by the Single Tax League of Los Angeles: President, Walter Gould Lincoln; First Vice-President, Mrs. Anna George DeMille; Second Vice-President, John J. Abramson; Secretary, Palmyra Presley; Treasures, R. E. Chadwick; Executive Committee, William DeMille, David Woodhead, Frank Bode. The League has an office at 208 American Bank Building, Los Angeles, Cal., which is in charge of the Executive Secretary, William F. Lusk.

CONNECTICUT.—A bill drawn by C. M. Gallup has been presented in the legislature by Representative Joseph R. Carroll, of Norfolk. It provides as follows:

"SECTION 1. All property other than land, taxable as part of any grand list to be perfected as of Oct. 1, 1920, shall be set in said list at eighty per cent. of the then true value. Said eighty per cent. shall be reduced in value one-fourth as of Oct. 1, 1921, and one-half as of Oct. 1, 1922, three-fourths as of Oct. 1, 1923, and eliminated as of Oct. 1, 1924.

SECTION 2. No land excepting that belonging to the United States, the State of Connecticut, or a subdivision thereof, shall be exempt from taxation after Oct. 1, 1924."

Single Taxers appeared before the legislative committee in advocacy of the measure. The press gives the following report of the hearing:

"We're after the land shark, commonly known as the ground hog, who sits on the land and holds it, John Cairns of Manchester declared. "There are two classes of people who are opposed to this bill: the land shark, who knows what he's doing, and the farmer, who doesn't yet understand that it's really his buildings and all his improvements that he's taxed on now. Under our present system, we tax dogs as a nuisance, and we tax private improvements of all kinds for every man, woman and child in the community.

"Why ask the soldiers to clean up the waste lands of Florida or the Northwest, when we have millions of acres