

## OUT-DOOR MEETINGS IN NEW YORK

During the Summer months the Manhattan S. T. Club has confined its propaganda to out-door meetings on the corner of Seventh Avenue and 125th Street. These meetings are held Tuesday and Friday nights, and the attention of any visiting Single Taxers who may be in New York from now until November is called to the fact. We will be glad to have them with us, especially if they are willing to talk.

These meetings have been under the immediate supervision of Mr. Joseph Fink, who has acted as Chairman. He has been assisted in his work of conducting these meetings by Henry W. Mitchell, a new comer into the fold. There have been many speakers, among whom are James R. Brown, John S. Crosby, James Macgregor, Wm. Ryan, Augustus Weymann, John J. Murphy, Joseph F. Darling and others.

The sale of literature at these meetings and the interest manifested have been very gratifying. There has also been a good deal of excitement of an intellectual kind, which we doubt not has been very stimulating to those who took part. Paraphrasing a well known remark of Henry George, Mr. Fink declared the other evening that if he could not bring about the Single Tax "he could at these meetings at least raise h—ll." The occasion of this remark was five distinct groups that lined the middle of the street and side-walk after the close of the meeting, animatedly discussing the problems suggested by Mr. Fink's answers to questions. Long after the stand had been removed and far into the night these groups lingered.

James R. Brown's "Island Story" is a favorite of those who gather around the stand and listen to economic wisdom. Mr. Brown's answers to questions are especially apt.

"What is to prevent land being held out of use after you get the Single Tax, the landlord preferring to pay the tax rather than to sell or utilize the land?" queried a by-stander.

"Well, only this," answered Mr. Brown. "Perhaps an illustration will help the gentleman. I own a slave, who is worth to me eight bales of cotton a year, we will say.

Along comes the assessor. He says, 'I see you have a likely nigger. He must be a good producer.' And I answer, 'Well, yes, he isn't so bad.' And the assessor says, 'Now just about what is his productive power?' 'Well,' I answer, 'he is worth eight bales of cotton a year to me.' And then the assessor smiles. He says, 'I suppose you have heard that there is a new law assessing niggers.' I say, 'Yes, I have heard something of it. Just a small tax, I presume.' And he says, 'No, not so small. In your case it will be eight bales of cotton a year.' I grow furious. Why, that is confiscation. And then the assessor says, 'Well, I won't argue that with you. It's the law, and all I have to do is to enforce it. Sorry, of course.' And he turns to go, saying that he trusts I will have the cash value of eight bales of cotton ready for him when he calls again. In utter helplessness I call him back. 'Say, Mister, if you take the eight bales of cotton you take all the value of the nigger. *Now take the nigger, too.*' All this is told with the art of an actor and a Southern twang that gave the story an added flavor.

Though engaged in a very serious business, the splendid young fellows, and some of the older ones, too, are alert to the humor that is incident to the carrying on of these meetings. Indeed, it is not the audience that manifests the keenest enjoyment in the mental aberrations of some of the questioners, their peculiar confusions, or their confident cocksureness.

Sometimes, too, the "retort courteous" is on one or the other of our own comrades, in the give and take of repartee. Thus: "When I speak we always sell more literature. Last meeting when I did all the speaking, we sold an enormous number of Mr. Rusby's pamphlet, but when you speak we sell only half a dozen copies." This from Jos. Fink.

Augustus Weymann—the victim of this thrust. "That is not at all remarkable. When I speak the audience knows what Single Tax is, but when you speak they have to buy our literature to find out what in thunder you have been talking about."

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