

## Query:--What is the Professor Saying?



OUR artist has snapshotted Prof. Blank in one of his most earnest attitudes, when expounding to the world the economic problems of the hour.

But the artist was not a reporter, took no notes of the speech and has left us guessing just what the learned academician was saying.

The occasion was an eventful one, one of those mysterious periodic crises, when economic forces threaten to disrupt civilization.

Fortunately, when taking the photograph, the artist, although focussing his camera on the distinguished figure of the Professor, took a broad-angled view of the whole scene.

The Professor, of course, is no mute sphinx. His loquacity is known to exceed all speed limits.

But he is no irresponsible soap-box orator. He is charged with the delicate task of moulding the opinions and directing the capacity of the nation's aspiring young intellectuals. More than that, his utterances undoubtedly influence the maturer judgment of legislators and governments.

Therefore, it is really important for us to know what he did say on the momentous occasion depicted above.

Something may be inferred from the expressions on the faces of his audience. Two of his hearers to the left seem

to be quite pleased at the tenor of his discourse. To the land speculator and also to the representative of the country's government, the Professor's words have apparently brought unmixed satisfaction. The one puffs his perfumed approval; the other smiles as he continues putting up notices of further fiscal burdens on Capital and Labor, on every enterprise of progress and development, and every convenience and necessary of life—every conceivable form of tax, except the one which would make unprofitable the unproductive holding of land and return to the people the public values resulting from the presence, needs and progress of society.

On the other hand, the impression on the mixed audience of Capital and Labor is not one of unalloyed approval. The Professor seems to realize this and therefore has turned to address them more directly, throwing a good deal of energy into his efforts to convince—pounding and expounding rather nervously, it seems to us.

He is depicted as standing on a volume of Political Economy. Does that warrant us in assuming that counsels of sanity are flowing from his lips? Or does it signify that he is trampling under foot economic laws and political wisdom?

Can any of our readers make good the artist's omission and recall the lost message of the professor?