

believe that 90 per cent. of the California Single-Taxers would get together if given half a chance. I believe in fighting while the battle is on, but I reserve and demand the right to help fix up the firing line between battles.

Some years ago Henry George built a bridge which bridged the chasm between our present chaotic condition and paradise, but when we, his followers, come to its entrance, we seem to talk in foreign tongues and we do not understand each other. Our feet seem to get tangled so that we cannot cross. There is a tendency among us to carry a chip on our shoulder and scold. Some of us think that being stubborn means being radical. Let me say that getting the land value away from those who think they own it is going to be a battle with brains and needs unity of action.

Some of our biggest business men are Single Taxers; they believe in efficiency in full in their business, but when it comes to their hobby, their life's dream, they let it go haphazard. Let us take California as an example: We raised about \$28,000. for the last campaign, but it cost 33⅓% for every dollar collected. We were compelled to make this waste. It is waste, waste from start to finish. This does not apply to California alone, but we find the same thing all over the country. So long as we have to waste one-third of our energy, remain disorganized and call each other names rather than consider the obstacles that confront us, how can we expect success?

I sometimes wonder if the Single Taxers do not take themselves too seriously. The average Single Tax meeting is full of gloom. If someone laughs everybody is startled. We think we carry the whole world on our shoulders. I really think that Bengough with his chalk talks would make more Single Taxers than a dozen serious-minded lecturers. I have never met Bengough; I just say this because I have heard from so many people who have been converted by him. He gets results. In order to waken people from their slumbers, you must let them see things as they are.

Here are two articles that appeared in our Grand Rapids papers the same day: "New York, Jan'y 8th.—A fur coat worth \$75,000. is soon to be sent to Paris for Mrs. W. E. Corey, wife of the steel magnate. The coat is of Russian sable." The other article was that we, the citizens of Grand Rapids, took a mother of three American children and kept her in jail all night for taking twenty-five cents worth of coal to keep her children from freezing. I mention these items because to me our so-called civilization is so crude and ridiculous that if we ever get Single Taxers with any sense of humor, we would not have to lecture but laugh people into Single Tax.

Some day we will have a leader who is not a leader but a pusher. No well organized business has a leader but some where in some little room out of sight is the man who pushes. Some day we will have a pusher and then we will all centralize our forces on some one spot. We will plan a two-year campaign, hire some good publicity man (I mean a newspaper man who knows the ropes) at an expense of about \$3,000. per annum. He could get \$100,000. worth

of Single Tax publicity. We will have another person to take charge of a speaker's bureau at an expense of about \$5,000. We have in our own ranks talent galore that would be glad to give its services. The work done through this bureau cannot be estimated in dollars and cents. Every Single Taxer in that state will become enthused and fired with religious zeal, and we will tell all those who are looking for a perfect world beyond that if God is our Father, then the Earth is our Mother, and we cannot serve the one and neglect the other, and we will go into the highways and byways and preach for the abolition of poverty through Single Tax. About four months before election we will call in the psychologist; (I mean the man who opens up people's heads and sees what is going on inside) then we will call in the cartoonist and the advertising man and we will depict life in its nudity. We will let the one-half of the world know how the other half lives. We will hold our remedy high above our heads, so that they can see that our way is the only way for the abolition of poverty and the only way to secure justice.

Yours for a better world,

GERRIT J. JOHNSON.

BOOK NOTICES

A VALUABLE AND IMPORTANT WORK.*

We hope this book will be widely read. We welcome its appearance. Particularly should it be read by those who at this critical time are responsible for the reconstructive legislation which a disordered and disheartened world demands. Now, more than ever, must legislation look beyond palliative devices to economic laws. In so far as statesmen, whatever their sphere,—the nation, the state, the municipality,—act upon the old make-shift policy, to the neglect of the lasting needs of the community, they will do an evil service to their own day and future generations.

Mr. Brown addresses his book to all who "are concerned with the evils in our present economic system and who look forward to worthwhile changes during or after the war. World-wide democracy will be but half achieved if it be achieved in the political realm only, with no accompanying economic changes."

With Mr. Brown's conclusions Single Taxers have little reasons to quarrel. The debate will be rather with those whom the author describes as "economists whose social sympathies (of the influence of which they are not always conscious) or whose training by their former teachers, incapacitate them for seeing any distinction between land and capital." To these Mr Brown's work comes as a virile challenge, made in such terms that it must be taken up. The fundamental issues raised affect the economic policy of the country too profoundly to be ignored. They must be discussed by professional economists and settled once for all. It is unfair to American democracy, now deeply concerned about her future, that uncertainty as to these issues should continue a day longer than necessary. Class interests of a contrary nature must not be allowed to prejudice the final triumph of reason.

While the economists debate, we trust that the unprofessional student of the economic problems now facing our nation, will also consult this work of Prof. Brown. Economic problems, after all, are but the problems of business, industry, agriculture, the getting and distributing of wealth, the material and better things we all are rightly striving for. The style of the work is clear, easy, and its vocabulary untechnical; while on every page it is provocative of thought.

* *The Theory of Earned and Unearned Incomes*—by Harry Gunnison Brown, Professor of Economics in the University of Missouri—12 mo. 254 pp. Missouri Book Co., Columbia, Mo.