

be heard by a wider audience than heard him that night. He has a message from a neighboring people, a people suspicious of our motives, a people unfriendly even to friendly suggestions, but capable of being answered to their satisfaction if we will but meet them with fraternal sympathy, *and with hands off*.

Other speakers at the banquet were Prof. Kullmer, Chas F. Adams, Frederick A. Mohr of Auburn, John J. Murphy, Wesley Barker, Dr. Newcomb, of Rochester; Byron Holt and Joseph Dana Miller.

The banquet ended at 11 o'clock, and though neither banquet nor Conference were largely attended they were successful in enthusiasm, in promise of work to come, and particularly in the fact that a great university opened its walls for the first time to a meeting of Single Taxers. This, and the character of the reception, mark the conference as one of the most notable ever held within the State—J. D. M.

ECHOES FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

(For the Review)

By **BENJAMIN F. LINDAS**

STRAIGHT TALKS FROM MARSH

A few weeks ago a conference was held at beautiful Sherwood Forest, near Washington, by the Intercollegiate Socialist Society. One day was devoted to the discussion of the government ownership of railroads. The principle speaker was Benjamin C. Marsh, of New York, and he managed to intermingle with his sarcastic jabs at the railroad owners, a few straight licks for Single Tax. Said Mr. Marsh:

"I am the advance agent of the new order of things, and my present mission is to create a public sentiment which will squeeze all the water out of the railroads before they are purchased by the government. The railroad capitalists are human—they wish to get champagne prices for rain water."

"The chief element of value," added Mr. Marsh, "of all the forms of wealth of the railways, telegraph lines, water works and electric light systems, is land value, which obviously the owners did not create. The inclusion of land values in the appraisal of the railroads alone would add \$8,500,000,000 to the price that the government would have to pay."

To dry out the water-logged railroad lines, Mr. Marsh suggested a liberal dose of Single Tax.

It seems a good sign to me that the intellectual branch of the Socialist Party could invite a man like Mr. Marsh to address them and listen to his philosophy, not only with interest but with approbation.

A FUTILE REMEDY

In a brief filed by the Federal Government last month in the United States Supreme Court, in a suit against the Lehigh Railroad, and Lehigh Coal Company in which they are charged with attempting to stifle competition, the government contends that the Lehigh Valley Railroad company through subsidiaries, has monopolized anthracite coal production, transportation and sale in its territory. This, the brief asserts, was accomplished by means of the acquisition of more than ninety thousand acres of coal land, and by controlling the output of other companies. The government asks, as a remedy for these evils, that the court compel the railroad company to dispose of the subsidiary coal company stocks to persons in no way connected with it, and to break up the interlocking directorates.

Let us suppose that the government wins this suit, and "busts" another trust. Of what earthly advantage will it be to the consumer of anthracite coal? What difference does it make to the ordinary citizen whether the thousands of acres of coal land are held in the name of one owner or a dozen?

There is a remedy, however, and a very simple remedy for such conditions as these. Let the people say to the Lehigh coal company, or any other coal company, or any private owner, or any number of private owners:

"You can hold your coal land if you wish; you can leave it unused although the people are in need of the coal, but if you wish to do this you will have to pay to the people every cent that your coal land is worth; you will have to pay into the public treasury every cent of value given to the land by the presence of the people and the demands of industry."

Let them say this and put their words into deeds by land value tax, and there will be no need for years of expensive litigation to secure the remarkable result of providing for a dozen book-keeping systems in place of one, and a few more names on the real estate records as the owners of the land.

THE HIGH COST OF LIVING

The last monthly bulletin of the Federal Reserve Board contains this statement:

"High prices of crops bring many comments as to the high cost of living and expressions of serious doubts as to how labor is to support itself, notwithstanding high wages."

This is a serious condition of affairs, but is simply the restatement of the position of Single Taxers, that no matter how high wages are advanced if land values go, without restraint, into the pockets of the private owners of the land, increased rent will soon, in some form or other, absorb the entire increase in wages.

* * * * *

A report made by the Agricultural Department about the same time that the Federal Reserve Board's statement was issued, has been taken by

many to be a complete explanation of the reason for the high prices of crops. This report reads as follows:

"A preliminary estimate places the wheat crop at 607,557,000 bushels, 404,000,000 bushels under last year's record-breaking crop. Corn production prospects increased and a total crop of 2,717,932,000 is forecasted. This is more than 300,000,000 bushels less than harvested last year."

The report then goes on to give the decreases in a number of products, including white potato crop, tobacco, oats, barley, buckwheat, sweet potatoes, pears, apples and sugar beets.

This general decrease in farm products is, of course, a contributing cause of the high cost of the necessities of life. It is not, however, the real, basic cause. We want first of all to find the cause of the decreased production of these products. Failure of crops and unfavorable weather conditions may have something to do with it, but the real cause of the decrease is the fact that within our own country there is a whole continent of tillable soil grown in weeds and brambles, held out of use for the purposes of speculation, or held at such a high price that all the profit of the farmer is gone before the plow has turned a foot of the soil. Make these acres of fertile soil available by a tax heavy enough to discourage the withholding of them from use, and we would never again have to complain of the decreased production of the farms.

* * * *

A good illustration of how the withholding of natural resources from use becomes the primary cause of high prices is shown in an interview with J. H. Fooster, an oil expert from Oklahoma. The price of oil and gasoline is higher now than it has been for years. The glib explanation is, of course, decrease in production and increase in the demand. Listen to what Mr. Fooster has to say:

"There is enough oil in the West alone to last several hundred years. In the Salt Creek fields of Wyoming there are more than a dozen fields that have not yet been touched. The whole State of Wyoming is apparently one vast reservoir of oil, and the surface there has not been scratched. Kansas promises to become the leading oil State in another year. Montana, California and Mexico are great oil districts. There are thousands of acres of oil land in California that have not been surveyed. In Mexico are the richest oil fields of the world."

Apply this explanation of Mr. Fooster to every product necessary to the life of mankind, and you will have discovered the real situation. Inexhaustible natural wealth cornered by unscrupulous individuals and corporations to better enable them to prey upon the helpless public.

CARNEGIE PHILANTHROPY

The following has nothing to do with Single Tax. I mention it simply as an example of unconscious irony. A certain individual by the name of

Carnegie formed an organization which he called the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The endowment consists principally of bonds whose dividends or interest are paid from the profits of manufacturing armor plate for battleships, munitions and engines of war.

Recently the Endowment issued its year book in which it estimates that \$28,896,277.36 has been spent by this country alone for the war sufferers of Europe. The total gifts represent about one-twentieth of the total amount spent here by the allies for war munitions.

It is particularly fitting that an institution founded upon the profits made from the manufacture of instruments of death, should grow eulogistic over the charity of others who are sending millions to relieve the misery caused by that horrible trade.

THE PEOPLE'S CHURCH

A short while ago, before a committee of Congress a certain facetious individual remarked that his only objection to Single Taxers was "that when they read 'Progress and Poverty' they got religion over it." "Many a true word is spoken in jest," reads an old adage. It is true in this case. Single Taxers do get religion over their philosophy; it is their religion. For the basic principle of Single Tax is the basic principle of every religion; justice, brotherly love, equal rights to all, an implicit faith in natural law.

In order to carry this idea into practice, the Single Taxers of Washington some years ago organized the People's Church. It has no creed. It makes no distinction on account of race or color. In its pulpit almost every Sunday will be found a representative of real democracy. During the past year such men and women spoke there as Louis F. Post, Alice Thatcher Post, Warren Worth Bailey, McNair of Pittsburg, Pastoriza of Houston, Grace Isabel Colbron, H. Martin Williams and a host of others. The president of the church is B. Pickman Mann, son of Horace Mann, the great educator, and himself a man of culture and brilliant attainments.

Should any Single Taxer happen to be in Washington on Sunday he will find good-fellowship and a kindly greeting at this little Church.

JUSTICE and liberty combined can cure the evils of the present system. That is the purpose of the Single Tax. Socialists would have justice without liberty—JAMES BELLANGEE.

It is axiomatic that every one is entitled to all he makes or creates, so the thoughtless are cheated by catch phrases which call the various forms of legal robbery "money making"—JAMES BELLANGEE.

INDOLENCE of body is bad, but indolence of mind is worse, and moral laziness worst of all—JAMES BELLANGEE.

As each step gives momentum each will help or hinder the next — JAMES BELLANGEE.