

through the country you see thousands of acres of land, absolutely unused, and the people unable to use it, to raise anything on it, and they tell us this is all new. Go back and see all of the other panics of the past.

All over the country today we are hearing about slum clearance and the taking of millions of dollars of the people's money to do it. We should have slum clearance. But what happens when the city, state, or nation begins to buy land? The price is run up and the land speculators are relieved of their land at high prices, or the owners of the land get rid of white elephants, all at the expense of the people.

When you build great roads or great improvements like the Boulder Dam, or when you build a great bridge like the George Washington Bridge in the city of New York, or the proposed Tri-Boro Bridge, costing millions of dollars, all the land, in and around the improvement, goes up in value because of this expenditure of money by the government, and those who desire thereafter to use the land or buy a piece of land for a home, an apartment house, factory, et cetera, find they cannot afford to buy it and you have what you have in New Jersey—miles of land in and around the end of the George Washington Bridge with very few buildings being erected, because the land is being held out of use for a further rise in value—that value created by the community or the community's money or the growth of population.

In the City of New York, the new School for Social Research wanted to build a building on Twelfth Street, and they paid two hundred thousand dollars for the mere fee of the land on which to erect the building. No one produced that land—no one except the community produced the value of that land, yet someone pocketed two hundred thousand dollars. The Wendel home on Fifth Avenue and Thirty-Ninth Street, with its dog-yard, has been going up in value and some day someone will pay millions for it and put up a skyscraper. The Wendels never lifted a finger to create that value.

In New York City we have land value and improvement value separate on our tax rolls. The land value of the City of New York is given as nine billion dollars; the improvement value is about the same. The community created that value of the land, and yet we permit the owners of the land to take the full rental value less taxes before either capital or labor can get any return on its investment or on its labor.

The Mayor of New York states the city is bankrupt, and yet if the city should put a one per cent additional tax on the land value of the City of New York, it would give to the city ninety million dollars additional revenue, and that land could not run away as the stock brokers and bankers threatened when in the last administration additional taxes were proposed.

If we had the best police department, the best fire department, the best schools and the cleanest streets, the best water, the best theatres, the best roads, as we now have a Mayor who seems as good as our old Mayor Gaynor of years ago, we would have an influx of people into the City of New York, because it would be a better place to live in and do business in and there would be an increase in value of the ground, and higher rents. If one million people move into the City of New York tomorrow, the value of the land and rents would go up tremendously, caused by the community having increased in population. And yet those values or a return on them are allowed to be taken by the owners of the land or speculators in land.

Mr. Chairman, my feelings about the N.R.A. is not that the purposes are not good, not that the men who are trying to enforce it are not trying to move in the right direction, but any thought that what we need to day is to cut down production instead of having a better distribution of wealth is wrong; my feeling is to let all machinery be used to the fullest, and let men work as long as they want to, commensurate with what is good for human beings, protecting them to the extent where they need protection, where they can not protect themselves by labor unions or voluntary cooperation. Increase pro-

duction, but for Heaven's sake stop the private taking of the community-created value of farm lands and other lands, and also the value added by public improvements that the United States and local governments make. Take that community-created value by taxing the full rental value of the land, without considering the improvements.

I feel, Mr. Chairman, that that is the crux in the entire situation, not overproduction, but underconsumption. That is where, it seems to me, the "brain trust," down here in Washington, has really become "brain dust" and not a "brain trust."

We want America to produce; we want men to be able to stand up and not come down to Washington with their hats in their hands asking a minimum of \$13.50 a week, with twenty-five weeks of employment a year.

Where are these Americans that, once upon a time, established a government, a government of free men on this soil? \$13.50 should be marked as an epitaph on the graves of those Americans who can not live on \$13.50, and remain free men.

## Youth of America News

AT the last meeting of the Central Council, the President, Walter Hecht, Jr., tendered his resignation, giving as his reasons a shortage of time available for the work to be done. His employment demands the greatest amount of his time—page Mr. Johnson and the Blue Eagle.

His resignation was unanimously rejected with a vote of complete confidence and his lack of time objection was answered by the election of N. Newstad Epstein as executive secretary. He is to devote full time to his duties, his first being to secure an office for a permanent headquarters for the Youth of America.

The Chicago setup is very strong (on paper), since its council boasts as its members officers of the Student-Citizen Federation, University Student's Club, Evanston Alliance and several others. Such a group sits in an enviable position because of its educational reform programme, for the matter of schools and education will be of prime importance here this coming year.

### 1934—A SUPER-YEAR OF PROGRESS IN CHICAGO

With this as a slogan—timely following our celebration of a Century of Progress—we plan to call together the heads of important groups, tax associations, organizations such as the Citizen's Committee on Public Expenditures, Civic Federation and all other groups apparently bent upon civic reform, yet appearing to be devoid of political ambition. The Youth of America, representing several thousand Chicago and suburban young men and women, will sponsor the programme and act as a clearing house of ideas.

A meeting will be called of these heads of the various organizations. Each will have been instructed to bring a ten-point programme of *achievable* objects. This purpose will again be outlined at the meeting by some man such as Dr. Robert Maynard Hutchins, President of the University of Chicago (available at this writing), and other highly respected citizens of non-political fame may



speak. A committee will be appointed to draft a ten-point programme of achievable objects.

Then the method of procedure which will consist of:

Enrollment of a corps of speakers who will talk before churches, women's clubs, parent-teachers associations, etc. Speaking dates to be arranged and schedules planned by the clearing house (Youth of America). These speakers will find entry where recognized politicians fear to tread.

The heads of each group represented will be expected to educate their organizations to the programme and enlist active sympathy.

Preston Bradley and other men who have promised aid and impetus to the Youth of America will be called upon to keep their promises by advocating this programme of unified effort.

The Youth of America will prepare a series of radio dramatizations of the programme. Space on the air is gratis to the Youth of America whereas a political club generally pays plenty for its publicity.

The Youth of America can supply a young precinct captain for each square block in the city after this gets started, and proceed Tammany-wise to visit every household and discuss the policy.

The best mailing lists in the city will be secured, and by calling upon each representative group to pay a portion of the mailing expense of the organization, a pretty good coverage can be anticipated.

No representative improvement club or other association will be called upon to contribute anything but service and time. The only exception being the mailing of literature and printing expenses which they themselves will mail out to those with whom they may have influence. This literature will be prepared by the clearing house.

Accepting the sound psychological fact that doing something for nothing strikes the fancy of none, we intend to proceed with the belief that the heads of most of these organizations are constantly on the lookout for work that will keep their organizations busy—and keep themselves in the limelight and in office. Young men and women in the high schools and colleges are filled with sufficient idealism to work for nothing but glory—they don't have to be promised anything. As for the speakers—everyone likes to speak, and if supplied with an audience will jump at the chance. If supplied with a topic so much the better.

The name, Youth of America, loosely refers to a group of co-ordinating youth groups throughout the country and to councils already forming in various cities composed of members from already organized youth clubs and leagues. It has a national recovery platform which represents a middle course between socialism and rampant monopolistic-capitalism. It offers real capitalism; has a suffrage plank calling for the enfranchisement of eighteen-year-olds; educational programme outlined on authority of Dr. Hutchins (already mentioned); peace plank and others yet dearer to the heart of the Georgist.

Effort so far has been local in nature, yet inquiries pour

in from the four corners of the nation. Its national platform is rarely made an issue—time enough for that.

Although loosely organized at present, The Youth of America is the largest non-political group in the city. It is young enough not to have made any serious mistakes or enemies. Its hands are clean. People may laugh at the "idealism of youth," but they have faith in the sincerity of purpose that it connotes. Few will suspect youth of ulterior motives or trickery. In truth, the Youth of America is absolutely sincere in respect to this programme with a purpose. Every member will supply time and effort and none will receive monetary recompense with the exception of a secretary who will devote his entire time to the job.

RICHARD E. HOWE.

## Work in Washington, D.C.

THE Civics and Equity League has just concluded a series of Sunday afternoon radio talks over its station WOL, by Joseph B. Chamberlain, of Kensington, Md., beginning with a Woodrow Wilson birthday memorial address, in which the most forward-looking of that President's utterances were quoted.

In harmony with Henry George's assertion that "unless a cause can be presented as a question of right and wrong, it cannot provoke discussion or excite the many to action," the emphasis in each address was placed upon the moral rather than the economic aspect of the subject; but, while the word "Single Tax" was not used, there was the positive reiteration, in varied forms, of the fact that the rental value of land belongs to society, and the persistent suggestion throughout the addresses, that the land question is fundamental and lies at the root of all present-day economic problems.

Among the topics announced were "The Iniquity of Civilization," "A Code of Economic Ethics," "Radicalism versus Conservatism," "The Radical Remedy for Chronic Economic Ills," "The Gospel According to Abraham Lincoln," and "The Gospel According to Ralph Waldo Emerson."

The number of comments—mostly favorable—received by the station indicates that Mr. Chamberlain's programme did not lack listeners, and he is to be congratulated on his success in thus getting his message across. The Single Taxers of Washington are hoping that a "return engagement" may be arranged for later in the season.

GERTRUDE E. MACKENZIE.

IT requires reflection to see that manifold effects result from a single cause, and that the remedy for a multitude of evils may lie in one simple reform. . . . But attention is distracted and effort divided by schemes of reform which though they may be good in themselves are, with reference to the great end to be attained, either inadequate or super-adequate.

"Protection or Free Trade," Chap. XXVIII.