

## Work of The Manhattan Single Tax Club

THE months of December and January were busy ones for the Manhattan Single Tax Club. The fiscal year ended Nov. 30 and the annual meeting was held Dec. 7, when the Club elected the following officers and directors:

President, Charles H. Ingersoll; Vice President, Philip Stanley; Treasurer, Harry W. Olney; General Secretary, Walter Fairchild; Recording Secretary, Elma Dame; Financial Secretary, Frank A. Hill; Directors: John H. Allen, George H. Atkinson, Richard Eyre, Charles A. Lingham, George Lloyd, Joseph Dana Miller.

The president has appointed an activities committee composed of George Lloyd, Whidden Graham and Stephen Bell; this committee has already started to work on three particular things: 1. Getting our mayor behind the Pittsburgh Plan and otherwise promoting it for adoption here. 2. Organization of the NTRA work: (the National Tax Relief Association). 3. The establishing of regular club activities, and if possible regular meetings and extension of membership.

The National Tax Relief Association is largely a paper organization yet but has for its officers and directors the following:

President, Charles H. Ingersoll; Treasurer, John H. Allen; Secretary, Gladwin Bouton. Directors: John H. Allen, L. R. Bonta, Cornelius Donovan, J. P. Kohler, Charles H. Ingersoll, Harry W. Olney, Harry Weinberger.

Its stated purpose is to secure legislation for the removal of taxation from business and its slogan is from the statement of the U. S. Supreme Court, "The power to tax involves the power to destroy." Its office is 1182 Broadway, Room 704, New York City. Its purpose is aimed to procure the cooperation of business and industry in the conduct of work that is wholly in their financial interest but which they are leaving for labor to finance. Mr. Bouton has already mailed 1,000 letters to best business concerns largely in the east and results are coming; incidentally Mr. Bouton is being favored by several prominent Single Taxers for appointment to the office of Tax Commissioner of New York which office was made historical by the occupancy of Lawson Purdy.

Mr. Ingersoll's radio activities are being resumed after his incapacity from a broken ankle, according to the following schedule: WBNX, Bronx, N. Y., (1350 k.c.) every morning at 11:30 except Saturday and Sunday. WOV, New York, N. Y., (1130 k.c.) Monday at 3:00 p. m. WDAS, Philadelphia, Pa., Friday at 5:15 p. m., Saturday 10:15 a. m. and 9:45 p. m. WDEL, Wilmington, Saturday, (Time not yet announced).

At present he is giving "Current Events from the Economic Standpoint," every day, which entails a much greater result with many more opportunities to advance our economic position effectively; he will, however, in

addition give his single topic talks at several stations beside his Current Event stations which will probably be three, making in all from fifteen to twenty talks weekly.

An important further variation is the Monday morning "Answers to Father Coughlin," in his discourse of the day before; this may develop into something very important.

Mr. Ingersoll's radio talks are now being published weekly by the *San Diego Broom* edited by Mr. D'Aryan and also used daily in the editorial department of the *Coshocton Tribune*. We expect to extend the use of these talks very generously as they are undoubtedly good columnist material. Mr. Ingersoll is also using this material as the basis for organized letter writing to papers and is requesting the names of available papers in every city. Will Single Taxers in the country respond to this request?

Below are a few current events as they are seen from an economic standpoint:

### WILL FREE TRADE COME—JUST NATURALLY?

Joseph Stalin of Russia says to Walter Duranty of the *New York Times* in a very human talk, "We want a lot of your stuff, of course, but we pay our bills—whatever the more civilized nations are doing—and we can only buy if we can sell, which we can't with your tariff." There he states in a short sentence the real economic theory of international trade on which have been wasted volumes. Trade is barter, and, therefore, no importation can hurt our industries because there must be an equivalent export that our American workmen produce. I see that several countries are agitating the tariff also, France, Spain and the Phillipines, and it may be that economic pressure and the native horse sense of the business man will destroy these tariff walls before the whole world wastes all its substance building navies and air fleets that are largely fostered by tariffs.

### THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES A POLICY OF COOPERATION

between the countries of America, north and south. Does this mean that whenever there is trouble in any of these countries, he will send a dozen warships to surround them? Or is that not intervention?

He says fear lies behind the threat against peace. Before his election, he told us that low tariffs pointed the way to eliminate armaments, but he has with apparent satisfaction allocated a large proportion of the 15 billion dollars to be extracted from American consumers to the building of death-dealing war machinery.

### OUR MAYOR LAGUARDIA ALSO WANTS TO BE A DICTATOR

and is now applying for such powers ala Roosevelt. There must be something in our New York atmosphere that has a tendency to turn democrats into autocrats. There's no doubt but the dictatorship urge spreads very persistently, but we wish our mayor could put across his big



job with what he has in the way of implements without in other ways following the Washington pattern.

One of the interesting developments of NRA's socialism and dictatorship is the proposal here to drive all the beggars and pan handlers off the streets. Our police head, Gen. O'Ryan, would do this job.

We have created millions of beggars who, on the verge of starvation, must beg or steal. And we've done this by stealing their social property from them.

Every beggar in New York is the moral owner of about \$2,000 worth of franchise and land values that is being given to racketeers of the Astor, Wendell, Trinity Church type, and before we drive these unfortunates from the streets they have paid for with their blood money, we should have an accounting of our stewardship of the estate they have created.

#### POWER INTERESTS ARE MONOPOLY INTERESTS

Our minerals, natural resources and land values generally, comprise at least half our whole national "wealth," and these interests have taken that half that belongs as much (morally) to us citizens as the half we made with our hands, brains and capital.

Now there's no party standing up for us as citizens. The Democrats have run off after socialism which makes no distinction between social and individual property.

So unless the Republican party sees this opportunity now and stands for BUSINESS and the people against the handful—not over three per cent of our 125 million people—that get their living from monopoly by embezzling the income from half our wealth—well, we'll just have to form a third party.

Suicides, banditry and poverty are all symptoms of disease in our "body politic" from which it must be cured or it will die, and the cure can't be effected with drugs or nostrums such as the NRA. Nature will cure, if we reverse our process of taxing business and labor and turn to taxing monopoly and laziness.

#### THE SOCIALISTIC REFORMER WILL THROW A GLEEFUL FIT

over the news of the great Mellon's demise in Pittsburgh, and the fact that the government can crack down and take away as much as 90 of this 200 million dollar estate.

And that pet idea and others, like big income taxes and excess profit taxes, are very plausible and doubtless more popular with the "unthinking mass"—whoever they are—than the saner and sounder idea of preventing such profits and accumulations.

If they were the profits of industry and enterprise, their idea would not be so foolish, but no industry can yield excess profits or pile up such fortunes. That means they are taken from some one else's industry and where it HURTS—hurts just like our present poverty and distress.

Socialists, who sob for the suffering of the masses, countenance their robbery by a system of racketeering in fran-

chises, natural resources and land values. Then the socialist would officially exploit industry, the employer of all labor, and control and collect its profits along with the profits of monopoly.

Economic science says, put all earnings of social property in the treasury, that being enough to pay all the cost of government, business industry and labor are entirely free of tax burdens, and there is your economic balance in place of our present economic chaos.

#### SKYSCRAPERS ARE GETTING UNPOPULAR SAYS MR. SHURLEFF, A CITY PLANNER

They overdo production of office space and meet the law of diminishing returns and are poor investments.

Undoubtedly, as they are a flower of land speculation that makes land worth as high as 50 million dollars an acre, at which price you can't make low buildings yield a profit. Such land prices stimulate high buildings to yield a profit. Such land prices drive buildings to the heavens to get a profit—and then fail.

Taxing those high land values would bring them to normal where competition and profit would be normal. No taxes on the buildings—again cutting rents, and enabling greater space to be used.

Mr. Ingersoll was invited to address the following meetings:

*Tilden High School, Brooklyn, N. Y., Dec. 5, 1:00 p. m.* This appointment came through Dan Berg, a member of the economics class which Mr. Ingersoll addressed, probably influenced by John Luxton, Single Taxer, who teaches Biology in this great school of 7,000 pupils. This class of 100 is headed by Professor Max who is not a Single Taxer but is actively interested, as his class is. Mr. Ingersoll talked three-quarters of an hour and with original material inspired by the keen interest of these students, largely Jewish, and the quiz was spontaneous and very keen, lasting another three-quarters of an hour. Would have kept on for hours but for time limitation.

*Aeropagus Club, Irvington, N. J., Sat., Dec. 16., 8:30 p. m.* At the home of Louis Miraglai, 218 Nesbit Terrace. Invited by J. B. Derr, principal. Twenty-five men present of the same type as always met at the several meetings attended last year in Irvington; that is, the typical business man, and in this instance members of the Board of Education. Gave a special talk of three-quarters of an hour and had a most interesting quiz of one and one-half hours. He was much impressed with the various calls from Irvington and is trying to start a club there.

**W**HETHER a big expanse of territory called the Gran Chaco shall be exploited by Paraguayan or Bolivian landlords has crazed a lot of peons in both countries so that they are murdering each other under the delusion that such insanity is patriotism. Some fools will fight to be robbed by their own countrymen rather than by a foreigner.