

a high tariff system is a necessary means of providing workmen with jobs. Or these property owners who are in debt and who can gain at the expense of other property owners (their creditors) by a depreciation of the monetary standard, may sometimes succeed in rallying to their support millions of wage earners to whom such depreciation will mean, chiefly, increased cost of living with no corresponding rise in wages.

It is not only the propertyless masses who can be thus put into a false position. Class prejudice sometimes makes opponents of those whose interests, in a specific reform, are the same as the interests of the masses. In the case of a protest against various abuses in the system of property, which, if effective, would limit mainly the incomes of the wealthy few, these few are able to lure to their support thousands of small property owners who might even stand to gain by the proposed change, but whose prejudices are those of the larger owners of property and who are easily roused to a martial spirit by anything which can be made to appear to them as a threat against a system of things which they have learned to regard as sacred.

And so, many of the great mass movements which seem to be democratic movements, lose themselves in fallacies and confusions and never even temporarily gain their objectives or, if their objectives are gained, temporarily, become soon discredited and fall back out of the rays of power and into obscurity.

Real democracy is, therefore, to the aspiring masses, as is the mirage to the worn traveller in the desert—a hope, whose realization appears perpetually to recede. Real democracy, in the circumstances of class interest and class prejudice, must wait upon some development of intelligent understanding of the economic system we now have and of the economic forces at work in that system, on the part of those who are its victims.

For, so long as the exploited groups in society cannot themselves successfully conduct and guide a social and economic system, so long as they or their leaders do not understand the faults of the system against which they protest, well enough, specifically enough, and discriminatingly enough to make workable reforms, so long as they are intellectually incapable of doing aught but lumping together for elimination unlike types of incomes, and so long as their revolts are likely to be directed by demagogues, fools, or the hired tools of interested parties and to result in a turbulence and economic breakdown which brings poverty even to themselves and discredit to their movement, worth-while reform is not to be expected or hoped for. Aristocratic economic relations must continue, even if they coexist incongruously with democratic political institutions. The exploited masses, being unable to evolve a better system, must needs accept a system which offers to a privileged class gains adequate to give such a class sufficient motive for maintaining the system in regular operation, with a due amount of law and order.

HARRY GUNNISON BROWN,

author of "The Theory of Earned and Unearned Incomes."

What the Professor is Saying

IN our last issue was printed a striking cartoon illustrating the economic and fiscal situation. Standing on a volume of political economy a professor is exhorting his hearers. Just what he is saying is left to the imagination. A copy of the Single Tax Five Year Book was offered for the best answer to the question, "What Is the Professor saying?" A number of answers have been received. The winner is Mr. W. F. Burgener, of Norwalk, California. The second place is accorded to our old friend, J. W. Bengough, of Toronto. The shortest of the imaginary speeches was that submitted by Harry W. Olney: "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

Mr. Burgener thinks that the professor has been misrepresented in the cartoon, and of course it is conceivable that he is saying what Mr. B. represents him as saying. In view of the loss of several professorships recently we now await with some trepidation the news of what may happen to the unnamed professor of the cartoon! We hope that Mr. Burgener has considered the need of making provision for him and his family when his identity is discovered and the speech made public.

MR. W. F. BURGNER

FELLOW Citizens: Uncle Sam's policy of allowing land to be kept idle for speculation purposes, and penalizing industry with taxes, is the cause of involuntary idleness, crime and suffering with which human society is afflicted. It is also the cause of the high cost of living. Speculation is the art of reducing wages and the price of products to the lowest point at which laborers will consent to reproduce their kind, while the price to the consumer is increased by all the traffic will bear, both the producer and the consumer being caught between the upper and nether millstone.

"It will thus be seen that speculation works harm and harm only, for the speculator himself is constantly on the ragged edge of failure, since he must operate on the widest margin possible, lest some other speculator steal a march on him, and he himself be precipitated in the common ruin. If speculation in products is utterly harmful, then speculation in the source of products, namely land, must be even more harmful.

"Speculation in products and speculation in land itself are the evils of the present day. Speculation in products is caused by monopoly in the control of production or transportation. In speculation in land the profit is not realized by increasing the supply of land, or by improvements in or on it, but by limiting the area of land available for production, through high rents and high price for land.

"By holding some land out of use for speculation, speculation in the products of land is made easier. So long as land can be bought and sold for a price, so long will land speculation continue. As I have said, the profit in land speculation is not in products in or on the land, but is due to the appropriation for privat

use of the increment of social values, plus speculative values.

"Now Social Land Values are those created by population; they cannot be destroyed save through depopulation. Speculative land values are based on the anticipated increase in population, and cannot be eventually realized save by the realization of such increase.

"It thus appears that social land values are due to the social demand for land, and that the appropriation to private use of such values gives that power of monopoly which makes speculation in land and its products possible, and creates the social ills of which we complain.

"The remedy is obvious. Collect society-created values for social uses, and thus prevent abnormal concentration of wealth."

MR. J. W. BENGOUGH

Gentlemen:

I come before you as an Orthodox College Professor of Economics, and accordingly take my stand upon a volume of Political Economy as a fitting platform. The significance of this is that it is my interest, if not my duty, to keep the truths of this science as far from my head as possible.

I am both surprised and pained to observe that this audience is made up of representatives of Capital and Labor, standing together in apparent harmony. You do not seem to be aware that these two great forces are in violent conflict. Their interests are antagonistic—irreconcilably so—and that they should thus fraternize is simply indecent. Capital has nothing in common with Labor. You gentlemen with the silk hats are out of place alongside of the "Horny handed sons of toil." You rightfully belong within the barbed-wire enclosure here, with my esteemed friend, the Land Speculator, because Land is Capital. The most atrocious heresy of men like Henry George, who have presumed to teach Political Economy without having gone through College, is that Land is not Wealth, but the natural storehouse or source of wealth, and that, since Capital is stored-up wealth, Land is not Capital. This monstrous fallacy I denounce with all the vehemence of which I am capable! (Here he pounds his right hand with his left fist). I note the expression of disdain on your faces, but this only shows how your minds have been poisoned by those upstarts. I tell you Land is Capital and Land Rent is the legitimate profit of those those who perform the toil of owning title deeds. Landlordism is, indeed, the palladium of our liberties, and the only sound policy for this Republic is Protection. It fills your dinner pails, my laboring brothers, and it is the salvation of your industries, my Capitalist friends. This is the Truth, and I will continue to declare it as long as my job depends upon the will of those whose interests demands that it be taught!

Land cannot be property in the sense that movable things are property.

J. A. FROUDE.

CANNOT persons who think about taxation learn something from the ordinary laws of physical science? The lower the centre of gravity in a ship or a car the greater its stability. A much greater weight can be carried safely if it is properly stowed. Even a wayfaring man, or a seafaring one, must see that the lower the centre of gravity can be placed in the social structure the less likely it is to capsize or upset. The weight of government is the taxation which it imposes to pay for itself. When we put this on the land, distributing the pressure according to its value, we have placed it at the lowest point in the social framework and thus helped to stabilize the whole structure.

THE little boy's definition of "salt" as the thing which made the egg taste so uninteresting when you didn't have it, may well be applied to the Single Tax. It is the thing which makes civilization taste like ipecac when you don't have it. Doubtless the world was a long time in existence before men had sense enough to put eggs and salt together. Doubtless also men were found who protested vehemently that the combination of eggs and salt would produce a poison of unprecedented virulence. Clearly it would put the egg business on the half-shell. The high state of civilization which had been then attained would go into the discard.

How the great revolution came to be accomplished is shrouded in the mist of ages. Let us hope it was achieved without bloodshed. Probably there were some old families which never became reconciled to the innovation and organized Societies of Unsalted Eggs which survived through many generations and in which membership was equivalent to a patent of nobility. But the hardest conservatives succumb to fate and the most venerable hierarchies are fretted away by the slow tooth of time. The sons of the revolutionists became the bulwarks of the new order and sometimes die assaulting the barricades their fathers built. The fact that a thing *is*, is the best proof that it will not be. Some day we shall sprinkle on the egg of civilization the salt of the Single Tax and then life will have a new savor and hope a new meaning and we shall proceed to interest ourselves in new combinations of which now we do not even dream.

Is Business Against Economic Reform?

A STRANGE but undeniable phenomenon is the aversion of business interests to pay for space in papers which advocate fundamental economic reforms. Business in general is acclaimed the handmaid of progress; but when increased beyond a certain point, it feels an identity of interest with the great properties which draw their sustenance from monopoly and special privilege. In this respect business men do not differ from other members of the community. The politician, who, standing on the bottom rung of the ladder, experiences, and appeals to, the feelings of his poorer constituents, when "honest graft" has swelled