

From broadcasts by Chas. H. Ingersoll

The Governor wants federal ownership of business, the Constitution changed, despotic powers of Supreme Court curbed, etc.

It is the same old siren song of state socialism; and the same old camouflage of names and issues, disguised in deceitful language. This is the danger that we may not be able to fight off. It is greatest in our educational system where communism is being bred into our children, and there is hardly an educator—in the rank and file of them—that knows he is teaching communism. All our attack upon it is remote, as far as Moscow, and as far as teachers' oaths, that cover technical communism, but take no account of its realities, the hundred things like control, regimentation, and dividing up wealth. The only answer is economic democracy that will free individualism again by taking its burdens, mainly of taxation, from its shoulders and putting the mon social values that are now monopolized by speculators.

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HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE IS NOW DECLARED constitutional by our state court. This does not harmonize with U. S. Court decisions; nor does it harmonize with what should take the place of that vague thing 'constitutionality,' and that is common sense and economic science. This whole brood of building houses, buying land and wreckage of slum clearance, and resettlement, very thinly disguises several kinds of graft, but more particularly, that basic graft of all, selling land to the people, who have created its value. The particular point of technical unconstitutionality, however, is 'taking without due process.' It takes from the laborer and consumer, and their employer, the business man, in order to line the pocket of the land grafter and in order to supply, not the slum dweller, but the white collar man, with housing at half what it costs. So, on legalistic grounds, as well as the enriching of the biggest and most respectable of racketeers, all these things are clearly out!

JOSEPH DANA MILLER'S "LAND AND FREEDOM"

The Georgeist movement is deserving of the best and most dignified representation, such as it is getting in the Henry George School and in Joseph Dana Miller's "Land and Freedom" (\$2 a year, 11 Nassau St., N. Y.) Miller's editorials and editing, as shown in the current issue, are superb.

LET US HAVE YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS!

We have now given you quite a number of samples of 'democracy'; the Editor would very much like to have your comments on his editorial material. Is it to the point? Is it interesting as well as educative?

In these piping times, a paper of such hard common sense and profound scientific character as 'democracy' can hardly be self-supporting; therefore, its continuance will depend upon the special support of its friends. This means your subscription at \$1 for 26 issues, 50c for 13, or group subscriptions of over five at 25c each, 13 issues, or 50c for 26.

CHARLES H. INGERSOLL, Editor, 1165 BROADWAY, N. Y., N. Y.

JEFFERSON

HENRY GEORGE

LINCOLN

democracy

The Entering Wedge between Monopoly, the Disease,
and Communism, the false Remedy, is Democracy.

CHAS. H. INGERSOLL, EDITOR

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FROM BROADCASTS BY CHAS. H. INGERSOLL

THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION HAS started its expenditure of \$750,000, investigating 'the world's largest private enterprise,' that is owned by the largest number of people—over 600,000 stockholders as I remember—the American 'Telephone and Telegraph.' If this investigation could be conducted from a scientific starting point, it need not cost any such sum; but more important, it would get somewhere, which now, I doubt if it will. Walter S. Gifford, the president, and E. S. Bloom, president of the Western Electric, are already on the grill and explaining their relationship and getting out into the 'trail of the serpent' through other great subsidiaries, and first, second and third cousins, like the Graybar, the General Electric, Westinghouse, Radio Corporation, and the big bankers.

The Commission probably does not understand clearly the economic position of a public utility of this sort. That is, where it ceases to be private and becomes a public function; and where its profits should therefore become public revenue and take the place of taxation of individuals, their wealth, capital, earnings, and wages. Understanding this, 'investigation,' would be changed into a survey and appraisal, after which investigation would be superfluous.

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MORE TROUBLE FOR 'SOCIAL SECURITY': SOCIAL SECURITY coming in by the back door naturally encounters what should be nature's policeman, our constitution—Justice Pierce H. Russell of the State Supreme Court now pronounces unconstitutional our new job insurance law. This is one of the massive outputs of our state brain trust which Gov. Lehman has adopted from the federal pattern, in sponsoring. The Judge goes into considerable detail, proving his point of unconstitutionality, but does not enjoin operation, immediately.

President Ingersoll's Weekly Radio Schedule — WOV, Wed., 10 a. m.; WHOM, Tue., 3:45 p. m.; WCNW, Mon., Tues., Wed., Thur., 2:30 p. m., Sat., 7 p. m.; WWRL, Wed., 1:15 p. m.; Sat., 11 p. m., WLTH, Tues., 1:15 p. m.; WDAS, Fri., 1:00 p. m.; WILM, Fri., 3:15 p. m.

CURRENT EVENTS CRY OUT FOR THE APPLICATION OF

scientific, economic and sensible rules for distinguishing between social or public and private or corporate interests. For example, the roads and highways; the R. R. corporation and motor interests actually find fault with government regulation, calling it communistic. And if they persist in this, they put themselves in the position of mere bourbons, riding for the same fall as bourbons always have.

And that fall will be real and complete communism; railroads and highways are essentially the same, principally in requiring franchises and being public services. An essential difference is the public ownership of the highways and only threatened public ownership of railroads; property and earnings in each case is of two types: for the stockholders on their tangible investment, and for the public, the excess earnings, attaching to the public franchise. I would suggest that President Sloan give himself the constructive exercise of going over his present very interesting reference to this subject, with this important generalization relating to social values and interests clearly before him. So far, all interests, public and private, have been fooling around on this question, and it is time the leaders of business pointed the way to end fooling around.

TOWNSEND PLAN HISTORY IS PILING UP RAPIDLY JUST

now. The headlines say that some individual gets something like as much as one hundred regular Townsend pensions for old men. This gives a new interpretation of its meaning. The five-hour testimony of Mr. Robert E. Clements, "the business Brains," is a liberal education in organization. It is a very human story, of how a down-and-out old fellow asked himself how all the other down-and-outers could be made into a political issue, and falling in with a smart young realtor, they evolved the plan that turned out to be worth something more than \$1,000,000 in popular contributions.

The Townsend idea fits into human misfortune and frailty exactly as communism does; and if no one is going to make this million dollar incident the occasion for looking into the human misfortune, and finding a remedy, if possible, Townsend communism in some of its many forms, may be expected to prevail. Human beings can take care of themselves if they are not robbed of their earnings. They produce wealth very rapidly, assisted by capital, but their collective earnings—mostly in natural resources—are absorbed by monopolies, and so they fall for pensions and state socialism, displacing justice.

THERE ARE FEW THAT HAVE AN ACCURATE ESTIMATE

of the danger we are in from communism, or where to look for it. As an example, Governor Floyd Olson of Minnesota is now trying to launch a national third party, mainly a comeback of the farmer-labor party that has been lingering along since The Committee of 48 (of which I was treasurer) was wrecked by it, 12 or 15 years ago.

This comes up in relation to the one per cent payroll tax levied on employers, which is a part of most of the social security scheme. The judge calls this not in accordance with the Constitutional 'due proportion of common sense, business sense and horse sense, than of the excess clause,' which is probably true. But I think it is more a violation of the judge's rule as if this money were going to be taken out of the poor employer, whereas he should know that the employer will pass it immediately—plus a profit—to the consumer; and from him it certainly is 'taking without due process.' You may as well notice that this is a polite phrase for 'official robbery.'

THE SPANISH REVOLUTION YESTERDAY TOOK THE TURN

of an attack on the church and today an attack on their President. In both cases, on examination, you find it is an attack upon 'the system of land tenure.' Both these ancient institutions, the church and the state, are tied up tight with that other sacred institution, land monopoly; and it does not take these revolutionists long to find the source of their real oppression, though they express themselves very crudely and ineffectively.

The church, besides possessing many large and choice landed estates, which often yield big speculative profits, is a defender of 'the status quo.' This includes our system, which piles on the back of labor and industry, all the extravagances of government, but at the same time, protects, by tax exemption, the speculative ownership of land and natural resources. Leaders of the church and government should correct this double-edged error; but as they are standing pat, the people, when forced by their suffering, to the point of revolt, usually concentrate on some point where the monopolistic abuse is most apparent, as indicated by these two days of cabled reports of violence. The reports say that the mob leaders are demanding division of these great landed estates.

MAYOR BILL McNAIR OF PITTSBURGH HAS BROKE

loose again: that's about the way the papers seem to see it. The fact is that the contrast of his very sane and conservative ideas, as represented by his Pittsburgh Plan of Taxation, and what he sees all around him, and especially at Washington, is so startling that when he gets before an official body, very brilliant sparks begin to fly; and a few sparks of that sort have a strange effect upon the average intelligence found in Congressional committees. Mayor Bill combines qualities of profound economic wisdom with a sense of humor that makes an incident such as his 'razzing' the Ways and Means Committee extremely rich to those who can understand it; but to others he is just a buffoon, a wisecracker and playboy. However, Bill can refer everyone to what he has done in Pittsburgh in removing tax burdens from business, the laboring man and the consumer and putting them squarely on the back of monopoly of valuable building sites.