CHICAGO, OCTOBER,

1922

No. 12.

VOI. I

axes, 3 Ties den

means increased taxation." - President Harding, Message to Congress, September 19, \$650,000,000 and a further deficit for the year succeeding, even after counting upon all interest collections on foreign indebtedness which the government is likely to receive ... Inevitably this "The latest budget figures for the current fiscal year show an estimated deficit of more than

TAXES UP! UP! UP!

menace confronting the American pe ple," a good many folks were skept cal. Recent disclosures of state ar municipal tax reports however prov When President Harding attered his cent warning that "the rapidly ounting indebtedness of states and

Chicago's taxes, for example, have incessed 106 per cent in the last three ears,—the last general levy for city t county aggregating \$100; sestimates for the next year are \$143,530,679—or an a rease of almost 14 per cent.

New Jersey's taxes—both state and call—amount this year to \$163,944,989 or over \$17,000,000 more than has year been collected before. This sum mounts to over \$51 per capita, or more of five.

the series was years ago of the plan "to serie bonds to keep the tax rate down." by taxes have increased practically by per cent. A decade ago Michigan and no public debt. Today the interest n the public debt is nearly equal to be toral cost of government in Michian 30 years ago.

a speech before the City Club of ago on September 30, Senator b gave a list of ten states whose capita tax had increased in six s from 90 to more than 400 per

i Kant	1915 1921 1921 1925 10,83 1021 1926 11,83 11,00 14,00 14,00
	10.83
anidada	14.00
Oregon 6.40	26,74
So. Dakota 5,24	20.12
Verment 7.85	14.12
Wyoming 7.00	24,00
Idaho 5,00	16.00
Illimois S.00	7.00
Winnesota 7.00	7.50

"We cannot go on at this rate," said Senator Borah, and survive. European nations already are bankrupt. And if the present policies of our own national and state governments are not changed at once and this orgy of extravagance stopped we will face a crisis of great

or which both parties are equally re-ponsible, is not only bringing disaster the nation, but is undermining the nergy and character of the American

because of the breakdown of government drives the child out of school and breeds nation-wide disgust.

The time has come when the fight for the alleries a fight for the America.

Where) () Get The Revenue

In large, flaming letters, an advertisement sent out by a well

tuest peoget and copy of the Shoals—The Chicago of the South—now peoget your LOTS WILL BE RIGHT IN THE PATH OF THE CITY'S DEget yellopment into law of the Fordney-Micget yellopment. No matter who develops Muscle Shoals—government into law of the Fordney-Micget yellopment. No matter who develops Muscle Shoals—government into law of the Fordney-Micget yellopment. No matter who develops Muscle Shoals—government into law of the Fordney-Micget yellopment. No matter who develops Muscle Shoals—government into law of the Fordney-Micget yellopment. No matter who develops Muscle Shoals—government into law of the Fordney-Micget yellopment. No matter who develops Muscle Shoals—government into law of the Fordney-Micget yellopment into law of the Fordney-Micget yellopment into law of the Fordney-Micget discussion of the American taxiff
these industries will mean a (REAT INFLOW OF POPULATION to references to the Entitsh about which at yreaction by the matter by present is the most serious obstacle to the nation's progress.

The GREATER the POPULATION, the GREATER the LAND VALUES:

The GREATER the POPULATION, the GREATER the LAND in paying off its debts to the United States seems to be generally acknowledged and will probably result in early acknowledged and will pr "Buy lots in Muscle Shoals—'The Chicago of the South—now: ac YOUR LOTS WILL BE RIGHT IN THE PAIH OF THE CITY'S DEduction of private enterprise—VAST NEW INDUSTRIES ARE ASSURED.

"These industries will mean a GREAT INFLOW OF POPULATION to get with the basis of all LAND VALUE is INDUSTRY. IN the DUSTRY means POPULATION. POPULATION the GREATER the POPULATION, the GREATER the LAND TALL. In the Case of the GREATER the POPULATION, the GREATER the LAND TALL.

"The Control of the South—government of the control of the South—now? The control of the Chicago of the South—now? ac the control of the Chicago of the South—now? ac the Case of the Chicago of the South—now? ac the Case of the Chicago of the South—now? ac the Case of the Chicago of the South—now? ac the Case of the Chicago of the South—now? ac the Case of the Chicago of the South—now? ac the Case of the Case of

Why not then tax land values instead of industry? Why endanger the very life of industry by adding still more to the intolerable tax burden it already carries?

According to the census report the value of landed property and the value of industrial property in the United States are equal—about \$140,000,000,000 each. Yet industry now pays over \(\chi_8 \) of our entire federal revenue burden, while land pays (indirectly only) less than \(\chi_8 \) of this burden! Furthermore, between fifty billion and sixty billion dellars worth of vacant land and idle natural resources, pay not one cent of federal tax, either direct or indirect!

TRY Yet "the basis of all LAND VALUE" we are told, "is INDUS-

SEVEN-BIGHTS OF OUR PEDERAL INDUSTRY MAKES THE LAND VALUES TAXES AND PAYS OVER

How long will business men stand for it?

WONDER WHAT A MAN MAKING OUT THINKS

	T KNOW MEN WHO MAKE DOUBLE MY ANCOME WHO DRIT FOR HALF THE TAX TAX THAT I DO : ITS AN OUTRAGE IT STIFLES MY PATRICTISM !!.	DARLE WELL WELL HERE IT IS THAT TO SEND THE DELY GOVERNMENT AND THE BEST THANK BURGET THANK BURGET THE THANK BURGET TO THE BANK TO PAY OF THE BANK TO PAY OF	ALCOHOLD AKELOT VS 122-212 ME
—,F	THERE I'M CLEANED A AGAIN I MEVER PARD A CHECK WITH MORE HATRED THAN THE STORE OUT OF SHE GOUNTRY	WHILE MOUNTHER HOW LONG TO THE MOUNTH TAX IS GOING TO HEED UP !!? IT CONES MEED UP !!? IT CONES MOUNTH TOUGHT THE MOUNTHLY BILLS THE MOUNTHLY BILLS	Selection of the select
From the Chicago Tribune.	AN OUTRAGE! SALE	ONE CAN'T LAY UP A CRENT: THIS CHECK WILL THIS AN OUTRACE THE WAY THEY SOAK US FREEDED ON A SALARY: WE GET THE WORRT OF IT!	

BRITAIN BITTER OVER U. S. TARIFF

By Hal O'Flaherty

HIGHER PENSION BILL Ç

Washington, Sept. 28.—A pension increase from 850 to 872 a month for civil and Mexican war veternis, possibly as a Christmas gift from Uncle Sam, is planned by Republican leaders in con-

A bill providing pension increase already has passed the senate and Senator Bursum (Rep., W. Mex.), its author, says he has been promised by house Republican leaders that it will be passed by the house soon after it reconvenes. He experts the bill to beconvenes. He experts the bill to become a law before the holidays.

The pension bureau estimated that the increased cost of the Bureau bill during the first year would amount to about \$60,000,000, but Senator Eursum told the senate that revised estimates placed it at not over \$35,000 000. The present pension outlay is about \$300,000,000 amnually.

DOESN'T IT BEAT ALL?

Just for the fun of it, we should like to call attention to a passage in the old treaty with Fananc, which provided that the United States Government should have the right to purchase any lands needed for the construction of the canal, and for use in connection with it, at a price equivalent to the pre-treaty value of these lands. The representatives of our Government knew that the operation of constructing the canal, and even the announcement of the intention to construct it, would produce a great increase in land values. They saw that the people who hold title to these lands did not themserves produce this increment and had no proper claim upon it in fact, they saw everything as clear as could be, at a range of three thousand miles; but it does heat all how the far-sighted official vision fails when the same situation arises on the sacred soil of the United States, and within lobbying distance of the capital.—The Freeman, Sept. 27, 1922.

of the Committee of Ivand Merchants on Taxation (In Manufacturers on Federal

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ACHE KNITTING WORKS, HAN ENGINEERING CO., I. VA.
STROTHER FURNITURE CHAPELASS CO.,
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Our "Prosperity Taxation; Program

Introduced into the House of Represonant E. Keller of Minnesota, entatives June ũ 1921, Ąq. Hon.

Congressional Bill No. 6767

This bill repeals all existing sales an tobacco, distilled spirits, oleomargarine, of child labor. The bill also repeals the porations. y taxes except those on ing drugs and products on the incomes of cor-

Congressional Bill No. 6769

This bill
"earned" an
gether with t
is cut in two,
businesses per
incomes, amends the income tax law so as to distinguish between ad "unearned" incomes to "unearned" incomes to the super-taxes is retained, but the tax on "earned" incomes All selaries, wages, etc., together with all profits derived from pronally conducted or in partnership are classed as "earned".

Congressional Bill No. 6768

This bill amends the inheritance tax. Beginning with estates of \$20,000 to \$35,000 there is a tax of one per cent; \$35,000 to \$50,000 two per cent; \$50,000 to \$100,000 four per cent; \$150,000 to \$250,000 six per cent, and so on until the point of \$100,000,000 is reached after which the tax is about 75% of the entire estate. This bill will raise approximately \$750,000,000 annually.

Congressional Bill No. 6773

This bill provides for a federal tax of one per cent on the privilege of holding lands and natural resources worth over \$10,000, after deducting the value of all buildings, personal property and improvements. In the case of farms, cost of clearing, draining, plowing and cultivation, together with soil fertility are classed as improvement values. This bill will exempt over 98% of all actual farmers. It also exempts standing timber from taxation whether naturally or artificially grown.

This bill aims to relieve business, industry and agriculture by taxing monopoly holders of vacant natural resources, valuable "sites" in cities and the holding of land in general out of use. The revenue raised under this bill will be about one billion dollars annually.

This revenue program would relieve producing business of about \$2,000,000,000 annually, and the people of from three to five times this amount in inflated living costs.

THE SOLDIERS' BONUS

President Harding has vetoed the soldiers' bonus bill, and Congress has sustained the veto. But if the history of previous wars is any criterion the bill will come up again. We have the politician's own word for it. Already it is being made an issue in the fall campaign, and it will continue to be an issue (accent on the word ISSUE) two the bill is passed. Those who have therefore to be spared the additional taxation that will follow the passage of this bill are merely including in pleasant dreams.

AN HONEST EQUIVALENT

Certain newspapers prominent in financial circles are trying to without subscribing to the fads and foibles of Henry we venture to say they will have a hard time doing it. Ford's wealth is doubtless great—as great perhaps as any other man in the nation—John D. Rockefeller's not excepted. But Ford's wealth is a wealth that has been acquired through service. For every dollar he has got, he has done more to lighten the burden and make life more worth living for millions of our population than his remarkable little motor car.

People do not oppose wealth merely because it is large; they instinctively oppose it because in so many cases it does not represent an honest equivalent for services rendered. Take the element of monopoly and special privilege out of a person's income and the growing hostility towards wealth and riches would soon disappear.

Ex

THE TARIFF-WILL IT KILL FOREIGN TRADE?

All together now, heave a sigh for relief! Congress has passed the tariff bill. Whether the bill will tend to revive business and industry or whether it will but add to their sorrows, remains to be seen. So far as can be gathered the predominating opinion appears to be in line with the view expressed by THE INDUSTRIAL DIGEST (New

"The passage of the tariff bill at a time when Europe owes us billions of dollars is certain practically to destroy our export market. Europe must pay us eventually in goods or in gold, and if she cannot export to us then she cannot buy our exports. Could the United States prosper if each of our states were surrounded by tariff walls, and if every state maintained a standing army for defense against its neighbors? To pass a tariff bill that makes international trade relations more difficult at a time like this simply serves to emphasize the almost incredible stupidity of our Government bodies."

can't you and your husband together without fighting?" not 'appily."—The Bulletin d live (Syd-

"Caesar was born over 2,000 years said the teacher," you must be mistaken," said the young scholar. "It's only 1921 now

A BAD SITUATION

Mr. E. M. Woolley, well known economist and writer is shocked to learn that in Manhattan Island, New York, containing over 2,250,000 people, only 2.1 per cent own their homes, and that a large part of the population there now pay year in and year out over 70% of their total annual incomes for reit.

Still more shocked is he to find the physical, mental and moral deterioration that this fearful strain on the family pockethook is causing on the folks who are compelled to pay this rent.

There is rich food for thought for every American citizen in his article in the Saturday Evening Post of Aug. 5, from which the following extract is taken:

hasis of family prosperity is and albais of family prosperity is and albais of family prosperity is and always will be the ability to save—the margin between earning capacity and expenses. On this factor—lacking in New York for the vast majority—rests the fate of the nation. So the bigger our cities grow the more families will descend to pennry.

A few generations ago the fron men of the open were at least masters of themselves and of their work and homes. With grim but unhesitating valor they packed their belongings into covered wagons and took their fanniles, with rifle and dog, out into the unknown. And if their ultimate destiny was not scintillating fame it was at least their own; and the strong men and hig things of this nation have come from these pioneers.

Not so today with the millions of people herded in the confines of the metropolis. Here hundreds of thousands of men, young and old alike, metally submit. Their blood no longer boils at the normal man's boiling point.

The right to their own souls is no more an alignable prerogative. In the vast crush of humanity they go with the crowd; there is no escape unless they got out of the current, and they have for gotten how to navigate rapids centers damentals of human nature. With the cones suddenly it will be social revolution and war. The spark of independence still remaining will ignite. Let us hope the revulsion will come gradually from a change of sentiment and they can restore the normal proportions of life."

A vain hope, we fear. Our cities,

A vain hope, we fear. Our cities, withtheir extremes of wealth and poverty, have not been built upon mere sentiment, but are the result of the natural drive of economic forces. So long therefore as our present economic system remains unchanged—and "economic system," is but another term for "taxation system."—we can no more stay off the fatal day suggested by Mr. Woolley, than we can dam up the waters of Niagara with a paper dam!

HOME OWNING

By L. Ξ. O.

The statement of Raymond E. Frazier, of Seattle, that no home owner is a "Red," is substantially correct. His conclusion that there "should be as many home owners as possible," is also logical.

There are other reasons why every family desiring to have a homestead of its own should find it easy to get one. A man fighting for his country is a better soldier if he has a stake in the soil he is defending, and in time of peace he makes a more useful citizen.

Mr. Frazier was addressing the American Bankers' Association in St. Louis, and advised liberality in loans for home building.

The defect in this recommendation, and with other efforts to substitute homes for tenements, is that they do not go to the root of the difficulty. The result in Ehode Island is that three-fourths of the families in the state are tenants, and year by year that proportion is increasing.

The trouble is that law is stronger than exhortation. By law we fine every person who builds. The person who

id not only that, but by foolish and st laws we promote specimation in keeping the valuable lots suitable ing the valuable lots suitable g at a high price and there-reach of most heads of fam-

time mereasing the rate upon land values. This would make speculation in land engrottable and would so reduce the east of getting a homestead that a permanent building boom would set in wherever the plan was adopted. suly remedy is to exempt all at the same

WHAT ADVANTAGE IN HIGH

unbled Industry'', by Z. White)

the as 1830 grain was reaped by hand, de three-fourths of our people were riners. Today about one-third are riners. The change has been brought out by improved machinery. Men to have not attained the allotted span three score years and ten can remember when seven men with a McCormick ager were required in the harvest ld to do the work that is now accompited by one man with a self-binder or ader. We pay this one man about hat we paid two men sixty years ago. At that time wheat was some sixty-res, it is now worth quite a bit more an sixty-five cents. Why does not at attained to four great men give us an planation of these facts? Some leading statesman, master of finance, emple builder, or one who has attained to ofessorial or editorial dignity is sureable to aid us by unraveling the mystanced price. se hundred years ago approximately

Times or the Chicago Tribune such mental strain too great, we modestly call attention to the fact forty to fifty miles west of Chicago was purchased in 1860 for twenty is and less per acre, and to the er fact that the same land cannot be purchased for three hundred is per acre, and to the still further that wheat at sixty-five cents per that wheat at sixty-five cents per licamot be raised from land of the editor of the New

The labor cost of harvesting wheat is been reduced by the introduction better methods of applying labor; at is, by the use of machinery. The at is, by the use of machinery. The act is, by the use of machinery. The cost has been raised more than the bor cost has been reduced. Now, as is a fact, possibly unknown to our eat leaders, that price must cover the labor cost and land cost, it follows that the price of wheat must rise, they products respond to the same economic forces. been reduced by efter methods of is, by the

ther products respond to the finding forces.

City development follows the same paid onese. While individuals are paid onese than formerly in cities as well as upon farms, improved methods have wo greatly reduced labor cost, but land cost has been increased more rapidly.

Land, in some cities, that today is worth \$20,000 to \$25,000 per front foot, was in 1860 worth \$2,000 to \$3,000.

The explanation of increase in price of commodities with reduced labor cost in their production is really so simple as to be obvious. Reduction in labor cost by improved process has been accompanied by a greater increase in its value!

While it is clear that reduced labor cost aids production, and for this reason is to be desired by all, one is impelled to inquire as to the desirability of high land cost. Will land at \$300 per acre raise more wheat than the same land at \$25,000 per front foot support a larger, higher, or more useful or more beautiful structue than the same core is the core is t

0 Denmark

On August 4th of this year Denmark passed a national law cutting down the taxes on business, industry and agriculture, and levying a flat tax of $\frac{2}{3}$ of a cent on land values only, with provision for further extension of the law locally.

Why?

To RELIEVE the farmers

To AID commerce.
To ENCOURAGE enterprise.
To STIMULATE business.
To PROMOTE the national welfare.

OFF TO DENMARK!

LLOYD GEORGE ON TAXA-

that the moment a man neglects his property he escapes taxes; the moment a man neglects his property he is fined as a taxpayer.

A shopkeeper extends his premises.
In a seessor comes down and says: "In the tax assessor comes down and says: "In that you are providing more employment for hundreds of workmen. Are you guilty or not guilty?"

He says: "I cannot deny it."
Then he says: "I fine you £50 or £100 a year as long as you live, and don't do it again," and he goes on to a moorland near Leeds—not a building in sight, nor improvements here," and he meets the proprietor and says: "What are you doing with this land?"

The proprietor says: "I am holding if the proprietor says: "I am holding in years" purchase for "disturbing my bheasants."

him by e country.
12 s. an
something

He goes home feeling that I done his duty. But somebody him in the street and says: 'Ha heard that Mr. Erown has ac bathroom to his house?' He says: 'I don't believe will go there at once.' He goes and says: 'Is this what I hear about you, that yo what I hear about you, that yo what I hear about sorry.' He says: 'I am sorry.' . he has

bathroom to hathroom to hathroom to hat I hea put on a ne-"Is this true ou, that you have n to your house?"

Then he replies: '.£20 added to your assessment, sir.' and he warks home past a slum district and he says: '.No baths here, anyway.''. He meets the proprietor and he just asks him the question. The proprietor reassures him on the spot. He says: '.No improvements about my property. Dilapidation and disrepair. They are not worth as much now as they were five years ago.''

Worth as much now ... Worth as much now ... Years ago."

He takes him by the hand and he ways: "Well done, thou good and write ... Is ner t and write own by 15 per

YOU THINK I AM ING. THAT IS THE TEM IN ENGLAND.—S d Lloyd George might have added, the taxing system of the United s, too. M CARICATUR-E TAXING SYS--Speech at Mid-

"Do you believe in love at first sight. Mr. Fussor?" asked a rather old young girl to whom the bushful bachelor had just been introduced.

do." he replied, edging actice I find it better to "-Journal of the Ameriation.

Our organization is bringing facts and reason to bear on the subject of taxation. We are creating public opinion. We are turning the spot light of that opinion on Congress. The SPOT LIGHT is the only thing that will stop the masquerading on the Congressional

TORS REAP RICH HARVEST

(From 1922 edition of "Olcott's Land Values Blue Book of Chicago.)

rel that an explanation as well as all apology is due our subscribers for its belated appearance. Our excuse is the great vehime of work that was forced upon us by reason of the tremendous advance of land values in practically every part of the city. In no other year has thete been so many changes recorded as in the past year. Not only was this true almost in general throughout the city, differing only in percentages of increase.

The Worth Shore District made the largest pairs, closely followed by the Hyde pears, the North Shore District made the largest gains, closely followed by the Hyde Park District and outlying suburban towns like Oak Park, Evanston, Willeste, etc. The subdividers during the year plated almost every unsold available piece of acre property that could be obtained at anything tike a price of that would leave them a margin of 'In presenting our 1922 edition, I that an explanation as well as logy is due our subscribers for

profit. This naturally stimulated acre values whether ripe or unripe near or remote from transportation.

"'Of different classes of property, the mast phenomenal gains were those made in the rapidly forming local business centers which have made their appearance in every part of Chicago, Gains of 100 to 300% over last year's prices were not uncommon.

"However this may be accounted for, whether due to previous neglect on account of Browth of population or due to the expansion of the local centers by holding more and more local trade that had previously made their purchases in the downtown center, may not be accurately gauged. But this seems to be true that they are growing and that it must have some effect every year on trading in the loop.

"On the whole, estimating the value of the lands of the city at \$2,000,000,000.

"On which is not far off and the average increase throughout the city at 15%, on a conservative estimate, the total advance which the owners of lands in the city, will enjoy will amount to.

Certainly 2) 22 X Methods Tresent

YOU'RE S O Z SAFE FROM HIM ANYWHERE



THE THEORY AGAIN "ABILITY TO PAY"

the "ability-to-pay" theory of

Well, everything else is paid for in this world on the principle of "services rendered" and we see no reason why government should not do the same thing. When you enter a store and buy a piece of goods you are not charged according to the amount of money you own, but according to what the goods are really worth.

Now, government renders certain services to the public just as the store does. It supplies police and fire protection, schools, roads, pavements, sewers, water systems, etc. Those who receive the most enjoyment from these services, therefore, should pay most; those who receive the least enjoyment should pay least. That is not only good ethics, but good economics and good hindress.

But how is the value of such services to be determined? Simply by the value of land. Where such services are numerous and of high quality, as in a large city, the value of land is high; where they are fewer and of inferior quality, as in a small city, or in the country, there the value of the land is low. The fairest and most just method of raising public revenues, therefore, is to tax land according to its value.

The soundness of this argument has never been better stated perhaps than by Mr. Louis F. Post, formerly Assistant Secretary of Labor in his excellent book "The Taxation of Land Values" from which the following quotation is taken:

taken:

'Take for illustration, two towns, one of excellent government and the other of inefficient government, but in all other respects alike. Suppose you are hunting for a place of residence and find a suitable site in the town of good government. For simplicity of illustration let us suppose that the land there is not sold outright, but is let upon ground rent. You meet the owner of the lot you have selected and ask him his terms. He replies:

'Two hundred and fifty dollars a

year.'
"Iwo hundred and fifty dollars a year!' you exclaim.
"Why, I can get just as good a site in that other town for a hundred dollars a year.'
"Certainly you can,' he will say. 'But 's months house there and it catches

Cerrainly you can. he will say. Levi fire it will burn down; they have no fire department. If you go out after dark you will be "held up" and robbed; they have no police force. If you ride out in the spring your carriage will stick in the mud up to the hubs, and if you walk you may break your legs and will be lucky if you don't break your neck; they have no street pavements and their sidewalks are dark, for they have no street pavements and their sidewalks are dark, for they have no street lights. The water you need for your house you must get from a well; there is no water supply there. Now in our town it is different. We have a splendid fire department, and the best police force in the world. Our streets are macadamized and lighted with electricity; our sidewalks are alwater system that equals that of New York; and in every way the public benefits in this town are unsurpassed. It is the best governed town in all this tegion. Isn't is worth a hundred and fifty deliars a year more for a building site here than over in that poorly governed town?'

You recognize the advantages and agree to the terms.

But when your home is built and the assessor visits you officially, what ld a house there and it catches

But when your home is built and the assessor visits you officially, what would be the conversation if your sense of the fitness of things were not warped by familiarity with false systems of taxation? Would it not be something like what follows? 'How much do you regard this house as worth?' asks the assessor. 'What is that to you?' you inquire. 'I am the town assessor and I am about to appraise your property for taxation.'

t for?'

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By J. S. McLean President, Ohio Site Value Taxation League, Columbus, O.

Public improvements and service—pavements, sewers, schools, police and fire protection—increase the value of land and land only. They cannot and do not increase the value of buildings, furniture, machinery, live stock, stocks of goods or an individual's capacity to earn an income.

But we tax buildings, furniture, machinery, live stock, goods, incomes and all the products or results of individual industry and thrift, to pay for the public improvements and service, and permit the land speculators, who buy sites and hold them unimproved, to pocket all the benefits from increased land values. We tax industry and reward speculation. We take from the man who does something, and give to the man who does nothing.

Why give so much to the land speculators for doing nothing, and then burden the industrious with vexatious taxes? Would it not be more honest, and more practical, to finance government by taking (taxing) land values, which are the result of individual industry and thrift while giving what the people create to a few who do nothing?

'What for?' echoes the assessor in surprise. 'What for? Is not your house protected from fire by our magnificent fire department? Are not you protected from robbery by the hest police force in the world? Do you not have the use of macadamized pavements, and good sidewalks, and electric street lights, and a first-class water supply? Don't you suppose those things cost something? And don't you think you ought to pay your share?'

de 'Yes,' you answer with more or less of calmness, 'I do have the benefit of those things and I do think that I ought to pay my share toward supporting them. But I have already paid my share for this year. I have paid it to the owner of this lot. He charges me two hundred and fifty dollars a year—one hundred and fifty dollars more than I should pay or he could get but for those very benefits. He has collected any share of this year's expense of maintaining town improvements; you go and collect from him. If you do not, but insist upon collecting from me, is shall be paying twice for those things, once to him and once to you; and he won't be paying at all, but will be making money out of them.'

It is bad public policy, to say nothing of bad civic morals, to reckon what the community ought to get by what it needs. This policy is a survival of the old idea that taxes are tribute. On the hypothesis that taxes are community ought to get by the value of what it gives.''

KIDDING THEMSELVES

Farmers are often told—and lots of the them still believe it—that most of the land in the United States lies in the country, and that very little of it lies in the city. "Therefore," they are advised, "don't favor a tax upon land values; insist only on a heavy income tax, corporation taxes, excess-profits taxes, and like taxes—taxes which soak" the rich city man, but which doesn't touch the farmer at all."

Well, the rich city man has now been "soaked" for a good many years—and "soaked" aplenty. Of the four billions or thereabouts of federal revenue collected annually nearly all of it comes from industry, commerce and trade and mone of it, practically, comes from land

But, strange to say, this hasn't helped the farmer any Authorities tell us that for every farmer who is getting ahead, over three are going become

And, equally strange to say, this 'seaking' of the rich city man by way of income, corporation, and excess-profits taxes hasn't 'soaked' the rich city man very hard—at least, it hasn't 'soaked' some of them very hard. Mr. A. H. Ulm, writing in the Dearborn Independent of September 16, for instance, points out a fact that ought to be obvious to everyone; namely, that 'the higher the burden of federal taxes, the richer the wealthy centers like New York seem to become.'' 'The reason for this,'' he goes on to say,

"IS, THAT THE BIG TAXPAYERS ARE IN GREAT PART MERELY TAX COLLECTORS WHO PASS THE BURDEN, USUALLY AUGMENTED, ON TO THE GENERAL POPULATION."

We don't know how it will be before the farmers in the United States see this, but it won't be long. Most of the Canadian farmers see it now. In the western provinces the farmers have demanded and secured the abolition of the majority of taxes upon improvements, business and industry, and a corresponding increase in the tax upon land values. Any politician who would advocate going back to the system they had before would meet with certain defeat at the polls.

In the eastern part of Canada strenutous efforts are now being made by the farmers to do the same thing. It is interesting to know that the first woman to sit in a Canadian parliament—Miss Agnes Macphail—was sent there by the rural votes of Ontario, and upon a platform that called for a direct tax on land values.

Are the farmers in Canada crazy? They are not. They have only rearned what most of the United States farmers haven't yet found out—that practically all of the land in the nation lies in our cities, mining regions, etc.; hardly any of it lies in the country.

FARM PROSPERITY

By Frederick S. Fentzer, Federal Farm Land Appraiser

Regarding some of the corn belt farers and their troubles, here is some

During the boom incident to the war many corn belt farmers mortgaged clear farms to buy other farms on speculation at from \$250 to \$800 an acre. In many places \$500 to \$600 an acre was common in Iowa. These farmers also bought heavily of fake oil and industrial stocks. High priced corn was fed to higher priced rattie, and rouse fed to higher priced of farme of the country bankers tried to stop it, while others had a finger in the business.

After the shrink in prices of farm produce and live stock—a natural incldent to the conditions then prevailing here and abroad—many of these renters and a number of farmers who had mortgaged their lands so heavily found themselves in a bad corner.

About this time, to cap the climax, the federal reserve banks, after boosting interest to 7 per cent, called in an encruous amount of paper, thus compelling the country banks to squeeze the farmers. They sold stuff for almost nothing.

Last spring I was calling on Iowa bankers. Here are the statements of two I recall in this connection. One country banker said: "It was speculation in wildcat stocks and oil units and boosting land values which hurt so much more than the shrink of farm produce prices." Fifty miles distant another banker said: "This is a German settlement. We had no speculation here and no sale of lands at fancy prices. Our farmers are prosperous. My bank has plenty of money. I have had to loan \$100,000 outside."

During the last year I have examined a number of farms offered for trade, in only a few cases have I found any equity above the mortgages. One was plastered for \$350 an acre. Now, it is impossible for a man to work out of any such debt with ordinary farm produce and live stock.

I have been speaking of a class. Many Iowa and Illinois farms are clear of debt. To these farmers such prices as we have now are fairly good. Today hogs are worth \$10 a hundred. That means a dollar for corn fed to them if handled right.—Chicago Tribune, Sept.

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