

Press Bureau No. 957

EDITOR :

You are free to use this article without any cost. We should like, however, to be put upon your exchange list, that we may see the use made of what we are sending you from week to week.

THE AMERICAN ECONOMIC LEAGUE,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

DANIEL KIEFER,
Manager.

OFFICES :
BLYMYER BUILDING.

SAMUEL DANZIGER,
Editor.

A GAME THAT NEEDS RAIDING.

A gentleman occupying a government position objects to the Single Tax as follows :

"I own 4,080 acres of timber and agricultural land in Virginia, on which my family have paid taxes since 1726, at tremendous personal sacrifices. My taxes on this land are now confiscatory or nearly so."

The man who urges his personal interest, real or imaginary, as an objection to a proposition for the general good, can not complain if others urge their interest as an argument the other way. His argument amounts to this :

"I don't care if land monopoly is creating poverty, distress, vice and crime. I own 4,080 acres of land, and if I must be made to let go in order to remedy the situation, then I don't want it remedied."

Such selfishness is shortsighted. It is better to live under conditions where every one has at all times the opportunity to earn a living, than to own 4,080 acres under conditions which may at any time deprive one of such a chance.

It appears that this family having for 190 years held on to land which they did not use, in the hope of finally making others pay them a profit for the privilege of using it, object to having their hold broken at this late day.

It is certain that had the Single Tax been in operation since 1726 this family would be better off. Its members would have been spared the tremendous personal sacrifices and confiscatory taxes required to hold on, for they would not have held. But the land would have remained just where it is and any time this gentleman or any of his ancestors had wanted to use it the opportunity would have been and still would be theirs without tremendous sacrifices or any more taxes than the opportunity would be worth. If this land had been occupied and used by others in the meantime there would be plenty other land open just as good.

But such conditions would offer no chance to levy toll on industry, and it is much to be feared that it is in the hope of yet being able to do that, that our correspondent objects to the Single Tax, and holds on in spite of taxes which he feels to be "confiscatory or nearly so." But does not the public good require abolition of such power to take without adequate return, wealth produced by others?

The gentleman's argument is like that of one who has sat all night at a poker game and continually lost, but who objects to breaking up of the game in the hope that a new victim might drop in from whom he might win. **It would be better for all concerned that the police raid the game.**

70

8488