

INHERITENCE TAX: THE LANDLORD'S "OUT"

The Duke of Devonshire, living, was a vigorous and adroit opponent of land-value taxation, bogeyman that lurks around the corner always for the British landlord.

The Duke of Devonshire, dying, left a will which defeated English law in its attempt to take from his estate through inheritance taxes that which it had neglected to take during his life through land-value taxes.

Here is the story of how the duke outwitted one law by means of another, as brought by the cable from London:

"Publication of the will of the ninth Duke of Devonshire, one of England's richest land owners, reveals that by turning his estates into a company he saved his heirs more than \$5,000,000 in death duties. The British treasury, it was disclosed, will net only \$135,000 from the estates."

Had the British government, recognizing its interest in the duke's holdings, exercised the good sense to collect what it had coming from him year by year, as he collected the rent from his tenants, instead of leaving its tax money in his hands until after his death, the duke would not have been able to thumb his ghostly nose in John Bull's face to the tune of \$5,000,000.

Such lessons as this eventually may teach the people of Britain that there is no way of securing to themselves the wealth which they themselves create, and which the Duke of Devonshire and all the other landlords take from them in rent, except by collecting it exactly as the landlord does, at its source in taxes—called rent when collected by the duke or his agents.

REX LAMPMAN