

inflicting such injury upon them the people of New York enriched Mr. Wendel.

There is nothing in all of this derogatory to Mr. Wendel, except to the extent that he, in common with other New Yorkers, upheld the system that put unearned wealth into his pocket. Had he refused to profit through the popular folly he would only have transferred the benefit to others equally unworthy. The remedy was and still is in the hands of the people. It is for them to demand that socially created values should go into the public treasury instead of into private pockets. Until this shall be done they will continue to unconsciously reward men for impoverishing them.

S. D.

Chicago's Involuntary Generosity.

The city of Chicago is about to present the Federal Life Insurance Company with several hundred thousand dollars. Why? That is a hard question to answer. It is surely not because the money can not be put to better use. Here are the circumstances as explained by the December number of *The Federal*, the company's official publication:

At a recent election the voters of Chicago adopted by a large majority the \$8,000,000 appropriation for completing the boulevard link between the north and south sides. This improvement will be a great help to the home office property of the Federal Life of Chicago, which is located on the part of Michigan avenue which will be most benefited by the improvement. Isaac Miller Hamilton, president of the Federal, believes that it will add several hundred thousand dollars to the value of the property by the time the work is completed. The boulevard will be widened, the property opposite condemned and removed, and the district transformed from a wholesale section to a center for high grade shops and offices.

There is no good reason why the law should not permit this several hundred thousand dollars to be taken to help pay for the boulevard. But instead, future generations are to be bonded to pay for it. Of course the Federal Life Insurance Company is only one of many land owners thus enriched at public expense.

S. D.

Another Effort at Tax Reform.

The announcement is made that a group of men representing large realty interests in Chicago are about to form an association to work for tax reform and the correction of assessment methods in Illinois. The comment is offered by the Chi-

cago Tribune that the conditions are so bad, and the necessities of the case are so great that making less than a constitutional convention can hit the State out of the present financial muddle. But it may be said that unless the delegates to a constitutional convention proceed with more intelligence than has been exhibited by the men proposing the association of tax reform, the new constitution may be worse than the old one. One of the chief handicaps now placed upon the people of Illinois is the fact that the present constitution permits but one amendment at an election; and that one heretofore has often been unavailable because of the fact that two or more sets of reformers have insisted that their amendment be submitted first, and the deadlock has resulted in nothing. Should a new constitution be drawn today, with the economic chaos that prevails in the mind of the average politician, it may be doubted if it would be accepted when submitted to the people. The one thing in Illinois most in need of correction is its system of taxation, and that will not be corrected by any association of large realty owners. The same thing may be said of the men in general who would be chosen to the constitutional convention. We need a new constitution very badly, but we should first have a more general understanding of economic problems. It is better to endure a little longer a constitution that the people wish to be rid of than to adopt an equally bad one that must have a try-out before the people will consent to change it.

S. C.

Educating the Collegians.

An excellent method of laying the foundation for future economic progress is that of interesting university and high school students in the study of fundamental principles of political economy. In some institutions of learning this is well done by professors of political economy. But unfortunately these are exceptional. One has but to note expressions on public questions by many of those most prominent in the economic departments of leading universities to realize what superior opportunities are possessed by the students in their classes to acquire economic ignorance. So it is well that organizations devoted to spreading economic truth are taking up the matter of giving those students a chance to obtain some knowledge. Thus in the state of Washington debates have been arranged on the Singletax to be participated in by high school students throughout the State. In Chicago the local Singletax club has for some time