

have and giving to those who have not." Will the Senator maintain that none of those who have wrongfully obtained it, and that none who has not has been wrongfully deprived? If he will not so maintain, then he must knowingly and deliberately have assumed the position that those, who have wrongfully obtained, should be allowed to keep, and to obtain more in the same way. Was that his position while writing "social justice" statutes? If he does maintain that no one has more nor less than is due them, what was the object of his statutes? Was he endeavoring to take from those who have what honestly belongs to them, and give to those who have not what was not theirs?



Concerning the principal statute which Senator Sherman helped to put on the books he is discreetly silent. This was the infamous Allen law which took from the people of Chicago the right to their own streets. Incidentally it was a case of taking from those who had but a little and giving to those who have much. It was taking from the people what belonged to them and bestowing it on some predatory corporations to whom it did not belong. That kind of taking and giving was clearly not objectionable to Senator Sherman. His objections seem confined to the return of legally stolen property from possession of the plunderbund to its rightful owners.



What can only be excused on the plea of ignorance is Senator Sherman's reference to Singletax as "a leveling of possessions." Before the campaign is over, if he has the courage to continue the Singletax discussion, he will contradict that statement more than once. In fact, he did contradict it in his very next statement: "It is an equality of economic opportunity." How can there be "leveling of possessions" with "equality of economic opportunity," unless all possess equal ability? Even Senator Sherman should be able to see the absurdity of the position he assumes. Is this lack of knowledge concerning Singletax a fair sample of the Senator's information on other public questions?

S. D.



### Taxation in Ohio Political Platforms.

Both the Progressive party and Republican party of Ohio have taken advanced ground on taxation in their State platforms. The Progressive party declares unequivocally for county home rule in taxation and a partial exemption of per-

sonal property. The Republican party's declaration is not so flat-footed. It is "we pledge ourselves to home rule in the valuation and assessment of all property for taxation." Considering the source, such a pledge is gratifying indeed. Although it only speaks of "valuation and assessment" and is silent on the question of a tax system, yet this omission is not as serious as it may seem. Home rule in valuation and assessment is all that the city of Houston, Texas, has, and Houston's right thereto lacks even legislative approval. But the city has made good use of home rule in valuation and assessment. It has assessed land values at 70 per cent, improvements at 25 per cent, and personal property at zero. Given the right pledged to them by the Republican convention, Ohio cities can do the same.



The Democratic party's platform is silent on the tax question. Two years ago it declared unequivocally for home rule in taxation, but the pledge has not been kept. Possibly that explains the silence of this year. To have repeated the pledge would have directed attention to the failure to keep the previous one, and resulting questions and comment might have proven embarrassing.

S. D.



### Progressivism in Delaware.

On State issues the Progressive party of Delaware has taken advanced ground. Besides declaring for the Initiative, Referendum, Recall, woman suffrage, municipal home rule, and the commission form of government, it adopted a taxation plank which deserves the approval of the State's thoughtful citizens. The plank denounces the tax system which handicaps the improver and encourages the land speculator, it declares inimical to progress the fact that so much unimproved land is held by persons who are making no use of it, and it advocates remedying this state of affairs by empowering counties and cities to untax labor and increase taxes on land values. These planks embody a policy that would be extremely beneficial to the State, and citizens of Delaware will do well to elect the legislative and executive candidates who honestly advocate this program.

S. D.



### Using Vacant Lots for Propaganda.

A propaganda idea that might well be followed in other cities is that adopted in Chicago by Mrs. Annie Wallace Hunt as chairman of the Taxation Committee of the Woman's party. She is re-