

its objections if self-government with universal suffrage should be granted.



Mr. McFarland holds that putting an end to the half-and-half system would double the rent of "every poor man living in the District of Columbia." He is mistaken. If rents could be raised, Washington landlords would not wait for the tax system to be changed to do it. Not only would rents not be raised, the tendency of the change would be to reduce them. Much of the land of the District is being held out of use by speculators. Doubling of the tax on this unused land would force some of these speculators to let it be built upon, thus increasing housing accommodations and tending to lower rents. If along with the change should come assessment reforms recommended by the George sub-committee, the taxes of these speculators would be even more than doubled, to the relief of the small home owner.



Of course the federal government should contribute in proportion to the value of the land it is holding in the District. The value of its improvements should not be taxed, neither should the improvements of private individuals. Mr. McFarland says: "All that Washington needs is absolute justice." It won't get it as long as speculators are allowed to hold large tracts of valuable land out of use while thousands of its citizens are forced by high rents to herd in the slums. The Crisp bill will make it somewhat easier for the city to get justice. To get it entirely the city must have local self-government, with universal suffrage and taxation of land values as its sole revenue basis. The American Civic Association is obstructing justice to Washington. S. D.



### Taxation in Cincinnati.

"None so blind as those that will not see," applies to the individuals still endeavoring to find out how to get all taxable personal property on the tax duplicate. Cincinnati's Tax Board seems to be made up of such men. They went to the trouble to call a meeting of that city's most prominent—and in their opinion, most wise—business men. There appeared, according to the Times-Star of January 30, bank presidents, corporation heads, representatives of commercial organizations, etc. There were plenty of suggestions offered, but none that had not long ago proven a failure, or that offered any ground for confidence

in its success. In this whole assemblage there does not seem to have been a single individual sufficiently up-to-date to know that the question has been quite satisfactorily solved in Houston, Texas. There personal property is equally assessed in the only way that it can be done. It is not assessed at all—a back number constitution to the contrary notwithstanding. Among those present was Mr. Charles P. Taft, who is financially interested in two Texas towns, Taft and Sinton. These towns are quite close to Corpus Christi, one of the cities preparing to follow Houston's lead. If Mr. Taft has not yet heard of the Houston system, he probably will when Corpus Christi begins attracting population from his own towns.



But Mr. Taft allowed it to be known that he has heard of some progressive work. He has heard of Herbert S. Bigelow and he took advantage of the tax discussion to pay unintentional tribute to the effectiveness of Mr. Bigelow's work. He bewailed the fact that attacks on a stolen street railway franchise has resulted in depressing the stock of the corporation holding it. So one result of Mr. Bigelow's work has clearly been a lessening of confidence in franchises acquired as was Cincinnati's fifty-year street railway franchise. That is surely a distant public gain to Cincinnati, even if it is true, as Mr. Taft further bewailed, that the agitators "have not a cent's worth of property in Cincinnati." S. D.



### The Profits of Charity.

Fifteen million dollars is the estimated annual amount paid in Chicago for charity. The amount looks big. But if it were not paid it would become necessary to stop the annual appropriation by private individuals of about five times that amount of socially created rental values of Chicago land, to say nothing of the tribute levied on Chicago labor by monopolies, whose predatory power is based on outside privileges. Is the fifteen million dollars a poor investment? Surely not for those who want Privilege to continue. S. D.



### An Explanation Due.

Some day there will be a Congressional investigation of the manner in which telegraphic news is furnished the daily papers. It too often happens that after a conscientious correspondent has sent in a correct report it appears in type in an unrecognizable form. For instance, at the recent