

stupid slaughter but it results in a greater cessation of production than occurs in an ordinary depression. A depression is a stoppage of production of consumer items. In wartime, though we work hard and produce a lot of war material, we limit the production of consumer items to a minimum. Thus, either way, a terrible depression will be upon us.

When will it occur? It will happen

when, despite the distortions and changes in relationships in the economy which are brought about by inflation, labor awakens to the fact that it is not getting its usual return. And as to when that will be, only someone blessed with omniscience can say.

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### ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA FORMS LAND TAX GROUP

The Erie Land Tax Association has been formed in Erie, Pennsylvania, following on the heels of the endorsement of land value taxation by the Erie Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The Erie Land Tax Association is composed of a number of the leading citizens of Erie who are interested in studying the probable impact on the city's economy if land value taxation is adopted there, as allowed by Pennsylvania law.

The group is headed by Charles A. Hall, office manager for E. E. Austin Builders. William E. Walker, real estate man and owner of Ebco Industrial Park, was elected secretary. Thomas Greene, associated with an Erie bank, was named treasurer.

The new organization, ELTA, will have weekly meetings during which land value taxation will be explored, and if found to be practical, the Erie city council will be urged to adopt it. Studies will be made of Erie property to determine tax savings by industries and homeowners.

Members of ELTA include attorneys, city officials, real estate men, developers and merchants.

Secretary Walker, in explaining the purpose of the new organization, said, "the many proponents of ELTA feel it is the most significant step that Erie can consider to revitalize economic growth of our city."

ELTA has announced four courses in fundamental economics for residents of the city, all to be given in Gannon College in Erie.

### PROOF OF PROGRESS THROUGH LVT

Dr. and Mrs. Harry Gunnison Brown, in meeting with audiences in Erie and other cities in Pennsylvania, find them much interested in actual "before and after" figures from cities in Australia which they distribute freely upon request.

For instance, in two cities in Victoria, after their local municipal finance system was changed to exempt buildings and cultivation from local taxes, basing these only on the unimproved capital value of the location, both cities made an enormous advance over their previous high level of building activity—at a time when building in most other provincial areas was at its lowest ebb.

While other cities had made a similar change previously with less spectacular results, these two, Wangaratta and Mildura, were the first to switch all rates to the site value basis and completely exempt buildings. In both cases there was an immediate upward leap in all classes of building—the improvement being greatest in the city where the rate change was most complete. Employment opportunities have, of course, kept pace, and the shopkeepers are in clover, as shopping centers have been transformed in a wave of modernization.