

governments, and illustrates the depths to which we have been brought by a crooked and bankrupt philosophy of taxation.—HENRY FORD in Camden, (N.J.) *Daily Courier*.

## Taxation of Economic Rent

**T**ODAY I got \$10,000 I didn't earn. So others will have to earn \$10,000 they will not get.

Twelve years ago in the village of Clawson, Michigan, a corner lot sold for \$2,500. Then Ford workers and others settled around that corner, increasing its land value. Eight years ago I bought that corner for \$8,500 and moved an old building onto it. This I rented to a druggist, who has paid the expense of my holding that corner ever since. Then still others moved there, increasing its land value still more. Today I sold that corner to the druggist for \$20,000. That lot, as a lot, is not worth a dollar more than when I bought it, but the people who live around that lot give it its value. I sold that druggist the people, not the lot. The man I bought it from profited \$6,000, and my rake-off was \$10,000. So that druggist has \$16,000 invested that we got, and he will have to charge it up on things he sells. Ford thought the druggists were overcharging, so he put in a stock of drugs to sell his workmen. He does not see what increasing land values are doing to his workers. If tomorrow it should be announced that Ford were again to increase the wages of his men, land values would jump up still more and take it away from them. Ford cannot see the joke.

The lot I sold is about 34 miles out of Detroit. Now look at the increased land values in Detroit. Say they are only one billion dollars. This means that employed capital and labor in Detroit will have to earn at least one million a week that it will not get. Increased land values are paid for in interest and higher rents and charged up whether you buy prunes, cough syrup or get a tooth pulled.

Manufacturers associations and labor organizations are still cave men. They want to take something away from one another and as yet haven't one bit of economic sense. They are so near-sighted they do not realize that increasing land values are getting a big part of their earnings.

Single Tax would untax improvements created by employed capital and labor, and instead tax vacant lots the same as lots in use. It would not tax improvements on a lot but would base its value on the number of people around that lot. That is called location value, and would make holding idle lots unprofitable and throw them on the market. If we were operating under Single Tax, that druggist could probably have bought that corner for \$2,000 instead of \$20,000 and workers could buy a lot for \$50 instead of \$1,500. Increased land values not only increase the price of lots, but the cost is added to everything we buy.

Today it takes at least \$7,000 to buy a humble home and furnishings. What chance is there for young people of marriageable age? We can build a church on every

corner, but unless we elders learn to look through the eyes of youth and recognize their predicament churches and all will go to the devil.

We older folks have yet to learn that it takes backbone to be religious and face sin in its den. We claim to believe that God made man in His image. Yet birds have the privilege of building a nest in any place not in use, while man has to pay tribute to land speculators. Let's stop whining. Is it not sacrilegious for intelligent men and women to pray, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven," and then not know what our present system of taxation is doing to us? We might as well pray for ice cream sodas in hell.

—GERRIT J. JOHNSON in *Detroit News*.

## A Vision Of The World To Be

**I**F we can picture men and women the world over actuated by the desire to make all others happy, acting towards all others as if they really were their brothers and sisters and as interested in their welfare as their own, we can have the picture of a perfect world, perfectly free, which such a perfect religion brings to men. It would involve a perfect equality of opportunity for every man, woman and child in the world. It would enable every soul born on earth to realize the ideal life which is his birthright from his Creator. It would take away the old idea of charity, or alms-giving and its consequent humiliation, and substitute that justice which the Lord demands of every one of us. True charity, or sincere love to the neighbor, would take the place of mere piety in religion. Religion would thereby become the reign of heavenly law and transform the earth into heaven. REV. WALTER B. MURRAY in *New Church Messenger*.

**W**ILLIAM E. GLADSTONE was deficient in humor and despised science. A friend induced him to visit a laboratory, in which a really great and useful man was engaged. He exhibited a new contrivance to Gladstone, who, however, did not attempt to conceal the fact that he was bored. "What good is it?" asked the premier of Great Britain. "Well," replied the scientist, "if I succeed, as I hope, it will give you something new to tax." There was a twinkle in the scientist's eye, the friend laughed, but Gladstone saw nothing funny in it.

**T**HAT costly and utterly useless department at Washington, over which Mr. Hoover presides, is trying to induce manufacturers to simplify and standardize their output, so that everything one uses, from a teaspoon to a baby carriage, would be exactly like those used by others. No variety at all! It is claimed that hundreds of millions could be saved. Then comes that blunt, rude writer of syndicate articles, Herbert Quick, and asks Herbert Hoover, "Saved for whom?" We imagine that the official Herbert and the writer Herbert never could get along together.