

Ireland Waking Up

WE learn from the *Irish Statesman* of Dublin in its issue of February 28, that an amendment to the local government bill has been presented by Senator Brown and accepted by the ministry providing a half rate valuation on new buildings. The proposal defines new buildings as all those erected between April 1st, 1920 and April 1st, 1927.

The *Statesman* announces that the Minister for Local Government is not only ready to accept the measure, but is willing to make a two thirds reduction in place of the one-half provided for. The *Statesman* goes on to say that "the proposal will, we hope, encourage the building trade and lead to more employment."

For a State

Real Estate Bureau

WORD was sent from Cleveland to Columbus, the capital where Ohio's legislature is grinding out laws at a dreadful speed, that the Cleveland Real Estate Board, with 2000 members, had declared in favor of the bill to establish a State bureau for licensing real estate dealers and regulating their business. Nothing was said about the fact that only 44 members voted on the proposition, that of these, 17 were opposed. You must give these 44 credit, however, for staging a real debate. James G. Monnett, Jr., real estate editor of the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, reported it as follows:

"The opposition was led by Louis A. Moses, who argued against further multiplicity of laws. He was seconded by R. R. MacKenzie, who said he had operated four years in California under a license law which he characterized as ridiculous. H. R. Van de Boe argued that a license law would not help the real estate business nor protect the public, for the reason that immediately all the 'curbstoners' who hang out around the public square would get licenses and do business."

The affirmative was upheld by representatives of the State Association of Real Estate Boards, which was pushing the bill at Columbus. They argued that the bureau would eliminate the evils of the business. J. W. Jacoby, of Marion, Ohio, said that Ohio's blue sky bureau had put two widely known concerns out of business. Alfred G. Clark, of Cleveland, declared that the same bureau had not prevented a number of Cleveland concerns from swindling people out of millions of dollars.

The main object of the State Association is to limit the number of real estate dealers; but another object is suspected. The Association, at considerable expense, maintains a lobby at Columbus to oppose tax bills which real estate men do not like, and to push measures they favor. With a State Bureau controlled by real estate men, as it would certainly be controlled if established, the cost of

lobbying and publicity could be shifted to the State treasury.

With a real estate bureau once established, it could never be dislodged. Governor Pinchot of Pennsylvania, found 117 bureaus at Harrisburg which he deemed useless, but there has been no report of their abolition. The famous Rock of Gibraltar is apparently no safer than is a government bureau. Once in power, the real estate bureau would become a political machine for private interests, and always would seek to increase its functions, importance and emoluments, at the expense of the people.

When The New York Times Was For The Single Tax

WE will go as far as to say that in our belief the very best place to put it (taxation) is upon land and land alone. Editorial *New York Times*, January 25, 1889.

We have no hesitation in declaring that the ideal of taxation lies in the single land tax laid on the rental value of land exclusive of improvements. Editorial, *New York Times*, January 10, 1890.

WHAT is necessary for the use of land is not its private ownership, but the security of its improvements. It is not necessary to say to a man. "This land is yours," in order to induce him to cultivate or improve it. It is only necessary to say to him, "Whatever your labor or capital produces on this land is yours." Give a man security that he may reap, and he will sow; assure him of the possession of the house he wants to build, and he will build.—*Henry George*.

A PASADENA, Calif., paper announces that the city's woodyard is a "big success." Where woodyards are a "success" civilization is a failure, but it is too much to expect the editor to see that.

BOOK NOTICES

TWO NEW BOOKS BY HARRY GUNNISON BROWN

Prof. Harry Gunnison Brown has written a number of books in which the new political economy is treated lucidly and with singular ability. Here are two new volumes from the press of Lucas Bros., Columbia, Mo., one entitled *Economic Science and the Common Welfare*, a work of 447 pages and a smaller book, *The Taxation of Unearned Incomes*. Both are welcome additions to the library of the new science. The spirit in which the first is undertaken may be gathered by the opening paragraph of the Introduction which is as follows:

"Economics is concerned with the problem of 'getting a living.' It deals, therefore, with an important phase of the 'struggle for existence.' Unfortunately, this fact operates to prevent unprejudiced investigation of its laws and the effects of various economic policies. An examination that would show the effects of various policies from which a part of the public was benefiting, to be injurious to the remainder, might not be an examination which those who were profiting by the policies in question would desire to have made. And if such an examination were made, acceptance of its inevitable logical conclusions would probably be vigorously opposed."