

and shipped to the missile site. Since these were pre-assembled the engineers could easily check out completed circuits. The plumbers' union protested however that the pre-assembled method deprived them of work which was rightfully theirs. They demanded, under threat of a work stoppage, that these pre-assembled units be dismantled and reassembled by them.

The fact that many man-hours and dollars could have been saved by the

more efficient pre-assembly technique did not interest them at all, even though there was sufficient work remaining for them. The issue was resolved in their favor. Is this an insignificant event or is it, too, a symptom?

While this is merely a thumbnail sketch of Henry George's views, can we not say that these are obstacles caused by progress showing the internal decay which precedes arrival of the barbarians?

YES, IT WOULD BE ENOUGH!

MANY of us know of cases here in New York City where the landholder locks the cash register at night. That is, his take is a percentage of the gross, and in many instances this percentage is more than a hundred per cent of the profits. This is attested to by the stores which are forced to close because the rent was too high.

For those who want to see definite statistics, "Bayou Mystery" in The Wall Street Journal of February 20, 1953 is an interesting example. It tells of a trapper with 138 muskrat skins and 3 mink skins stacked at his feet, taken from 150 steel traps during three days in the marshes. Eight buyers bid for the lot, which went for \$176.65. The trapper got about \$114. The rest,

slightly over 35 per cent, went to pay the owner of the land. And this is one of the least desirable ways of making a living. These men furnish their own capital in the form of traps, clubs and knives. They take all the risks to be met with in swamps—yet the landholders take more than a third of the total.

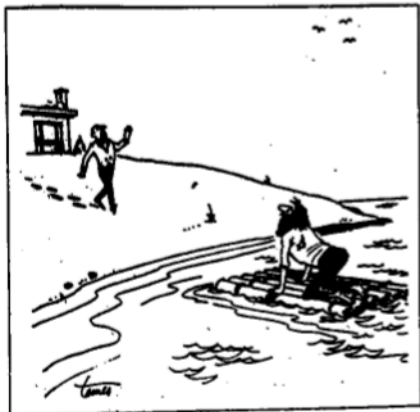
As to what constitutes a profit, "Victory in the Dustbowl" by Ira Wolfert in the August 1959 Reader's Digest is helpful.

"There was plenty of land that year" (1925), we read. "The nomads, known locally as suitcase farmers, didn't come in the dry years, and you could rent their fields for a quarter of whatever crop you raised on them."

Look at that closely: 25 per cent is considered very cheap. We know that the total cost of county, state and federal expenses is not over 150 billion dollars, and our gross national production is said to be over 500 billion dollars. We may say then, that if a man at the lowest level of production has to give up more than 35 per cent of his product, the rest of us can expect that to be the minimum for all.

Collecting all government expenses through a land value tax would make government costs a great deal less. This should convince anyone that 30 per cent of our gross national product would more than pay all government costs.

—Robert Sage



"Sorry sir—this is a private beach!"
—from The National Observer