

able, even to being coupled with death itself. But the latter will be recognized as payment for value received, and will be looked upon as any other exchange of values.

TAXATION, therefore, will not be given to devising ways and means of wringing from citizens the last dollar to be got short of revolution, but to furthering those laws that bring relief to industry and hope to those who despair of present conditions, by adjusting the burdens of government to the benefits received. The purpose, in short, is to teach the art of raising revenue in conformity with justice, and to adjust the functions of government to the social and industrial needs of the country.

Selling at Cost

COMPANY stores in mining regions, timber camps, and similar isolated places have been one of the scourges of labor, but the company store proposed by one of the leading woolen manufacturers of Lawrence, Massachusetts, is hailed with delight by a great mass of employes. President Wood of the woolen mill threatens to supply goods at cost if the local merchants do not cut their prices. And in view of the present high cost of living it is not surprising that fifteen thousand operatives should "demonstrate" in behalf of a move that promises cheaper goods.

Retail merchandising is perhaps the least efficient of the various branches of industry. It is wasteful in multiplicity, in carrying dead stock, in delivering goods, and in numerous other antiquated methods. The competition of such a store as President Wood threatens to establish might eliminate this class of tradesmen. But there would still remain a heavy handicap to merchandising that even the big company store cannot escape, and that adds materially to the high prices.

The high priced goods of which consumers so bitterly complain are subject to burdensome taxes from the time they are manufactured until they reach the consumer. The manufacturer receives his wages, in the form of profits, by adding a certain percentage to the cost of his goods. This cost is made up not only of materials and labor, but of interest, insurance, depreciation of plant, and taxes. If he does not get all these charges back with a profit sufficient

for his own wages he will cease to manufacture. The same is true of the jobber, the wholesaler, and the retailer. To each the cost upon which he must figure his profit, or wages, includes the original materials, all the labor, interest, insurance, depreciation, and the previous and present taxes.

Why these taxes on trade? The liquor tax was understandable because the public desired to make alcoholic drinks expensive to the consumer in order that consumption might be reduced. But why apply the same treatment to groceries, drygoods, and other necessities of life? To a mill operative living in a rented house, owning no property, and having an income below the minimum taxable income, the question of taxation seems of no interest. Yet it is of vital importance. For it is he who pays all the taxes on all the goods he consumes, including the house he rents. A larger portion of his wages go to pay taxes than of the income of any other class of citizens. The retailers of Lawrence are protesting against the threatened invasion of President Wood, but Wood will keep out if they materially reduce prices. Cannot the tradesmen and the mill operatives join forces to remove the taxes on trade and industry, and thus secure cheaper goods? It is worth trying.

Not the Best Way

HUDDERSFIELD, England, is attracting attention because it has awakened the interest of a former citizen who, having become a millionaire in Australia, wishes to aid the city in solving its housing problem. Though a very old town Huddersfield owes its present growth of a hundred thousand population to the modern development of the weaving trade. In 1599 Queen Elizabeth sold the land upon which the main part of the city stands for a few shillings to one William Ramsden, whose heirs are at present drawing an income of about a thousand dollars a day. As the estate, amounting to 6,000 acres, is now for sale the millionaire has agreed to purchase it, and resell to the city at the cost price, \$6,500,000.

The *New York Globe*, which has had many friendly references to the taxation of land values, speaks of this as an opportunity to test out the Singletax theory. Through the profits