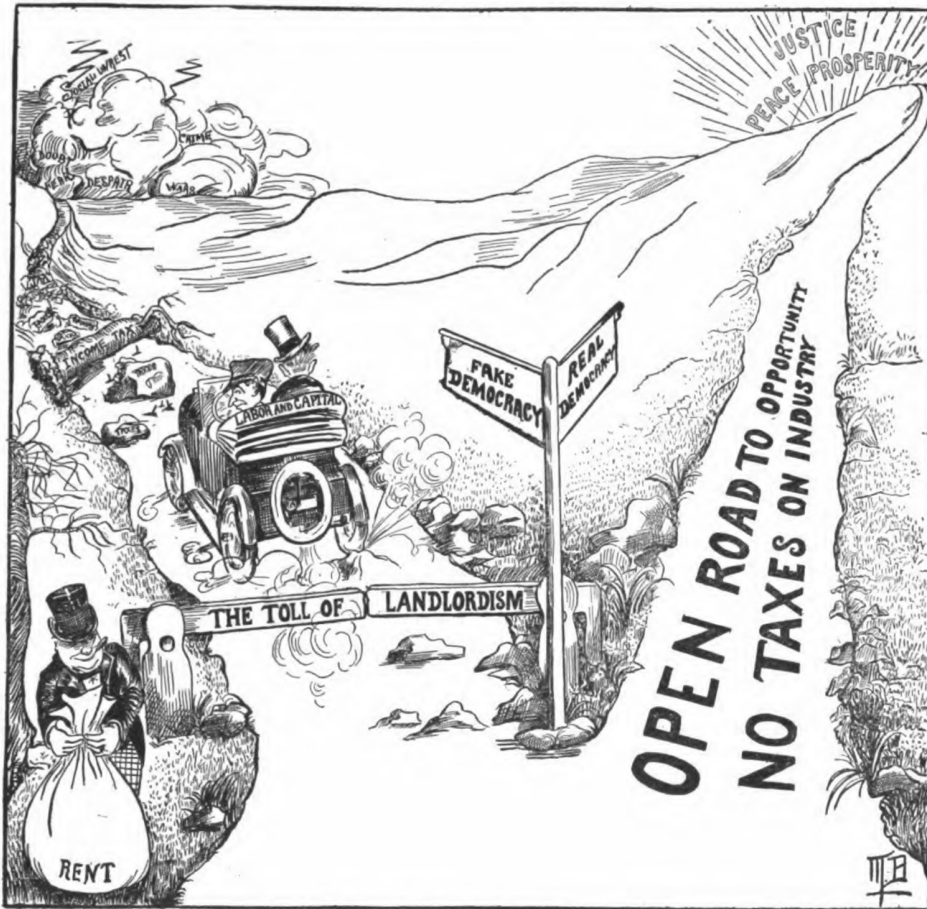


## The Two Roads



**I**F only Labor and Capital would get together, the press assures us daily, all our social unrest would cease. It is assumed that this unrest arises primarily from mutual misunderstandings and antagonisms between the two parties named.

In the above cartoon, our artist has visualized a situation where Labor and Capital have reconciled their alleged differences and are joy-riding together on the road which our legislative wisdom has laid out for the nation's industry to travel.

It will be at once apparent that, in spite of all Christian forbearance and kindness toward each other, the journey is foredoomed to be unpleasant and unprofitable.

The primary exaction at the toll-gate—a perpetual imposition mounting always to the maximum the traffic will bear—is an appropriate introduction to the veritable network of fiscal obstacles deliberately strewn in the path of the two travelers.

The inevitable end of that road is, as above portrayed, a bog of despair, with the evil brood of calamities that always result from outraged justice. Nature finally tolerates no impunity for wrong-doing.

Is it too much to hope that Labor and Capital, realizing at last their common misfortune, will consult together as to the way back to liberty and justice? Will they ever sense their united power? They have only to choose and act.

The open road to nature's opportunities, a road free of

all extortions, obstacles and penalties for productive industry, is, as the artist has shown, and as reason assures us, near at hand and easy of access.

This open road, along which human industry can travel, unassaulted and untrammelled, from achievement to achievement, can lead only to that perfect realm where justice, peace and prosperity reign.

Perhaps, on considering the situation together, the two travelers will awaken to the monstrous unreason of the conditions to which they have unwittingly submitted.

What useful purpose does the toll-gate serve? Why the elaborate complex of penalties scattered at random and profusely along the road? Why is the traffic always impeded and never encouraged and made easy? Is industry really welcome? Has it any chance to prosper, according to its latent capacity, under such hostile conditions?

Reason and justice are not forever to be mocked. Our civilization, all the hope of our race's salvation, is embarked on that car. Its course is headed straight for destruction. Nothing can save it but a supreme act of conscience and surrender of unjust privilege on the one hand, or the wide awakening and swift, sure action of creative industry on the other. Otherwise, parasite and producer go down together to a common ruin.