

any hesitation as to what course we ought to take? But the loss to landlords will be, after all, nothing of the kind that has been assumed.

When we come to look into the matter thoroughly and patiently investigate what would actually occur, we shall find that we have raised mountains of difficulties which for the most part are purely imaginary, and where they are real, will diminish as we approach them.

The greater *number* of the landlords themselves would not suffer loss at all, none of those who are using their own land will lose anything. The mechanic on his plot, the manufacturer on his yard and premises, the merchant or tradesman on his site, and the farmer on his farm, and so forth, instead of losing anything by the change in land tenure, will be better off than before, inasmuch as the economic rent that each of these will have to pay, under the new order, for the land, into the public chest, will amount to considerably less than the taxes he now pays in other ways to the State and municipality. This land rent being used for State and municipal purposes would do away with all other kinds of tax whatsoever. It would do away with that mystery of iniquity indirect taxes, there would be no customs or excise duties, no tax on houses or implements or tools, plant or machinery or any product of labour in any form. This single tax on land also could be collected at much less expense than the public revenue is now collected, being more simple it would not require such a swarm of hungry officials. The exact amount each is paying being known, the people will look more sharply after the expenditure of their money and thus largely check the reckless waste and extravagance which now prevails in the State. It will thus be readily seen that all who are using their land will be the gainers by the change. It will not matter what these paid for the land at first when they came into possession; whether it be little or much, there will be nothing taken from them whatever. If a person had bought a watch at a high