

## Taxation—Its Potentiality for Good or Evil

(Continued from page 4.)

ment, benefit for benefit, mutual enrichment and mutual elevation. The farmer is under obligation to the manufacturer for the goods supplied in the way of furnishings and machinery, at the same time the manufacturer is under obligation for the food provided by the farmer. They supply product for product and thus the obligations are cancelled. There is no necessity for the farmer to get a mortgage on the manufacturer and there is no necessity for the manufacturer to get a mortgage on the farmer.

But when the owner of the valuable land is allowed to appropriate, not only the value of the improvements he places on the land; but also the value which the growth of society caused to that land, then the relationship and development between the landowner and the occupants is entirely different from that existing between the divisions of labor. The men who get possession of the best sites of this city at the first settlement, could collect a very small rental from the occupants; but, as population grew, they could demand more and more. While the fortune of the owners grew, the obligation of the occupants grew also. Society was divided into two distinct classes, a creditor and a debtor class,—one doing all the work, the other taking a larger and larger portion of wealth, till to-day the owner can collect from the best site in Toronto a rental equivalent to \$350,000; a quarter of a million dollars an acre per annum. The man who works a hundred acre farm thinks he has done pretty well, if he realizes a thousand dollars yearly, while the man who raises not the value of a bush of grass, can reap in one year a rental as great as the farmer, with

all his toil, can realize in two or three hundred years. In our rapidly growing cities, the obligation of industry to surrender a large part of its product to the owners of the land, keeps on increasing and increasing year after year. The more the occupants pay, the more they have to pay. No matter how many millions are paid, more millions have still to be paid. The tribute which industry must pay for the occupation of the land, according to our present method of taxation, does one part of society to toil, hardship, and poverty, for all time to come.

The product of the farm pays for the product of the factory. There is no debt of industry to industry; but the product of the farm and the factory never cancels the claim of the owners of the sites in the commercial centres. These rentals continue as perennial fortunes to the favored few at one extreme of society; but they continue an endless drain on the lives and toll of those who are thus doomed to dwell at the other extreme of society. Benefit for benefit, product for product, and service for service, bear all the outward and visible signs of honesty, of freedom, of equity. They come with the blessings of peace and prosperity. They are the essential condition as a basis for the existence and growth of civilisation.

When we contrast the immeasurable difference between the man in a state of complete isolation and man with a freest access to organized society, can we think of a contrast more wide or more extreme? Without association, without division of functions, and its exchanges of benefits, there can be no civilisation, no progress in knowledge, no advancement in the arts and sciences,—nothing but the basest of barbarism and the most degraded ignorance. Labor can produce; but it is division of labor and exchange that give us the product in abundance.

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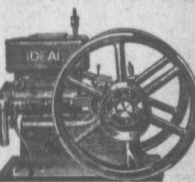
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