

But the activity and persistence of these single taxers must command the admiration and even the envy of unbelievers. They seem to be always at it, and to never miss a chance of advertising their economic specific. In that respect at least they are a shining exemplar to advocates of other fiscal policies and causes generally, some of whom must often wish that they were backed by such energy and thoroughness."

—*Progress*, Melbourne, Aus.

Live and Let Live

MR. J. S. VAN DE BOE is honorary president of the Cleveland Real Estate Board. In one of the Cleveland papers he writes as follows:

"I now come to the conclusion of my article and wish to say one word about a subject that lies very close to my heart. If we are to have a bigger, better Cleveland, how can we do it if we have warring factions within ourselves? Let each and every one of us 1,000,000 people adopt our slogan, "Live and let live."

Labor has its place; capital has its place; so have each and every one of us, irrespective of races, religion, creed or present condition of servitude. Then why can we not, all of us, being dependent upon the future of Cleveland for our sustenance, get together and put these things across, which are all to our common interests."

As Cleveland land speculators are adopting this slogan, "Live and let live," we are a little curious to know what is meant by it. "Labor has its place; so has capital," says Mr. De Boe. But what place is reserved for rent—land rent, the values attaching to particular locations on which labor and capital make their living? This rent is a charge on the earnings of both labor and capital; it lays an increasingly heavy burden on production. Rent—the value attaching to particular locations—must persist. The evil of its private appropriation carries with it speculation in land and rent charges beyond the normal rent, owing to land being withdrawn from the market and held partially or wholly idle. The law of rent is a beneficent law, but because we allow these values which attach to land to remain in private hands, it becomes an instrument of extortion, and is fruitful of effects that arrest industry and cripple it in its growth. Labor has its place and capital has its—true, Mr. De Boe. And rent, too, has its place. But its place is not in the pockets of individuals—it belongs to the public treasury. It is value no man produces; it is a social product, arising from the common activities of all people. It points to the true source of public revenue; its diversion into private hands is to the detriment of every productive activity.

Live and let live—that is a good slogan. But they who contribute nothing should not share in the joint product of industry; if they do the slogan is meaningless. Labor and capital alone produce wealth; let them share it between them, in the proportion that they contribute. But the landlord produces nothing; he lives on the labor of others.

Labor and capital live only by his permission, and all he gives them is an opportunity that all the people have created. The slogan needs an addition—live and let live, but only in proportion as men contribute to the store of wealth, unless we wish to give in charity, and surely the landlords will be ashamed to take the economic rent as a charitable donation, and just as surely they cannot claim as a right that which is none of their creation.

A Fable For Farmers

A PAWNBROKER, who made a living by loaning his money on the security of personal property left in his keeping, was deeply incensed because his offer to give the farmers some good advice about rotation of crops, and scientific fertilizers, was scornfully rejected.

"Well, you needn't be so stuck up about it," replied the representative of the Three-Ball industry, "you are always willing to listen to the bankers, who lend their depositors' money against securities turned over to them. I don't see why my kind of money-lender isn't just as well qualified to advise you as the kind that has so much sympathy for the farmer on tap that they sit up nights telling the ruralists how they should run their industry. Maybe it's because the farmers have so blamed little knowledge of their own business they are looking for advice and help to the fellows who know still less about crop-raising."

NINETY per cent. of the cost of such functions as fire department and sanitary should be charged to old buildings, which are fire traps and pest holes—for modern buildings need very little fire service and no sanitary service.—JAMES R. BROWN

BY vital economics I do not mean the conventional political science of the schools, frequently dubbed the "dismal" science. I mean the science of production and distribution of wealth as an applied science. Man would face it, study it and develop it, with the intention of finding in it some light, with the intention of using its teachings to solve human problems, to BRING SOMETHING TO PASS.—LEWIS JEROME JOHNSON, Professor of Civil Engineering, Harvard University.

EVERY time a new bureau with a license attached is created by government, its advocates say that it will be self supporting; but, of course, that is always a lie. The license increases costs and are almost sure to be recovered in higher prices. The bureau's rent and printing bills are sure to be paid out of the general fund, and then it will at once lobby for a regular and deficiency appropriations.

If 100 sources of revenues are insufficient to support the State government of Ohio, ought not the multiple taxes fix the number that would satisfy them?