

"The Self-Supporting City"

By Otto K. Dorn

Gilbert M. Tucker is an author who lifts his economics out of the purely theoretical realm and gives them a realistic and practical application. In his forthcoming book, "The Self-Supporting City", Mr. Tucker says: "Were the city to collect a just return on its assets it would be on the way to stability, security and corporate prosperity."

He not only demonstrates that a financially embarrassed city could be made self supporting and free of debt by changing its present destructive system of taxing improvements, but also shows how, by doing this, slums would automatically disappear.

Homes, apartment houses and business buildings would be as readily and plentifully produced through private enterprise as hats, cosmetics, pots and pans and other commodities are now supplied without subsidy or other public grants.

Owners of real estate have ever been led to believe that the application of the single tax would be detrimental to their best interests, regarding which Mr. Tucker says: "Financial benefits from improvements made by the city react almost wholly to the advantage of land owners but, while this is incontrovertible, the fact remains that land owners seldom prosper and are often in dire straits. There is a constant and justifiable wail of lamentation and in thousand of cases the value of holdings completely disappears and the properties are lost by forfeiture. We give landowners much, but they are ruined: we lavish benefits upon them but they do not prosper. How can this paradox be explained? The answer to this conundrum is simple." And, Mr. Tucker then proceeds to show, the answer is simple.

"The Self-Supporting City," will be published by the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation and is scheduled to appear in mid-summer or early fall. It is a book that everyone interested in real estate, everyone interested in decent housing, in fact everyone, should read.

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