

ON LAND SPECULATION.

Elizabeth Hnilo.

What an excellent plan your correspondent, J. E. Lashmore, has for curbing land speculation (Feb. 13). To tax idle land on its unimproved value makes sense and does work. Copenhagen raises 50 percent of its revenue on unimproved land values. There are no slums (at least as we know them) in that charming city.

It is an economic axiom and also an axiom of justice that value belongs to him who produces it. The unimproved value of any piece of land is due to the investments of the surrounding community and since it is created by the community it should be collected for community expenses. Also, taxing improvements discourages improvements and raises their price, but collecting land values discourages speculation and lowers the price of land.

That isn't to say the Danes aren't overtaxed generally - they are.--Toronto Globe and Mail,
February 18, 1967.

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