

"All that I know is that I am supposed to be an inexhaustible supply of money for every known need, desire or hope of the human race; and, because I will not sell all I have and go out and beg, borrow or steal money to give away, I am cursed, discussed, talked to, talked about, lied about, and held up, hung up, robbed and dam near ruined, and the only reason why I am clinging to life now is to see what will happen next."

—Pasadena *Morning Sun*.

Helping the Farmer— Bureaucracy to the Rescue

THE editor of *Nation's Business* has a hobby—the output of the Government Printing Office. He is familiar with the document on the Diet of University Boat Crews. He knows How to Process Persimmons to Render them Astringent. The Fleas Found on Wild Animals in Bitter Root Valley, Montana, have no terrors for him. He speaks with a connoisseur's relish of the Preliminary Note on the Toxin-Producing Anaerobe Isolated From Larvae of *Lucilia Caesar*. But in this month's issue he confesses that he had overlooked, until it was recently called to his attention, the Government's latest bulletin on how to forecast the price of hogs by the aid of logarithmic tables.

Mathematics, this document assures the corn belt, will "solve the economic problems of the farmer just as it can be employed to study the movement of the stars." Naturally enough, he must start with the regression equation. The merest tyro agriculturist knows what that is, but for the benefit of the utterly illiterate the bulletin gives it in full on page 34 as follows:

$$(1) \log X_{11} = -0.09443 \log X_1 + 0.15888 \log X_2 - 0.21096 \log X_3 - 0.23675 \log X_4 - 0.07250 \log X_5 + 2.23777 \log X_6 + 0.04759 \log X_7 + 0.22659 \log X_8 - 0.03036 \log X_9 + 1.63099 \log X_{10} - K.$$

Though an explanation is hardly necessary, the author of the bulletin points out that "these coefficients of determination are statements of the total variability of the dependent factor, hog prices which for the period stated can be mathematically related to the variability of each of the other factors included in this particular study." What could be simpler than that?—*New York Times*.

THE majority of men do not think; the majority of men have to expend so much energy in the struggle to make living, that they do not have time to think. The majority of men accept as a matter of course whatever is. This is what makes the task of the social reformer so difficult, his path so hard. This is what brings to those who first raise their voices on behalf of a great truth the sneers of the powerful, and the curses of the rabble, ostracism and martyrdom, the robe of derision, and the crown of thorns.

HENRY GEORGE.

Letters to Business Men

THE Toronto Single Tax Association is sending out a series of letters to the business men of the city. The first letter is before us and part of it reads:

"Very few business men appreciate the effect of taxation on business in general, and on their own in particular. It is obvious that if the selling price to the consumer of any article is increased by 5% by reason of a sales tax, it will tend to reduce the sales proportionately. It is not quite as apparent, but just as true, that other taxes, such as the Business Tax, are part of the expenses of carrying on business, and so become a part of the cost and are included in the selling price. Every time an article changes hands, the tax is pyramided and passed on.

The market for goods depends principally on the amount of the wages of the ordinary earner, and every increase in price will be followed by a decrease in purchasing power and a falling off in demand.

Every obstacle placed in the way of productive efforts results in fewer persons being employed, and consequently in a smaller amount of wages being available for the purchasing of the products of other producers. Is it not, then, in the interest of every business man to encourage the greatest possible production of goods at the lowest possible price?

Every dollar reduction, say in the price of boots, will free a dollar for the purchase of something else. Every worker helps to make a market for other workers.

It would seem that the policy of every municipality should be to so adjust its taxes as to encourage industry.

Does Toronto do this?

Are not the employers of labor singled out for specially excessive taxation? A man owns a lot, and keeps it idle, or has a poor dilapidated building on it, and he is taxed practically on the lot alone. But let him erect a modern building, and his assessment is so increased that it will take several month's rent to pay the taxes. Should he occupy his building for business purposes, he must pay from 50 to 75% more tax than if he kept it idle. Should he, as a result of his investment and business ability, earn over \$2000, he has another tax to pay. If he makes a profit over and above all these taxes, the City collects still another tax, and should he save any of his income and invest it to aid another enterprise, he is taxed again.

Evidently the City looks upon business as something to be discouraged by every means in its power. Is it any wonder that business in many lines is bad? that Harbor sites are vacant, and that firms are reported to have left the City?"

"I REGARD the land value tax as both theoretically and practically sound, and an indispensable basis of much-needed tax reform."—PROFESSOR JOHN DEWEY, Columbia University, New York.