

Improvement Tax a Hindrance

TO ABOLISH an evil, we must find the cause, or causes, of the evil and remove the cause.

A very important cause of a great evil, the present deplorable scarcity of jobs for workers, is our ridiculous system of taxation.

We tax improvements—think of it — we actually punish men, by taxing them, for making jobs and putting men to work making improvements. Take the case of erecting a skyscraper to cost a million dollars. Thousands of men have to be employed in the making of the steel beams, the bricks, the marble, the hardware, the glass and the numerous other material necessary, besides the many men employed in the actual building. When the building is completed, the people of Pittsburgh send their assessor and he, performing his sworn duty, lays a tax of \$31,000 a year on that skyscraper, which must be paid every year, and at stated times. If the owner fails to pay the \$31,000 yearly and at the proper time his building will be sold for taxes.

We punish employers for making jobs and putting men to work and then we wonder why thousands of men can't get jobs.

F. W. MAGUIRE.