

FROM AN ENGLISH SINGLE TAXER.

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW.

In the January-February number of the REVIEW, pp., 58, 59, 60, Mr. Bolton Hall argues for taxing rental value of land rather than capital or selling value, and sets out a table which seems to show the absurdity of levying land value taxation upon an assessment of selling values of land. What we are coming to understand in this country is that as we push on with land value taxation we shall have to get the taxable amount of land value in any year by taking the selling value of the land in that year and adding to that the capitalized amount of the tax on land value in the preceding year, or, if we take the true annual value of land as our basis, we shall have to do what amounts to the same thing, deduce the true annual value of the land from the selling value (5% of it) and add the amount of the tax in the preceding year. After all, selling value of land is the one criterion which we can arrive at with accuracy.

To show the working of this method Mr. Bolton Hall's table may be amended thus—(rate of interest 5%, i. e., land sells at 20 year's purchase.)

	Hypothetical rental value	Per cent of tax on taxable amount	Amount of tax	Net return to owner(?=rental value)	Selling price	Taxable Amount
1st year.....	\$50	none	none	\$50	\$1000	\$1000
2nd "	50	3%	\$30	20	400	400+600
3rd "	50	4%	40	10	200	200+800
4th "	50	5%	50	0	0	\$1000

The actual selling price of land is in practice a much more ascertainable quantity than the theoretical "economic rent" (one has left out of account in this statement the effect of land value taxation in destroying the speculative element in land values and thus lowering the selling price of land much more than is suggested above.)—PERCY McDOUGALL, Manchester, Eng.

Do away with every tax on labor or its product. Then we will have prosperity.—Joseph Fels.

HOW MANY SINGLE TAXERS AGREE WITH MR. GATES?

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

The fundamental principle of socialism is collective ownership of all of the means of production, both the land and the machinery. The fundamental principle of the Single Tax is common ownership of land. The Single Taxer believes that common ownership of land will produce a "regenerated capitalism?" Will it?

The Single Taxer says to the socialist; "You let me own all the land, and you take all the machinery, and in the course of time, I will own both the land, and the machinery. This proposition is susceptible of several variations. For instance; "Let the people own collectively all of the tools and machinery, while private individuals retain the ownership of the land, and in the course of time private individuals will own both the land and the machinery. In other words socialism constructed on the laws, that is by socializing the machinery, without socializing the land, would have a tendency to revert back to capitalism. Indeed it would not be socialism at all, but simply a sort of collective capitalism.

This proposition is susceptible of still

another variation. For instance, let the people own collectively all the land, and the private capitalist own all the machinery, and then, in the course of time, the people will own collectively both the land and the machinery. In other words, socialism in its fullness, "collective ownership of all of the means of production, both the land and the machinery," "To whomsoever the soil at any time belongs, to him belong the fruits thereof?" As the land goes, so goes all of the rest of the means of production.

The Single Tax route is the grand highway which socialism must travel in order