

To the Editor:

Professor von Mises certainly has a very vivid imagination when he visualizes the government having to transport farmers from less fertile to more fertile lands because their labor would yield them the same in dollars and cents on the less fertile lands under single tax. However, we do find this condition under the present land tenure system some even having been sent to Alaska. Rather, the tendency would be for them to build up their less fertile lands by artificial fertilization which benefits would accrue to them. This would not be difficult for them to do under free conditions, and would not result in antagonism between the concerns of the farmer and those of all other people; but would bring beneficial results to all.

Also when we consider a proposition we have to consider what the alternative to it is; and the alternative to the failure to collect the whole economic rent is that farmers, laborers and all producers would have to give up that portion not collected to some individual for nothing, as the rent is always collected; if not by the government, then by some individual. He thus has the power to levy his own individual tax for his personal use and live off of other people's labor. This is a condition of servitude, and there is no substitute for justice.

—FOXHALL A. PARKER
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