

policemen to protect storekeepers and residents who are in no wise responsible for the newspaper strike and who are just as much entitled to police protection as the big papers are. More—because the average burglar victim is not a tax dodger. Chief McWeeny, meanwhile, also has admitted that burglary and highway robbery is on the increase to an alarming extent since the newspaper strike.



The Farmer Begins to See.

(Peterboro, Ont.) Farm and Dairy (Agricultural) June 27.—In a new country, where land has practically no value, interest and wages are high. As population increases, we have competition for land; a greater and greater proportion of the wealth that is produced by labor and capital must be given to the landlord. . . . Taxation of land values would divert the moneys now going into the landlords' pockets into those of the general public, and thereby reduce other forms of taxation. It would force into use land now held by speculators, and thereby reduce rents, both to the laborer and the capitalist. This in turn would reduce the cost of doing business and thereby benefit the public. It is the city land holder, the men who monopolize our mines and water powers, and the holders of special franchises, that are able to live on the proceeds of their monopoly without labor on their part. Our farmers' organizations, in endorsing taxation of land values and such natural monopolies, take a stand that is to the advantage of farmer, working man and capitalist. Our interests are common.



The Land-value Incubus on Farming.

The Nebraska Farmer (agricultural), Aug. 21.—That the average rate of income upon the farmer's investment in land and equipment is low, is patent to all who have observed farm affairs. In a brief presented to the State Board of Equalization last week, asking for lower assessments of farm lands, Secretary Odell of the Nebraska Rural Life Commission and Chairman Delano of the tax section presented figures to show that farmers in this State are making only about 3 per cent on their investment, not counting labor. If the latter were included, according to their findings, farmers would be doing business at an absolute loss. The reason for this showing is evident from the figures of the census bureau. Land capitalization has increased more rapidly than returns from the land. The effect is analogous to watering stock. You get more stock but a lower percentage of income. The members of the Commission that submitted this brief were mistaken in their idea that increasing the taxes on land would lower the income from farming. It wouldn't do that, but would lower the price of land. Lowering the taxes on land, on the other hand, would increase its price and give a larger capitalization without increasing its productive capacity.



Progress of the Singletax.

The (Winnipeg) Grain Growers' Guide (agricultural), June 12.—The Hudson's Bay Company re-

cently sold 586 lots from their property holdings situated within the city of Edmonton. Great excitement, we read, marked the sale. The holder of ticket number 1, entitling him to be first served by the agents of the company, was offered \$10,000 for his ticket, and refused the offer. The Hudson's Bay Company received from the sale \$2,034,150. Thirty years ago the whole estate was hardly worth a song. Where did that two million dollars' worth of value come from? Not from the company. It has not done, it has not pretended to do, a hand's turn. The value has plainly come from the people who have gone in and built up Edmonton. Yet their reward has been to be kept all those years from using these choice sites, and finally when the Company chooses to sell, the very ones who have given the property all the value it possesses have been simply taxed to that extent before they could build on it or make any use of it. "The law's a 'hass,'" exclaimed an irate Britisher long ago, and the saying has survived. One is tempted to use similar language in describing our present system of enriching idle landholders at the expense of the real up-builders of a community. Fortunately Edmonton has awakened to the folly of this procedure, and it is this very awakening which caused the Hudson's Bay Company to sell its vacant land to those who would improve it and not hold it for speculation. The same thing is being done every day by men and women of every walk in life. They are taking advantage of the "system" to get something for nothing.



To Whom Blackmail is Paid.

St. Paul Pioneer Press, June 23.—The man who owns the land holds the key to the possibilities of the future in any section of the country. Nothing can be done without the land. The big industries, or the small industries, the factory and the residence, the big city blocks, and the small flats or large apartment buildings must have the ground. Tribute must be paid to the man who owns the land, in any event. For any one to say that there is no field for investment in real estate is to deny the very fundamentals of existence. Who are the men who in the past have made the greatest money? They are not the manufacturers as such alone; they are not the bankers as such alone. They are not the merchants, merely as merchants. They are the men who have had faith in real estate, who have put their money in it, and who have watched the pennies grow into the dollars, and the dollars into hundreds of dollars, largely through the added value of the real property which they own. . . . We have frequently met with the man who is ready to admit that the big fortunes of the past have been made in real property, but who comes forth with the proposition that there are no such chances offered today. To such a man we can only answer that to say that there are not large opportunities in real estate today, is to declare that the limit of human advancement has been reached. Real estate is not only a paying investment, when the property is bought and handled judiciously, but it is the safest possible investment. There is no such thing as losing it. There is no such thing as its being stolen. It is the ground, and is enduring as the great