

do so at a profit while maintaining these properties as sound . . . and very "tangible" . . . assets.

Except for the absence of the display, the foregoing is a literal quotation from the ad. The italics are theirs and the separated "full points," too. And why "tangible" is in "quotes" I give up, unless it be to infer that there is nothing "tangible" about land as an investment, except that upon it some form of labor will be applied in the production of wealth. But we are assured that these investors do not intend to use these lands in that way. Miller & Lux will help them "to get experienced farmers" whom the said investor can "farm." So there you have it. Yet some "innocent" like myself might ask, if the "experienced farmer" farms the farm, and the investor farms the farmer, to whom will go the wealth which the "experienced farmer" farms from the farm, if not alone to the farmer of the farmer of the farm?

LAURIE J. QUINBY.

## Single Tax And Cuspidors

JAMES MICHAEL CURLEY, as Governor-elect of Massachusetts, was being interviewed by a *Boston Globe* reporter. The occasion was one of note in that James Michael had just defeated the offspring of the Hamiltonian Federalists in the rock-ribbed Republican State of Massachusetts in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirty-four. The victory was doubly sweet because "Jim" had also, just a few weeks before, soundly trounced his own Democratic party in its attempt to relegate "Jim" to the limbo of "also-rans." The Rooseveltian New Deal constituted the top, bottom and sides of "Jim's" campaign, morning, noon and night: the New Deal was vindicated and James Michael was victorious. Massachusetts, long noted as the State of mind—as the home of the Cabots and the Lodges—as the seat of the Harvard Preparatory School for all who would enter the Kingdom of Heaven—had swallowed the New Deal, hook, line and sinker.

It is customary for newspaper reporters to ask Governors-elect, Mayors-elect and Town Constables-elect, to reminisce. The procedure lends an Horatio Alger atmosphere to the news-story which customarily features successful elections to public office. It inspires all boot-blacks and newsboys to go and do likewise; if this procedure was not faithfully followed our nation would soon be sadly lacking in Presidential, gubernatorial and mayoral timber, and what a plight THAT would be!

So "Jim" Curley reminisced.

'Twas back in 1898, m'lads, when "Jim" shoved off into the slippery sea of politics. His twenty-four years found him with the oratorical ability of the customary City Councilor candidate limited to a five-minute vocabulary. His political partner, Tom Curley, had an eight-minute vocabulary. Any platform performance which

extended beyond these sidereal limitations found both Jim and Tom speechless.

These budding statesmen 'ad aspirations (as the Englishman says) and wished to stage a two-hour rally. What to do about it? Luckily they had heard a long-winded soap-box orator energetically expound the marvels and panaceas pertinent to the Single Tax. What the subject was all about—what it meant—didn't matter. The Single Taxer could talk—and how! He was the solution to Jim's and Tom's two-hour dilemma. So-o-o-o, the Single Taxer was invited to be the piece-de-resistance at the rally. Listen, now, to Jim's own description:

"It was a hurly-burly meeting because our opponents had first hired the hall. But they had not paid for it, though they had moved in their liquid refreshment. So we got the hall and their liquor and we were first there. There was a fight but we held the hall and all that went with it.

"But while our Single Taxer was speaking one of the enemy hurled a heavy steel cuspidor. I saw it and jammed him (the Single Taxer) down in his chair just as it flew over his head to take out the window, casing and all. He wouldn't finish his speech."

End of quotation.

Gadzooks! Single Tax was killed, at its Bay State birth, by a lowly cuspidor hurled by a cuspidorian. 'Twere better so, m'lads, otherwise the New Deal would never have seen the light of day, and Jim Curley would never have had excellent campaign material against the profound mentality of the Harvardian offspring of the Cabots and the Lodges, and Jim Curley would never have been the Governor-elect of our State of Mind. Cruel fate can, indeed, be kind at times.

Query: If one cuspidor can forestall Single Tax from 1898 until 1934—and if we have one million, nine hundred seventy-six thousand, three hundred and twenty-eight cuspidors in Massachusetts—how long will it be before Single Tax will be adopted in the grand and glorious Commonwealth of Massachusetts?

It is your Deal and political Clubs are trumps.

THOMAS N. ASHTON.

## Wise Words From A Jewish Organ

IF the Jewish National Fund were to collect the full annual rental value of the land which it owns, it would have today at its disposal a larger fund with which to purchase additional land in Palestine, and thus be able to redeem more land for Jewish settlement in the Jewish homeland. In that case, it would not have to be as entirely dependent upon individual contributions as it is today, though of course the Jewish people all over the world would continue to contribute to this perhaps most beloved of Jewish funds and swell its coffers by the pennies, dimes and quarters which are thrown into J. N. F. boxes.

### NOT FULL SINGLE TAX

That the community should collect the full rent of land, since the

value of land is created by communal growth and activity, and use the monies thus collected for public purposes, has been advocated by many others besides Henry George and the Single Taxers. Single Taxers want not only this, but also the abolition of all, or most, taxes upon capital and labor. One need not agree entirely with the latter part of this program; and yet be in thorough agreement with the former half—the taking of the rent of land by the community and using it for communal purposes.

—ELEAZOR SHERMAN in *The Jewish Times*.

## Fixed Versus Flexible Institutions

CAN one generation legislate for another? In 1789 Thomas Jefferson wrote from Paris in a letter to James Madison saying that "The question of whether one generation of men has a right to bind another, seems never to have been started, either on this or our side of the water." This seemed rather strange to Jefferson since, "It is a question of such consequence as not only to merit discussion, but to be placed also among the fundamental principles of any government."—ALLEN OSCAR HANSEN, "Liberalism and American Education in the Eighteenth Century."

## Professional Ignorance

HOW much economic ignorance is essential to make a college professor eligible to the brain trust? It seems that inability to answer correctly the following questions would be ample.

- 1 What is labor?
- 2 Why do men want to labor?
- 3 What is essential to their doing so?
- 4 What prevents men able and willing to work from using these essentials?
- 5 How can these obstacles be removed?

Only one able to answer these questions correctly can solve the problems of depression and unemployment and no such person is wanted on the Brain Trust. This explains the kind of measures championed by the group and why they have made no dent on the depression. Yet the answers to these questions are so easy that the intelligence or sincerity of the one claiming or displaying ignorance may be questioned. These answers are:

- 1 Labor is any exertion to produce wealth to satisfy a human desire.
- 2 Men want to labor in order to satisfy their desires.
- 3 Essential to labor's human faculties are natural resources or land. These are indispensable. In addition capital is a helpful but not indispensable factor which can be kept available when there is no interference with labor's access to land but which can be monopolized and made hard to obtain when access to land has been obstructed or closed.
- 4 Ownership of land which empowers owners to refrain from using it and to prevent others from doing so. They are further encouraged to make such bad use of their power by a tax system which penalizes industry and thrift and encourages land speculation.
- 5 By making unprofitable the withholding of land from use. This can be accomplished through transfer of taxation from industry and its products to the value of land aside from value of improvements upon it, and by making these land value taxes high enough to absorb the entire annual rental value.

While some braintrusts are honestly ignorant of these answers there are others, including the leading one, who only pretend to be, and thus consciously and deliberately are misleaders. Their tenure of office depends upon defending economic fallacies. For the same reason economic fallacies are taught in universities by professors who know better. Such false educators are largely responsible for bewilderment prevailing among statesmen concerning economic matters and helplessness in dealing with the depression displayed by presidents and legislators now making themselves pathetic as well as comic spectacles.

ROBERT S. DOUBLEDAY.

AS early as Dec. 14, 1784, Washington wrote to the President of Congress, Richard H. Lee: "Would there be any impropriety, do you think, Sir, in reserving for special sale all mines, minerals, and salt springs, in the general grant of land belonging to the United States? The public instead of the few knowing ones, might in this case receive the benefits which would result from the sale of them, without infringing any rule of justice known to me."

## Peter Witt at the Bier of Ed Doty

AS come it must to all, death came to him whose passing brings us together. We are here to console those who weep, to mourn with the ones who grieve, to pay our respects and bid a last goodbye to him we knew so well and loved so much.

Ed Doty was not an ordinary man. No matter how you approach the personality that was his you discover that he was different.

His vigorous brain never had a robust body to support it. And yet in spite of physical frailty he passed three score ten and two, and was busy and active every moment of his long career.

I knew him for almost half a century and knew him as well at the beginning of our acquaintance as I did on the day when death ended our friendship. And so it was with all who knew him. Those who knew him a little while, knew him as well as did his intimates who knew him a long time.

Well may some one ask, how was this possible? The answer is simple. Ed Doty was a straightforward man. He never concealed what anyone and everyone had a right to know. He spoke what he thought, regardless of the place where it was spoken or the person or persons to whom it was said.

In religion he was a deist, in politics an independent, in economics a thinker.

His principles were as fixed as the stars and as immutable as the laws which govern rotation.

He hated fraud and took delight in uncovering it. He despised hypocrisy and loved to expose it. He followed truth, wholly unmindful of the place where it led or the price exacted.

Early in life he took the step which led to a public career.

He held many offices and filled innumerable places of trust, all with credit to himself, the public he represented, and the institutions he served.

I know it is expected, on occasions such as this, that the one officiating shall dwell at length on the big and the little things which made up the life of the departed. This I cannot do. Even if I could do it I would not do it. To do it would only add to our grief, already too heavy to bear, and deepen the wound which only time can heal.

To the woman whom he led to the altar forty-seven years ago, and who throughout those years was not only wife and mother but helpmate and companion as well; to the son and daughter who blessed their union; to the grandchildren who filled to overflowing the cup of joy in the autumn of his life; to them may I suggest, in this, the darkest hour of their lives; think not of him as he lies so still in death, but think of him as he was in life, during the days, the weeks, the months, and the years he was yours and yours alone. May the memory of the joy and the happiness he gave you, and which in turn you gave him, be with you now and always.

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At the Mausoleum in Lakewood Park Cemetery, Rocky River:

We have come to the journey's end. Here will rest forever the remains of him it was our privilege to know, our right to love. Husband, father, grandfather, relative, friend, Farewell, Ed, Farewell.