

Editor JUSTICE:

Delaware is not the only State in the Union where unjust taxation exists and where landlordism has a tropical luxuriance that engulfs all enterprise and thrift. Out here in Missouri we have a constitutional limit of 50 cents on the 100 dollars for State and county purposes. Any assessment above that figure is illegal.

In the smaller and less wealthy counties this amount is all exhausted in meeting the taxes assessed for state and county without any part of it being applied to roads. But the county court may assess any where from one to six days poll tax on every voter under 50 years of age. Of course a person over 50 with no property tax paid no taxes at all. This poll tax is for road purposes only. Now see how it works. As an illustration I have now in mind a man over 50 who can travel four miles continuously through his farm. He employs a young man as a farm hand at a wage of 15 or 16 possibly some of the time 18 dollars a month. The land-owner pays neither poll nor assessed taxes. The young man without a cent's worth of property but his clothes is compelled to do three days (this year) road work to keep the roads in passable condition through his employer's farm. While the young man is at work on the roads creating additional value to his employer's land—the land owner rides along in his top buggy and admires the progress of the road-builders, knowing full well that good roads gives increased value to his land. Can any system of conditions and human relation be invented and incorporated into law that would or could be more unjust and oppressive—rob a man through the instrumentality of law—and pass all the benefits to another without any compensation, not even feeding him while "doing the work." Can a more perfect system of serfdom be devised? How long will the laboring man continue to vote himself into a beast of burden to be prodded and goaded and rode to death at the dictations of piratical gang of vultures—that know nothing, and care less, about the humanity in man—that flaunts his plunder in the face of those he has robbed without shame or regret, and insults the poor, the needy and starving whom he has plundered with simply a crumb of charity.

ISAAC W. STANLEY.

Glenwood, Mo., Nov. 7, 1898.