

courage speculation in land by taxing to the limit the hardworking men who produce the wealth.

This process limits the production of wealth. It decreases wages. It decreases the return to capital. It makes poverty perpetual amid abounding wealth. It makes business depressions, bankrupt merchants and manufacturers and broken banks. It makes business and wealth production a war for opportunity. It builds prisons and poorhouses and produces hatred and crime among men where there should be nothing but good feeling and love.

But the landowners who build flats are not alone to blame. The great majority of them are the victims of a vicious system of landowning and taxation that fines a man for improving his land and pats him on the back if he holds it out of use and unimproved. Landowners who improve have less chances to dodge their taxes than those whose wealth is concealed in the form of money, bonds, stock, notes and mortgages and other forms of securities. But there is no question but that the law gives the house owner a great advantage over the tenant. And there is no question but that the people of the republic are rapidly becoming a nation of many tenants and few landlords.

But the remedy lies not in despising those who take advantage of the laws as they exist. We should not hate anybody or despise any one.

If sentiment is to cut any figure in the problem it should be pity that the people who have the power to change and abolish laws and to thus make better conditions are so ignorant and conservative that they will not avail themselves of the opportunity to get knowledge so they can use their power.

The remedy is simple. Make all the people landowners and all the people tenants. Make the holding of land depend upon its being put to its best use. This can be done by abolishing all taxes upon everything pro-

duced by human labor and collecting all public revenues from the value of the bare land irrespective of improvements.—George V. Wells.

A SIMPLE TRUTH.—The last paragraph of A. E. Massey's reply to Mr. C. F. Hunt, which appeared in your issue of the 9th, contains a simple truth.

A landlord loans land and collects "interest" which he calls "rent."

The capitalist loans the tools of production and distribution and collects "interest" which he calls "profit."

The banker loans the people their own collective wealth and collects "tribute" which he calls "interest." Rent, interest and profit, the trinity of exploitation. Will some single taxer explain when exploitation "is not" exploitation?

Christ said: "Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt and his fruit corrupt; for the tree is known by his fruit." The single tax at best is but a reform. And Christ, replying to the reformer of his day, said: "Low I know thy works, thou art neither hot nor cold and he spewed him out of his mouth."—J. M. W.

THE HIGHEST EXPLOSIVE.—

The most deadly explosive the United States has sold the allies in the present war is Tipperary, an American invention. Scotchman, Welshman and Englishman said: "Come on Irishman and help." But Pat said no, he wanted to see Englishman licked. But after he sang Tipperary he decided he was like the woman who was urged to get a divorce. She decided she would rather stay and live with the devil she did know than to divorce him and live with the devil she did not know. — Allen Steven, 2538 N. California Av.

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The turning point is reached with lots of guys when a pretty dame passes.