

## “For the land is mine”

Primarily the author has wished to present the convictions of a businessman who has done much thinking on a practical and material problem. But, inevitably, a larger and nobler purpose is served. Morals. Justice. Honesty. Ethics. All these words are interlaced. All would be served by recognizing land rental as the proper source of public revenue. And until our taxation practice and all our common activities conform to and can be described by these majestic words, Congress and all the committees in the country can putter and dabble as they will, and their monkeying will be valueless.

Within this book I have frequently referred to the desir-

ability of having the government live within its income, but might we not permit ourselves the stimulating thought that this income might grow to greater heights than is now possible?

Suppose that we were able to retain our earnings and spend or invest them to the full. Would there not be a tremendous increase in the scope of our living?

Suppose that all the restraining and stifling taxes were wiped off the cost of all the things that we would buy. No one would dare deny that prices of innumerable things we all want would drop at the same time that our ability to buy would be rising.

And suppose that land would become available without capital outlay, by simple assumption of the rental payments. What effect would this have? Would not keen competition push up the land values now frozen in speculators' hands?

And if the flood of business and of building did so increase location value as to yield a huge governmental return, might we not hope for great public improvement like the adorning of our cities, perhaps to look like Geneva or Paris or Nice; perhaps, too, to care more comfortably for our aged and unfortunate ones; perhaps to lessen the strain which proves too much for some of our weaker citizenry, causing them to yield to the temptation to commit crime! Perhaps transportation in our streets could be free, as one columnist has advocated, just as vertical transportation is free in buildings now. Our public income could be spent in our interest with a clear conscience because it would be recognized as justly ours and not a robbery

of Peter to grease Paul; and our government, of which we could be proud, would become dignified and serenely sure of its financing.

In closing, it might not be amiss to draw the reader's thought to the following passage from the Book of Leviticus (25:23-24):

Jehovah spake unto Moses and said: "And the land shall not be sold in perpetuity; for the land is Mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with Me. And in all the land in your possession ye shall grant a redemption for the land."

It is safe to assume that no one believing in a just, kind, and merciful God would find it possible to believe that He planned that a favored few of His people should be in a position to exact tribute from the rest of His people for permission to live on His earth.