

FARMERS AND THE SINGLE TAX.

By THOMAS G. SHEARMAN

[Paper read before the Joint Committee on Taxation of Ohio Legislature, Jan. 9, 1933.]

[Continued from last week.]

These counties respectively represent the extreme contrasts between the cities and the farms of the State. Thus, in Hamilton and Cuyahoga, the assessed value of town lots is about seven times the assessed value of the farms, whereas in the five rural counties the assessed value of farms is nowhere less than ten times that of town lots, while in Geauga county the farm lots are worth twenty-seven times as much as the town lots.

Now, the first thing which strikes the eye, on looking over the statistics of these counties, is the following comparison:

Table with 2 columns: Assessed value of Real Estate, of Cities, and of Farms. Rows include City counties, Rural counties, and Hamilton county.

Any one can see that, in the counties which include all the large cities, the assessed value of personal property is only about one-fourth of the whole assessment, while in the rural counties personal property constitutes nearly one-third of their whole assessed value.

In more exact figures, the value of assessed personal property in the city counties is 26.28 (say 26 1/4) per cent of the whole, while in the rural counties it is 32.49 (say 32 1/2) per cent. If, therefore, all personal property should be exempted from taxation, the farmers of these five exclusively rural counties would pay 8 per cent less taxes than they do now.

That this result is not a mere accident, owing to some peculiar condition of these particular counties, is easily proved by testing the same question in other ways. Thus, if we set apart the four great city counties and compare them with all the rest of the State, including farming districts and smaller towns indiscriminately, we find substantially the same result, as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Real Estate, Personal Property. Rows include City counties, Rural counties, and Hamilton county.

Here, in the counties which include all the great cities, personal property amounts to 26 1/4 per cent of the whole valuation, while in the remainder of the State it amounts to 32 per cent.

But if we compare single counties, such as Hamilton, in which town lots compose about 85 per cent of all the real estate, with Medina, in which town lots compose only 10 per cent of the real estate, we find the result as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Real Estate, Personal Property. Rows include Hamilton, Medina, and Geauga.

Here we find that the real estate of Hamilton county is assessed at twenty times the value of Medina county, while the personal property of Hamilton is assessed at less than eleven times that of Medina. More exactly, personal property constitutes 24 1/4 per cent of the valuation of Hamilton, and 37 1/2 per cent of the valuation of Medina.

The total exemption of personal property from taxation, therefore, would, if taxes were divided only between the counties of Hamilton and Medina, relieve the farmers of Medina from 16 1/2 per cent, or exactly one-sixth of their present burdens. This is probably an extreme case; but not a single instance has been yet found in which a rural county would not find its burdens diminished, in comparison with those borne by Cincinnati, if personal property were exempted from taxation.

TAXATION OF MONEY HEAVIEST ON FARMERS. But let us test this question in still other ways. The chief clamor in favor of taxing personal property has been directed toward the taxation of moneys and credits; and the money lender, who is supposed to have vast sums on deposit in bank, and the merchant, who is supposed to have vast outstanding credits due from the poor farmers, are the special objects against whom this method of taxation is aimed—all for the relief of the farmers.

Table with 2 columns: Real Estate, Moneys, Credits, etc. Rows include City counties, Rural counties, and Hamilton county.

Roughly stated, it thus appears that, if taxation were confined to real estate alone, the city counties would pay eleven times as much as the rural counties; whereas, if taxation were levied on money alone, they would pay less than six times as much, and, if levied on credits alone, a little more than three times as much, while if taxation were levied on both money and credits, they would pay about four times as much.

three times as much as it would if they were levied solely on real estate.

There is not much evidence here of any advantage gained by the average farmer, through his diligent search after the money lender and the creditor.

THE BETTER THE SYSTEM, THE WORSE FOR THE FARMERS.

For many years, and, in fact, persistently, ever since 1846, when Ohio adopted the present system of taxation, Ohio farmers have been clamoring more and more loudly for protection from unjust taxation, for greater burdens upon merchants and bankers and for a more stringent enforcement of the law. The taxation and assessment laws have been amended again and again, in obedience to this demand; and State officers have been continually more persistent in their efforts to shift the burden of taxation from farmers to capitalists, by means of a rigorous enforcement of taxation upon personal property. Let us, therefore, inquire whether there is any tendency to improvement in these respects, and whether the history of the last few years encourages the hope that the evasions of the "Shylocks" can be put an end to and the honest farmer relieved, by a more thorough assessment of personal property.

For this purpose, let us again compare the typical counties of Hamilton and Geauga—the former having an almost exclusively city population and the latter being occupied almost exclusively by farmers.

Table with 2 columns: Number of Watches, 1882, 1887. Rows include Ohio, Hamilton, Geauga.

These statistics tell a sorrowful tale of poverty and destitution among the poor farmers of Cincinnati, while they indicate that the bloated capitalists of Geauga county are the chief patrons of the fine watchmakers of Paris and Geneva. Let us turn from this sorrowful picture to

Table with 2 columns: Pleasure Carriages, 1882, 1887. Rows include Ohio, Hamilton, Geauga.

Here one finds some slight relief, not, indeed, in the increasing prosperity of any part of Ohio, but in the fact that the poor farmers of Cincinnati do not seem to have given up any larger proportion of their pleasure carriages than the Shylocks of Geauga; while a desolating wave of poverty has swept over the entire State, resulting in the loss of nearly one-eighth of all the carriages in the State. Let us look at

Table with 2 columns: Money on hand, 1882, 1887. Rows include Ohio, Hamilton, Geauga.

Here, again, a wave of poverty has flooded the whole State, in tolerably equal proportions. Money is evidently rapidly vanishing, for the total stock of the State has fallen off \$11,000,000 in five years, diminishing twenty-five per cent. in Hamilton, but only twenty per cent. in Geauga. We now look at

Table with 2 columns: Credits, 1882, 1887. Rows include Ohio, Hamilton, Geauga.

Here we see that Ohio, as a State, is a money lender to the extent of one per cent more in 1887 than in 1882. But again the poor agriculturists of Cincinnati come to the front, with a loss of \$836,000, or 12 1/4 per cent. of their total stock, while the loss in Geauga county is only about one-third as much, or a trifle over 4 per cent.

THE MOON-STUCK THEORISTS. Figures like these might be collected not only from the statistics of Ohio, but from those of every State and country under the sun, where statistics are kept and personal property is taxed. They are the moon-struck theorists, who, in contradiction of all the facts and all the experience of the world, persist in the vain endeavor to tax personal property, and in the absurd assertion that this form of taxation tends to relieve farmers.

Farmers cannot conceal their sheep and oxen, their plows and implements; and they have enormous difficulty in concealing their wealth in any form, because their affairs are so well known to all their neighbors. If they have any money in bank, all the village knows it. If they have loaned money or sold goods on credit, their debtor is pretty sure to be some one in the immediate neighborhood; and all the circumstances are known to fifty people. The average farmer, when making his returns to the assessor is afraid to understate his wealth very greatly, because he could hardly look the assessor in the face after doing so, being conscious that, if the assessor does not already know the truth, he can with very little difficulty find it out for himself. But in large towns and cities, scarcely any man knows, intimately, the affairs of his neighbor, and the assessor knows least of all. People are reputed to be worth \$1,000,000, who in reality are not worth \$50,000; and others are reputed to be worth only \$100,000, who in reality are worth \$2,000,000. Even if the amount of any man's wealth is approximately known, none of his neighbors know how that wealth is invested, unless it is put in real estate. The assessor therefore has absolutely no means of ascertaining the value of any man's personal property, except by returns from that man himself, or from the corporations with whom he may happen to invest. If an Ohio man makes his principal investments in corporations outside of the State, the assessor is entirely at the mercy of the taxpayer. He can tell any number of lies with impunity. The assessor rarely or never examines his books of account; and, if assessors once began to make such an examination many rich men would cease to keep books of account at all, as it is notorious that they did when the income tax was in existence. All things combine to make it easy for the assessor to reach the farmer's personal property and difficult for him to reach that of the merchant, banker or city capitalist.

[To be continued.]

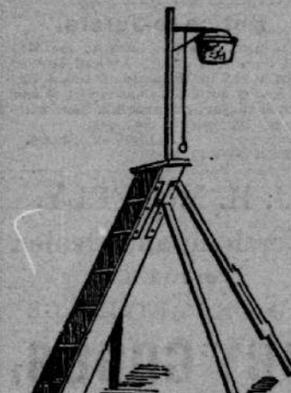
FARM AND GARDEN.

A CONVENIENT LADDER.

Self-Supporting, Perfectly Secure and Very Portable.

A little forethought during the leisure hours of the winter season will provide many a useful implement for the farmer and gardener. During fruit season it is almost impossible to have a superabundance of ladders for gathering fruit. The following illustration is re-engraved from the Canadian Horticulturist, which says: It rests on five bearings, three of them adjustable as to length and position and easily adjusted to all inequalities of surface, perfectly secure, and very portable. A 6-foot ladder weighs about forty pounds. The crane, or basket and hook holder, rotates, or may be shifted to either side of the operator; will support thirty pounds of fruit in basket with ease, and the legs all fold in when required.

The object is to provide a safe stand and at the same time increase the facilities of the operator in picking fruit, pruning trees, etc., giving him the full use of both hands and placing the basket within easy reach of the same, thereby saving time in transporting the fruit from the tree to the basket. The fruit can also be handled with less damage from bruising, and it will therefore bring more money.



SELF-SUPPORTING LADDER.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A.D. 1886. (SEAL) A. W. GLEASON, Notary Public.

KILLED HIS HORSES.

A Maryland Farmer Fed Corn and Clover Silage with Costly Results.

I fed some eight or ten horses on corn silage some two winters ago with good results, but subsequently came to the conclusion it was much better for cattle than horses, and have not fed it since to horses, except occasionally as a change. I am feeding my dairy cows on corn silage at this time with great success. Expecting to have a number of hogs to winter on an adjoining farm and not having a silo, I dug a pit in the field, cut and packed sixteen wagon frames of green clover into it, most of it perfectly wet and green. (The rain at the time was excessive.) This was put up to feed hogs, but losing all my hogs by cholera in the fall I determined when opening the pit, if in good condition, to feed the silage to horses and cattle. I omitted to say, after packing it in the pit we covered the mass with wheat straw and returned four feet of dirt on it. In this way it remained until in December, when it was opened and found to be in good condition, the bloom and leaf of the clover perfect in form, in color a dark brown. The horses and cattle ate it ravenously; all seemed to be doing well on it for about four weeks, when we found two of the horses down in their stalls and before midday they died. We sent a man on another, apparently well, for medicine. She was taken sick on the road and died about midnight, and within the week I lost nine—all except a very old mule and two sucking colts. I sent immediately to Dr. Clements, who is employed by the general Government and has his laboratory in the John's Hopkins Hospital, of Baltimore. He came and dissected and took to his laboratory different parts of the intestines, and after examination he pronounced the cause of death from eating the clover silage—from excess of nitrogen caused by exposure to the air. I fed cattle on it at the same time and saw no perceptible effect on them but one, and that was slobbering like all the horses, but this I attributed to second growth of some of the clover. But this in the cows soon passed off. My silo at the home place is a wooden structure, above ground, forty feet by twelve feet, thirteen feet deep, double-lined with tarred paper. This keeps in elegant condition, but my experiments in putting the cut corn, in half-inch lengths, in a pit like the clover experiment, turns out the best silage I have ever seen.

I would like you to publish this letter to put brother farmers on their guard as to how they use the clover silage with horses.—Breeder's Gazette

POULTRY PARAGRAPHS.

Don't be "chicken-hearted," nor too greedy, in weeding out the culls. Don't crowd the fowls. Success depends in a great measure upon this. Hence do not eat their eggs unless they learn the habit from having eggs broken in the nest. Never use stale or frozen eggs as nest-eggs. In buying poultry for breeding purposes go to some reliable breeder who has his reputation at stake. It may cost a little more for the bird, but the buyer can depend on what he gets. Culls are expensive at any price.

To make a good, warm breakfast for forty fowls boil a heaping half-peck of potatoes, mash them, add one quart each of shorts and bran, a teaspoonful each of salt and pepper, and finish by adding hot water enough to mix into a stiff dough.

Fowls need far more care during damp, rainy weather than during the clear, cold weather of winter, or the dry, warm weather of summer. Dampness engenders numerous disorders, many of which are difficult to cure. Therefore, it is better to use preventive measures than to administer medicines a few days late.—American Agriculturist

Thinkers Will Read This.

Not one physician in a thousand has ever succeeded in relieving a person suffering from weak and wasting or consumptive kidneys, yet they continue to experiment, and after the death of their patient ask for their fee. The kidney is a delicate organ, and yet good health in a large measure depends upon the proper action of the kidneys. The kidneys become sore or inactive, and uric acid is eliminated from the system, that passes too slowly out of the system. From this cause arises many mysterious pains in the back, side, shoulder, joints and limbs. A feeling of numbness over the victims. The world seems dark and gloomy. The nerves become shattered; suicide is contemplated, and one's condition is most pitiable. Dr. Bull's Sarsaparilla contains such heretofore unobtainable ingredients, being sixty miles the shortest line between St. Louis and Louisville, and the only line running elegant Parlor Cars on day trains and Pullman Sleepers on night trains. This line is also the most direct route to all points in Eastern Kentucky and Tennessee, the Virginia and Carolinas. Two Trains each way daily. For tickets, information or sleeping-car reservation, call on or address H. E. Monahan, City Passenger Agent, 116 North Fourth Street, St. Louis, or at Union Depot, Jos. S. O'NEAL, G. P. A., Louisville, Ky.

A GENUINE bibliophile is a rich man who does a great deal more for books than he does for what is in them.—Somerville Journal.

The "Air Line."

To any one contemplating a journey the shortest and most direct line is always to be desired, and where one can get this, together with accommodations which can not be excelled, no further inquiry should be made. The Louisville, Evansville & St. Louis "Air Line" connects each of these features, being sixty miles the shortest line between St. Louis and Louisville, and the only line running elegant Parlor Cars on day trains and Pullman Sleepers on night trains. This line is also the most direct route to all points in Eastern Kentucky and Tennessee, the Virginia and Carolinas. Two Trains each way daily. For tickets, information or sleeping-car reservation, call on or address H. E. Monahan, City Passenger Agent, 116 North Fourth Street, St. Louis, or at Union Depot, Jos. S. O'NEAL, G. P. A., Louisville, Ky.

A STYLISH HAT

is unquestionably quite an essential factor in the make-up of a fashionably-attired lady. But how much more essential to good looks, and especially to her enjoyment, is good health, without which she cannot look well, feel well or enjoy life properly.

The trying ordeal which fashionable society imposes on its devotees are enough to severely test the physical strength and endurance of the most robust. Irregular and late hours, over-rich and indigestible food, late suppers, the fatigues of the ball-room, the hot air of the ill-ventilated, overcrowded theatre, are each, in themselves, sufficient to upset the system and ruin the health of the delicate and sensitive. Combined, they can hardly fail, if persisted in, to seriously impair the health of the hardiest. Ladies generally possess less powers of endurance than their male consorts, and so the sooner succumb to these deleterious influences. They become pale, haggard and debilitated, and constantly experience a sense of lassitude—that "tired feeling," as so many express it. The least exertion fatigues them. Various neuralgic and other pains harass and distress the sufferer. Headache, backache, "bearing-down" sensations, and "female weakness" follow and sorely afflict the sufferer.

As an invigorating, restorative tonic, soothing cordial and healing nerve, for debilitated and feeble women generally, Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription has no equal. In fact, it is the only medicine for the peculiar weakness and ailments incident to females, sold by druggists, under a positive guarantee from its manufacturer, that it will, in every case, give satisfaction or its price (\$1.00) will be promptly refunded. It improves digestion, invigorates the system, enriches the blood, dispels aches and pains, produces refreshing sleep, dispels melancholy and nervousness, and builds up both the flesh and strength of those reduced below a healthy standard. Contains no alcohol or inebriate; no syrup or sugar to sour or ferment in the stomach and cause distress. It is as peculiar in its composition as it is marvelous in its remedial results. Therefore, don't be put off with some worthless compound easily, but dishonestly recommended to be "just as good." "Favorite Prescription" is inconceivable. The manufacturer's representative offered to guarantee satisfaction in every case, or money refunded, ought to convince every invalid of this fact.

DR. PIERCE'S PELLETS; PURELY VEGETABLE AND PERFECTLY HARMLESS.

Unquestioned as a LIVER PILL. Smallest, Cheapest, Easiest to take. One tiny Sugar-coated Pellet a Day. Cures Sick Headache, Bilious Headache, Constipation, Indigestion, Bilious Attacks, and all Derangements of the Stomach and Bowels. 25 cents a tin, by druggists.

DIPO'S REMEDY FOR CATARRH.—Best. Easiest to use. Cheapest. Relief is immediate. A cure is certain. For Cold in the Head it has no equal.

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Consumption Sorely Cured.

TO THE EDITOR:—Please inform your readers that I have a positive remedy for the above named disease. By its timely use thousands of hopeless cases have been permanently cured. I shall be glad to send two bottles of my remedy free to any of your readers who have consumption if they will send me their express and post-office address. Respectfully, T. A. HIGGINS, M. D., 181 Pearl Street, New York.

Dr. Bull's Worm Destroyer is wonderfully efficacious. I prescribed it in several instances and it never failed in a single case to have the desired effect. I know of no other worm remedy so certain and speedy in its effect.—J. P. Clement, M. D., Villavon, Ga.

The man who sweats off in gloomy for a while, but it is not long before he begins to smile again.—Boston Courier.

I HAVE used Bull's Sarsaparilla in my family with excellent satisfaction for rheumatism, asthma, weak kidneys and general debility. I know of others who have used it for consumption with good results.—J. H. Bentley, Howell, N. J.

When a man is appointed to a foreign mission he leaves for the land of his birth.—Binghamton Leader.

For washing hands, Dobbin's Electric Soap is wonderful. Blankets washed with it look like new, and there is absolutely no shrinking. No other soap in the world will do such perfect work. Give it a trial now.

THIS is a queer transaction, remarked the man who got stuck with a counterfeit quarter.—Lowell Mail.

Will be found an excellent remedy for sick headache, Carter's Little Liver Pills. Thousands of letters from people who have used them prove this fact. Try them.

MARY's youth who seeks for the tree of knowledge gets only a branch.—Binghamton Republican.

A SLIGHT COLD, if neglected, often attacks the lungs. BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES give sure and immediate relief. Sold only in boxes. Price 25 cents.

DEAD men tell no tales, but the ones who write their obituaries often do.—Elmira Star.

LIKE Oil Upon Troubled Waters is Hale's Honey of Horehound and Tar upon a cold. Pike's Toothache Drops Cure in one minute.

ST. JACOBS OIL CURES PROMPTLY STIFFNESS, STIFF NECK.

Violent Pains in Neck. My wife had violent pains in her neck, which was very sore and stiff. She was cured entirely by St. Jacobs Oil. JAMES STOWE.

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