

Doe and Roe, focused on the industry and commerce of the city.

## 22

The professors achieved an invisible tax. The people paid unwittingly and the professors were credited with a miracle—sustention of government without taxation.

By means of "diffusion," as the economists call it, the tax of which the shovel owners were relieved was shifted to consumers and workmen by higher prices and lower wages. For a workman to exist now costs about a dollar a day in taxes.

Higher living costs spurred workmen to strive more fiercely for shovels. But since shovels were now less heavily taxed, shovels became more desirable property and their value increased. Workmen now had to pay a third of their wages to get a shovel. Shovel rents were established at \$500 a year. On the basis of this higher earning power, shovels were quoted at \$10,000 each.

On the new \$10,000 basis, the value of all shovels was increased to \$140,000,000. Martin was jubilant over this gain in the wealth of the city.

As a result of the tax change, true wages were no