

The first essential change in government: Levy no taxes and collect the ground rent for public purposes.

—→ **RODEMAYER** { **EMERSON**
 { **PHONOGRAPH**
 { **RECORDS, 75c**

THE PROBE

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EXTRACT FROM A PLAN OF SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION AS FORULATED BY A COMMITTEE OF CHURCHMEN.

"The laborer must come to realize that he owes his employer and society an honest day's work in return for a fair wage, and that conditions cannot be substantially improved until he roots out the desire to get a maximum of return for a minimum of service."

What is this but a plea for laborers to be honest? Can they conceive justice who base their case on the assumption that labor as a body is dishonest? These church men treat of labor as one unit and of capitalists as another unit.

Had they dealt only with labor, one would have been led to believe that they had laid bare a social condition unbelievably bad.

To imply, as they do, that labor does not give the "employer an honest day's work in return for a fair wage" is to make a serious charge. To any one who thinks this charge against labor justified, the remedies suggested must seem hopelessly inadequate.

Whence comes the great stocks of costly goods that fill our business palaces? Labor made these goods. If labor had received a fair and equivalent wage for making these goods it would have the money to buy them and enjoy them.

Whence comes these miles of costly mansions in our cities? Laborers built them all. Why do they not own them and occupy them? The vast majority of the very laborers that built these mansions live in shacks and small room flats. And these shacks and flats are not owned by the laborers. The mansion owners own the shacks, too. Laborers built the railroads but they do not own them. They built the steamboats but they do not own them. They dig the gold but have none. They weave the silks and cut the diamonds but wear neither.

Truly it does look as though somebody had been cheating, but does it square with Christian ethics to lay the charge of dishonesty on labor?

Our friends take the capitalist to task, too. They do it in these words:

"The capitalist must likewise get a new viewpoint. He needs to learn the long-forgotten truth that wealth is

stewardship, that profit-making is not the basic justification of business enterprise, and that there are such things as fair profits, fair interest and fair prices."

The capitalists cannot accuse the churchmen of treating them unfairly. The laborers own hardly any of the wealth they produce. The capitalists own nearly all the wealth the laborers produce. That fact is plain to anyone who has eyes to see. I will be cruel to the committeemen who drew up this remarkable report and ask them if they think that the laborers lose nearly all the wealth they produce because they are not honest enough, and if the capitalists come to possess it because they are honest?

To ease an intolerable situation our committee makes the rich, stewards. Whose wealth are they stewards of? Did the owners of the wealth grant the stewardship? If they did they can revoke it. Can it be that for their own use they assume to be stewards of the wealth laborers were despoiled of? If that is the case is it not restitution we should demand?

Our social reconstructionists should first of all reconstruct their own appeal. Their implication to the capitalists to be meritorious is out of place. They should lay the charge of dishonesty where it belongs, namely; with the self appointed "stewards" who despoil the laborers of the fruit of their toil. They might then with good grace ask the laborers to be meritorious in dealing with their despoilers.

At best the reconstruction plan our churchmen advocate would tend to make injustice tolerable. Not injustice but justice should be tempered with mercy.

God settled the labor question in the beginning. He gave man the earth from which to make his living. That is all he needs. It is man-made law that robs mankind of freedom to use the earth. He who charges another man rent for the use of the earth defies God.

There are none so blind as those who will not see. Basil W. Manly takes some eighty American corporations and finds that they made three dollars of profit during the war for every dollar of profit they made for a similar period before the war. Forget it, Manly, you see only the peelings. You ought to see the potato. We have a eye.

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sizeable one in Pittsburgh. It is worth thirty million dollars a year. It's ground rent. The land owners eat it annually and they find a new one the following year, a little larger. They eat their potato and they have it, too. And for all the thirty million dollars they do not produce so much as a shoestring. They don't even peel their potato. Those do the peeling who get the peelings. Capital and labor get the peelings and I am sure you are right that in the division of the peelings capital gets the best and labor the worst. During the war both were very busy and the peelings were rather thick, but do you know what happens in a depression—next one due in about four years? Why, during a depression the land owners take the potato and the peelings, the capitalists go bankrupt and the laborers go hungry.

New York City land owners get over three hundred million dollars a year for nothing. Over the country as a whole the land owners get over a billion dollars a year. Not for doing anything; they get it for nothing. You are a real man, Mr. Manly. Don't waste your time on peelings. Get your eyes on the potato.

The senate of the old slavery state, Georgia, defeated chief suffrage recently. Georgia's chief latter day business is lynching negroes, so if it had voted for woman suffrage it would really have given that cause a black

Weekly Price List

Read this list carefully; prices revised each issue.

PAY NO MORE

Store opens at 8, closes at 6

Except Saturdays.

STATIONERY SPECIAL

Stenographers' Notebooks, 5c; 48c dz.
Red Lion Pencil Tablet, 5c; 48c dz.
Red Top Pencil Tablet, 5c; 48c dz.
Great Big Pencil Tablet, 5c; 48c dz.
Mikado Lead Pencils, 5c; 48c dz.
Velvet Lead Pencils, 5c; 48c dz.
"Master" Composition book, more economical than the smaller ones.
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Nail Brushes, fine quality, 10c
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Shoe Brushes, 48c
Nail Files, 19c
Perfumes, 35c
Ingram's Rouge, 50c
Plastic Plates, 1 doz. in pkg., 5c
Paper Drinking Cups, per pkg., 5c
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Electric Curlers, 2 for 10c
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Boye Hair Cutters, 4 for 5c
Silk Thread, all colors, 50 yards, 10c
Bias Seam Binding, lawn and cambric, black and white, all sizes, 12 yards, 20c
Ric Rac, all sizes, 10c to 10c



Snap Fasteners

10

Hooks and Eyes, 8c and 10c
Lingerie Tape, white, pink, blue, 10c
Kleber's Dress Shields, 85c
Middy Lacers, 5c and 10c
Thimbles (silver), all sizes, 5c
All sizes of rubber and pearl buttons.

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THE STYLES AND WEIGHTS SUITABLE FOR THIS CLIMATE.

Ladies' Pure White, Fleece Lined Union Suits. High Neck and Long

Sleeves. Per Suit:

34, 36 and 38, \$2.00
40, 42 and 44, \$2.19

Low neck and short sleeves same prices.

Ladies' Pants and Vests. Same Quality Goods as the Union Suits.

Per Garment

\$1.25

Children's Fleece Lined Pants and Vests in pure white, and in cream color. Price 45c per garment on size 20, and other sizes correspondingly. On these garments there is NO ADVANCE over last year.

Girls' and Boys' Union Suits at prices to correspond with the above. Lackawanna Wool Pants and Vests in grey, up to 10 years.

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"Minneapolis" Garments for Infants, Part Wool and All Wool. The best goods made.

COUPON

Boys' Stockings, black, 6 to 9 1/2 regular 43c, 3 pairs for 99c

Men's heavy canvas shoes, knit wrist, regular 25c, 3 pairs for 50c

Clark's O. N. T. Machine Thread regular 6c a spool; 1 doz. spools 53c (All sizes, white and black)

Arabia Toilet Paper, crepe, 8 oz. roll, 8c roll, 10 rolls 60c. (None wrapped, bring basket)

Coupon Good for Four Days after Date of Issue.

Caution Flannel, heavy, yd., 40c
Flannelette, good weight, yd., 27c
Do not fail to see our Calhoun and Rubber "Baby Goods."

Indian Head, 1 yard wide, 50c
Black Yelling, fine mess with and without figure; high grade, 25c

Fancy Aprons, 15c, 33 and 69c
Burgulow Aprons, up to \$2.50
Boys' Blouses, goods that will wash; each, \$1.13

Laces and Embroideries, 5c yard up to 25c
Curtain poles and brackets, poles 25c each, brass brackets, 50c a pair.
Boys' Knee Pants, 60c to \$3.35

Window Shades, 69c
Carpet Tacks, all sizes, 7c and 10c

Ingram's Milkweed Cream 50c

Ingram's Tooth Paste 25c

Ingram's Therapeutic Shaving Cream 50c

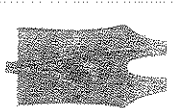
Ingram's Face Powder 25c

Ladies' Dressing Combs, 25c to \$1.50



Ingram's Talcum Powder, 25c
Diamond Dye, 10c
Peroxide, 10c
Large pattern, dark cream, yd., 50c
wide, 50c
Scrim, cream, banded, yard, 38c
Dotted Curtain Swiss, yard, 38c
Pure White Cotton Baling, bat, 10c
Flannel: Pure all wool Saxony yard flannel, 33 inches wide, \$1.00
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Same as above, in all pure Australian Wool, all sizes, 10c

Fold Over Shifts, sleeves, Merino, mererized finish, sizes one to six (up to 4 years); this Shift is 60% wool, an unusually large percentage at this price, per garment, 90c
Same as above in all pure Australian Wool (up to 3 years), \$1.50



Knit Shifts, button front, sleeves, Merino, mererized finish, 60% wool; sizes, infants to 6 years, \$1.00
Same as above, all pure Australian Wool, silk finish; up to 6 years, \$1.25



Bird's Eye, Diaper Cloth, yard, 35c
Extra fine Lingerie cloth, or Nain-sook, yard, 50c

Dimity, yard, 25c
P. K., extra value, yard, 50c

Longcloth, yard, 30c
Chambray Gingham, yard, 38c

Sateen, absolutely fast black, yd., 60c
Mersey cloth, black, for lining, yard, 55c

Cambric lining, white, yard, 25c
Meritas brand, white Oil Cloth, 1 1/4 yard wide, highest grade, 50c

Turkish Towels, each, 25c and 38c
Fine Face Cloths, 15c

NOREN'S

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The Plumb Plan does not lack support. Editors, statesmen and public officials get their various activities to join the Plumb forces.

Great is the drawing power of a well filled treasury.

That little band of Single Taxers in Los Angeles who compose the Great Adventure group would also attract editors, statesmen and public officials if they possessed a great treasury.

We are a divided people. Each branch of industry becomes a national political issue serving to divide the people and make them blind to their own interests.

The Plumb Plan is but a mere fractional step towards the conceivable ultimate perfection in railroad service. Concede that railroad service attains automatic perfection and a few individuals will do the work of thousands. Also that charges for rail transportation be reduced to such infinitesimal fractions that it would be too small to add to the cost of the goods transported. Would this reduce poverty and increase independence? No. The tendency would be exactly the opposite. If it were possible to transport goods for nothing, the reduction from the present railroad rates would not be nearly so great as were the reductions effected when railroads supplanted the overland wagon traffic.

Not laborers but land owners will reap the whole benefit of perfect railroad service.

The issue presented by the Great Adventure in California is so much more important than the railroad issue that the latter does not deserve comparison with it.

Free land will emancipate the human race from servitude. Free railroad service, were that possible, would intensify our service to land monopoly.

I am aware that the land question is involved in the railroad issue. And insofar as it will enter into the settlement proposed by the Plumb Plan, it will be settled wrongly. No appraiser of railroads will set aside land values but will include them in the valuation. Thus will the land owner's graft be perpetuated.

Under the Plumb Plan this payment of ground rent can not be avoided. It must either be paid out of service charges or out of taxes.

If we had Single Tax first, the charge of the land owners would be eliminated and the Plumb Plan could become operative without the ground rent handicap.

The Pittsburgh Dispatch makes much of a Detroit discovery that some 2,000 houses in that city were vacant, yet not for rent, but only for sale at exorbitant prices.

When our pseudo-reformers discovered the fact they grew very indignant. It is hard to think but it is easy to grow indignant. No possible shortage of houses but what could be overcome in about three months

if the willing builders had a place to put them. But no housing reformer ever yet discovered that land was necessary for a house. One reason for this is that housing reformers are not satisfied with houses, they want castles. Castles are built in the air and there is where housing reformers center all their activities.

Nearly half the land of our large cities is vacant and not for rent or for sale except at extortionate prices.

Does your housing reformer rave over it? Why, bless you, no. Vacant lots is his special delight where grow his much admired flowers, the weeds of the fields and the tin cans of the kitchens.

Foer of vision is the man who builds. The government will find him and fine him.

If he fails to find a tenant that will promise not to destroy his house, he is a monopolist.

But different is the fate of the man who owns land and keeps that vacant. He is our honored substantial citizen. Everybody respects the dog in the manger.

A friend takes exception to what I said of Editor Hirst. I think my quotation from Mr. Hirst's paper, Common Sense, was more severe than my comments. Mr. Hirst attempted to draw a distinction between England's participation in the big war and the little wars she is waging now. There is no such difference.

The pot and the pan are both black. But I can well afford to be charitable to brother Hirst. When the Russian revolution succeeded, I remarked, "Large good must come out of the war."

Of course I was mistaken. Only large evil came out of the war. The Russian revolution would not have cost three million lives had it come without a general world war. It may take us fifty years to correctly appraise our loss and gain but what have the people of the United States to offset the 75,000 young men who died, and the 100,000 crippled?

Is the peace treaty worth it?

According to reports, Wm. S. Calbertson, of the United States Tariff Commission, thinks the coal-tar producing industry deserves tariff protection. Sure, Bill, that's a new infant, and by swindling the rest of us and give the booty to the coal-tar industry you can soon make him a regular giant. When the coal-tar infant becomes as big a giant as the textile industry he can "demand" the graft that all corruption feeds on. Yes sir, Mr. Commissioner Calbertson, tariff swindling is the easiest known method of using an industry to acquire the wealth by a few that many earn.

Leave it to "sociologists" and politicians. A year or two ago some woman who had been "trained" to mind other people's business was hired to institute lunch rooms in our schools. The lunches were sold at "cost." But "cost" to a "sociologist" looks like

profiteering to an ordinary mortal. At any rate the children found money could get better food for less money from storekeepers who made a profit than they got at the "Sociologists'" at "cost" establishment.

Common honesty would have taught the school board to chuck the "sociologists" and let the kids get the lunches wherever they wanted.

But common honesty and politicians are strangers and there were ever so many thousands of dollars involved.

So to see that the money flows into channels controlled by the politicians the school board accepts the suggestion of the "sociologists" to lock the children in the schools from the time they arrive in the morning until they leave in the evening. This is a free country. We conscript the school children to eat out of the politicians' hands and later the "Democratic" imitators of the Kaiser conscript them to hop around with a gun.

Secretary Daniels: "I think the greatest moral lesson of the war would be the sinking of the whole German fleet with an unforgettable ceremony. These ships which I received recently are magnificent craft, but virtually useless as a part of the American Navy."

Secretary Daniels said this before the Germans sank the greater part of the ships but I fear the moral lesson was lost on England's and America's imperialists. As to why these ships should be useless that is a moral lesson that our administration is too dishonest to learn, or admit if it does learn it. Those German ships were built with so small coal and oil bunker capacities as to make them useless for long cruises. That is: They were built for defensive purposes in home waters. And these were the ships that the lying English-American press told us the Germans would use in invading America. No, those ships were not built on English lines to roam the seas and subdue foreign peoples.

But they were not useless at home. When Admiral Jellicoe caught sight of these German ships off Jutland he turned tail and ran for home like sixty.

Some papers are now receiving certificates for patriotic services during the war. These certificates are issued by the committee on Public Information, and bear the signatures of Creel, Lansing, Baker and Daniels.

On patriotic grounds The Probe may deserve one of these certificates; but if the above named gentlemen send me one I will spurn it and return it.

The Probe has a higher certificate of character than the above gentlemen have the power to bestow or withhold. The Probe belongs to the family of journals that Postmaster General Burleson tried to suppress.

Anybody worthy of recognition by the Wilson administration would naturally rather be suppressed by Burleson than praised by Lansing.

DECLARATION BY AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR.

"The very life and perpetuity of free and democratic institutions are dependent upon freedom of speech, of the press and of assemblage and association. We insist that all restrictions of freedom of speech, press, public assembly, association and travel be completely removed, individuals and groups being responsible for their utterances. These fundamental rights must be set out with clearness and must not be denied or abridged in any manner."

All of which is putting the cart before the horse.

Who denies the people free speech, etc.? None but the servants of the people.

Therefore all the people need do to get back those "rights" they consider so precious is to fire their servants. How come people to lose their freedom of speech or press? What kind of fickle creatures are we, the people, that first we grant powers to servants to suppress us and then cry when the servants exercise that power? Some of the people must be pleased with the suppression or our servants would not proceed to clap people into the penitentiaries for exercising their "rights."

We confuse free speech with power. Free speech is not power. It is evidence of power. Free speech to those who are involuntarily poor is but a toy to be given or taken away by those who possess economic power. Those who have deprived their fellows of economic power, to possess it for themselves, find their power to oppress a little more pleasant, if not a little more safe, if they also deprive their victims of free speech and free press.

Then begins another phase of what Frank Crane calls their "mending belly ache" when the "people" want their precious "rights" back.

Tyranny is now the only safe thing in this world. Power is possessed only by those who possess the earth as their own. When the people, as individuals, regain possession of the earth, when every man is his own landlord, no political hieing will think of exercising a censorship of speech or press.

A people who "holier" for freedom of press and speech have already passed into economic slavery whether they know it or not.

It is not a thing that can be "given" back to them. It resides within each individual to be exercised at each individual's own sweet will. If any power can "grant" to individuals the right of free speech they are slaves to that power, no matter how liberal the grant may be.

My friends, the Socialists, wear a most dejected look these days. With years of toil and talk and writings and unbounded hope they had made a

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revolution in England. That is, they had almost made one. And when the railway workers struck they all said: Look, the revolution is here!

But it seems that old rogue, Lloyd George went in and spoiled it all. He took Mr. John Railwayworker aside, and, says George: "Look here, John, let's quit this fooling, you go back and haul coal and things, and so long as the cost of living is more than twice what it should be, we'll give you \$12.75 a week."

Did John go to work? He did. That was more money than he ever knew existed in this vale of tears. Twelve seventy-five a week beats revolution all hollow.

And I don't blame John at that. A weekly stipend of \$12.75 may after all be better than universal poverty under a Socialistic state. If the English people are satisfied that the lords shall own England; and three hundred years of serfdom show they are, why should they try something else? They don't want freedom. Why should they add a new tyranny to the old one or even exchange one for another? But it does make the Socialists sad. They have wasted so much breath on Johnny.

Within the last few months England has enacted new repressive laws in India. For barbarity these laws exceed anything in either ancient or modern times. If the people of England permit the infamy to stand then the English nation has lost its soul and has become a plague that should no longer be allowed to pollute the healthier and cleaner portions of mankind.

Max Eastman has discovered that without control of the newspapers "capitalism would not last twelve months in any industrial city in the world."

I don't know what "capitalism" is so I can't say. But I know this: That involuntary poverty existed before there were newspapers, so they were not the cause of this fundamental evil.

If we ceased making newspapers we would not thereby increase any man's earning power, nor produce a single additional job, and we would have as many involuntarily poor people as ever. Those who own the land will own the newspapers so long as they want to own them. They will own the police power, too, and all other things they find useful and serviceable to themselves.

The Review (New York) thinks it real naughty to mention Ireland's freedom now. So it is. If the "peace-makers" succeed in destroying the Russian Republic before the Irish one gets set up, we will have to help the London merchants crush the Irish rebellion.

They have made it a Bankers' League of Five Armed Nations.

How many American boys' lives shall we sacrifice that the English may possess the port of Archangel?

And to think that Wall Street and the Japanese have joined hands to fight for our liberties in Siberia. Will they succeed? Sure, they both know how to take liberties.

No matter what we think of the philosophy of the Russian Bolsheviks, it is but justice to acknowledge that they alone stand to prevent the re-enslavement of the human race.

Government ownership? Go to Wall Street, that's where the government is owned.

As to hot weather dress Col. Mann of Town Topics says: "At the Casino in Newport, a gentleman would hardly appear without a coat, and certainly not at dinner in a private house." It is evident the Colonel is not acquainted with us humans here in Pittsburgh where the regular dinner call is "coats off and everybody for the kitchen."

If George Washington wasn't so dead the Administration would punish him yet for creating a certain disorder some time back.

"Once there were seven Bureaucrats—but two reformed—so the other five formed a League for self protection."—Good Morning (N. Y.).

No. For robbing the two that reformed.

The Walsh-Dunne report of Ireland makes the Hun an Englishman. Why don't you let us sleep, Walsh? Don't you know that ignorance is bliss in our conscripted state?

Dr. W. J. Holland of the Carnegie Institute has been derailed by His Majesty the King of Belgium. Perseverance is worthy of its appropriate reward. I will therefore confer upon the erstwhile hunter of bright metal the additional title of "Pin Pan Doc."

I was asked how the Irish question could be settled. That is simplicity itself. The Irish want to govern themselves. The English want to govern them. Therefore, the thing to do is for the Irish to kick the English out of Ireland.

If they can't do it by themselves the League of Nations should help them to it. If the League won't do it it's a fraud of a league.

During the street car man's strike a man started to haul passengers between downtown and Greenfield. At best he could make no more than ordinary wages. Then a thing in men's clothes held him up and fined him \$18 in the name of the government. Ain't we got a nice government?