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Note: This letter was sent to 2828 members of

Dear Friend:-

the Chamber of Commerce of Greater St. Louis: June 72.

The massive, pressing issue of our time is bad taxation. It is not imposed on us by some KING GEORGE III, without representation, but by those we freely elect.

No single thing bears on us for good or evil as taxation. How we impose it determines whether acts of government benefit all people as true producers or a non-producing privileged few. It determines our future; whether we have more or less government intervention or will strongly reverse this maddening trend of the past fifty years or so; and do it soon (enough).

In our early years a great open and largely free expanse of land gave people an escape route, and how they used it. This prevented exploitative pressures from building up. (In this connection please read the MOST PROPHETIC LETTER reproduced on the back of this communication.)

If we continue to make this mistake of allowing Marxists, kindly Socialists or militant Communists, and others, to assert that (true) economic capital - man-made, man-used (hard) Capital, is exploitative, we will deserve what we are getting, and even more of the same. Our 'out' is to reveal what the real exploitative factor is.

Russia and China had little (true) Capital or Capitalism. Why did they go Communistic? The reason; they misidentified the real exploitative factor with Capital. We make the same error today. The hard, economic science fact is that (true) Capital - man-made, man-used (hard) Capital - cannot exploit; it must serve others or its owner will get no income from it.

However, there is an exploitative factor. It is LAND - the God-given factor no man made. Its private ownership and use via privileged titles, in itself, is a very good thing indeed. But, without just and moral obligation of paying to society annually what the privilege is worth, it becomes and is an evil. That this shameful and fearful state of affairs has continued since Adam Smith wrote his book The Wealth of Nations, and our REVOLUTION occurred, in 1776, the unfortunate treatment of the economics of public revenue (taxation) is unbelievable; that it has gotten so much worse is still more unbelievable.

The enclosed literature provides an answer. We invite your interest, concern and help if you want to preserve and advance FREE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

Cordially yours,

Noah D. Alper

Noah D. Alper,
President.

THE MOST PROPHETIC LETTER

In 1857 Lord Macaulay wrote, in the famous letter to Henry S. Randall, the biographer of Jefferson—a letter which President Garfield said startled him “like an alarm bell at night,” as follows:

“I have long been convinced that institutions purely democratic must sooner or later destroy liberty or civilization, or both. You may think that your country enjoys an exemption from these evils. I will frankly own to you that I am of a very different opinion. Your fate I believe to be settled, though it is deferred by a physical cause. As long as you have a boundless extent of fertile and unoccupied land, your laboring population will be far more at ease than is the laboring population of the old world, and while that is the case the Jefferson politics may continue to exist without any fatal calamity. But the time will come * * * when wages will be as low and will fluctuate as much with you as with us. You will have your Manchesters and your Birminghams, and in these Manchesters and Birminghams hundreds of thousands of artisans will assuredly be out of work. Then your institutions will be brought to the test. Distress everywhere makes the laborer mutinous and discontented, and incline him to listen to agitators who tell him that it is a monstrous iniquity that one man should have a million while another cannot get a full meal. * * *”

“I have seen England pass through three or four such critical seasons as I have described; through such seasons the United States will have to pass in the course of the next century, if not of this. How will you pass through them? I heartily wish you a good deliverance. But my reason and my wishes are at war, and

I cannot help forboding the worst.

“The day will come when in the State of New York, a multitude of people, none of whom has had more than half a breakfast or expects to have more than half a dinner, will choose a legislature. On one side is a statesman teaching patience, respect for the vested rights, strict observance of public faith. On the other is a demagogue, ranting at the tyranny of capitalists and usurers, and asking why anybody should be permitted to drink champagne and ride in a carriage while thousands of honest people are in want of necessities. Which of these candidates is likely to be preferred by a working-man who hears his children cry for bread?

“I seriously apprehend that you will, in some such season of adversity as I have described, do things which will prevent prosperity from returning. There will be, I fear, spoliation. The spoliation will increase the distress. The distress will produce fresh spoliation. There is nothing to stop you. Your constitution is all sail and no anchor.”

“As I said before, when society has entered on this downward progress, either civilization or liberty must perish. Either some Caesar or Napoleon will seize the reins of government with a strong hand, and your republic will be as fearfully plundered and laid to waste by the barbarians in the twentieth century as the Roman Empire was in the fifth, with the difference that the Huns and Vandals who ravaged the Roman empire came from without; and that your Huns and Vandals will have been engendered within your own country by your own institutions.”

ABOUT – THE Most Prophetic Letter (1857)

Thinking people are shocked, and rightfully so, by learning of and reading Lord Macaulay's famous letter. But, why? Because they have not learned of economic science provisions which we can use to restore the “free frontier” spirit of natural economic opportunity. This can be done, “in freedom”, by taxing our publicly earned value of land more, and by untaxing our privately earned Labor and Capital, and Wages and (honest) Interest, produced Wealth – improvements and the like. To learn how to wipe out all fear of Lord Macaulay's prophetic letter, send for our free pamphlet “Wrong-Source Public Revenue, The Greatest Obstacle to Free Private Enterprise, and How To Correct It.” Other items will be sent, too.

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