

Radio Address by Fred Pease

Milk River, Alta., Over CJOC

Good evening, friends and fellow citizens. I am pleased to have this opportunity to address you and present my views and opinions. I hope to contribute to the advancement of thought in regard to Social Science, as I consider knowledge along this line as absolutely necessary in order to avert the decline of civilization.

All agree there is some flaw or defect in our present economy and many schools of thought are presenting their views and suggesting remedies.

Former speakers on this program have called your attention to the necessity of subjecting any reform measure proposed, to the test of its being in accord with Liberty, Freedom and Justice. I am sure my audience will most heartily commend this statement.

I think all will agree that concentration of wealth, inequality in distribution of wealth or poverty amidst plenty is the problem that confronts society at present. All thinking men realize a solution of this perplexing problem must be attempted if any hope of future progress is to be expected.

This is the rock upon which all former civilizations have been wrecked. Common sense tells us we must expect a like fate if unable to locate the cause and evolve a remedy.

We have been so successful in discovering the result of the operation of natural law in production and taken advantage of natural forces due to this knowledge, that the production of wealth has increased to enormous proportions. We have practically solved the problem of production. This is truly the age of plenty, but some classes in our society have received only a meager share in the distribution of this prodigious amount of wealth or products. Students of Technocracy have compiled statistics regarding, not only present, but potential production, and the result is astounding. If we regard their findings as merely theoretical or misleading we have the actual result of the war production before us as proof as to what can be accomplished even under governmental direction and control, which many consider inefficient and wasteful. It must be conceded present productive capacity is sufficient to provide all with the necessities and some of the luxuries of life.

Before presenting the remedy advocated by my sponsors I wish to make a brief review of attempts made in the past during industrial depressions to cure the ills of society.

Careless or shallow thinkers, who realize the great productive power of modern civilization, came to the conclusion that this power itself was the cause of our trouble. Legislation was enacted, in accord with this idea, to prevent the production of wealth and, to make assurance doubly sure, proceed to destroy wealth already in existence, pigs, cotton, corn, wheat and coffee were destroyed. Extreme measures were taken to prevent a deluge of wealth or products being dumped on our shores by foreign producers who had a surplus of their own. A variety of regulations and restrictions of illogical and childish character were tried out; a real red letter day for

crackbrained idealists with hearts of oak and heads of the same material; a real Charlie McCarthy combination. Present day commentators, in reviewing this period, are not agreed as to whether this attempt to prime the pump of prosperity had the effect of intensifying or prolonging the depression, but all agree the public debt increased. Let us hope those who are in authority and promise us freedom from want in the future will make a better guess than they did before. A guess is the best we can hope for from them.

The Marxian or Socialist school of thought contend that man has no rights, and condemn the Capitalistic or production for profit system.

We of the School of Social Science disagree with this view and, as expressed in the Declaration of Independence, believe all men are endowed by the Creator with the right to possess and retain possession, of property. We wish to go on record as advocating and defending the present Capitalistic system, the law of supply and demand, and production for profit. We hope to establish full and free competition through the destruction of the power of monopoly and special privilege.

Our wonderful progress in the past is ample proof that, as a method of wealth producing, the Capitalistic system has been very satisfactory. We should give very serious thought to any proposal of change if we hope production to continue as at present or increase, as we have every reason to believe it will in the future if this system is retained. It must be evident that any improvement desired must be sought not through increase or decrease in the production of wealth, but by examination of the laws relating to its distribution.

Former speakers have stated and explained that natural law dictates the distribution of wealth as wages to labor; interest to capital, and rent to landowners. There are no other factors in production and the total wealth produced is distributed through these channels. The share going to labor is perfectly just and natural as labor contributes to production. The Capitalist who furnishes the tools to assist in the act of production should be recompensed by a return or interest on his investment. No wealth could be produced by the union of capital and labor if natural resources were not available.

Our government has granted certain individuals or corporations the right of possession to all natural resources or land; a special privilege or contract that enables them to use their own judgment as to how these lands will be employed. This plan of granting special privilege to citizens seems perfectly in accord with justice and common sense, as no one would erect permanent improvement on land unless assured of retaining possession for some length of time. These land owners must be consulted and their permission obtained before any labor is employed in production of wealth, and of course a part of the total wealth that results is appropriated by the land owners in rent, and the three factors in production—labor, capital and land—divide the product. This is the natural method whereby all wealth is distributed, and it seems to be perfectly just.

When we are not sure of being able to improve matters, we may, by a process of elimination, examine and reject illogical or unjust methods in

operation at present. If we are to agree that wealth produced by capital and labor should be their sacred property, our government should protect them in this property right, but present taxation practices violate these rights through income tax laws, and also deny the right to transmit this wealth to others at death, by inheritance tax. Plainly speaking, governments commit the crime of robbery. Although in accord with legal enactments, this procedure is nothing more or less than theft.

Shakespeare has said: "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet." To call this thieving practice a tax does not remove the stench from our nostrils. This practice of securing public revenue should be condemned by all men who have regard for the divine command, "Thou shalt not steal."

Income and inheritance taxes, although the most glaring, are not the only method whereby the property rights of both capital and labor are exploited. Every tax levied upon products or processes of production increase the cost of living and contribute towards inequality in distribution. In our search for a remedy, by the process of elimination of undesirable features, we must agree some of our present taxation practices must be abandoned as they are not in accord with justice; are a denial of property rights; entail complication and great expense in collection; discourage production, and do not furnish sufficient revenue.

Sometimes a very small change in the adjustment of a machine which is not operating satisfactorily will make all the difference between success and failure. The suggestion I offer is of this nature.

Title deeds to land are issued under certain conditions. Obligations are undertaken by those who apply for titles, and one of these duties is the payment of taxes which at that time may be levied upon their land or any increase in taxes that society may decide to levy in the future. This is an essential part of the contract. Society has granted a special privilege to individuals or corporations to collect the full rental value of land, if a certain annual fee or tax is paid to society. This fee or tax in many cases is far less than the actual worth of this special privilege. The necessary expenses of governments are greater than that derived from present taxes on land.

We propose that our government increase the fee or tax collected from present title holders of landed property and that this increase should be in relation to the present value of the special privilege granted to them, and if this fund is sufficient for necessary public expenses, all other forms of taxation be abolished. If present land value taxes are practical and in accord with justice, let us not only retain but increase the amount collected to an approximation of the actual value of the special privilege that has been granted to this class of citizens in our society. Land value taxation is already in operation but for some reason is working only part time. Every other device to collect public revenue, however complicated and unjust, is working full time, and the complex machinery employed in this thieving operation is breaking down under the strain.

It may be possible those who benefit through special privilege may use

their influence to prevent increased taxation of special privilege and would seek to divert thought to other channels. These interests may not be enthusiastic in the support of the taxation reform I have submitted for your consideration. The general public may wonder why property in land has not been asked to contribute toward the huge need for war revenue. There must surely be some good reason for this neglect or oversight on the part of those whose keen minds fashion our revenue laws. We know they are doing their very best to win the war and we appreciate their efforts while condemning the policy they pursue.

I fully realize there are other forms of monopoly and special privilege that prey upon society, but my time is too limited to review these minor marauders who contribute their quota in this process of exploitation. They are merely the jackals who pick the bones after the parent monopoly has made the kill. As to the identity of this parent monopoly I refer you to the statement of one most prominent in the prosecution of the great struggle for victory in which we are engaged. Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, states: "We have to face all the resources of a great monopoly so ancient that it has become almost venerable. We have against us all the modern money power. We have against us the political machinery of class and privilege. There are only two ways in which people can acquire wealth. There is production and there is plunder. It is quite true that the land monopoly is not the only monopoly which exists, but it is by far the greatest of monopolies—it is a perpetual monopoly, and it is the mother of all other forms of monopoly. I have made speeches to you by the yard on the taxation of land values, and you know what a strong supporter I have always been of that policy."

The Single Taxers of Milk River have been very seriously criticized in many ways but it must be admitted they "know their onions" in selecting political bed fellows.

It may be asked why this taxation reform we advocate has not been adopted if advocated by prominent thinkers at home and abroad. In my opinion this is due not only to lack of interest in public affairs by the common people, but passive opposition on the part of those who profit through special privilege and monopoly. At present they prefer to "let sleeping dogs lay." If the public were to direct their thoughts toward this question some odor might arise. The more you stir it the worse it smells.

I hope I have touched on some points that may arouse your interest and perhaps convince you the taxation reform we advocate is worthy of consideration. Present taxation practices are severely criticised but, like the weather, no one but the Single Taxer does anything about it or offers any suggestions in conformity with justice or moral law. Write to us.

NOTICE: Our Candidate, W. M. MADGE, if elected member in the Warner Riding, will promote and defend the principles outlined in the foregoing address.

VOTE FOR MADGE.

School of Social Science, Milk River.



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