

The weakling, whose only vision is
ridicule or defeat, is never
A Radical

The cowl does not make a monk,
good men participate in a
righteous undertaking



The Civics & Equity League

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THE most despicable wickedness America has to contend with is propaganda. War, poverty and most of the misery incident to civilization are generated, or sustained, by propaganda. Propaganda prompted Solomon to write: "Buy the truth, also wisdom and understanding". Then, as now, truth and wisdom and understanding must be thoughtfully and often laboriously acquired whereas education is absorbed from the propaganda thrust upon us. Education and knowledge are not, as many assume, synonymous terms, and educated people are apt to be persistently wrong, smug and thoughtless. We are influenced by a thousand and one suggestions in a propaganda of fictitious news, financed by those who profit in proportion as they deceive and delude us. The propaganda effort to obscure the truth in our political economy has reached a psychological perfection beyond the comprehension of the unsophisticated. Propaganda always flaunts a vision of gold at the rainbow's end, to encourage folly,

or a virtuous pretense to stimulate enthusiasm for some wrong: a war to end wars, for example. Propaganda mis-directs the innate goodness of humanity and we endure poverty and social inequality that might easily be overcome except that we are educated by propaganda to tolerate them as inevitable—as reflecting the will of God.

The greatest weakness in our form of government lies in the disposition of people to accept ready-made opinion when very little thought and reflection would make its inconsistency, and the moral depravity of those who supply it, conspicuous. We listen respectfully to the men, the same men, who led us into the degradation of existing conditions and assume that they are striving in wisdom and honesty to re-establish us upon a basis of economic righteousness and respectability. "Truth", said Emerson, "is the summit of achievement; Justice, but the application of it to affairs," but propaganda, in America, has Truth so crushed to earth that it may not rise again, except, perhaps, from the fires of a revolution that persistent injustice to a poverty stricken majority will surely kindle.

The same men, institutions and influences, conspicuous in the propaganda of today, led us into that debauch of wickedness and extravagance "to suppress militarism" that wasted forty-one million dollars a day for almost two years and which will contribute to the

wretchedness of several generations. With a fervent pretense of patriotism and human sympathy they now assail radicals and, carefully avoiding the whole truth, saturate us with suggestion and misinformation that diverts attention from the truth. They are discredited by any thoughtful comparison but America persists in not thinking and the torch of revolution will likely be the penalty because the World will progress, however complacent and docile we are in America.

We cannot come to a righteous conclusion except from a righteous beginning and no one associated with the propaganda undertaking or the denunciation of the radicals will indorse any fundamental ethical idea or principle to which righteous legislation must be related, altho the principles—the accepted standards of right and wrong—obvious in the simpler relations of men, must prevail in the more intricate relations that result from our social growth, if we would enjoy the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness to which we are entitled.

It has been said that great causes are never tried upon their merit but divided into particulars and the contention the hottest over some detail of little or no importance. President Hoover, represented the "Getters", and the deluded, and President Green, representing the "Earners", and the deluded, lament that "we" cannot provide "a job for every man" and they

agree that the laborer is entitled to "a living wage". This seems virtuous, magnanimous and courageous to the thoughtless but it supplies an opportunity for endless discussion as to "how" and "what", diverting attention from the truth. The truth admits of no discussion. The natural right which every man has, is that of employing himself; of applying his own labor in his own behalf of the inexhaustible storehouse of sustenance and wealth provided by nature. Legislation, regardless of its antiquity, that excludes him from that opportunity which insures his independence, is wrong and should be revised. Moreover, the laborer is entitled to the equivalent of what his labor produces, which may be more, or less, than "a living wage", and legislation that permits the abstraction of a portion of it, as a gratuity to non-contributors, is wrong and should be revised.

As a people we are under such hypnotic spell from ceaseless propaganda that the truth, or any radical suggestion, with reference to our economic adjustment is a bugaboo—an unpatriotic and fearsome thing. Any suggestion for social betterment that is not radical, and practically consistent with accepted standards of right and wrong is propaganda—a hypocritical pretense of solicitude by its sponsors, regardless of the enthusiasm its ballyhoo may stimulate with the educated and the thoughtless.

Men are born very much alike with few far above the average and few far below and the masses, as Thomas Jefferson suggested, were not born with saddles on their backs, nor a favored few born booted and spurred, by the Grace of God, to ride them. Civilization, it seems, offers some peculiar opportunity which permits a few to "get" by their wits considerable of what others must "earn" by their labor. That a few men, without labor, can acquire wealth beyond comprehension while millions of deserving men, availing of every opportunity for unremitting toil, live without sufficient is the Iniquity of Civilization.

The cause of this un-natural inequality and the poverty of the masses, is known, and the remedy is known, but the rich and honorable and conspicuous have kept this truth and knowledge and understanding so obscured by propaganda that most of our people have never heard of it and actually believe that the best minds in the country are striving to discover the cause and devise a cure for our social ills, practically all of which spring from want and the fear of want. Others, who have had a glimpse of the truth, are so thoroughly deluded that the truth seems preposterous and any organization presenting it, a social menace.

If you find a dollar, you are that much richer because someone lost it and is that much poorer. This is so obvious that it seems unimportant but it is a funda-

mental idea which the student should keep in mind. Likewise if you acquire a dollar, or a million dollars, for which you make no corresponding social contribution, you are that much richer because others have somehow been made that much poorer. Parasites galore, adapt themselves to every conceivable opportunity and thrive society from top to bottom, but their activities are unlawful and they can be estopped—with one exception. "Privilege" is a lawful right to perpetrate a moral wrong and privileged parasites lawfully absorb close to fifteen thousand million dollars a year in America for which they make no social contribution. They are that much richer because others are that much poorer so it is a fact, a deplorable, wicked truth, that society, in the making of one multi-millionaire, reduced a thousand men to dire poverty.

The contributions and the distributions just balance and the man is too rich who can, and does, acquire more than he contributes, thereby making others too poor because they must, and of necessity, contribute more than they acquire.

All men have equal right to the use and enjoyment of the elements provided by Nature (God).

Every man is entitled to benefits from society equivalent to the services he renders.

The principles—the accepted standards of right and wrong—obvious in the simpler relations of men are not abrogated or reversed by the more intricate relations that result from our social growth.

Government is under the same moral obligation to be honest that applies to the individual.

Legislation ignoring such right, equity, principle and obligation is wrong and should be revised.

Ignorance is a crime, contemplating those who influence legislation or sway public opinion and the man who will not subscribe to the tenets as fundamental to Righteous Legislation is unfit for a place in legislative, executive or judicial capacity under our form of government, which is the best ever devised and will not seem like a doubtful experiment whenever its people do their own thinking and stop absorbing propaganda.

"Buy the Truth, also Wisdom and Understanding."