

Contemplating the extraordinary calamity that threatens us. Immediately, when hostilities cease, open the millions of acres acquired for the war activities, and other Government owned acreage for settlement with "quarter sections" favoring the unemployed that participated in the service or war material production. Disregard any existing legislation related to homesteading and give title deeds for the "land" with some stipulation concerning payment for buildings, material or equipment on it. Associate the grant with this legislation (which in general application would disturb no one in the comfortable possession of occupied land).

Whereas, All men have equal right to the use and enjoyment of the elements provided by Nature and necessary to existence, and

Whereas, An equal division of land is not possible nor expedient, an equitable division should be made assuring every man access to the materials and forces of Nature.

Whereas, The utility value of land is bestowed upon it by Nature for the use of all mankind, and its rental value created by the economic activities of society as a whole it is therefore a value belonging to all of us, and

Whereas, Dishonesty lies, not in taking this value for administrative service, but in not taking it, therefore,

Be it enacted, that those permitted the exclusive occupation, use and control of land by virtue of title deeds shall pay into the treasury of the administration whatever such occupation, use or control is reasonably worth; to be appraised and collected as rent by the agencies that now assess and collect taxes.

This would defeat the opportunity for speculation that has made a farce of the homesteading ventures. It would plant new communities that would thrive in excess of all precedents, absorbing thousands, if not millions, that may otherwise find themselves unemployed and submerged in the anguish and degradation of poverty.

OUR Thought on social and economic matters is confused and misdirected. Our endeavor, the endeavor of good people everywhere, to make human relations simpler, more equitable and happier, is defeated by men that are somehow kept conspicuous because they are accommodating rascals or subservient weaklings. They assume, and are credited with a superior knowledge of social and economic law and supported by the rich and influential under an implied stipulation that they will obscure the cause of our economic distress and divert attention from a radical remedy, which is the only cure for a chronic ill.

The best brains in all the world, contemplating an individual, are those within one's own skull. If he does not use them he is easily deceived, deluded, mal-educated and his best endeavor futile.

No one should think that he has no social influence for whoever he may be and wherever he may be placed, the man who thinks becomes a light and a power but ignorance is a crime, contemplating those who influence legislation or sway public opinion and the appalling need for social reform, that grows and grows, suggests that the economists, the clergy and the law-makers we employ are ignorant... or worse.

### OUR CODE OF ECONOMIC ETHICS

All Men have equal right to the use and enjoyment of the elements provided by Nature.

Every Man is entitled to benefits from society equivalent to the service he renders.

The Principles; the accepted standards of right and wrong, obvious in the simple relations of men, are not abrogated or reversed by the intricate relations that result from social growth.

Legislation ignoring such Right, Equity or Principle is wrong and should be revised.

Civics is the science that treats of citizenship and of the relations between citizens and their government.

Equity is fairness or impartiality in any and all relations and circumstances; equality of rights, equal justice, the doing of that to another which the laws of God, of man and of reason give him the right to expect.

The League endeavor is to display economic truth and eliminate privilege, which is a legal right in violation of natural or ethical rights, and contends that privilege is the tap-root from which war, poverty and most of our social evils spring.

Its work is educational and its appeal to those who will cooperate to make human relations simpler, more equitable and happier, with intelligent effort and by practical means.

THE CIVICS & EQUITY LEAGUE

J. B. Chamberlain, Sec. Kensington, Md.

Questions answered. Cooperation solicited.

Stamps, dimes or dollars will help.

## The Truth Teller

and

## Economic Adversaria

# What is inside The American Skull, Brains or a Sponge

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One must ratiocinate to acquire knowledge but, education is thoughtlessly absorbed and the greatest weakness in our form of government is the disposition of people to absorb economic education; misinformation, financed by the rich and influential to obscure the truth and to divert attention from the radical remedy that would cure many of our chronic ills.

## THE POST-WAR AND ALL-TIME EMPLOYMENT PROBLEM

THE lamentable condition that confronts us in the post-war decade has magnitude but not novelty and the expedients that have heretofore persistently failed will not alleviate it. Illogical experimentation, unrelated to an indisputable premise, may precipitate disaster.

Seldom does "the army of the unemployed", as Marx called it, have a roster of less than five million and in the depression days it is three or four times as many. The post-war figures will likely reach forty million and this economic affliction, whether it involves three million or thirty million, is a chronic ill. The only cure for a chronic ill is a radical remedy . . . a remedy that eliminates the cause.

OUR economic perception is befogged in a jumble of truth and fiction, fact and fancy, scant knowledge and abundant maleducation; logical and illogical ideas and also, unfortunately, theological delusion. The rambling verbosity of men somehow kept conspicuous, that start without a premise, soars aimlessly and lands with the hope of security on the Federal pay-roll, will not dissipate the fog that envelopes us, nor direct thought to a logical cure for chronic ills.

The prescription must involve the truth that is fundamental to justice, and ingredients about which there can be no dispute. It must be consistent with accepted standards of right and wrong; with the laudable precepts of all ages and a rational democratic conception of our Declaration of Independence. Its administration must insure equality of opportunity and an equitable distribution of wealth.

MORE than two thousand years ago, Aristotle wrote: "Definitions are the basis of systematic reasoning" and in every decade men have lamented that few of the terms used in economic discussion have a definite definition. Already I have used the term "wealth" which is the subject noun in economic discussion and for which the economists have no harmonious definition. Men do not seek employment for the labor it affords, but for the "wealth" labor produces, so let us discover a definition for the term. Outside the bounds of civilization where Nature's Law is not entangled with man-made legislation; on the Atlantic seaboard as the early settlers found it and in the frontier as the pioneers invaded it, men have to but help themselves to such of Nature's Products as their equipment enables them to secure, move, alter or combine to meet their needs and wants. This plain statement of fact seems to supply an unassailable definition for "wealth" "Wealth is natural products, so secured, moved, altered or combined by human labor as to fit them for human satisfaction."

At the outset there were but two factors in the production; land, supplying the materials and the labor that secured, moved, altered or combined them. It seems superfluous to suggest that all wealth, so produced, rightfully belonged to those whose labor produced it and that labor constitutes the only valid title to wealth. Quoting Abraham Lincoln: "Inasmuch as most good things are produced by labor, it follows that all such things, of right, belong to those whose labor has produced them; but it has so happened, in all ages of the world, that some have labored and others, without labor, have enjoyed a large portion of the fruit thereof. This is wrong and should not continue. To secure for each laborer the whole product of his labor, or as nearly as may be, is a worthy subject for any good government."

AFTER labor had fashioned implements, snares and weapons there were, and as everywhere within the bounds of civilization today, three factors in the production of wealth. Land, supplying the materials, labor contributing the exertion and capital, which is wealth produced in some of the many yesterdays and utilized to make the production of new wealth easier, or possible, today. Capital participates in production only when it is employed as a utility by labor, but we tolerate two fundamental errors in all our economic discussion.

THE natural right which each man has is not that of demanding employment and wages from another man, but that of employing himself; of applying his own labor in his own behalf to our inexhaustible storehouse of sustenance and wealth . . . land". With that storehouse open, as it could be opened with fifty words of legislative enactment, the demand for labor would keep pace with the supply. Quoting Jefferson: "Whenever there is in any country uncultivated land and unemployed poor it is clear that the laws of property have been so far extended as to violate human rights".

ECONOMIC truth, under existing conditions has not only to overcome the inertia and indolence of habit; contemplating wealth and its distribution, it is not exempt from the influence of the struggle to acquire wealth, and as has been said: "If any large pecuniary interests were concerned in disputing the law of gravitation; that most obvious of all facts would not yet be accepted".

"Chattel slavery and land monopoly are twin devices by which the strong and the cunning have sought to evade Nature's requirement for labor by forcing it upon others". Land title deed

holders may say to the landless and unemployed; just as Nature has said it throughout all time: "To be fed and sheltered and exist, you must labor". Legislation permits them to add: "We will provide the land, you supply the labor and we will share the production fifty-fifty". This sounds reasonable and fair enough, until someone suggests that Nature . . . God, if you please, provided the land, and that "all men have equal right to the use and enjoyment of the elements provided by God".

ALTHOUGH the materials used in all production are supplied by land, which is Nature's gift to all mankind, the affairs of civilization have made security in the occupation of land, that is utilized, a necessity, because he who sows should reap. The dilemma, in which this seems to place us, vanishes if we admit that an equal division of the land is neither possible nor desirable, and devise an equitable adjustment that will also eliminate the speculative opportunity that stimulates land monopoly. When that is done the unemployment problem is also eliminated.

The rental value of land, which is a by-product of our economic activities and administrative expenditure, belongs to all of us and the collusive dishonesty of civilization permitting individuals to collect and pocket that value is a wrong principle that shelters innumerable bad facts. The complication reminds one that, "Big fleas have little fleas upon their backs to bite 'em. The little fleas have lesser ones, and so on ad finitum". It is that fundamental wrong that stimulates the speculation that produces monopoly. The monopoly, in its turn, withholds opportunity for employment, precipitating poverty; the want and the dread of want that are the largest contributing factors in crime and all the social ills with which we are afflicted.