

argument. Protection is unneighborly and produces ill will and jealousy and leads to war. It is unjust and favors one interest at the expense of other interests. It can only protect a minority in any country. In this country the tariff has protected some manufacturers, but has never protected our farmers. The manufacturers get the kernel and the farmers the shell. President Hoover made his greatest mistake when he signed the Hawley-Smoot tariff bill.

### LAND MONOPOLY BIGGEST BARRIER OF ALL

But goods cannot be exchanged until they are produced. They cannot be produced without land. Land, labor and capital are the factors necessary to production. Land is the most fundamental and important. The products are divided between these factors—rent to land, wages to labor, and interest to capital. Land is the source of all employment. The monopoly of land is the great cause of unemployment. Where labor has access to land, unemployment is almost inconceivable. The most of us do not realize the extent to which land is monopolized. In England less than 5 per cent of its people own land; in the United States about 10 per cent; in France 80 per cent. In France only 20 per cent are excluded from the land and have to compete with each other for employers. In the United States nearly 90 per cent and in England about 95 per cent of the inhabitants are landless and are competing with each other for jobs. Do these facts not suggest why France suffers least and England most from business depression? The annual rent of land in the United States is about \$13,600,000,000. This is about one-sixth of the yearly production of wealth in this country. This means that the real producers of wealth—labor and capital—get only five-sixths of what they produce, and nearly as much more is taken from them by taxes of all kinds. Not only do our workers have to pay heavy tribute to land owners for permission to work, but they are not permitted to keep all that they produce.

Now it so happens that land values are created by civilized communities and not by landlords. If these publicly created values were taken by the public there would, in ordinary times, be no need of taxes of any kind. But this does not tell half of the story. If land values were taken for public purposes land would be cheap and easily accessible to all. There would then be no land held idle speculatively. All valuable land would then be put to proper use, either for agricultural purposes or for building sites. Farmers would pay little or no taxes and would be free from land mortgages. More houses, stores and factories would be built, because they would be untaxed, and rents of homes, stores and factories would be greatly reduced. Leaving to labor and capital all that they produce would be the greatest possible incentive to production and would conserve property rights to the fullest possible extent. Every one would then get the full product of his labor, and no one would get more. It is a crime not to tax land values. It is a crime to tax man-made values when publicly created values are not taken for public purposes.

This, then, is the road to prosperity—free land and free trade. I do not think there is any other road to permanent and universal prosperity. Whether or not we will ever have enough economic sense to take this road, I doubt. Certainly the world is now traveling on roads going in the opposite direction. In England land values are not taxed at all unless land produces some kind of an income. Virtually, this puts a premium on holding land idle. Chancellor Snowden proposes to end this unholy system. He may be too late. Spain, too, proposes to let her unemployed take possession of her untitled lands while the present depression lasts. Pittsburgh has taken a step in the right direction by taking half of the taxes off of improvements and letting them fall on land values.

This business depression will probably wear itself out in a few years, when cost mortgages have been foreclosed and half of our farmers and other producers lose their present holdings. We will then have what will be called prosperity. It will last only until land values again become highly inflated. These cycles of boom and depression will be reported until the inhabitants of this earth learn well their economic lessons.

## Our Material Supply

WE can only reminisce in regard to the past and vision as to the future; we actually experience only the here and now.

However, some folks like to delve into history to measure their proposals and actions for today. Very well, let's go back about a hundred years or so and visualize our first settlers. They had a choice of location, therefore selected fertile soil, likely near a spring of water with adjacent timber in profusion out of which to produce shelter and fuel for warmth.

All was well, humanly speaking.

The next act, as they depict it in the movies, takes place seventy or eighty years later, when population had increased to the extent that much fear was engendered that our timber was becoming depleted, and lo, and behold! we discover that the Creator had anticipated this contingency and placed, without aid or even knowledge on our part, abundance of coal in the ground, likewise everything else needful for our continual material existence, such as oil, iron, copper, lead, zinc, gold, silver, etc., from which it would appear that the Creator had done his part, and we, in turn, would naturally be expected to do ours in a proper distribution and adjustment of this wonderful supply. We were given a law, which we call Justice, to function in that direction; and here enters a demonstration of our lack of proportion in applying this law. We adopt a system of finders-keepers introducing—and attempting to justify it—an insane operative system of the right of discovery, which idea has no ethical foundation when applied to natural resources.

Things, products, cannot be monopolized to any detrimental extent. The only monopoly effective to produce the economic condition prevailing at this time is a monopoly of the source of supply, viz., the earth!

There are a few apparently vital gifts provided by a generous Creator for our human material needs, such as sun, air, water and land, which we should regard as fundamental, universal and sacred, and to avoid future depressions, as we seem to delight in designating present conditions, and to cure the prevailing one, fundamental regarding the source of our material supply will have to be taken into consideration, and the simple child—though might aid us in this direction. The child naturally excludes personality from principle, is not concerned as to his next dinner, or where the shoe he wears comes from.

We will be justified in this action by the words of the Master: "Moreover, when He wished to show them the way, He took a little child and put him in the midst of them," etc.

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THE motorist is not the only beneficiary of the roads. The real estate which adjoins the roads is benefited in an enhancement in value many times the whole cost of the roads.—JOHN T. FLYNN, in *Collier's*.