

better but because his allotment of natural resources is more productive, compensates the rest in proportion to the advantage he secures through monopolization of natural resources which in fairness are no more his than theirs.

THE WARNING

If those payments do not go to common use, the equitable operation of the law of rent is disturbed and its potential good becomes potential evil. Therein is to be found the warning which Zion must heed or pay the natural penalty.

Let the forthcoming Jewish Commonwealth divert its differential rents to monopolists of its natural resources, and some of its citizens will revel in unearned riches while others, robbed of their natural birthright and their natural earnings, will struggle like serfs for a bare living.

If Zion patterns after other peoples in giving rent to individuals or corporations or private groups of any kind, as their private property, the social evils that have befallen those peoples will assuredly befall her. For her material progress, keeping pace with that of the rest of the world, will make greater and greater demands upon her natural resources. This will increase the unearned incomes of the private owners of those resources, both proportionally and absolutely. Consequent expectation of still greater demand for her natural resources, through confidence in continued material progress, will increase rent abnormally at the expense of individual earnings. The outcome will be excessive rent, both absolutely and as a proportion of produce, and consequent reduction of earnings to the margin of a bare living. Material progress then will but perpetuate and intensify poverty.

The natural law of rent, like every other natural law, brings disaster when defied or ignored.

But in that rational vision of Henry George's there is the promise of a splendid future for Zion. If she conforms her property institutions and her fiscal policies to the natural law of rent, material progress will spell material prosperity for all her people, individually and collectively. By leaving to individual producers their share of production, which the law of rent in normal operation measures equitably, and taking for common uses the resultant social increment, which also the law of rent in normal operation measures equitably, Zion shall flourish as no other nation ever has. She shall flourish as no nation can which disinherits the working masses and gives their natural birthright and their natural share in social wealth to a privileged few.

Let this commonwealth, with its historic background, acknowledge and enforce the natural law which prescribes earnings for the earner and rent for all, and an ugly warning becomes a generous promise.

THE PUBLIC

In its issue of December 6th, THE PUBLIC announces that it must suspend publication.

THE PUBLIC was founded in Chicago in April, 1898, by Louis F. and Alice Thatcher Post, who for many years acted as joint editors. In June, 1913, Mr. Post joined President Wilson's administration as Assistant Secretary of the Department of Labour, and the editorship of THE PUBLIC was undertaken by Mr. Samuel Danziger assisted by Mr. Stoughton Cooley and Mrs. A. L. Graves. In January, 1917, the publishing offices were moved to New York, with Mrs. Joseph Fels as editor, assisted by Mr. Cooley and Dr. J. W. Slaughter.

It is stated that the subscription obligations of THE PUBLIC for the year 1920 will be taken over by THE NEW REPUBLIC without financial consideration on the part of either publication.

DEMOCRATIC AND DESPOTIC FINANCE

Democratic finance, it has been asserted, is marked by extravagance. Wrong. *The most wasteful finance has always been that of despotisms.* The ancient régime in France fell; the despotisms of Germany, Austria, Russia, and Turkey have fallen through wasteful and corrupt administration. One and all became social inflictions. One and all lived, as every despotism must live, by sops to greed and to intrigue inspired by greed.

Ministers as heads of departments have become departmental heads responsible first and mainly to the Prime Minister, and only in a secondary sense to Parliament. This is copied—it may be, of course, unconsciously copied—from the ex-Government of Germany. The Prime Minister himself does not attend in Parliament, save when he has some statement to make. Also a copy from the practice of Chancellors of the ex-Government of Germany dealing with a Reichstag having only the shadow of authority. Policy is not known except to secret cabals and Parliament without grip upon it. Again a copy from the ex-Government of Germany. Manipulation of elections and "management" of the Press through standing and organized bureaux. Features of the ex-Governments of Austria and Germany. Proscription of political opponents. A feature of the ex-Governments of Austria and Germany. Institution of a secret political police. A feature of the ex-Governments of Germany, Austria, and Russia. "Deals" with interests behind the back of Parliament. A feature more particularly of the ex-Government of Germany. Doles and guarantees to agriculture, coal-owners, corn-dealers and millers, and specified industries. Opposition bought off out of the public purse. Multiplication of official places and appointments. Support insured out of the public purse. Enrolment of bodies of men outside the law and unknown to the Constitution. A practice of despotism.

All this is the outcome in part of unbalanced ambition, in part of prejudice, in part of panic. Let us not mince words about it. To some the glorious national effort called forth by the war appears, looking back upon it, a terrifying portent of popular power. Their dislike of popular power has been fanned by their fears. A comparative handful, dubbing themselves the "State," talk of working railways and mines in the event of stoppage. "Controls," obstructive though they are of the common livelihood, are favoured as affording the means of countering the opposition "if the worst comes to the worst." This is the depth of folly. It would be beneath notice were there not at the back of it a resolve to whittle away popular and constitutional authority. As the despotic features of the Government have been thrown up, the squandering of the public funds has grown. If six hundred thousand men laid down their lives in order to transplant to these islands, previously free from them, the political abuses of the Continent, very well. But let us know where we are. And let us be under no mistake as to the character of despotic finance.—"D." in the "Westminster Gazette" (London), December 11th.

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