

Who Gets It?

By R. W. STIFFEY

What of this National Income we hear so much about and read of so much in the papers? Who makes it? Who gets it? Where does it come from?

Why boys don't you know? That's the yearly feast the workers provide for the quality, the rich and well born as they call themselves, the untitled aristocracy of the Nation, our (land) lords and masters. Them's the fellers as git's it.

Who makes it? Why, the workers who make everything that is made, who have from the beginning of time made all things and who will continue to make all things to the end of time. It's a law of Nature, if you know what that is, a law thought up, provided and promulgated by Almighty God when He made the earth and set it agoing. These are the first laws; enacted and devised by divine wisdom for human beings, backed by divine authority and not one jot or title of them has been lost, abrogated or repealed to this day. They contain the first precedents, the best precedents, the ruling precedents that make all law, supreme court or no supreme court.

Our supreme court may ignore and antagonize them, but no matter. There is a court that recognizes and enforces them in utter disregard of man made laws. These laws of Nature are the laws of God and if the laws of man do not coincide and mesh with them so much the worse for man and his laws, as we are just now having overwhelming evidence.

Where does the "national income" come from? Why, from where all the wealth that ever was and is now came from, and where all the wealth that ever will be must come from—the earth, the land, in its economic sense, which includes all its surface and sub-surface, the atmosphere with its feathered life and all the forces it contains, the waters of the earth and all that inhabit them, its vast products and high-ways of com-

merce, all the advantages, resources and opportunities that the earth contains. A grand provision for the race, "Enough for each, enough for all, enough for evermore."

God created us and gave us the earth; that is our portion, that is all He gave us. Evidently He considered that to be amply sufficient for our temporal maintenance and salvation for all time. I have never found nor has anyone else ever known the Lord to go wrong at any time or to make a miscalculation. I still put my faith in Him and this Old Deal and consider it if honestly and faithfully administered the best deal that could be devised, infinitely superior to the much vaunted New Deal.

A great many people ignore the land question and consider it unimportant. But the Creator must have attached supreme importance to it, when He created human beings and outfitted them for all time with the land; just that, nothing more. Our relation to the land is our primary controlling, all embracing economic relation. It is our dwelling place, our storehouse, the source of all wealth, of all and everything that enters into our lives. It is the fount,

the reservoir of all employment. If you should run across any form or variety of wealth not a product of land you will be in possession of the eighth wonder of the world. If you have a job or can get a job where you will not work upon the land with materials drawn from the land you can take a place above that of all earth's philosophers and wise men.

So our equal right with all others to live upon and use the earth is a paramount right. We are land animals. Without this right we have no business here at all. We are aliens and trespassers. We have somehow landed in the wrong place.

As all wealth comes from the land, those who own and have dominion of the land have a controlling influence on the Nation's income, both as to its production and its distribution. By their control of resources they can and do expand and contract production. They may not deliberately plan and enforce these expansions and contractions of production but in the exercise of their powers and functions they will somehow, contract production when it pays best to do so and vice versa.

"WE QUOTE"

"The most valuable lands on the globe, the lands which yield the highest rent, are not lands of surpassing natural fertility, but lands to which a surpassing utility has been given by the increase of population. . . And where value seems to arise from superior natural qualities, such as deep water and good anchorage, rich deposits of coal and iron, or heavy timber, observation also shows that these superior qualities are brought out, rendered tangible, by population. The coal and iron fields of Pennsylvania, that to-day are worth enormous sums, were fifty years ago valueless. . . The coal and iron beds of Wyoming and Montana, which today are valueless, will, in fifty years from now, be worth millions on millions, simply because, in the meantime, population will have greatly increased." **Progress and Poverty**, pp. 242-43.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, 1939, mining in Montana employed 14,575 men and paid \$25,718,000 in wages. The principal mines of Anaconda Copper are there. In 1934 the total mineral production in Wyoming was \$27,640,000. Oil surpassed coal and in 1923 the oil production alone was \$48,900,000. Since that time, however, the oil wells have been giving out.