

The Shoemaker To His Last

(Mr. Henry Ford's Solution of the Food Problem)

IN our food problems we have failed to realize that the solution lies in the increase of tool power on the land. . . . It remains for America to carry engine power to agriculture. . . .

"We shall get more food, not by bookkeeping and clerical regulation, but by the use of more and better machinery on the land."

HENRY FORD, in *American Machinist*, April 11, 1918.

Machines, Mr. Ford, will do a great many things, as you have already shown America; but they won't alter economic laws nor undo the effects of vicious fiscal legislation.

America already leads in agricultural machinery; and yet, of America's greatest city the head of the Bureau of Child Hygiene reported only a few weeks ago that over 80 per cent. of its school children are underfed. After a century of marvellous mechanical progress, and in the face of such an appalling social fact, are we still to put our hope of salvation in the machine?

The machine is efficient. That much may be conceded. But where do the products of its efficiency go?

The truth was told us more than thirty years ago by a great American economist:

"Without any increase in population, the progress of invention constantly tends to give a larger and larger proportion of the produce to the owners of land, and a smaller and smaller proportion to labor and capital."—"Progress and Poverty," Bk. IV, Chap. III.

Big Raid on Indian Reserves

ACCORDING to an announcement in the *New York Times* of May 9th, some enterprising landowners and Wall Street bankers have interested Secretary Lane in a scheme for utilizing in wheat growing some 200,000 acres of land in western Indian Reserves. It is put forward, of course, as a patriotic contribution to the urgent war problems of production. But at the same time it is admitted that "with no interest or taxes on the land, the prospects of a satisfactory profit from the venture were excellent." Furthermore, "it is proposed to keep labor costs down to the minimum by using tractors and other power machinery on a scale that would not be possible on a smaller tract."

All of which is very fine—patriotism plus profit. But why must such a promising enterprise be limited to the land of the poor Indian? Any of our eastern States has much larger White Reserves, nearer the consuming markets and absolutely unexploited in production. The patriotism that is interested in the better use of Indian Reserves could surely turn the idle white man's acres to public service. With a suitable re-adjustment of interest and tax charges, it might even be made a very profitable transaction, legitimately attractive to the higher type of

Wall Street finance. Besides being better patriotism, it would be bigger business.

Only an adulterated patriotism, blended with that "economic illiteracy" denounced by Mr. Vanderlip as our national vice, could have devised this raid on the Indian Reserves.

A Land and Labor Issue in South Africa—Its Parallel In the United States

THE question of Rhodesia, as we see from the cable service of the *Christian Science Monitor*, is at last up for public discussion in London before the Judicial Committee of Privy Council. The issues involve the respective claims of the native population, the white settlers, the British South African Company and the Imperial government. It is to be hoped that a decision will be reached in accordance with equity and the best traditions of British Colonial policy and judicature.

In the meantime, as land ownership and its economic effects are principally concerned in the case, we may recall with profit the interesting argument presented, in the early stages of the dispute, by Lord Delamere in defense of the expropriation of the lands held in common by the natives. Lord Delamere, owner of 150,000 acres of land, and interested in obtaining a supply of cheap labor, argued as follows:

"If the policy was to be continued that every native was to be a landholder of a sufficient area on which to establish himself, then the question of obtaining a satisfactory labor supply would never be settled.

"He considered the soundest policy would be to curtail the reserves, and although it might take a few years before the effect on the labor supply was apparent, the results would be permanent. In other words, as long as the native has free access to land, he is under no obligation to work for another for wages, and cannot be compelled to do so. Deprive him of that access, and the result would be permanent."

The words of Lord Delamere are illuminating, and should be pondered by the leaders of white labor in our own country, where vast areas of land are withheld from production in the greedy and sterile grasp of speculators. Labor leaders must know that color of skin has no influence upon the working of economic laws. The "permanent conditions" Lord Delamere argued for in Africa are thoroughly established and acclimatized here. And the victim is White Labor.

To this economic compulsion, the inevitable result of our defective land and fiscal system, is now added the lash direct of Compulsory Work Laws. In his appeal for economic compulsion of the negro, Lord Delamere also employed the argument that work was for the negro's good. Our State Governors, in applying the Compulsory Work Laws, declare themselves with equal earnestness to

be inspired by Patriotism. The American Delameres, big and little, are certainly to be congratulated on the speedy success of what might be described as their "African policy"

Meanwhile, Labor and Capital, both of which are left in economic subjection to the landed interests, seem to be supremely satisfied. Capital fondly imagines its interests served by a share in War Loans; and Labor, by purely nominal higher wages. Neither the one nor the other, judging by the words of their foremost spokesmen, seems to have reached Lord Delamere's apprehension of primary economic law; Labor, and its offspring, Capital, are (under the terms of our arbitrary fiscal system) servants of the landowner, held by invisible but inflexible bonds.

Wanted—A New National Organization

THE National Single Tax League, with headquarters at Arden, has outlived its usefulness. Under a constitution which one would almost suspect was devised for the purpose, it is impossible to secure the removal of a national committeeman, or effect any democratic expression of the will or wishes of Single Taxers throughout the nation. The League, which is in no sense a League, has hibernated at Arden during the past year. Here Kiefer keeps his office furniture, and from here is sent forth the insignificant monthly *Bulletin*, called "the organ of the National Single Tax League."

In this organ Mr. Robert Towne, since his appointment by Mr. Kiefer last November as "organizer," is forever telling us that he is soon to begin to commence some stupendous plans for the up-building of the national organization. But these plans do not mature. They appear to be in some way related to a financial project of Mr. Towne's for the establishment of a chain of papers, the details of which are kept religiously out of the *Bulletin*. What relation these plans have to the national organization, or whether the members of the League have authorized Mr. Kiefer to pay Mr. Towne's traveling expenses that he may appeal to Single Tax groups in various cities for the success of the proposed investment, are matters of which we are kept in blissful ignorance. But with it all goes the unceasing appeal for funds.

The situation is no longer to be patiently endured. It is both pathetic and farcical. Our motives in challenging the continued existence of a condition which is now seriously embarrassing the work that is beginning may be misunderstood. But the risk of such misunderstanding must be taken if the organized movement is ever to be set right. There is a great awakening among the people. There are Single Tax campaigns in California, Missouri, Michigan. New York and New Jersey are organizing political parties to fight the question of the Single Tax at the polls. The thought of the people is stirring. Never were there such golden opportunities. Funds are needed to carry on the real work of the cause which the national organized move-

ment has long ceased to represent. Every dollar diverted from these genuine activities now beginning is a loss to the cause. We should no longer be deceived.

Mr. Gibson, in the *Ground Hog*, calls for the resignation of Daniel Kiefer. How will that tend to remedy matters? Mr. Towne, who is supplied with Single Tax funds by Mr. Kiefer for his tours, whispers, *sotto voce*, that his one aim in life now is to get rid of Daniel Kiefer. Et tu, Brute! Almost our sympathy goes out to Daniel Kiefer, who has served the cause, if not always wisely, yet with devotion and zeal. Our sympathy is tempered by the knowledge of his pro-German, or at least anti-American activities, which were he alive to the eternal fitness of things would long ago have induced him to offer his voluntary resignation. But Mr. Kiefer is not solely to blame. He is part of a system the movement has outgrown. The League itself should resign.

Now that this movement in a sense must be begun all over again, and because we are in a serious time, yet a time fraught with opportunity, the National League is a positive obstacle in the way. Real work is beginning, and this real work must no longer be hampered by activities which are purely fictional, by a paper organization whose chief purpose has been to collect funds, to circulate "flimsies," to glorify favorites, to starve out local work, and to spend the money of Single Taxers with reckless prodigality. And never in the *Bulletin* or elsewhere, it may be said, furnishing Single Taxers with detailed statements of expenditures.

For the reasons given, and because two of the members of the National Committee have been arrested for sedition and others are under surveillance, the League's days of usefulness are past. And because Mr. Robert Towne, in nearly a year's steady outpour of words, words, words, even though of fair literary quality, has failed to do anything more than to convey to Single Taxers generally a feeling of great weariness over plans that do not mature, of schemes that lack fulfillment, of promises forever unrealized, that gentleman has ceased to be an asset of any value as an "organizer." He, too, following the example of his predecessors in the League's affairs, has failed to provide us with a statement of expenditures.

We have come to the parting of the ways. Either a representative national league or none at all. Preferably none at all to the preposterous aggregation at Arden, with a constitution which ties us hand and foot. Preferably one that will be American in aspiration and spirit, and will not assume that our country and government must be always wrong. The time has come for the League to put up the shutters.

It should be said that the League was the outcome of the desire expressed by Mrs. Fels at the Niagara Falls conference to have a democratic organization for the Single Tax movement. It has been shown in the REVIEW that the constitution adopted would not bring about the democratic form of organization demanded, and events have shown that it has simply resulted in vesting control in an