

The Dream and The Reality



WHAT THIS CARTOON TEACHES

In the making of our laws, have we been careful to keep opportunity open?

Is it possible that we have allowed the land, the only natural fountain of wealth, to be appropriated as private property, without conditions as to its adequate use?

Are we dealing honestly with the industry, enterprise and progressive elements of our people, when taxes are laid heavily upon him who develops, and lightly upon him who holds idle, equal natural resources?

Does our fiscal system—which, in our social and political construction, has been called the Law of Laws—show intelligence of the right kind?

Is the intelligence which is represented in the great industrial and commercial enterprises—the business, manufacturing and labor organizations—of this country, satisfied with the status quo?

Is the practical genius and good sense of the American people fairly represented in any adjustment of taxes uniformly discriminating against the industrious and in favor of the slacker?

The really productive members of the American community have been too little concerned with the direction of the fiscal machine. They may have felt its general inconveniences, and at times apprehended its relation to particular trade conditions; but they have failed to realize

its tremendous imminent potentials of uplift or disaster.

In facing the grave economic distress and disorder in this country—an anomalous and artificial product in the midst of unlimited natural wealth—is it possible that the leaders of Capital and Labor will be satisfied with superficial treatment of symptoms, and fail to seek the fundamental maladjustments which are the causes?

We do not think so.

Action must not be delayed. Legal obstruction to the free development of our natural resources must be removed, and that speedily. Otherwise, the imperious urge of elemental justice, too long deferred and denied, will burst the barrier of our legal devices and seek, through a social catastrophe, the realization of a juster social order.

The virile youth of our country has just such visions as this cartoon portrays—sane instincts of productive labor, and that higher creation, a home.

Upon just such instincts—given their rightful freedom of exercise and growth—depends our strength as a people, the purity, grace and safety of our social order, and the justification of our existence as a nation.

Can we truthfully say that America has remained faithful to the inspiration of her founders and kept her promise of the right to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” to those who should come to her?