

engaged in a political struggle and was actually appealing for votes, though he desired that these votes be based upon right thinking; and certainly right thinking is preparatory to only one thing, right voting. We know the argument from the smallness of our numbers, but this objection will be outgrown in time; we know, too, that reforms come by piecemeal, but the piece will be larger if we ask for the whole, and if the asking is a demand backed by the only argument which politicians understand, namely votes. We know that not many Single Taxers who remain outside the party, and none in it, will get into office, but this consequence does not carry with it a very grievous affliction. We shall alienate men of other political parties, we are told. If they are Single Taxers by conviction and remain outside of the party they will not abandon their convictions; and in the silence of the polling booth they will find it difficult to refuse to give the principle in which they believe, their silent assent.

In conclusion, and because we have not at this time the space to say more, the principle in which we believe is great enough for its followers to greatly dare—and the advantages, educational as well as political, of independent party action, whatever arguments, sound or specious, may be urged in opposition, compared with the methods under which all Single Tax organization has now broken down, are demonstrably overwhelming.

Post-Bellum Economics

AN increasing concern regarding economic conditions after the war is being shown by governments and individual corporations, both at home and abroad.

An instructive instance of this growing apprehension on this side of the water we have in an appeal recently issued by Walter W. Vick, general manager of the Factory Products Export Corporation and Manufacturers' Agents' Company, and former General Receiver of Dominican Customs. After emphasizing the need of a large Commercial Intelligence Department organized by government, he insists that all Americans should keep the following essential points in mind:

1. The present prosperity of the United States is not due to domestic, but foreign consumption. The production is not economic but extravagant. This is possible because sales prices permit it.
2. Production in European countries at war has been forced to the most economic basis obtainable.
3. After the war, extravagant American production must compete with economic European production.
4. The United States is producing, above domestic production, from 35 to 40 per cent. output. That over-production is going abroad. When the war ceases, we will be fortunate if we retain 10 per cent. of it. Thus from 25 to 35 per cent. over-production must cease, with the resultant industrial readjustment.
5. Therefore, if we do not now use every possible foresight and energy to retain and expand foreign trade the United States' economic position must recede.

6. England, Germany, France, Italy and Russia have already established commissions to be in a state of "preparedness" for the commercial competition.

7. We must do likewise and "Do It Now."

Then follows a long list of recommendations regarding the formation of Committees of Trade Commissioners, the mobilization of expert economists, engineers and other technical men, Chambers of Commerce and other local industrial organizations. But nowhere do we find a single word that indicates appreciation of our fundamental fiscal and economic maladjustments.

And yet no fact in our economic structure and equipment is more conspicuous: The whole weight and force of our national taxes and dues is thrown against national production and exchange; our States exercise the same discrimination against economical production and the efficient use of our national resources. The bulk of our municipal taxation operates to deter enterprise and favor inertia.

Until we free American industry and commerce from this grossly unfair handicap, all the devices above recommended, such as Trade Commissions, Councils of Experts, etc., are futile subterfuges, evasions of the main and manifest issue. To pretend to organize and increase our industrial and commercial efficiency, while consenting to our government's fiscal war against it, is a transparently irrational procedure, and foreordained to failure.

Our commercial and industrial organizations can do no better work for the present and the future than apply their trained common sense to an investigation of the fiscal arrangements of the nation. It is the open secret of our notorious inefficiency, in spite of our unrivalled natural resources.

Let our fiscal system cease its discrimination against American enterprise and we shall easily hold our own against the world. Our deadliest trade opponent is at home, not abroad.

Single Tax Pacificists

WE DEEM it a matter of grave injury to the movement that a few Single Taxers—for they are but few, though including some occupying positions of leadership—should be found, from whatever motives or convictions, in opposition to the government in its prosecution of the war for democracy in which the country is engaged. That the misguided activities of these individuals have not brought upon Single Taxers generally the imputation of disloyalty is a tribute to the forbearance of our opponents.

We do not understand these isolated Single Tax anti-war and anti-government propagandists to be non-resistants, and they indignantly resent the charge of pro-Germanism. They do not base their opposition to our co-operation with the nations that are trying to subdue the war-mad rulers of Germany on the contention that all wars are wrong—wars for defence along with wars of offense. This attitude would be, if not philosophically unassailable, at least intelligible. They do not argue that all wars are historically without justification, or that the conqueror may