

### American Radicalism

Dorothy Thompson wrote the following in "The American Dream," which was printed in the July issue of the Ladies' Home Journal.

"American radicalism has quite different intellectual and spiritual ancestors. They are Jefferson, Emerson, Lincoln, Thoreau, Veblen, Henry George and Walt Whitman. The American dream is not the dream of the European socialist or syndicalists. We want neither collectivist ownership nor the police state.

"European radicalism wants to see government ownership and control of the means of production, and its administration in behalf of the 'masses.' American radicalism, from Jefferson to William Allen White, wants to see distribution of ownership and the abolition of the proletariat, with government limited to being an umpire.

"Eventually we shall have to choose between three programs: American reactionism, which wants to leave things strictly as they have been; European radicalism, which pushes against the concentration of wealth with its program of state socialism; and the American dream.

"Inasmuch as none of the revolutions of the twentieth century have as yet succeeded in making a free and decent world for the average man, the American revolution, founded on Jef-

erson, Veblen, Henry George, and the revolutionary poetry of Whitman, would have a great fighting chance at the polls, if American 'liberals' would start over again with a native economic program for liberty and equality, instead of an imported program for nationalized wealth and police control.

No American wants to be a proletarian even if he can 'dictate' as a cog in the mass. He wants to be a free citizen, with a secure job, earnings that he can save against his old age, a home of his own and an equal chance for his children. That's the American revolution, and we'd better be getting on with it, lest something else usurp it."