

## Keep Hogs Out of The Trough

(Extracts from article by Harry H. Willock, in *Sample Case* for October.)

**M**EN do little thinking about the fundamentals of their economic existence. Many men never think about them at all and most men have no definite idea regarding them whatever. When things go bad and jobs are scarce and wages low, men repeat more or less aimlessly, "something's got to be done," without the least idea of what the "something" shall be.

Human rights versus property rights are the great contending forces behind what we know as politics, governments and international relations. Human rights, with little leadership, weakly and ignorantly struggling against property rights, always led by the great of the earth with supreme knowledge and skill, and frequently camouflaged by the glamour of church and military activity.

In spite of all the handicaps the forces for human rights are constantly, but with tragic slowness, wearing down predatory property rights by the sure functioning of those natural laws, which, when understood and intelligently applied, will make old earth a real place in which to live.

The process will be just as rapid as the people grow in intelligence, as history proves no change for the better is ever made by ignorant men until existing conditions become altogether intolerable. The sooner we use our intelligence the less we shall have to suffer.

Suppose we do a little economic thinking right here and now by considering the terms "property" or "wealth." The wealth of an individual or nation is reckoned at the value of the property possessed. The estimated wealth of the United States is about 300 billions of dollars divided about equally between natural resources such as land, minerals, water powers, etc., and manufactured products, such as houses, factories, machinery, etc. We might put it shorter and say between God-made and man-made things.

The God-made things were always here, even before Columbus discovered them, but the man-made things simply represent the savings of men since that time. All the people working and producing in America since the time of Columbus have saved and accumulated over and above their cost of living, 150 billions of wealth.

On the other hand, what service did anyone perform for the 150 billions represented by the God-made things such as land, minerals, water powers, etc., which constitute a monopoly of basic necessities, virtually all in private hands and for which is demanded by the comparatively few owners an actual return greater than is received for the same value of man-made things earned and owned by all the rest of us?

While no exact figures are available, the total income of the people of America may be taken at about 80 billion dollars, out of which they pay about 10 billion dollars as national, State, and local taxes, or about \$500 for each family of five. These taxes, owing to the fact that our form of taxes are largely passed on to the ultimate con-

sumer, are far more evenly distributed among the population than the income.

Of the 80 billion dollars total income, 35 to 40 billions go to the 30 millions of workers as wages, 20 to 25 billions to owners of industry and 15 to 25 billions to owners of natural resources. The first group pays directly about one billion of the national tax bill, the second group about 8 billions which is largely passed on to the rest of us in higher commodity prices and the privilege group pays about one billion.

In other words, the privilege group by their monopoly of God-made things are able to extort from the rest of us almost twice as much net, for which they perform no service, as is all industry using the accumulated wealth of the nation in useful service.

Can you beat it? Is it any wonder industry and labor quarrel over dividends and wages? The fact is that after monopoly and privileges have taken "theirs" there is not enough left to give proper returns, either to the worker or invested capital.

Natural resources were here from the beginning and have no value whatever except the value given them by the presence of the people of America, and, therefore, if the people of America as a whole created the values, why should not the income of these values be taken to pay the bills of the nation before 57 other varieties of taxes are levied on business and industry and individuals to such an extent as now almost put us out of business.

We can now see clearly two very different kinds of property—earned property and unearned increment—and that is something the Socialist never sees. There is nothing wrong with wealth. The question is whether it is earned or extorted by privilege and monopoly.

The troubles of America are economic and not racial nor sectarian, and should be fought out in the open, in broad daylight, with ballots and not behind masks in the darkness with hatred and fear.

Let us use our political democracy to secure the real freedom—economic democracy. Let us secure the votes in the American way by open and free discussion and by the free vote of all, regardless of race or sect. The unearned and monopolistic half of the wealth of the nation must no longer be allowed to club and dictate to the producing and employing half.

We must learn to use our democracy in a practical business way, so that the hogs may be kept out of the trough. *The salesmen of America can sell the ideal to the nation as soon as they sell it to themselves.* The writer has already printed and distributed over half a million pamphlets entitled "Unused Democracy" which goes into these questions more fully, and will be glad to print as many more as the salesmen of America will distribute.

THE Single Tax movement is not simply the propagation of a new tax device, but the proclamation of a new social order.—PROF. WALTER RAUSCHENBUCH.