

unless you become active in the cause. Are you ready and willing to do your part? If so, come out of your sheltered isolation, and get onto the firing line within sight of the common enemy. Make your efforts effective in the manner and form to which you are best adapted. The real issue is humanity versus entrenched privilege. Team work among the moral forces of the community will win the fight for righteousness and justice. Come to the work with a clean mind and a loving heart. Bring with you no hatred or envy of any man or class of men. The enemy in the trenches is not your erring, ignorant brother whom you are trying to educate, but a vicious system which enslaves both him and you. Your field of battle leads ultimately to practical politics. Your weapon is the ballot. Like David, the shepherd boy of old, go forth to battle armed only with the mighty power of love for God and man, and you shall prevail swiftly over the blustering giant of Animal Greed. For the battle is the Lord's, and the armies of the living God will give the enemy into your hands."

ECHOES FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

(For the Review)

By **BENJAMIN F. LINDAS**

A short while since in Washington, in the parlors of the aristocratic "Willard," a convention of the National Civic Federation was held. Prominent men and women from all parts of the United States were in attendance, and every angle of civic and community life was considered. Judging from the standpoint of economics some startling facts were disclosed, but none more amazing than that the American workingman was literally reveling in all the insinuating joys of debilitating oriental luxury—and didn't know it. The industrial economics department, through the chairman, Hays Robbins, scattered these tidings of great joy: "A large part of the high cost of living is due to the high standard of living; to the common use of many comforts and conveniences which were the luxury of the wealthy a few years ago; to better clothing and a general change in the workingmen's homes from the dingy tenement to the modern type cottage and flat." Statistics are then given to prove that the average wage increase for the past forty years was about 80 per cent.; that the decrease in working hours was from 10 to 40 per cent.; that there has been an actual decrease in many of the necessities of life, even with the abnormally high prices of the past fifteen years.

While the convention was still in session, however, a report came from the Industrial Relations Committee which, to the delegates, must have seemed to possess a singular lack of humor. This is the blast briefly summarized:

Low wages and excessive hours of labor so brutalized the employees of the steel plants of Youngstown that the recent rioting and wholesale destruction of property was the natural ending of the intolerable situation. That the United States Steel Corporation has been able to keep its wages on a low scale by reason of the existence in this country of a huge surplus of unskilled labor constantly replenished from Europe. The report adds further that labor and living conditions are horrible, and that the babies of the poor die at an appalling rate; that the average wages of the workers is less than \$500.00 a year and that this particular branch of the Steel Trust in the past two years, paid dividends of 12 per cent. a year.

To make confusion worse confounded comes the report at the same time from New York: Mrs. Elbert H. Gary entertained a bridge party at her Fifth Avenue residence, the guests including many of the well known members of society. The prize at each table was a share of the United States Steel preferred stock.

"The people are crying for bread?" said the little French princess, "Why don't they eat cake?" Creaking tumbrils loaded with human victims was the answer. Probably our society will soon be muttering as did the French at that time, "After us the deluge."

AN OBJECTION—THE ANSWER

After a labor union meeting held a few days ago at the Congress Hall hotel, Congressman Tavenner, of Illinois, voiced his objection to the kind of preparedness that Congress seems about to adopt, in these words:

"Before we start on preparedness we ought to consider the question from every angle. The men who are leading the movement are not the ones who will pay the bills. The cost of preparedness, and possible war will be met by the masses of the people. It is a peculiar coincidence, is it not, that every single armor plate making firm in the country is represented among the nineteen founders of the Navy League?"

As was to be expected, the objections of our country embarking, with outbreaks of stimulated patriotism, upon the perilous seas of militaryism, to line the pockets of munition makers, was answered by a Single Taxer. Congressman Bailey introduced a bill, which if it is passed is likely to cool the ardor of the war-like plutocrats.

The bill would amend the income tax law so that all the income between \$10,000 and \$20,000 would pay a five per cent tax, with a gradual increase that would result in a tax of 50% on incomes of \$500,000 or more. Said Mr. Bailey, "The preparedness hullabaloo started with those financially interested in forcing Congress to squander money for national defense. Whether the Morgans, Rockefellers, Garys, Schwabs and the Stotesburys can maintain the patriotism at fever heat in the face of a surtax on big incomes running up to 50% remains to be seen.

"If the forces of big business are to plunge this country into a saturnalia of extravagance for war purposes in time of peace, they should put up the money. That is why I have introduced a bill that is likely to make Wall street howl and the Morgans and Rockefellers gnash their teeth. I propose to offer to those who are clamoring loudest for defense an opportunity to put their patriotism to a money test."

CONGRESS AT CLOSE VIEW

There is one side of Congressional life familiar only to those who are residents of Washington. It is a view different from the information secured by those who ordinarily become familiar with Congress. The reader of the *Congressional Record* can, of course, cram his brain with the innumerable details of daily routine, or read the inspiring speeches, that, ten chances to one, were mumbled from a typewritten manuscript to empty benches, and then picture to himself the halls of congress packed with anxious fellow-citizens, listening in awe-struck admiration to the polished flights of statesmen orators. This is one way of becoming acquainted with Congress.

There is another way. The patriotic American may make a pilgrimage to this white city dozing in the valley beside the peaceful Potomac. He may then go to that stately edifice crowning Capitol Hill and have an accommodating guide point out Mr. Mann, leader of the Republican forces, Mr. Kitchner, of the Democrats, "Cyclone" Davis from Texas, the lone Socialist, etc., etc. He returns home with the faces of these men indelibly etched upon his memory. He is now familiar with Congress. Hasn't he met it face to face?

Then there those who are the real citizens of Washington; living here in a rather prosaic way and viewing Congress, as a whole, with cynical indifference. They become acquainted with the members as fellow citizens, and they form their opinion of their real worth from the municipal spirit that they show, and from their attempts to be of assistance to their neighbors who are clustered around them.

From this point of view the best known, most approachable and most obliging of all, are the liberal members of Congress—the Single Taxers. Is there a local assembly desiring some one to address them upon some public question? A Single Tax member of Congress will head the list. Is there some needed civic reform in search of a sponsor? A Single Taxer will take it under his wing. Is there some struggling association of citizens in need of encouragement? A Single Taxer will be there to urge them on. Is there a church whose portals are open to those who can preach the doctrines of real religion? A Single Taxer will occupy the pulpit.

So it is that the citizens of Washington have come to look upon the Single Tax members of Congress as their real friends, as typical Americans who are broad-minded, tolerant and brilliant, and they have a real affection for such men as Bailey of Pennsylvania, Keating of Colorado, Kent of Colorado and Crosser of Ohio.

SIDE-LIGHTS ON THE LAND QUESTION.

Wherever there is land, there is a land question. It is not strange, therefore, that we hear from General Goethals that the graft of the land owners around Panama has literally robbed this country of millions of dollars. He testified before the House Interstate Commerce Commission upon a bill to compel the land commission to settle for land in Panama on the basis of its value in 1903 instead of on the basis of the value now, as various commissions had done. All the land in the ten mile strip now subject to claims, if settled for on the basis of 1903 values, would be about one million dollars; if settled for upon the basis of present prices it would be 20 times that amount, the landowners charging for their land on the basis of the value that the construction of the canal had given to it. The government made the added value, and now has to pay for it. As William Marion Reedy says in discussing the same subject, "The cure for this is very plain and General Goethals should join hands with General Gorgas in advocating the Single Tax."

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Uncle Sam has now for some years shown an indisposition to separate himself as easily as formerly from the public domains still within his control. The result has been the construction of a brand-new pork-barrel, and land hungry speculators are eagerly watching the bung. The object is to have the government turn over millions of acres of its public lands to the States, where they can be more easily disposed of. There are now fourteen bills before Congress to give public lands to the States, amounting in all to thirty millions of acres. Whether this attempt to skim the cream of the government lands will be successful remains to be seen, but the scheme simply emphasises the necessity of eternal vigilance upon the part of every American citizen.

ATTORNEY GENERAL GREGORY'S REPORT

In a report submitted to Congress by Attorney General Gregory he asserts that millions of dollars of oil have been unlawfully taken from reserved oil lands belonging to the United States. It recites the fact that a decision was rendered in favor of the government for the return of 160,000 acres of oil lands in California worth \$215,000,000. There is also a suit pending for the return of lands in Wyoming worth \$60,000,000. Probably some day the government will see the advantage and justice of retaking all the millions of acres of valuable land that has been taken by chicanery and fraud—not through the medium of expensive law-suits, however, but by means of the simple and natural expedient of taxing the rental value of the lands into the public treasury, where it belongs.

SECRETARY HOUSTON'S REPORT

Secretary Houston in a report sent to the Senate states that a giant water-power trust controls over half the water-power of the country used in

public service operations. He also claims that these water-power companies by means of common directorates are connected with the influential banks of New York, Boston and Philadelphia. In other words, this lately developed natural resource, a resource upon which the whole future of the nation may some day depend, is rapidly passing into the control of the very same people who for years have been throttling opportunity in other lines of industry all over the country. It is to be hoped that the people will take warning in time to prevent this inestimable treasure from ever passing beyond their control.

GIFFORD PINCHOT SOUNDS WARNING

Commenting on this report, Gifford Pinchot, in a letter to President Wilson, calls attention to the fact that this situation is one demanding more than cursory consideration. He says in part:

"For every reason of national prosperity and defense, the development of our water powers is desirable, but the claim of water-power interests that free gifts of public property to themselves are needed to promote development is false and disproved officially and finally by Secretary Houston's report.

Natural resources lie at the foundation of all preparedness, whether for peace or for war. No plan for national defense can be effective unless it provides for adequate public control of the raw material out of which the defensive strength of a nation is made. Of the raw material, the water-power is the most essential, because without electricity generated from water power we cannot manufacture nitrates, and nitrates are the basis of gun-powder. It would be folly to allow the public water-powers, which can supply the indispensable basis of national defense, to pass out of effective public control."

It might have been added that it was as great a folly to have allowed the mines, the forests, the vast stretches of magnificent farm land, just as indispensable to national prosperity to pass from public control.

A NOTABLE FIGURE

Carlyle somewhere says, "History is the essence of innumerable biographies." Thus to interpret the lives of sincere men and women as we meet them; men and women of kind hearts, of insight, who are an inspiration to all who come within the ever-widening circle of their influence, is to add a few words to history in the making.

Homage is due to individuals of sincerity and truth wherever found. Not the futile homage of carved epitaph, or the homage that humility pays to ephemeral greatness, but the homage of appreciation and affection for a great and loving heart.

Many years ago when the "Prairie schooner" was still crawling through the tangled grasses of the west; when the fate of a nation was hanging in the balance; when the "Rail-splitter" of Illinois was thrilling the entire country by his

simple logic in the memorable debates with the Little Giant, a sturdy young man came from the farm to add his voice in the public forum of the Republic.

From his youth he was a lover of his fellowman; a hater of shams; an exposé of hypocrisy. For three years he risked his life on many fields of battle that his black brother might be freed. Since that time that tried men's souls, with homely wit and logic he has reached the hearts of thousands in the never-ceasing effort to make all men free. He is now seventy-five years young and still erect and in the harness, and no gathering of his fellow citizens is too humble for him to attend and no assembly is too great to demand one more worthy. He is now a familiar sight in Washington; surprisingly active, his bright eyes still twinkling, his hand-clasp still firm, his voice still round and full and alluring, his mind as active as of yore, and his whole being still full of the zest of life.

A few years ago while sitting in the gallery of the House of Representatives, watching a few somnolent Congressmen dozing peacefully in the almost empty hall, I saw him rise at the clerk's desk and heard him begin to read. His bell-like tones reached every corner of the vast hall with ease, and I soon found myself following with pleasure the dry details of a technical bill. "Who is that man." I asked a passing attendant. "That's the reading-clerk.—No, he's not a member of Congress, but still one of the brightest men in the House. That's H. Martin Williams, of Illinois."

BI-MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

BY THE EDITOR

There has been much activity generally throughout the country in movements tending in the direction of the Single Tax which would seem to justify even the most optimistic.

The bill introduced into the House of Representatives by Congressman Crosser providing for the taxation at its value of all remaining public lands as these are opened to settlers, the government retaining title, puts squarely up to Congress the only rational plan for providing work permanently for such of the unemployed as can avail themselves of the opportunity. Improvements will be exempt. Congressman Crosser has in this adopted the recommendations of the report to Congress by the Secretary of Labor. Our readers everywhere can render real service to the cause by writing to their representatives urging the early passage of this bill.

Two bills are before the Legislature at Albany which are of interest to Single Taxers. One provides for a local referendum on reducing the tax rate on New York City buildings to one per cent of the tax rate on land values during ten consecutive years beginning in 1917. The second bill requires all