

The Beveridge Report

"A blue print for the future, the first complete and practical plan TO ABOLISH WANT, . . . the economic Magna Carta of our times, . . . the first symptoms of a reshaped world," is part of the description of an advertisement in *The Nation* of February 13th, by the American publishers of "The Beveridge Report."

The Beveridge Report contains 200,000 words and is the result of the efforts of Sir William Beveridge, chairman of an interdepartmental committee to survey social insurance and allied services, appointed by the British Government in June, 1941.

"Britain," issue of January, 1943, published by the British Information Services, Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, contained an article by Sir William Beveridge which gave the gist of his report. He tells that the plan of his report he got from the precedent of New Zealand. He states: "The plan for Britain is based upon the contributory principle of giving enough free allowances to all from the state, of giving benefit as a right in virtue of contributions made by the insured persons themselves, as well as by their employers and the state."

The People's Advocate, a Georgist publication, published at Adelaide, Australia, issue of June 21, 1937, contained an article in detail, of a plan of "social insurance," which was being advocated by the then Federal Government in power. The Beveridge Report bears a close resemblance to the plan advocated in Australia in 1937. The editor of *The People's Advocate* took the "social insurance" plan then advanced, apart. Among other things he pointed out a joker in the plan and this criticism applies to the Beveridge Report one hundred per cent.

He stated that: ". . . Government, as such, does not produce any wealth. It secures it by levying taxation upon wealth producers, and its contribution to the Insurance Fund is likewise raised by taxation. Therefore a careful examination of the position reveals the fact that the worker pays his share direct, he pays the employer's in the prices of commodities, and he pays the Government share by taxation. In reality he pays the whole contribution. How can such a scheme really have any beneficial effect upon unemployment?"

The *New York Times* of March 17, 1942, told of the death of the Duke of Atholl, at Perthshire, Scotland, where he had held title to 202,000 acres of land, which had come down through the family as a feudal fief. In May, 1938, the same paper told of the sale of half of the City of Cardiff, Wales, by Lord Bute, for one hundred million dollars. His Lordship still holds 117,000 acres of land.

There are only three ways by which a human being may attain a living on this earth; by labor, by charity, by theft. We wonder if the Beveridge Report is not a scheme to soak those who labor and to cover up those that live by theft.

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