Can Land Monopoly Win the War?

CAN we whip the Prussian tyrant—with the fruits of Land Monopoly?—with five hundred million acres of unused farm land, less than half our resources of coal, iron, and oil held unproductive for speculation?

Uncle Sam is a powerful, wiry, muscular fighting man, capable of delivering the knock-out blow to kaiserism—no one doubts it. But can he do it with one hand tied behind his back?

The advancing wave of imperial militarism threatens to engulf every tendency toward human freedom. It must be beaten back—to Berlin, if need be, to the fall of the Hohenzollern and the rise of the German people, beyond all doubt. Until this is done nothing else counts much—but can it be done by Land Monopoly?

Do they who now oppose single tax and work for and with the Anti Single Tax leagues want the kaiser beaten? Of course they say they do, but what is their Action?

Single tax means to open the land and resources to the immediate and unlimited production of food. It doesn’t mean anything but that. It has no other purpose. Food is scarce and high-priced because 500,000,000 farming acres are held idle for speculation. Oil, coal, wood, and iron are scarce and high because over half their source are held out of use by speculators. Single tax would open them to Use!

Are you a patriot or a traitor who seek to keep them closed to production?

Single tax means free men on free land, the end of poverty, prostitution, crime, pauperism, and profiteerism—all the degeneracy and decadent fruits of Land Monopoly.

Can we whip the kaiser to his knees without the free and unlimited production of provisions and equipment? If we can, then this People’s War Measure to open the twenty million idle acres, mines and oil wells, of California, is untimely, for nothing is now of such world-wide human importance as the crushing of militarism—as the strengthening of Wilson’s hand!

Will these twenty million acres, mines and oil wells, closed or open, quickest help to win the war? Will mere saving of supplies, already insufficient, enable us to win?—while the waiting land lies idle and idle people are staving?—and speculators are evading the war tax by gambling in unused acres and vacant lots?

Families of drafted men are suffering for food and shelter, here in Los Angeles city limits where two million good acres are held idle by the profiteers, and the same condition prevails everywhere in the country.

Waving flags and newspaper headlines won’t win this war, but only man-power, which means food-power. Millions of troops must be rushed to France, and every man landed there is a Food liability—and every family left behind.

France, Britain, and Italy are not conquering Germany. In four years all they have succeeded in doing is to prevent the crown prince from entering Paris, and in this they have been aided, financially, with provisions and to some extent man-power, by the United States.

On the existing man-power and food-supply basis in Western Europe, the entente powers could not crush the German. It may be doubted, indeed, whether the ruling classes of Britain and Italy, such as are spoken for by Lord Lansdown, the English tory, would care to see the kaiser deposed, for that would be the end of aristocracy and the rising into power, economic and political, of the People.

Altho the German social democrats have broken faith with the International of human brotherhood, nothing points to a very serious rupture of Greed’s international bond between caste, privilege, and profiteerism.

Clearly international privilege is the foe we now face. Can it be conquered by a land-monopolized nation, with its resources closed to production?