

## Will Radicalism Walk into the Trap?

The primary condition, the base, of democracy, is a Free Earth, open and equal access to the land and its resources. Until this primary condition is established the mere forms of democracy are futile—hypocritical in effect if not intentionally.

To gain this base is the present business of radicalism. Whether they will attend to it, or be diverted from it, depends largely upon the vigor with which the land issue is pushed by those who understand its primary importance. It is the one issue upon which radicalism can unite, indeed, is already theoretically united. On the war question radicalism is split in several directions, which is natural enough, for war is only a symptom. Specialists never agree on symptoms. The land issue is causal. Radicalism can unite on it, and united can "move mountains." The great changes in history have occurred at those moments when radicalism was united and the crowd was not confused by contradictory counsel.

The onus is on the singletaxers, specialists of the land issue. Will they raise it so high that all can see? Radicalism will fall in line. No root thinker dare stay out of it—if it really moves and threatens plutocracy. And the crowd will follow a united radicalism. There are not enough socialists per se to "put over"

socialism, nor of anarchists to obliterate coercion, nor of syndicalists to seize the industries—but combined on the single issue of a free and open earth, their power would be irresistible! The crowd will follow. It is hungering for a change, for the new—the way of kindness and fairness. Just a little impetus will push it over into the Army of Life.

The historical purpose of war is to divert the attention of the people from the slaveries and exploitations at home. This is not Wilson's purpose, but the same may not be said for the junkers of America. Will radicalism walk into the trap?

Are there a few men in the land who, knowing the cause of war, and devoted to its removal, will not be turned aside by the excitements of war? This is their hour for Action.

Will they press hard the tangible victory now within reach here in California?

It is agreed that war results inevitably from the slavish feudal system of land holding by which the king, owning all the earth, parcels it out among his lords and barons, along with the serfs who can live only upon it, or go elsewhere and live on some other baron's land? Originally the serf was not permitted to quit the land of his lord and master. By insurrections he won the "right" of locomotion and

then his "right" to become a land lord, if he can.

This "right" of Any man to become a land lord has been thoughtlessly confused with the "right" of All men to become land lords. Under the feudal system it is physically, arithmetically impossible for All men to be land owners—just as it is impossible for All Americans to be president of the United States. Only one can be president. So only a small percentage of the population can own land—or their jobs that indubitably rest on land, or the food and clothing that come from the land.

Sad confusion of thought, that All with Any.

By the cold hard physical rule of numbers it is impossible for All men now to become independent freemen, owning potentially or actually the land they must live on—because the feudal system grants to Any man the "right" to hold all the land his strength, his cunning, or his luck empowers him to obtain.

And the cold hard physical fact is that the number of actual or potential land lords, that is of men who can by their own work or effort procure a decent living for themselves and their dependents—always pitifully small—has rapidly decreased in the last fifty years, tho the land and resources of America have scarcely been touched. Enough still await development, almost in any one or two states of the union, to support the population of the world and give every family a home of its own.

This feudal system must go. The unused land and resources must be free and accessible to All, on equal terms. Then we can have Democracy, as only Freemen can.

It is this feudal land tenure, keeping the masses of men dependent, that breeds kaiserdom, keeps alive the old caesar idea of one man ruling a number of others, and finally of one man ruling all.

The evidence is pretty clear now that the Hohenzollern person started out to make himself emperor of the world, planning to conquer the United States thru Mexico. He was only logical. If one dynasty can rule a million people, why shouldn't—if he can—one man rule the whole earth? So long as we recognize the "right" of Any man to hold power of life or death over another—and that's what the fee simple title to land carries with it—naturally the limit of rulership can only be settled, every once in so often, by test of main strength.

I don't hate or blame the kaiser. He was well within his "right"—if he could do it. If it is a laudable ambition for one man to seek "ownership" of a million acres (or one acre more than he can use) any limit on such ambition is purely arbitrary. The kaiser is a big-ambitioned man—that's all. He's playing our

game, practically and essentially—the Morgan, the Rockefeller, the Steel, and the Standard Oil game—only he is playing it bigger. If the game is "right," the kaiser is "right," and just to put him out of business, and leave the game go on, won't amount to much. Another will only bob up to take his place.

The "right" and the Power of rulership, of kaiserdom, millionairdom, monopoly—all the forms, little and big, of Privilege—rests on the "right" of "ownership" of the unused land.

This immemorial wrong can be dissolved, and civilization recast on a new base of common ownership, or the equal right of All to the use of the earth—phrase it as you will—if those who understand the issue are not diverted by the war excitement, if they are not swept off their mental balance by the spectacular horrors of the slaughter.

Really the slaughter is not so great—not nearly so great as peace under land monopoly. Consider: There are a hundred million people in the United States. In peace(!) sixty per cent of them are in economic agony due to low wages, hard times, disemployment, and often from five to ten millions are almost permanently "out of work." At least twenty millions are unable to earn enough for a decent living, must herd like beasts. Another twenty millions are mortgaged to the point of distraction. This is in "peace."

In war, suppose we raise an army of ten millions! All these will be well fed and thoughtfully, scientifically cared for, save when in action. And all the rest of the population will have plenty of work at higher wages. War is not an evil—on a monopolized earth.

Under land monopoly we need, not peace, but more war! This is not a joke; it is solemn truth. Under the reign of land monopoly, the entire population fares much better in war than in "peace."

On a free earth, kaiserism will be impossible—so will Rockefellerism, Steeltrustism, etc. There will be no cause or incentive of war. If you really, deeply hate war, then join The Great Adventure to abolish its Cause.

Let Wilson attend to the war itself. Don't hamper him. That way lies worse confusion. Cease fighting symptoms. If your sons must go—well, are your sons of superior clay? If any man's sons Must go out and kill, why not yours?

It is not war we should end, but land monopoly. Then war will fall of its own atrocious weight. I would not stop the war tomorrow, if I could—on a monopolized earth. For—it is either true or false—the House of Want is better off, its multitudes better fed, its death

rate lower, in war than in "peace"—on a monopolized earth. The actual fact is that under the conditions of today war is desirable, beneficial, to all classes of society. It stops enforced idleness—and not even human slaughter is as evil as enforced idleness. The parasitic rich dare not dawdle away their lives as formerly. They are busy with red cross and relief work. The idle disemployed poor have jobs, every last one of them. There's no excuse for anyone to be out of a job of some sort. Nobody is starving now, or in danger of it. The fear of it is out of life. A sense of security prevails among the working people, and a higher independence. "If I lose this job I can get another," is the common thought, instead of "If I lose this I may not get another and the mortgage will be foreclosed."

This is not rhetoric, or words—it is cold fact, the actual condition. The People are economically and spiritually better off today under war conditions than for fifty years before the war—at the cost of killing and maiming so many of the young men!

But, these same young men, or an equal or greater number of other human beings, were killed and maimed before the war! The war

has Not increased the death rate. Hideous, brutal spectacle that it is—so needless, foolish, and wantonly wasteful—yet only a Symptom!

The quack gives a wash for eczema; the wise physician restores the blood to normal.

Comrades, it is not war we should fight, but the system that breeds it. This can be changed, radically reversed, from that of the hate, envy, kaiser and war breeding grab-as-grab-can practise to the rule of No More Than You Need and Can Use of land and resources.

This can be done. The world is ready and waiting for it—hungry to play fair at the base of life. Never mind the details of "singletax"—the issue is a Free Earth. It can be made free—Now. The time was never so ripe, the conditions never so favorable!

Here in California the first real reasonable hope of Immediately changing the land system, abolishing the feudal tenure, is Imminent! This hope gained in the Golden State, it will spread to the nation rapidly—to the world!

On a free earth the People's Council to end war and establish democracy will mean something. Free speech and free press will become Actualities, instead of political theories. We will have a decent Base to life.