

cause. Blame for this is hurled as usual at the heads of men who stand or who seem to stand for the opposing principle. Not a word nor a single sign to indicate that the cause of the failure is to be found at the bedrock on which society itself rests.

In some quarters optimism turns to pessimism, and human nature, poor, misunderstood and much maligned human nature, stands charged with a due share of the failure to rise to the great occasion. Amid all this grief and lamentation the plain truth is before us. The problem is mainly economic and not altogether a question of politics. The getting of a living is the dominating factor, and so long as it exists will provide the atmosphere and the opinion which petrifies and circumvents those who strive so diligently for a sound and enduring Peace system. Our well-intentioned peacemakers are up against a hard stern fact born of human needs. Men with bodies to feed and clothe cannot freely step into the hell of unemployment to satisfy the cravings of their higher nature or respond much to an appeal for any high purpose. If that were not so, war and the lust for war would have been banished long ago. If we would have peace we must first have justice.

Let us give human nature a chance; let us emancipate man from the bondage of economic slavery and then look with assurance for the opinion that will abolish the armament industry. So long as men must regard work as an end in itself instead of as a means to the higher life, and natural avenues to alternative employment are shut in the face of those who must find work or starve, we shall preach in vain about the urgency of a League of Nations. The fundamental question of the restoration of the land to the people must first be dealt with. The unequal distribution of wealth which property in land determines will hold men firmly to the lower levels of thought.

What is wrong with the world can still be named: ignorance, contempt and neglect of human rights. Let Nature's wide field for human progress be set free; let wages rise to full earnings point; let the workers feel they are not any longer on the verge of starvation, that they need take no thought for the morrow; let the just claims to a fuller life be recognized; let the slogan of liberalism, equality of opportunity, remain no longer the cold abstraction it is; let the pace be set for the co-operative commonwealth. This is the way we must travel if we would have the great Peace League in our day and generation.

MANIFESTLY, work is not an end, but a means; manifestly, there can be no real scarcity of work, which is but the means of satisfying material wants, until human wants are all satisfied.

"Social Problems," by HENRY GEORGE.

Allons Monsieur le Professeur!

LATE in January the *New York Times* magazine ran an article by L. H. Robbins under the heading, "Sprague Points to a Broad Path to Recovery." The impression one received in reading the article was that Professor Sprague realizes the importance of stimulating industrial production at this time. He emphasizes his point by adding "extraordinary expansion in some line always attends recovery from a major depression." He does not add though that, according to our present system (of taxation)—and this goes for other countries as well—a major recovery is always followed by a major depression.

The point is, do we want a recovery that will shift the pain of our present economic ailments from the present to some future generation or do we desire a recovery of a permanent nature to be enjoyed by our children and their children as well? It no longer appears to be just a question of wanting a lasting recovery inasmuch as our civilization seems to have taken all the shocks it can absorb under our present way of doing things. The rebound must be enduring if our civilization is to stop in its current slow process of disintegrating and reverse the trend towards a fuller development of the personality of man.

The recent economic report rendered to the British and French governments by the Belgian economist, Mr. Van Zeeland, contained a remark which, undoubtedly, was intended for sceptics. Said Mr. Van Zeeland, "No effort is ever completely lost if it does not succeed all at once." To return to Professor Sprague, it should be pointed out that in order to have an extraordinary expansion we must have something out of the ordinary. This is not economics; it is plain English. Now it certainly would be extraordinary to witness the abolition of all taxes which fetter production, foster bureaucracy and short-change the consumer, and the substitution in their place of a Single Tax on the economic rent of land. The approach to the problem can only be through educational channels such as those with which Professor Sprague is already identified. For the doubting Thomases let Mr. Van Zeeland's words be repeated, "No effort is ever completely lost if it does not succeed all at once." In this instance the efforts would be negligible in comparison to the ultimate results. Why not give the matter some serious thought, Professor Sprague, either blast the idea out of existence or throw your support to the Single Tax? Allons Monsieur le Professeur!

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