

# SAYS FEUDALISM EXISTS IN THE UNITED STATES

## Commissioner Howe Treats Land Problem in New Book; Must Tax Land Values.

NEW YORK, Jan. 5.—"Few people realize that feudalism has come into existence in the United States similar to that which still prevails in a great part of Europe, a system which, up to the French revolution, was the prevailing method of land-ownership in all of the European countries."

This is one of the many surprising statements made by Dr. Frederic C. Howe, immigration commissioner of the port of New York, in his new book entitled "The High Cost of Living," just published by Scribners. Dr. Howe here tells in clear, swift sentences how food production and distribution in America have fallen under control of wheat gamblers, warehouse men, cold storage men, packing companies, and land speculators, with private ownership and control of the railroads, terminals and banking facilities as other important factors. He says:

"There is a submerge zone about the farmer which costs our people hundreds of millions annually. These agencies include the railroads, the warehouses, the terminals, the slaughter houses, and the banks."

But overshadowing every other evil that is sapping the vitality of American agriculture, according to Dr. Howe, is our system of land tenure. Of the many important and fascinating chapters of his new book, probably the most important is that on "Opening Up the Land." He says:

**How to Open Up Land.**  
The free land of the West is all gone. The enclosure of land and the American history. It marked the close of an era in the history of the world. The enclosure of land ended the freedom of choice enjoyed by the city worker, it ended the freedom of choice due to the free land in a sense it ended the freedom of the western world.

And when the free land was gone, all land began to have a monopoly price irrespective of its real value. It acquired a speculative value. No longer was land desirable only because of its greater fertility or nearness to the city. All land now had a scarcity value, a value due to the fact that all of the land was privately owned. Then the price of land began to rise. It rose with great rapidity. A million incoming immigrants increased the demand, not only for land, but for food as well. And this increasing demand upon a limited supply affected all land values. It has been especially operative during the past few years. Fifty years ago land in Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska and the Dakotas was held at from \$3 to \$5 an acre. The farming land in America is held at a higher price than it is in England.

This speculative price of land is one explanation of the decay of agriculture and the failure of the public to keep pace with our needs. The man of average capital is unable to buy or to make a profit on the land at the price which he has to pay for it. From 1900 to 1910 farming land increased in value 100 per cent. The farmer excluded from the land by prohibitive prices, but hundreds of millions of acres are held in great estates, worth over 400,000,000 acres of land enclosed in farms is not under cultivation at all. While the food has almost reached famine prices to the poor, while millions of people are herded in tenements and about the great industries, hundreds of thousands of farmers have migrated to Canada and nearly 40 per cent of our 40,000,000 people are actually homeless for at least 30,000,000 people.

How can idle landholding be ended? How can we limit the amount of land a man may own to the amount which he actually needs and cultivates? How can we break up the 200,000,000 acres held in great estates and throw open to use the 400,000,000 acres enclosed in farms but not cultivated by the owners?

**Taxation of Land Values.**  
Of all the measures proposed for the solution of these problems the taxation of land values is the simplest and most effective. It will do more than all other measures combined to create a fluidity of movement from the city to the country and from the country to the city that should be the principle of industrial efficiency and of industrial democracy as well. The immediate effect of increasing the taxes on land values is to check speculation. And speculation is the real reason why men want more land than they can use. It is holding it against the needs of society.

This reform, known generally as the single tax, is comparatively easy to inaugurate. It can be put into effect by the legislature of any state or by a county where home rule in taxation exists, by an act which empties from local taxation all houses, barns, improvements, growing crops, machinery, and personal property of every nature and description. By merely exempting these kinds of property from taxation all taxes will automatically fall upon the land. No other taxes will be levied. As a result the taxes on land will be automatically increased. And if the tax is heavy enough it will discourage the holding of land for any other purpose than production.

About our cities, even in the eastern states, millions of acres of land are being held idle, unprofitably, and by inertia, just because it costs little to so hold them. And a slight increase in the taxes on land would bring much land onto the market, while a very small tax upon the great ranges of the west would lead to their being broken up for the settlers.

And if the tax upon the land were made only such land as they actually

# SECRETARY WILSON'S THREE FIGHTERS



Left to right: James K. Wilson, William B. Wilson and Joseph B. Wilson. All three of the sons of Secretary of Labor William B. Wilson are now in Uncle Sam's service. Here they are shown in uniform. James K. Wilson is a private, William B., Jr., is a first lieutenant, and Joseph B. is a second lieutenant. William B. Wilson, the father of the boys, is a member of the United Mine Workers' union and was for years its national secretary.

needed or as they actually worked, whether it was ten acres or a hundred acres. They would pay an annual tax to the state, not unlike the rental now paid the landlord. But they would then be free from all other taxes, and in addition the great quantities of land brought onto the market would materially cheapen the rental of all land. For as taxes on land are increased the price of the land diminishes.

**Free Land and Free Men.**  
And the taxation of all land values up to the full amount of the rental value is the aim of those who believe in the single tax philosophy. They would tax land heavily as a means not only of freeing the land but of freeing man as well. This would end tenancy; it would end all land speculation; it would end land monopoly forever. For then men would hold no more land than they actually used, as an land would exist in abundance for all it would be impossible for owners to hold men either as tenants or as agricultural workers. Men would own their farms and work for themselves.

Moreover, the untaxing of all kinds of farm improvements would encourage men to build, to make their places more attractive. The taxation of land values would be to America like the discovery of a new continent. It would open up hundreds of millions of acres. It would greatly increase production. It would solve the food problem and the high cost of living. And what is true of agricultural land is true of the mineral resources, timber-land, and city land as well.

## WHY BONUS PLAN PAYS

The belief that a bonus to workers is the result of sentiment is given a rude shock by the following, taken from the financial page of the New York Times.

"The popular impression that the annual bonus which a great many financial institutions are in the habit of giving to their employes at the end of the year is in the nature of something for nothing, a free-will offering topping a liberal salary, is wrong. The bonus originated as a profit-sharing scheme to reward clerks for extra tasks imposed upon them in busy seasons and not contemplated when their wages were fixed. The Wall street employe must take the lead with the fat, which means that he must cheerfully miss his regular train home night after night for so long as business runs above normal. When business is good he works many hours overtime, and his year-end gift is large; when times are dull he shares part of the cost by receiving a smaller bonus. A banker who has always urged upon his directors the distribution of liberal sums each Christmas says that as a result he almost never loses an employe, and can get more work done in an emergency than he has any right to expect from a force twice as large."

## CHARGE MEAT PACKERS WITH EVASION OF LAW

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill., Jan. 3.—As a result of federal and state inspection officials of Swift and company, meat packers, are charged with evading legislation which provides that products in cold storage shall be stamped. The prosecution says:

"Failure of packers to properly stamp butter and eggs sold to grocers, permits their sale as fresh products for a price above their real value."

# FAVORS HEALTH INSURANCE FOR WAGE-EARNERS

## New Jersey Legislative Committee Says Health of People Must Be Conserved.

TRENTON, N. J., Jan. 5.—Universal health insurance for wage-earners as an immediate war-time necessity for strengthening the vitality of this country's population is favored in the unanimous report of the official legislative commission investigating social insurance problems in New Jersey, it has been announced by Gov. Walter E. Edge.

"The stress of industry in war is making increasing demands upon physical endurance," states the report signed by Senator Everett Colby of Newark chairman, Dr. Augustine Elmhurst, John H. Adamson and Joseph M. Ackerman. "In our hour of necessity we have been shocked by the high percentage of draft rejections on account of physical disability. As never before we need now to conserve, for present and future generations, the health and physical vigor of our people. Furthermore, it is the duty of statesmanship to look beyond our immediate pressing needs to the period of reconstruction at the close of the war. We cannot afford to disregard the protective legislative inducements already offered to workmen by our keeness commercial competitors in Europe."

Several state organizations are on record for health insurance, including the State Federation of Labor, the New Jersey Woman Suffrage association and the New Jersey Health officers' association.

**Relieve Economic Distress.**  
The commission is of the opinion that health insurance gives great promise both of relieving economic distress due to sickness and of stimulating preventive action. "To achieve these ends," the report says, "such a measure adapted to New Jersey's needs, should be based upon the following fundamental principles: Existing health insurance agencies that are conducted on an adequate basis at actual cost should, with mutual management, be utilized in the further development of a comprehensive health insurance system. In order that the greater effectiveness and economy of a universal system may be enjoyed health insurance should be made to cover all regularly employed wage earners. Insurance should provide medical care and health instruction in order that its work may be both curative and preventive. To minimize the financial distress attending sickness the system should provide a cash benefit during temporary incapacity for work. It should also provide maternity care to meet the special needs of working mothers. Health insurance should be democratically supported and managed by those directly concerned, the state bearing as its share the cost of general administration as it does in workmen's compensation. An American committee for the supervision of a special bureau in the department of labor with competent medical direction and in close co-operation with existing public health agencies, in order to place added emphasis upon the extremely important problem of sickness prevention."

Whether we will or no, we are one with the family of nations, and every thing we do now has its international aspect.

For instance, when Bisbee deported the I. W. W.'s or when San Francisco's alleged "law and order" forces showed a fierceness of interest in the Mooney trial that cast doubts on its disinterestedness, the men behind these manifestations of capitalist class-consciousness little thought that they were jeopardizing the cause of democracy in Russia, and contributing to the anarchy which is going to cost America forty billion dollars and hundreds of thousands of lives. Yet, literally, without exaggeration or remoteness of influence, this is exactly what happened.

After the czar was deposed, it was natural that Russia should look to America, the great constitutional democracy, for example and guidance. An American committee for the encouragement of democracy in Russia was formed in New York, with some of the leading men in America included in its membership. Its work was abortive and soon came to naught. An American commission headed by Elihu Root, was sent to Russia. Post-haste, ahead of it, went a volunteer committee of Russian-American violent radicals, with the message that America is not a democracy and that leadership must not be trusted. If these men had merely talked vague generalities, they could have done little harm. But they went with these two specific instances—the lawless mobbing of working people by the business classes in Bisbee, and the vindictive misuse of the courts by the organized business classes of San Francisco—and with them they succeeded very largely in vitiating the usefulness of the Root mission. And then, the anchorage toward sound democracy in America being loosened, these identical persons, exported from America, proceeded to lead the Bolshevik uprising and to precipitate the chaos which now threatens Russia and the world.

These men were not just, of course, especially in the Mooney case, which distinctly has two sides to it. In the Bisbee deportations they had a better case, and they successfully drew the analogy between Bisbee's lawless deportations and Germany's technically lawful though substantially inhuman deportations of Belgians. But the point is that a minor American wrong actually jeopardized American leadership at the crisis of the life of the world.

And, continuously, American democracy is going to be judged, not by Jeffersonian eighteenth-century standards of equal votes, but by twentieth-century standards of economic freedom. Every recrudescence in America of the nineteenth-century assumption of the right of the business class to rule the other classes is going to help convince the twentieth-century peoples that America is not a democracy. If we make ourselves efficient enough, we can fight, but unless we make ourselves democratic we cannot lead. And in this we have a responsibility not to ourselves, but to the world.

## FARMS LOANS \$29,824,000.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—Loans aggregating \$29,824,000 have been made to farmers by the 12 federal land banks in the six months since the farm loan system has been in full operation, according to the monthly report of the federal farm loan board.

We should work to make the American trade union movement more effective in national affairs to bring about organization of the common life in broader lines so that great opportunity shall come into the life of every human being.—American Federationist.

IS IT THE TRUTH? GENUINE GRAVELY IN THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY!

YES, AND THE NEW POUCH KEEPS IT FRESH AND GOOD TILL USED!



### GRAVELY'S CELEBRATED Chewing Plug

BEFORE THE INVENTION OF OUR PATENT AIR-PROOF POUCH GRAVELY PLUG TOBACCO MADE STRICTLY FOR ITS CHEWING QUALITY WOULD NOT KEEP FRESH IN THIS SECTION. NOW THE PATENT POUCH KEEPS IT FRESH AND CLEAN AND GOOD. A LITTLE CHEW OF GRAVELY IS ENOUGH AND LASTS LONGER THAN A BIG CHEW OF ORDINARY PLUG.

P. B. Gravely Tobacco Co. Danville, Va.

SEE THAT SMILE—BILL POSTER'S BILLBOARDS ARE SPREAD WITH MIGHTY PLEASING INFORMATION TODAY.

## U. S. POOR EMPLOYER

"Shall the nation's capital become a national sweatshop?" asks the Washington Herald in an editorial calling attention to low wages received by government employes.

"Uncle Sam is becoming the worst employer in the country, at a time, too, when workers in all other lines have been bettering their conditions, or at least striving to keep up with the cost of living," says this paper.

"Families of government employes in Washington are only able to live by the combined labor of all the members. Mothers and daughters must go out of the home to work. Nearly every government employe is doing extra work or trying to obtain it. Many serve as ushers in movie shows, as night watchmen, as sweepers and cleaners. The richest government official deliberately sweating his servants and playing the part of a parasite—leaving to others the burden of partly supporting them."

## NEW U. S. NAVAL ESTABLISHMENTS

### Clamoring for Labor; Mechanics Are Asked to Offer Services.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—For many years there have been few additions to the number of navy yards and stations in the United States, but the war has made necessary a considerable increase in our facilities for conducting naval operations.

The naval aircraft factory at Philadelphia, Pa., and the naval operating base at Hampton Roads, Va., have recently been completed and are now in full commission. In the course of preparation are a naval training station at Gulfport, Miss., and submarine bases at New London, Conn., and San Pedro, Cal. It will be noted that these two submarine bases are so situated as to add to the defenses of both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Located close to supplies of steel and coal is the projectile plant at Charles-

ton, W. Va., which is expected to be in operation soon after Jan. 1. The buildings erected for the exposition at San Diego, Cal., are serving a further use as a training station for the navy, and thousands of Uncle Sam's recruits are being made into sea fighters with these artistic structures as a base.

The whole navy yard service is, of course, humming with activity. There is a shortage of labor, however, in certain lines and ship construction and other work is suffering in consequence. Anglemishers, blacksmiths, framers, benders, machinists, power sewing machine operators (women), sailmakers, ship draftsmen, shipfitters, shipsmen, subinspectors of ordnance, and other mechanics and technical men are badly needed. The United States Civil Service commission is urging, as a patriotic duty, that persons trained in these lines offer their services to the government at this time of great need. Representatives of the Civil Service commission at the postoffices in all cities are giving full information and supplying application blanks. No written examinations are required.

# STREET CAR SERVICE TO NEW DULUTH AND GARY

Tuesday morning, January, 1, 1918, cars began running to Gary and New Duluth by way of Morgan Park and the new street subway under the railroad tracks which the Morgan Park company has constructed between the street car loop in Morgan Park and Commonwealth avenue. THE FARE IS 5c. All Gary-New Duluth cars will run to McCuen street in New Duluth.

The complete time card showing all regular cars to and from Morgan Park or New Duluth follows. The Sunday and holiday card was used on New Year's day:

East Bound		West Bound		East Bound		West Bound	
Leave McCuen St., New Duluth	Leave or Pass West Boulevard and 4th Street, Morgan Park	Leave 24th Ave. East and 4th Street	Pass 3rd Ave. West	Leave 21st Ave. West & Sup. St.	Leave McCuen St., New Duluth	Leave or Pass West Boulevard and 4th Street, Morgan Park	Leave 24th Ave. East and 4th Street
A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.
5:38	5:38	5:03	5:03	4:25	4:38	3:05	3:32
5:58	5:58	5:22	5:22	4:48	4:48	3:40	3:40
6:18	6:18	5:32	5:32	4:58	4:58	3:50	3:50
6:23	6:23	5:33	5:33	5:01	5:01	3:55	3:55
6:28	6:28	5:42	5:42	5:03	5:03	4:00	4:00
6:33	6:33	5:46	5:46	5:08	5:08	4:12	4:12
6:36	6:36	5:52	5:52	5:13	5:13	4:17	4:17
6:38	6:38	5:52	5:52	5:18	5:18	4:20	4:20
6:39	6:39	5:56	5:56	5:24	5:24	4:25	4:25
6:40	6:40	5:56	5:56	5:28	5:28	4:27	4:27
6:43	6:43	5:56	5:56	5:30	5:30	4:30	4:30
6:45	6:45	5:57	5:57	5:32	5:32	4:32	4:32
6:53	6:53	6:07	6:07	5:37	5:37	4:33	4:33
6:58	6:58	6:12	6:12	5:38	5:38	4:33	4:33
7:03	7:03	6:14	6:14	5:43	5:43	4:35	4:35
7:05	7:05	6:14	6:14	5:48	5:48	4:40	4:40
7:10	7:10	6:17	6:17	5:53	5:53	4:41	4:41
7:12	7:12	6:20	6:20	5:57	5:57	4:45	4:45
7:15	7:15	6:22	6:22	5:58	5:58	4:45	4:45
7:25	7:25	6:22	6:22	5:58	5:58	4:52	4:52
7:45	7:45	6:25	6:25	5:59	5:59	4:53	4:53
8:05	8:05	6:25	6:25	5:46	5:46	4:55	4:55
8:25	8:25	6:31	6:31	6:03	6:03	4:59	4:59
8:45	8:45	6:35	6:35	6:10	6:10	5:05	5:05
9:05	9:05	6:41	6:41	6:13	6:13	5:11	5:11
9:25	9:25	6:45	6:45	6:16	6:16	5:15	5:15
9:45	9:45	6:55	6:55	6:18	6:18	5:12	5:12
10:05	10:05	6:57	6:57	6:23	6:23	5:16	5:16
10:25	10:25	7:01	7:01	6:28	6:28	5:19	5:19
10:45	10:45	7:11	7:11	6:33	6:33	5:25	5:25
11:05	11:05	7:21	7:21	6:38	6:38	5:27	5:27
11:25	11:25	7:31	7:31	6:45	6:45	5:32	5:32
11:45	11:45	7:41	7:41	6:58	6:58	5:35	5:35
12:05	12:05	7:51	7:51	7:08	7:08	5:40	5:40
12:25	12:25	8:01	8:01	7:18	7:18	5:45	5:45
12:45	12:45	8:11	8:11	7:25	7:25	5:50	5:50
13:05	13:05	8:21	8:21	7:45	7:45	5:56	5:56
13:25	13:25	8:31	8:31	7:58	7:58	6:05	6:05
13:45	13:45	8:41	8:41	8:05	8:05	6:12	6:12
14:05	14:05	8:51	8:51	8:18	8:18	6:20	6:20
		9:01	9:01	8:25	8:25	6:25	6:25
		9:11	9:11	8:38	8:38	6:32	6:32
		9:21	9:21	8:45	8:45	6:38	6:38
		9:31	9:31	8:58	8:58	6:45	6:45
		9:41	9:41	9:12	9:12	6:52	6:52
		9:51	9:51	9:25	9:25	7:00	7:00
		10:01	10:01	9:32	9:32	7:08	7:08
		10:11	10:11	9:45	9:45	7:18	7:18
		10:21	10:21	9:58	9:58	7:25	7:25
		10:31	10:31	10:12	10:12	7:38	7:38
		10:41	10:41	10:25	10:25	7:45	7:45
		10:51	10:51	10:38	10:38	7:58	7:58
		11:01	11:01	10:52	10:52	8:12	8:12
		11:11	11:11	11:05	11:05	8:20	8:20
		11:21	11:21	11:18	11:18	8:32	8:32
		11:31	11:31	11:32	11:32	8:45	8:45
		11:41	11:41	11:45	11:45	8:58	8:58
		11:51	11:51	12:05	12:05	9:12	9:12
		12:01	12:01	12:12	12:12	9:25	9:25
		12:11	12:11	12:25	12:25	9:40	9:40
		12:21	12:21	12:32	12:32	9:52	9:52
		12:31	12:31	12:45	12:45	10:08	10:08
		12:41	12:41	12:52	12:52	10:20	10:20
		12:51	12:51	1:05	1:05	10:32	10:32
						10:45	10:45
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						11:45	11:45
						12:05	12:05

As there were several typographical errors in the time card published in the Herald Saturday evening, December 29th, that card should be disregarded.

# THE DULUTH STREET RAILWAY COMPANY

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