

Scott Nearing's Special Article

ENJOYING AND PAYING.

The American people take it for granted that a fortune is a great boon to a community. According to the commonly accepted line of reasoning the existence of a fortune is a sign of community prosperity. The more fortunes the greater the prosperity.

Leaving aside for the moment any consideration of the obvious fallacy which lies behind a system of social organizations that allows some of its members to live in comparative luxury and idleness while others—these are direct producers—exist for the most part either on the verge of poverty or in its depths, it is quite worth while to ask whether a fortune is a community blessing or a community curse.

The possessor of the fortune has in most cases secured titles to social values—that is, he has made himself master of the natural resources, of the franchises, of the opportunities upon which the people depend for work and livelihood. Once having the title to these special privileges, the owner is able to avail himself of the full monopoly power which is included in his ownership.

The question may be put in this way. Suppose there were no private owners of anthracite coal. Would there be any less coal in the ground? Would it be any harder to reach? Would it be any more expensive to mine? Would it cost the consumer any more? Obviously the answer to all of these questions is "no."

There are millions of acres of land still in the possession of the government, located in the Alaskas, in the Rockies, and in the Sierras, in which there is to be found all the minerals necessary to prosperity and upon which there are, in some cases, valuable growths of timber. These things now belong to the whole people, just

as the rivers, harbors and lakes belong to the whole people. Consequently no value is set upon them. Suppose, for example, that people had never learned the use of anthracite coal, and suppose that the little section of Pennsylvania in which most of the anthracite is deposited is still in the possession of the federal government. It would represent no value at all, and yet as soon as a method of utilizing the anthracite was discovered, the fourteen billion tons of unmined coal would acquire immediate economic importance.

Suppose that the right to mine this coal were leased by the government to the highest bidder on a royalty basis, or suppose that the government should mine the coal and dispose of it at cost to the people. In either case no private fortunes would be made out of the land, yet the coal would be utilized just as effectively and perhaps more so than it is under the present system. Yet so absurdly have economic truths been presented to the American people that they feel instinctively that the coal land is more valuable in the hands of private owners than it would be in the hands of the federal government.

Of course, it is more valuable to the private owners and perhaps that is the reason they have been so anxious to impress the point on the public imagination. Special privilege, privately owned represents a gain to the owner, but a loss to the community. The owner is able, through his privilege, to increase his wealth, but because of the private ownership, the community is compelled to pay more for the goods and services which it uses. The privileged enjoy—the community pays.

STARVING AMERICAN CHILDREN Starving children in Serbia, Greece, France and Belgium make a touching appeal to us. Even the starved children of Austria and Germany are commanding our attention. We organize, work and give to relieve their distresses and provide them with at least the simple necessities of life. America has starving children. The children's bureau places the number of "hot spots" at 15 and 25 per cent of our school children (3,000,000 to 5,000,000). These children are described by the comforting word, "undernourished." "Malnutrition" is a term less barbarous than "starvation."

The children's bureau report describes a well nourished child as one who "first of all, measures up to racial and family standards of his age in height and weight. He has good color, bright eyes—no blue or dark circles underneath them—and smooth, glossy hair. His carriage is good, his step elastic, his flesh firm, and his muscles well developed in disposition he is usually happy and good natured; he is brim full of life and animal spirits and is constantly active both physically and mentally. His sleep is sound, his appetite and digestion good, his bowels regular. He is, in short, what nature meant him to be before anything else—a happy, healthy young animal."

There is a standard to which all ambitious parents and all wise nations might well aspire. But in the great American metropolis, New York, and in investigation by the bureau of child hygiene made in the borough of Manhattan (March, 1918) showed that 17.3 per cent of the children were excellently nourished; 61.1 per cent were passably nourished; the remaining 21.6 per cent spent out over the United States, means millions of the child population denied an opportunity for that standard of good health which the children's bureau describes.

Millions of European children are facing a savage winter. Millions of American children are slowly starving to death. Europe is war-torn. The United States is ridden by an old man of the sea in the form of a financial system which provides the luxuries of life for a few tens of thousands while it condemns millions of children to the hell of slow starvation.

EARLY IN THE GAME. Henry Clay commented on the economic situation in the United States in a speech which he made to the senate in 1832. "A friend of mine in this city bought in Illinois last fall about 2,000 acres of this refuse land at the minimum price, for which he has lately refused \$6 per acre. It is a business, a very profitable business, at which fortunes are made in the new states to purchase these refuse lands and, without improving them, to sell them at large advances."

Clay was arguing to prove that the national domain was really valuable and not "refuse" land as one of his opponents had insisted. In those days of the early settlement of Illinois a land boom set the values at \$6 an acre. Henry Clay cited the incident to show how some men might get rich without working by buying and selling land. Little did he dream of the lengths to which that real estate speculation would lead.

Between 1900 and 1910 the value of Illinois farm lands increased 1,576 millions or 194 per cent in 10 years. A recent report carried in a New York financial paper notes sales of three farms at Champaign, Ill., for \$400 per acre; and another farm at Kankakee, 160 acres, for \$55,000 (\$35 per acre). For each dollar of additional land value, the users of land products pay 4 or 5 cents a year in rent or interest. On a billion dollars the annual charge is fifty million dollars.

If people could have known in 1832 the staggering burden of land value increases that were lying in wait for their descendants, they might well have saved this generation the labor that will be involved in converting so huge a special interest as that now represented by land-torism in the United States into a community benefit. Such a change can be made in one way, and only one. The land of the United States must belong to the people of the United States—just as the rivers and harbors do—and must be used, as the rivers and harbors are used, not for private profit, but for community benefit.

LABOR LEADERS

(Continued from Page One.)

senatorial questioner dealt with this theory, but it did not shake his conclusion. Mr. Plumb made reference to approaching revolution should "conservative labor forces" not secure concessions of the type embodied in his plan, and this occasioned more querying.

Is Only "Mere Bluff."

Mr. Stone attacked the Cummins bill in its entirety. Its committee on wages and working conditions, he said, was a "mere bluff," it cinched "bureaucratic control" on the roads; "distorted procedure of the interior state commerce commission in order to give the commission a mandate to fix rates on the basis of inflated capitalization," and it had a transportation board "just to take blame off gally railroad officials" for leaving "rights to labor."

Frankly violent, he said, were the provisions against strikes in interstate commerce. It contained an implied repeal of the Adamson eight-hour bill, and its division of railroad systems into 25 or 30 systems was "illogical and artificial."

EIGHT NEW TEACHERS APPOINTED BY BOARD

At the regular meeting of the school board last night, eight new teachers were appointed: Violet MacDonald, kindergarten; Bertha Malms, Sadie Murphy, Margaret McGrady, Anna M. Shields, Esther M. Leary, Margaret Johnston and Mary Crangle.

Bulletin Want Ads Get Result. Phone 52.

The Strangling of Persia by England; How Accomplished

(From Chicago Republican) Recent cable dispatches announced that, in return for a loan of several million dollars, Persia has agreed to recognize a virtual protectorate by England, including control of the Persian oil fields, railroads and harbors.

By the acquisition of Persia, which is the last step in a process of aggression which began over 40 years ago, England fills up the last gap in the chain uniting her vast continental holdings, reaching from the Atlantic coast of Africa to the Pacific coast of Asia. Briefly, this includes the whole southern and more fertile half of the continent of Asia, bounded on the north by Siberia and China, and, through England's acquisition of the former German African colonies, a clean sweep of the eastern half of Africa, from Cairo to the Cape of Good Hope.

A Journey of 10,000 Miles Through British Possessions. Starting from Cape Town, South Africa, a traveler could journey the entire distance of 5,000 miles to Alexander, at the mouth of the Nile, without passing under the British flag. He would traverse, successively, the cape territory, taken from Holland by conquest over 100 years ago; the former Boer republics of the Transvaal and Orange Free States, absorbed by England 20 years ago; the great district of Rhodesia, the former German East Africa, British East Africa, the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, for the possession of which France and England nearly went to war in 1895, and Egypt, annexed by England over the protests of its inhabitants, with the approval of the Paris peace conference.

Then, turning eastward at Alexandria, our traveler might journey for another 5,000 miles through a chain of Asiatic countries, every one of which is either openly owned by England, or politically and economically controlled as a "protectorate" or "sphere of influence," such as Hedjaz, Palestine, Mesopotamia, Persia, Afghanistan, Beluchistan, India, Burma, Siam, and the Malay states.

How England Controls Votes in League of Nations. In passing, it should be noted that, although no one would be so foolish as to claim that any one of these countries is an independent and sovereign nation, England has secured the admission of four of them to the League of Nations, where their votes, added to those of England, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, will give England control of nine votes in the League of Nations, as against the single lone vote allowed the United States.

Even the Philippine Islands, although they have their own national legislature, are not given a vote in the League of Nations, notwithstanding the further fact that the Philippine Islands have a population, according to the International Year Book for 1918, of 9,503,271, as against Canada's 7,206,643, Australia's 4,895,394, and New Zealand's 1,102,295.

Moreover, in the case of India, Hedjaz, Siam, and Persia, all of which are to be full-fledged members of the league, the term "self-governing dominion" cannot be taken seriously, and their votes will simply be cast for them by England. India, indeed, at the present time, through the operation of the so-called Rowlatt bills, is a nation of 315,000,000, virtually in jail, and the term "self-determination" with reference to India and England's other subject nations is nothing but a ghastly joke.

Persia's Fate Like That of Egypt. The manner in which Persia has been swallowed by England is closely paralleled to that in the case of Egypt. Like Egypt, Persia is one of the oldest nations in the world, with a culture, laws, and literature of its own dating back to the dawn of history.

Like Egypt, too, Persia has preserved unbroken its distinctive national life and civilization through all the long centuries. Even during the middle ages, when the night of barbarism was upon the face of most

GRADUALLY WAKING

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neither the steel employes nor the employers, but the great third party, the public.

Judge Gary, after receiving a telegram from Senator Kenyon, telephoned that he could not appear next Thursday, and at his request his appearance was postponed until Wednesday of next week. Fitzpatrick and his aides, however, are expected to be present Thursday.

Senator Thomas said the refusal of Judge Gary to receive representatives of the workers was "unjustified and unwise," and that the strike was "one of the developments that will put American conditions to their supreme test." He added that the senate investigation would require too much time to be of service.

Senator Kenyon said industry was in "a rather ticklish" situation and needed every steady influence. He reports that 200,000 men are on strike are true, he added, congress should "not sit idly by and do nothing." The day is gone by when either capital or labor has the right to precipitate such conditions on the country.

CONCILIATION BOARDS.

(Special United Press Wire.) Washington, Sept. 21.—Government conciliation boards may grow out of the steel strike hearings which begin before the senate labor committee tomorrow. Senator Kenyon suggested. Although he is opposed to compulsory arbitration as a general remedy for industrial ills, Senator Kenyon said voluntary conciliation boards to investigate conditions between labor and capital aid lay the facts before the public might be the outcome.

London.—Charged with assaulting a young woman walking with her friend, a Maidenhead man pleaded that he was drunk and "must have thought it was his misis."

and Russia) fomented internal disorder; they encouraged the semi-wild tribesmen to make raids, and supported the rebellious partisans of the deposed shah. In the following year Great Britain protested that the southern trade routes were being disturbed by brigands and that unless order was restored within three months a local police would be organized under British officers at the expense of the Persian revenue customs.

The reply of parliament was that the disorders were due to the presence of Russian troops and to the encouragement given by foreigners to the deposed shah, who was constantly invading the country.

Persia Appeals to United States. The internal disorders fomented in Persia by England and Russia so disorganized the country's finances that the distracted parliament turned to the United States, the only country which it dared trust, for assistance in reorganizing its fiscal affairs.

In response to the appeal of the Persian parliament, President Taft recommended to Persia the services of a young American, Mr. W. Morgan Shuster, who went out to Persia.

Mr. Shuster was received with great cordiality by the Persian parliament, which appointed him treasurer-general of the country, with large powers, including practically entire control of the finances and administration.

England and Russia Make Life Unbearable for Shuster. Mr. Shuster was a young man of ability and enthusiasm. He entered upon the work of reorganizing the financial affairs of the country, and began to achieve wonderful success. But, to quote from the International Encyclopedia again: "His efforts met the constant opposition of Great Britain and Russia."

Indeed, Shuster's good work for Persia aroused such insane hatred and persecution on the part of England and Russia that life soon became unbearable for him. "Parliament," continues the International Encyclopedia, "stood by Mr. Shuster, who declared that the restoration of order, and the denunciation of the efforts of the powers to checkmate his efforts for reform.

"On Nov. 29, 1911, an ultimatum was sent to the Persian government by Russia, demanding the dismissal of Mr. Shuster and the employment of a new treasurer general to be selected by Russia and England. "Parliament refused the Russian demand, and a body of Russian troops was dispatched to enforce the ultimatum. Persia was in a critical situation. She was not in a condition



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BAIL IS WANTED WITHOUT FAIL FOR THE MEN WHO ARE IN JAIL Remember! Hundreds of workers are literally rotting in the jails of this country because of their activity in the cause of Labor. Many of these victims of the world-wide class war are awaiting trial—and have been waiting for many weary months for the speedy trial guaranteed them by the United States Constitution. Others were tried and sentenced to terms ranging from one to twenty years during the period of war hysteria, and appeals in their cases are now being taken from King Capital drunk to King Capital sober.

Some of the prisoners have escaped by death, others are dying, many have contracted tuberculosis and other loathsome diseases, and all are suffering untold agony from close confinement in the fetid atmosphere, from insanitary and unhealthy surroundings, from poor and insufficient food, and from inhuman treatment accorded them by brutalized guards. Past attempts to secure bail for all of these workers in jail have not been attended with great success because of the lack of system. Individuals sought to secure bail for their personal friends, and failing to get the necessary amount they returned what had been collected, thus making their entire efforts fruitless. This was the condition facing the delegates from all the western district organizations of the Industrial Workers of the World when they met in conference on July 3 and 4 in Seattle. The delegates solved the problem by an unflinching means—Organization.

A Bail and Bond Committee was elected to systematize the work of collecting bail and a nation-wide drive has been started to secure the loan of cash. Liberty Bonds and property sufficient to gain the release of all class war prisoners. With practically no advertising Six Thousand Dollars were raised in the first five days. More than Two Hundred Thousand Dollars are needed to release those now being held for their Labor activity.

Sums of Five Dollars and up are accepted as loans, and all cash, Liberty Bonds or property is tabulated in triplicate, one copy going to the person making the loan, another being retained by the Bail and Bond Committee, and the third being filed with the Trades Union Savings and Loan Association of Seattle, with whom all funds, bonds and property schedules will be banked.

Only those who have been proved loyal and trustworthy are being sent out as collectors. Everything possible has been done to safeguard this bail and bond fund, from the selection of the committee to the choice of the bank. A portion of the fund is being set aside to return loans on demand in case persons who have made them are forced to leave the country or have other reasons for making a withdrawal.

Bail will be used to release specified persons where that is desired, but otherwise the release will take place by a blind drawing of names, thus insuring fairness to all prisoners. By common consent the men in Wichita, Kansas, jail will first be released, as they have been held the longest and jail conditions are worse there than anywhere else in the entire country. This bail has nearly all been subscribed, and the men will be made accredited collectors when released, and their speedy release will help to set others at liberty.

No necessity exists for argument. Your duty is clear. If your ears are not deaf to a call from your class, if you feel that an injury to one is an injury to all, if there burns within you the faintest spark of humanity, you will see that the men do not remain behind the bars an unnecessary minute because you withheld your support.

THEY ARE WILLING TO GIVE THEIR LIVES FOR YOU! ARE YOU WILLING TO LOAN YOUR DOLLARS TO THEM? Send all cash, checks and bonds to John L. Enodah, Secretary of Bail and Bond Committee, Box W, Ballard Station, Seattle. Property schedules should be filed with Attorney Ralph S. Pierce, Room 607 Central Building, Seattle. Butte Office, 318 N. Wyoming St., A. S. Embree, Bond and Bail delegate.