



SOME RADICAL IDEAS OF HIGH COST OF LIVING

Convention at Washington, D. C., Is Addressed By Single Taxors.

CONFERENCE ON COST OF LIVING. At the Conference on the High Cost of Living at Washington, on July 31, Frederic C. Howe spoke in part as follows:

All over the world peoples and rulers are talking of liberty. Emperors, kings, Tories and aristocrats are justifying war in new terms, terms of liberty. Never before in the history of the world was this true. Liberty has forced itself into the mouths of men who heretofore used it only for their own aggrandizement. Now they are compelled to widen its meaning to include all people, workers, peasants, serfs.

But there can be no liberty under economic feudalism, whether it be the feudalism of the eighteenth century or the feudalism of the twentieth. Feudalism has changed its form, it has not changed its essence. And the tenant in the city pay feudal tribute today, just as they did three hundred years ago. Then they gave personal labor, now they give cash. The earth and all its fullness is owned. And the laws of God are set at defiance when millions are born into the world under economic subjection to those who own the resources of the earth.

Economic freedom must accompany political freedom. Otherwise there is no freedom. Freedom of access to God's earth is the first claim of democracy. Mexico discovered it. The peasants of Russia found it. And the peoples are giving the earth to those who use it under titles similar to those of the Jews 3,000 years ago. For the laws of Moses were the laws of equal opportunity to the earth, just as were the laws of all early peoples.

And taxation is the agency through which permanent liberty can come. For through taxation, those who hold the earth by title, or to give it must pay for their privilege, or give them up to others. Taxation of land values will release land and mines. It will enlarge production. It will destroy monopoly. It will free the tenant worker and the miner, and permit them to labor for themselves. Taxation has been used for privilege, for protective tariffs and in many other ways. The new democracy which is coming has in its hands a liberty tax, the taxation of land values. It will open a new way to even the poorest and will, when applied, insure equal opportunity for all. And democracy the world over has been inspired for generations by that phrase of Jefferson's, "Equal opportunity for all, and special privilege for none," just as it has by the French Revolution with its "Liberty, equality, fraternity." Taxation of land values was the rallying cry of the French Revolution. It should be the rallying cry of democracy in the New World.

Louis F. Post addressed the conference, saying in part: Let me illustrate with coal deposits. Coal is a good subject for such illustration in these war days. The labor cost of mining coal has increased but little; but the price of coal has increased enormously. Now if only some coal deposits were monopolized and the rest were available and free, open without let or hindrance to anybody, coal monopolists could not increase the price of coal. If they tried to do so, the unused deposits would be resorted to, and that would keep coal prices down to the actual cost of production. This is what is meant when it is said that increased land values do not make higher prices for commodities.

We can hardly avoid a recognition, however, of the fact that all our coal land is monopolized. It follows that users of coal are practically at the mercy of the monopolists of that land for coal prices. And are we not in pretty much the same situation with regard to the prices of all the other necessities of life? They all come from land just as truly as the coal does. Well, if all the necessities of life come from land, and all land is monopolized, what is the use of looking any further for an explanation of the high cost of living until we have rid ourselves of land monopoly? Remove very other cause and if you still find a monopoly of land to continue, the people as a whole will get no benefit.

Is there a shortage of land? Not at all. We have an abundance of land of all kinds, but it is held out of use. How shall we rid ourselves of this abuse of the privilege of land ownership? Think a moment. Taxation will do it. Tax the values of those lands by direct taxation as heavily as you are taxing the necessities of life by indirect taxation. Put as heavy a burden upon the monopolists of natural resources by direct taxation, and our lands would be either abandoned by their monopolists or put to immediate use.

The conference adopted resolutions declaring that one per cent of the people draw nearly \$2,000,000,000 net amount annually, that land speculators pay but a trifle of the costs of the war, while with the exception of the taxes on incomes and excess profits most of the war taxes are levied on workers. The resolutions then state: Resolved, that the Conference on the High Cost of Living favors a Federal tax of one per cent on the assessed value of all land and a tax of two per cent on the assessed value of land that is not improved, the proceeds to be used for the war, in place of further taxes upon industry and workers, and as a means of liberating the land for the people, and increasing the food supply, and also.

Resolved, that as all the natural resources of the country, coal, oil, ores, timber, land and water power, have been monopolized, and a very limited ownership, and the owners are receiving huge profits from the use of these resources for the use of all, while governmental regulation of prices alone, has proven and must prove ineffective, we favor immediate legislation empowering the Federal Government to take over and to operate any or all of these natural resources for the benefit of the people, to be paid only for their actual production investment but nothing for profit, and that the products thereof be sold at cost, at least during the war.

WILL FARMERS STICK? In speaking of the co-operative spirit among farmers of the Northwest, F. B. Wood, manager of the livestock department of the Equity Co-operative Exchange, recently said: "The progress that farmers are making toward the co-operative marketing of farm products is wonderful." "Less than one year ago we opened at South St. Paul a live stock selling agency that is owned and controlled by farmers and in no way connected with the South St. Paul Live Stock Exchange. In spite of the fact that we were repeatedly advised that we could not operate independently at South St. Paul, we have grown steadily until last month, July, we handled more than 17 other firms on this market and in volume of business we have passed some of the old established firms, operating on this market. The rapid growth of our business should be proof enough to any livestock grower that we are giving as good or better service than any other firm on this market and getting prices that are just as satisfactory.

"Our main object in entering this market was to eliminate the speculator's profit between the farmer who ship feeder and stocker or cattle and feeding and breeding sheep to the South St. Paul market and the farmer or feeder who comes to buy the same. As an illustration of what we have been able to do, Mr. Carl Hagen of Reeder, North Dakota, recently shipped three carloads of cattle to South St. Paul. The bulk of these cattle were sold to Mr. J. Fox, of Simpson, Minnesota, and after the transaction was completed, Mr. Fox and Mr. Hagen traveled through the yards, finding out what other shippers were receiving for the stock they shipped in and what other farmers were paying for the stock which they purchased and after the trip thru the yards they decided that the speculator's profit had been about equally divided between them. Mr. Hagen receiving more than other shippers had received for the same class of cattle, Mr. Fox being able to purchase for a little less than other farmers." Mr. Wood takes pleasure in stating that incidents like this one are becoming common at South St. Paul.

Sweeping Powers Given Wilson When Congress Passed Food Bill

Establishes Government Control and Prohibits Hoarding and Speculation - Provides For One Administrator, Who Will Be Herbert C. Hoover.

Smoot Amendment Edited. Other provisions of the bill fix a minimum price for wheat beginning next year at not less than \$2 per standard bushel; provide for coal and coke price fixing, commanding and government operation of factories and mines producing necessities; for government purchase, sale and regulation of various necessities and for federal licensing of agencies producing and handling them.

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Provisions of Measure. The measure carries drastic prohibitions. Summarized, it makes the following provisions: Forbids government agents from using their influence in letting contracts to concerns in which they are interested.

Declares it unlawful to destroy, waste, permit preventable deterioration, hoard, monopolize, discriminate, make unfair rates, conspire to limit production, production, harvesting, manufacture, supplying, storage or dealing, restrict the supply or distribution, prevent manufacture or production or exact excessive prices with respect to necessities.

Requires licenses to do business under regulations to be made by the president. Provides that hoarded necessities may be seized and sold by the government.

Authorizes the president to requisition supplies for the army and navy. Puts Wilson In Business. Authorizes the president to buy and sell wheat, flour, meal, beans and potatoes.

Authorizes the president to regulate and operate any factory, packing house, oil pipe line, mine or other plant and sell the products. Authorizes the president to prevent injurious speculation and regulate exchanges.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN IMPORTANT

Extra Efforts To Be Made To Have Exhibits At State Fair Bigger And Better Than Ever—Style Show To Eclipse Anything Yet Held—Children's Contests To Interest Many.

Women and children will take a most important part in the Minnesota state fair, which is to be held September 3 to 8 and which, this year, is to be conducted as a Food Training Camp in the voluntary service of the government.

For years past the women and children have done their share to make the Minnesota State Fair the success it has been, but this year, possibly due to war conditions, they will be called upon, as has every body else, to put forth extra efforts to make conditions as near normal as possible.

Because of a shortage of materials for the manufacture of high grade clothing it has become necessary for manufacturers to turn their attention to other materials besides pure wools and other fabrics, which, before the war, were easily obtainable.

Big Style Show. For some time past the women who will have charge of the exhibits in the women's department have been busily engaged planning the affairs and, while definite plans have not been announced as yet it is certain that among other things to be seen in the women's building will be a style show, which will eclipse anything of the kind yet attempted at the Minnesota State Fair. Living models will be used to display the very latest styles.

Plain sewing will be given special attention this year. This feature is particularly important because the war has brought about conditions that have necessitated doing away with frills and fancy things and has replaced them with the simpler and plainer wearables.

Demonstrations will be held along the line of how to do plain sewing and how to utilize different materials which will come into more common use as time goes on.

Boys and Girls' Camps. In the children's department there will be many features of interest. Among these will be the camp for farm boys and also one for girls. Winners in last year's contests for farm boys in raising pigs, corn and potatoes will contest for honors at the fair. They will make up the farm boys' camp and during the week will live right on the fair grounds. Great rivalry is said to exist this year and it is expected the judges will have more difficulty in selecting the winners than for some time.

The girls, who will contest in bread-making and canning, will also have their share of attention. These girls have already been selected in the various counties, where they have won prizes and this year, with government officials present, they will doubtless outdo themselves to produce the best possible results. The girls will be quarantined at the State Agricultural School near the Fair Grounds.

Besides these contests there will also be the annual spelling contest open to both boys and girls, by which the champion speller of the state will be determined. This contest, too, has always attracted lots of attention and this year will be no exception.

THE BASHFUL VIOLET

By Charles Olive, Willmar.

A violet was blowing Beside the dusty way; A bashful little flower; She smiled in sun and shower, And shed a perfume sweet As Venus love glowing.

Her eye of blue resembled The morning sky in June. So winning, pure and airy, She charmed me like a fairy; Her beauty struck my soul, And that with passions trembled.

I loved that timid flower Beside the dusty way; For her world was brighter, The shadows all were lighter; She gave a joy unknown To tender garden bowers.

But by the way in sadness Now droops her lovely form; No more she smiles to greet me; No more she smiles to greet me; The world, therefore, has less Of beauty, charm and gladness.

What love or beauty profers, It brighter makes the world, Though by the wayside only It lives obscure and lonely; When something of it dies The world less sunshine offers.

Editor Was Surprised. Non-partisan league meetings were held in Emmet and Winfield the past week and both were attended by large numbers. The writer drove by the Emmet school house during the evening and was surprised to see the large number of automobiles parked nearby at a time when farmers are exceedingly busy with the harvest.

When we think how difficult it is to get people out to attend a school meeting or other public meetings it looks as if there must be something especially attractive about these non-partisan league meetings to draw crowds at such a busy time.—Olivia times.

Four at Fort Riley. Besides Drs. Canfield and Hengstler, our county has two others in the medical department camp, U. S. A. at Fort Riley, Kansas, viz.: David Swanson, son of J. A. Swanson of Mamre, and Henry Abrahamson, son of N. N. Abrahamson of this city. The latter has taken a course in chiropractic.

—John A. Johnson of Atwater transacted business here last Thursday.

FOOD BILL BROUGHT ON 100-DAY WAR

Here is the history of the hundred days' war over the food control bill:

April 30.—Representatives Lever and Senator Gore introduced in the house and senate respectively a joint resolution to stimulate agriculture and facilitate distribution of agricultural products.

May 1-2.—Hearings were held in the agricultural committee of both houses.

May 3.—The house committee divided the resolution into two bills, food survey and food control bills, and reported the former favorably. This report was reconsidered, and the bill was amended.

May 7.—Survey bill again reported.

May 23.—Passed by the house. June 2.—Passed by the senate and sent to conference June 29. It was agreed to Aug. 1 and accepted by the house Aug. 3.

May 22.—Food control bill introduced reported in house; withdrawn and reported again June 11.

June 23.—Passed by the house. July 25.—Taken up in senate. July 21.—Passed by the senate and sent to conference July 25. July 23.—Conference met.

Aug. 1.—Conference agreed to report.

Aug. 3.—Accepted by the house. Aug. 8.—Food control and food survey bills accepted by senate.

THE PEOPLE. The government, by the strict enforcement of the anti-hoarding provisions and by exercising its right given under the bill to buy and sell fuel, wheat, flour, beans and potatoes, to regulate speculation and to license agencies engaged in production, transportation and distribution of necessities, can undoubtedly revitalize the cost of living in this country, to say nothing of other broad powers which are granted.

FLOATING TRAINING SCHOOLS. Marine League Wants Every State to Maintain a Ship. As a first step toward increasing the supply of American seamen sufficient to cope with the submarine peril and, after the war, to meet the needs of an increased merchant marine the National Marine League of the United States appointed a committee to confer with the United States shipping board and the department of commerce to work out for increasing the number of nautical training ships.

NOTICE OF LIS PENDENS

State of Minnesota, County of Kandiyohi, ss. District Court, Twelfth Judicial District. W. C. Wallis, Plaintiff, vs. Ida Maria Wickblom, also all other persons unknown, claimants of right, title, estate, interest or lien in the real estate described in the Complaint herein.

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in and is pending in the above named court, a complaint of the above named plaintiff against the above named defendants; that the object of said action is to quiet title to the lands hereinafter described, and to establish plaintiff's claim against any claim of defendants thereto, and forever bar said defendants from any right or title in the said lands adverse to plaintiff; and that said action affects the said real estate described as follows, to-wit: South half of south-east quarter (S1-2 of S21-4) of Section Twenty-seven (27), Township One-hundred-and-wooded (11), North of Range Thirty-four (34), West of the 5th Principal Meridian, situate in the County and State aforesaid.

Notice is further given that the City Council of this City has the intention and purpose to cause the said improvements to be made and to cause the said streets to be graded, as prayed for, and also to cause the abutting property to be benefited by the said improvement to be assessed for the cost and expense of the said improvement, and have further fixed the time and place for the hearing upon the said petition at 2 o'clock p. m. on August 27th, 1917, at the Council Chambers in the City Hall Building in said City.

Notice is further given that on that day and at that place all parties interested in the said property, and whose property will be affected by the said improvement, and whose property will be assessed for the said work or in any manner affected by the grading of said streets may then and there appear and be heard in said matter.

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