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A Kingly Donation

Continued from Page 8

is the worst form of bonus to extend to any company. Money once given is gone and that is the end of it, but land is continually advancing in price with the increase of population and the growth of

industry. It is very probable that before the company finally disposes of all its land holdings the shareholders will have realized the sum of four or five hundred millions of dollars.

And I would not, upon this point, have you fall into the common and popular fallacy that this gift of land does not represent any real sacrifice on the part of the people of Canada. Many people say: "Oh the land!—that was nothing! It had no value till the railway was built." This is undoubtedly true, but had the people not come into the West to settle upon the land neither it nor the railway would have possessed one dollar in value. I would also have you remember that the purchasers of this land held by the company pay for it in actual hard cash, or more properly speaking, in the cash which they receive for the product of their labor. Every atom of wealth in the world is the product of days labor. Land is not wealth, though commonly treated as such, nor is it capital—though capitalized because it is not created by labor. Nor is the value of land as such created by any labor bestowed upon the land. Rather, land is given value solely by the needs of men, because of the increase of population, and not as the result of anything that the owner does.

So in the case of the C. P. R. land all of the value that attaches to it has been created by the people who live in Western Canada. And yet if the people of Western Canada, the people who have created the value want to use this land, they will, before all of it comes into use, have paid the Canadian Pacific Company the tremendous ransom of four or five hundred millions of dollars.

Paid in Wheat

What does this mean? Do the people pay over the actual money? No! They pay over in tribute those goods and commodities which the money represents and of which it is but the token—helpless in itself to satisfy a single human need or desire. If the people of Western Canada pay the four hundred millions to the C. P. R. for the land, a large portion of which is still held out of use and in an unproductive state, they will in very truth pay the C. P. R. company goods to the equivalent in value of four hundred millions of bushels of wheat at one dollar per bushel. Four hundred millions of bushels! Think of it! Do you know what it means? It means four hundred thousand cars of wheat, the entire crop of four years, representing a train nearly four thousand miles long. How many days of long, dreary, cheerless labor, without reward or hope of reward, does this spell to thousands upon our Canadian prairies? How many tired, aching backs? How many desolate winters? How much of self-denial of the little things that go to gladden life's way with song? How much of their labor do the toilers of this west give to those who toil not nor spin. Sir William Mackenzie, you are to be pitied. Your affluence is wrought in the sweat of other men's labor. You do not know it. But I know it—and they shall know it. The issue has been joined in a world-wide movement, the significance of which reaches far. Will you help the under man in the struggle, imminent and certain, which will make your fortune and such as yours impossible? Little do our Stratherns, Mountstephens and Mackenzies understand the purport of their activities.

Opportunity Denied

Is it strange we have poverty while untold thousands of unemployed or ill-employed are barred of access to the millions of fertile acres upon which they could employ themselves in wealth production? What does this stupendous wealth men have gotten mean? Have some sown where others have reaped? I leave it to you to ponder. If four hundred men had each saved \$500 per year since the Christian era they would not now possess among them the wealth we have been talking about—four hundred millions.

But the significance of the gift to the Canadian Pacific company is not alone in that which the people of Canada have been and are now forced to contribute to the aggrandizement of the capitalists who own the shares. There is another point of equal import. The people every year must contribute in exorbitant freight rates the amount of wealth necessary to pay dividends upon the huge capitalized value of Canadian Pacific shares.

(Note.—This is the second of a series of articles by Mr. Scott showing how privileged wealth preys upon the people.)

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