

TAXATION OF WAR FORTUNES IS PROPOSED

Sir John Anderson Says Five Thousand Million Dollars Can be Obtained in Britain.

SAME SCHEME MAY BE TRIED IN THIS COUNTRY

Would Make All Profiteers Disgorge Money Obtained Because of War Conditions, With Exception of \$25,000

By Alexander M. Thompson.
(Expert Writer on Social and Labor Topics.)

The clearest point of light which has yet been shed upon the darkness of our financial problems shines in the scheme submitted to the Parliamentary committee on war fortunes taxation by Sir John Anderson, chairman of the board of inland revenue. Sir John confidently claims that by this scheme five thousand million dollars can be recovered from 340,000 persons whose wealth has increased by more than \$25,000 since 1914.

He admits difficulties in collection. But he suggests that payment might be made by extended instalments and he adopts the suggestion that "there might be a limited partnership with the government," by which the latter's claim would be covered by an interest in the business or property involved.

Sir John Anderson, of course, does not pretend that the scheme will by itself solve our financial difficulties, but, as he says, "it opens up a wide vista." It is a base from which many avenues may diverge. Its importance lies in the fact that it definitely establishes the principle that there ought to be no private property in the margins, surpluses, and increments, which have accidentally resulted from the abnormal conditions of war.

Many men have made fortunes out of these margins simply because they could not help themselves. Contracts with any sort of margin, however narrow, become sources of huge profit through the unprecedented vastness of the State's repetition of orders. It is true that some unscrupulous money-grabbers deliberately exploited the opportunity, but while some were born profiteers, and some achieved profit, it is a fact to be charitably remembered upon them.

Traders made profits in spite of themselves, through the scarcity of shipping, and the fluctuation of international exchanges. The shortage of houses has automatically increased the capital of property-owners. And now, in the steady upward-sweep of values, we are all so "crowded" by prices that we are all impelled, in self-protection, to push our claims, whether for our labor or our belongings. Within our possibilities we are all profiteering. Everybody is grubbing, yet "everybody's doing it." And the curious part of it is that most of us do not know that we are doing it.

Thus, among the heap of letters received in reply to my recent article on house-profitteering, were a great number which, while expressing deep sympathy with my views and bitter anger against the profiteers, at the same time showed most cheerful readiness to "do a bit" on their own. One lady, for instance, wrote from a little Midland town to say how awfully sorry she was for the poor officer whose futile efforts to find a flat I had described, and then offered, very kindly, to let him have two rooms in her house. The rooms, she mentioned, were not luxuriously furnished but "homely."

And "we have no bath, but that could be managed all right." She was good enough to offer these two rooms for \$50 a week. Dear lady! While landlords of houses at low rentals have been legally prevented from profiteering, the unrestricted tenants have done a roaring trade by subletting rooms at fancy prices. If the restriction on landlords is to cease, the position of the homeless will become desperate indeed.

In the case of business premises the rents are soaring to utterly inaccessible heights. I hear of a man who pays \$200 a year for permission to sit

on a camp-stool in a city court near a telephone. London theatre rents are going up by leaps and bounds; one west end house, which was let a few years ago for \$350 a week, was sub-let for \$750 a week, and is now sub-sub-let for \$1,150.

The profiteers are not only the "capitalists." The Lancashire cotton operatives, who have been making nice little fortunes by gambling in cotton shares, have been just as ready to seize their opportunity as the ship-owners or woolen manufacturers, and would doubtless be just as indignant if they were invited to refund. But it must be obvious to every thinking person that we cannot all continue to make an honest living by picking each others' pockets. This mad scramble for fortune must stop. Very well, let us stop it.

Sir John Anderson suggests a way to begin. He proposes to leave the holders in possession of whatever increase of wealth they have acquired since 1914 up to the very generous limit of \$25,000 and to allow rebates of \$5,000 for a wife and \$2,500 for each child. But this start, as he says, opens up other possibilities. It will probably lead to the amendment of the Finance Act to make it include unearned increments in house property. The should lead to the control of prices for house-building materials. It will almost certainly lead to the limitation of dividends and profit on capital.

The national emergency is urgent. Unless something is done prices will continue to rise, popular discontent will increase, production will still further decline, and we shall drift to tragic smash and revolution.

We proved ourselves capable during the war of sacrificing our individual interests for the general weal. We developed a national unity in which the vast majority of personal egoisms were cheerfully surrendered to the safety and welfare of the State. Every man and woman—with the eternal contemptible exception of a small bunch of cranks and dastards—realized that their fortunes were bound up with the fortunes of the Nation, and the people were freely offered for the good of Britain. Neither the aristocracy, nor the middle classes, nor the toiling masses, stilled their blood and courage for the common advantage.

Is the spirit dead that won the war? I do not—cannot—believe it. We are sore, disgruntled, out of temper, but we are still the Nation of the tremendous volunteer sacrifice of 1914. Is the Nation of the men of Mons, Ypres and Jutland. What we have to do is to revive the national spirit of the war.

Statesmen, employers, working masses, all are equally concerned in reshaping the social structure and in building up the new order for which we were inspired to hope in the darkest days of our bloody stress and trial. It is the highest interest of all classes that we should realize that "country" is not for heroes to live in, which was the compensation and reward of the Nation's agony; and he is a traitor to the Commonwealth who allows personal prejudice or private interest to divert him from that aim. All honest people desire to abolish the hunger, rage, filth, disease, and waste of poverty. Even some who are not too ostentatiously honest must recognize the social danger of leaving unbridled the old pre-war gap between the flaunting parade of insolent luxury and the feeble, miserable misery of the slums. Whatever we can do to prevent starvation and gloom, to equalize the two extremes to a common level of healthy and cheerful endeavor, is truly no hardship to any but a blessing to all.

Our purpose should be to humanize the State in all its ramifications. That the time is for ever past when a vainglorious, strutting puppet of a king could boastfully proclaim, that "the State is I." We have to make them realize by beautiful experience that the State is not an appanage of royal privilege, nor a grinding political machine devised for the furtherance of ambitious vanities, but that it represents the beneficent majesty of their collective soul.

Above all, we must restore the human relationship between the captains and the rank and file of industry.

Too long have the employers been the mere driving power of a callous capitalism, with no more personal interest in the welfare and content of the drudges than in the efficiency of their machinery. Too long has it been the function to the one side to exploit, and of the other to resent and resist. There must always be trained managing and administrative officials, whether appointed by Labor or by Capital, but there is neither reason nor health in making them tin gods, sans heart, sans feeling, sans sympathy or relationship with their humble helpers. That had old way leads to friction, to canny methods of production, bitter strikes, mutual hostility, and eventual ruin.

The common people are not all slackers and shirkers, who care for nothing but beer and wages. The upper and middle classes are not all idle parasites, conscienceless profiteers, and greedy blood-suckers. If they sometimes appear so it is because conditions have made them seem so. But the camaraderie of the trenches showed that the bitter old class distinction is accidental, not essential. Our business is to restore and develop the humanities.

TO A SOVEREIGN.
Lines written on finding one after many years in an old coat pocket.—(After Robert Burns.)
Wee glitterin' sonny lookin' quid,
Sae that's where a' this time ye've hid!
Ye mak' me wonder what I did
In days of old,
Before we finally got rid
O' honest gold.

Ma conscience! but it seems tae bad
The bonnie drinks I micht ha' had,
I wuid ha' been a happy lad
Wi'oot much trouble.

For you—the thoct near drives me mad—
Were then worth double!

—Bystander.

Here's One You Can Spring.
Once in a while a newspaper prints something extraordinarily true. We do not know who was responsible for this one in the Toronto Globe, the of New boy or the editor, but it is worth passing on.

According to the Globe's wit: "The present prices may be termed, correctly, Prohibition Prices—they never take a drop!"

So Europe no country outside Russia is a large gold-producer.

TO SETTLE TROUBLES IN RUHR DISTRICT

Extension of Time to Discuss Proposed Terms Has Been Arranged.

Dusseldorf, April 1.—(By the A. P.)—An agreement was reached at Muenster last night upon a compromise arrangement for settling the troubles in the Ruhr District, according to the editor of the Moderate Labor newspaper in this city.

The reported compromise extends the time for acceptance of the Bielefeld agreement with an added clause provided for amnesty for those concerned in the Ruhr uprising until noon tomorrow. The executive committee of the workingmen here had not been informed of this extension of the action, said to have been taken at Muenster, however, and its meeting to discuss the expected terms of the agreement was postponed until this evening.

According to this Muenster report the Bielefeld agreement is to be carried out in its entirety with the change regarding amnesty, provided the required action is taken by the workingmen by noon on Friday.

TWO—UNDERGIRT

Simple Way To Take Off Fat

There can be nothing simpler than taking a convenient little tablet four times each day until your weight is reduced to normal. That's all—just purchase a case of Marmola Prescription Tablets from your druggist (or if you prefer, send \$1 to Marmola Co., 864 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Mich.) and follow directions. No dieting, no exercise. Eat what you want—be as lazy as you like and keep on getting slimmer. And the best part of Marmola Prescription Tablets is their harmlessness. That is your absolute safeguard.

RULES FOR SUCCESS FROM MANY SOURCES

(Exchange.)

Marshall Field & Co.'s rules for success: To do the right thing, at the right time, in the right way; to do some things better than they were ever done before; to eliminate error; to know both sides of the question; to work for the love of the work; to anticipate requirements; to develop resources; to recognize no impediment; to master circumstances; to act from reason rather than rule; to be satisfied with nothing short of perfection.

The rules of various individuals for success: Give your body and soul plenty of sunlight.—Tayer. Deny self for self's sake.—Franklin.

Put all of your eggs in one basket and watch that basket.—Carnegie. Employ an hour and a half every other evening in some important and constructive cultivation, of the mind.—Arnold Bennett.

Control yourself. Anger is too valuable to use except on special occasions.—Joseph H. Appel. Be of good courage; that is the main thing.—Thoreau.

Never tell business lies.—Baron Rothschild. Now's the only bird lays egg o' gold.—Lowell.

"It cannot be done," cries the man without imagination. "It can be done, it shall be done," cries the dreamer.—Marden.

Work! work! that is my unflinching cure for all troubles.—Lydia Maria Child. Good, better, best, never let it rest till your "good" is better and your "better" best.—Franklin.

When in doubt, win the trick.—Hoyte. Talk of nothing but business, and despatch that business quickly.—Aldus. Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace is counted wise.—Solomon.

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Posilam is persistently used when its healing powers are directed against Eczema or any stubborn skin trouble. Its continued use brings unmistakable improvement as the raw places that itched and burned no longer harass. You can safely and confidently leave all your skin troubles to Posilam; pimples, rashes, scalp-eczema, abrasions, chafings, inflammation, any itching defect.

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Posilam Soap is the tonic soap for the skin and will freshen and beautify your complexion.

SOUTH IRELAND ABLAZE AGAIN

Police Barracks Destroyed in County Cork—Sensational Happenings Expected.

Special to The Standard.

Dublin, April 1.—The South of Ireland is a blaze again. The destruction of the Police Barracks at Durrus, County Cork, is the latest outrage carried out by the discontented extremists of this fiery district. This news is accompanied by strange reports from good sources and corroborating evidence that the after corners verdict at the inquest into the death of the Lord Mayor of Cork something is to happen worth while waiting for.

Evidence of the gradual mobilization of the "Republican" forces in the various districts in the South is becoming stronger.

The Northcliffe Press which, hitherto, has not been unfriendly to the Nationalists, by the definite statement, supported by real evidence, that the Lord Mayor of Cork was murdered by the Sinn Fein, has done much to increase the bitterness. The atmosphere in Dublin is growing tense, in expectation of events in the coming week. The authorities are drawing the dragnet closer around the suspected districts. There were extensive raids in Limerick yesterday, and nine prisoners were conveyed to Cork handcuffed and under a strong escort.

A most peculiar and significant allegation is now made regarding the soldier Molloy, shot in a Dublin street a week ago. It is stated that Molloy had shown order of General Headquarters transferring him to the Aldershot Command a month before he was murdered. Apparently he remained in Ireland.

AMUNDSEN HEARD FROM

Montreal, April 1.—A London cable to the Montreal "Star" says:—After being held up for two years by ice, Captain Raoult Amundsen's expedition, long wrapped in the silence of the North, expects to push on to the Pole during the coming summer. A message from Amundsen has been received in Christiania, it was learned today, stating that he was wintering at Adok Island, Siberia, and telling of the plans for the summer.

Two members of the expedition turned back and started for home in October, 1918, the message said. Their fate is not known.

TAILORS' STRIKE AT WINNIPEG

Winnipeg, April 1.—Three hundred members of the tailors' union of the One Big Union went on strike today after failing to compromise with the master tailors' association. They are demanding a wage increase of 40 per cent, with reduction in working hours from 47 to 44 hours a week.

JAPANESE FORCES TO REMAIN IN SIBERIA

Honolulu, April 1.—(By the A. P.)—General Baron Y. Uchida, chief of the military general staff, announced today that "Japanese forces would be retained in Siberia for protection of life and property of Japanese subjects, as well as for the reason of national defense," according to a cable from Tokyo to the Japanese newspaper Hochi here.

According to Siberian reports received by Hochi, there is a strong anti-Japanese feeling among the Russians.

COSTLY BLAZE

Columbus, Ohio, April 1.—A spectacular fire destroyed four warehouses in the wholesale district here this morning. The loss is estimated at \$500,000.

NUXATED IRON

3,000,000 people use it as a Tonic, Strength and Blood-Builder



KNOX HATS

for WOMEN

KNOX Women's Sailors and Sport Hats for Spring have been produced in a splendid variety of straw braids which are exclusively Knox.

They are shown in natural, brown, jade, Copenhagen blue, bluebird blue, orange and other brilliant shades so much in vogue. Many are trimmed with imported gussage bands.

D. Magee's Sons, Limited

Fine Hatters
Since 1850
In St. John



The Comfort of Dry Feet

is sufficient inducement for most people to wear rubbers in bad weather.

They don't care to spend hours in the clammy discomfort of wet shoes, and risk catching a cold or pneumonia, when a pair of Dominion Rubber System Rubbers mean perfect protection for the feet against sleet, slush and rain.

Dominion Rubber System Rubbers

are a pleasure to wear. They are neat and trim; they are snug and easy. And they fit perfectly because they are made in styles and sizes for the shoes of every member of the family.

The best dealers sell Dominion Rubber System Rubbers.

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Fletcher's Castoria is strictly a remedy for Infants and Children. Foods are specially prepared for babies. A baby's medicine is even more essential for Baby. Remedies primarily prepared for grown-ups are not interchangeable. It was the need of a remedy for the common ailments of Infants and Children that brought Castoria before the public after years of research, and no claim has been made for it that its use for over 30 years has not proven.

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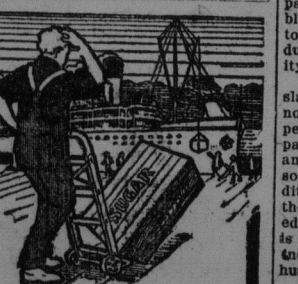
Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It is pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other narcotic substance. Its age is its guarantee. For more than thirty years it has been in constant use for the relief of Constipation, Flatulency, Wind Colic and Diarrhoea; allaying Feverishness arising therefrom, and by regulating the Stomach and Bowels, aids the assimilation of Food; giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Comfort—The Mother's Friend.

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Muscles Mean Nothing

When the nerves fall down the muscles are useless. The stomach feeds both.

HAWKER'S NERVE & STOMACH TONIC

has no equal as a nerve food, blood maker and invigorator. It is an excellent remedy for depression and despondency.

Read what Rev. Wm. Lawson, formerly of Carleton Street Church, St. John, has to say.

"On several occasions I have suffered from severe nervous exhaustion and general debility. I was advised to use Hawker's Nerve and Stomach Tonic and have great pleasure in testifying to its restorative, tonic, invigorating, and building up properties."

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