

and place a burden upon the people. They are all paid out of the labor earnings of the people. A tax on land values, on the other hand, does not increase the cost of land, and is not paid out of the labor earnings of the people. That is, it does not reduce the retained earnings of any one, because the value of land is created by the operation of natural law, and if this value is not taken for public revenues it is absorbed by land monopoly. It therefore cannot operate in any way to check production, increase the cost of production, nor prove burdensome to the people. On the contrary, it will stimulate production by making it easier to get land and increase the profits of labor in the use of land. The point to keep in view is, **that a tax on land values does**

not and cannot increase the cost of production. Every other tax, no matter how does have this effect. Therefore

or that a stimulating effect would be produced by abolishing all these taxes which check production, increase the cost of living and are generally burdensome, and adopting a system which would have exactly the opposite effect. Would not the adoption of such a policy largely obviate the evil conditions of unemployment, high cost of living, etc., from which we have suffered in the past, and which threaten us in even a more acute form after the war?

Unemployment After the War.

Further consider what a wonderful effect it would have upon the country if the 100,000,000 acres of land held idle by speculators in the three prairie provinces were thrown open for free settlement? Would there be danger of acute unemployment when the soldiers return after the war, if these lands were free and accessible to any one who wished to use them? All over Canada natural opportunity in the form of timber, mineral, coal, agricultural and other land is held out of use and out of reach of the people. This is the cause of unemployment, high cost of living, periodical "hard times," poverty and much misery. To give the people access to land is equivalent to giving them access to profitable employment.

No plans for settling soldiers or others upon land are at all comparable to simply giving the people access to land. This can be accomplished by abolishing all other forms of taxation and concentrating all taxation on land values. Such a system of taxation would be honest and just because all land values are created by the presence and industry of the

people, the organization of government and the public expenditures arising therefrom. Why is natural opportunity held idle all over the country? Simply because the holders expect to pocket the value which the people give to it. By taking this value for public revenue purposes we return it to the people who create it. We can

Pay Our War Debt

in this way without placing any burden upon the people, but on the contrary would greatly relieve the present burden of taxation. Much of the land now held idle is owned by persons and shareholders in corporations, who do not live in Canada, and who thus escape all taxes except local municipal land taxes.

We have followed a land policy, a taxation policy and a railway policy which have operated to literally heap wealth upon the wealthy and force reduced earnings, unemployment and poverty upon the poor. A policy which has brought lordly titles to a few and placed a great burden upon the people. Our disastrous railway policy is a direct result of our more disastrous land policy. We have wasted millions in unnecessary railways to open up lands to be speculated in, while millions of acres of land lie idle around our towns and cities. We still pursue this wasteful policy. Within a few months pamphlets have been issued advocating settlement in the remote Peace River country. We hear much about waste these days. Think of the awful waste of labor that has resulted from forcing settlement continually to the more remote districts, while lands convenient to market and therefore the more productive are held idle. Is it not time we began to legislate for the people and not for the few. That we adopt a policy that will give the profit from the use of land to those who use it. That will give the land value of the country to the people, who produce all the wealth of the country and also all the land value. We can return the land value to the people who create it by taxing land value for all public revenues.

The Canadian League for Taxation of Land Values has asked that a start be made on this great national policy by placing a tax of one per cent. on the land values of Canada. Such a tax would produce an additional revenue of about \$80,000,000. It would not disturb business conditions. It is the easiest and surest way of obtaining the large additional revenue required. It will not drive investors out of the country, such as a tax on savings or investments would do, except investors in natural opportunity