

will rob them of all political novelty. Besidee what is really useful and desirable will no doubt be permanently retained. For instance munition factories ought to remain under government control; in fact all war supplies. Railways, telegraph, telephone, post offices in many countries being public utilities were already before the war in the hands of the government. If and when this socializing tendency goes too far one can trust the Opposition in Parliaments and the free lances in society to go after it with a vengeance and without mercy.

As to economics the war will overturn the whole fabric of it. Whether to men's profit or loss time alone will tell. Labor and capital, like conservatism and reform, have been mighty forces at work in the fabric of society from its very origin even until now. And there will be or can be no rest. Look at the winds and the waters! They constantly purify themselves by motion. The air instantly distributes the gases and the water throws down at once its precipitate. In society, too, by analogy the purification processes must go on. The debasement of the coinage and currency raises prices, taxes and wages. Its purchasing power being lessened, there is only one remedy: wages must go up. Labor has to be fed and capital will have to give of its profits to meet his needs. There is and will always be no doubt selfishness, prejudice and unreasonableness on both sides. But when the voice of necessity calls out either or both sidee will have to give way and compromise. The "interests" have always been affectionately protected by the supreme courts of every country in the world and the plutocrats consequently flourish and grow fat. This is no doubt good as labor individually and collectively would be in a bad way only for the employment provided by the organizing genius of capital. The governments of the world during this war will have the hardihood to take a quarter or half of factory profits beyond seven per cent. which is considered a fair return for investments in these strenuous times. If after the war is over governments would continue to confiscate and decentralize capital by income tax, and succession duties there would be lifted off the shoulders of labor a great burden. The minimum of taxes would be levied on their homes which would allow them a more liberal margin to be used in the comforts and pleasures of life.

Henry George twenty-five years ago urged the theory of single-tax in the interest of labor, but it has made very slow progress. Our new provinces in the West have been tentatively trying it. But conservative and radical minds seem to be about evenly divided on the question. Land values and labor values, land products and labor products, are the opposite assets, that the various schools would tax exclusively.