

Taxation—Its Potentiality for Good or Evil

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free trade pushed to the highest pressure by the immigration policy?

Benefactors vs. Despoilers.

This country never should have had a tariff. It has been a fatal mistake from the beginning, protecting not the producer of wealth, but protecting the extortion of the speculators and producing in this new country, all the abomination of old world development, the castle and the novel. The tariff is a terrible mistake. The Boer wars and the war of 1812 with the States, blockaded the ports of the various belligerents. When the war ceased every one of the nations then did just what God intended they should do, they tried to flood their neighbors' markets with the greatest abundance and cheapness. They obeyed the command, "If thine enemy hunger, feed him." Following the natural impulse of the human heart, each nation turned from war to confer its greatest blessing on its former enemies. Life and treasure had been poured out, men had struggled to the death to get the ports free from the blockade so as to give the fullest freedom to exchanges between the nations. Then under a fatal delusion, the legislature proceeded to restore the blockade to prevent the people doing their best for each other, and enjoying the blessings of peace and freedom.

The producer came to the border of the nation with his goods, abundant and cheap. At once he was stopped and given to understand by a severe penalty, that he could not have access to this market, that cheapness and abundance were to be treated as a crime. A syndicate sent its agent to buy three million acres of land, on which a profit of ten millions was realized. Come again, brothers, said the law. We do not believe in freedom in trade; but we give the fullest welcome and the utmost freedom to tribute and extortion.

The men who would make us rich, we drive away as enemies and despoilers; the men who come to be despoiled through speculation in land are treated as benefactors. We drive away the enrichers; we welcome the impoverishers.

A country that has an Arctic blockade on one side, and then puts up a blockade around the other sides, a country that does everything to improve up its harbors, its railroads, its bridges, its telegraphs, and other agencies to facilitate trade, and then puts up a tariff to stop trade, a country that practically subjects the men who make prosperity to increased taxation and also to a tribute to the speculators, a country that alienates its natural resources at prices of the most trifling character, with the certainty that they will have to be bought back at a price ten fold, twenty fold, or a hundred fold, that country cannot be prosperous no matter what the wealth of its natural resources, or the industry of its workers.

The Present Crisis.

We are passing through a crisis of the most extraordinary character. We must adopt extraordinary methods to cope with the difficulties of the situation. When new methods are necessary, it will be a world of titles if we do not learn, and correct the blunders of the past. As soon as the soldiers will be ready to return to peaceful pursuits, it is proposed to place them on the land, and to make some preparation in the way of building for them. A much better plan would be to adopt such measures as would encourage the employment of every man in the particular trade or calling for which he is best fitted. The

methods of the past, which have driven so many people from the farms into the cities, show emphatically that these methods are radically wrong. The reports state that in the Province of Ontario the rural population has decreased from 1,047,931 in 1872, to 1,017,164 in 1911, while the civic population has increased from 202,068 in 1872, to 808,350 in 1911.

Burdens on the Farmers.

The rewards and burdens of the owners of the land are now of the most extraordinary character. There are many farmers who toil all through the year and may be glad if they escape the sheriff or the foreclosure of the mortgage; for at times, the interest will grow faster than the crops. On not a few of the farms, with the most strenuous toil, there can be wrung only a bare living. That is at the one end of society. At the other end we meet a miracle; for without the slightest effort to raise crops or anything else, the owner of a single acre can obtain in a single year more than the farmer can procure in a hundred years. To the man who toils like a slave amid the stumps or rocks there is the maximum of toil with the minimum of reward. To the owner of the best acre in the city, there is the minimum of toil and the maximum of reward.

Looking at this tremendous fact, where should we place the taxes? On the man who has neither time nor money to spare, on the man who is already overburdened, or on the man who has both time and money in the most extravagant abundance; on Lazarus or on Dives? Marvellous to relate, in our short sightedness, we have placed the greatest burden where there is the greatest weakness, and where the strength is colossal, there we place no burden whatever. From the man who has not an hour to spare, we demand the service of many days in the year; from the man who has all the time to spare, we demand not the service of an hour in a lifetime. Such is the atrociously mistaken and unjust character of our taxation.

On the clothing, the tools, and the furnishings required by the farmer the tariff amounts to 30 or 35 per cent, without reckoning the war taxes. To that we must add the cost of collection, over fifty per cent, which brings the tax up to fifty per cent. When the crop goes to the market to be exchanged for dry goods and other goods, there the farmer must contribute to the enormous exactions for round rent. In addition, when buying, he must pay the increased price caused by the tariff on the home manufactured goods, so that again and again this method of taxation takes away from the farmer more than every third bushel or every third day. It is quite in the range of possibility that the farmer must give more than a hundred working days in the year to meet the exaction caused by tariff taxation.

This method of taxation makes the cost of living to one part of society the whole of the working life. To the other man the owner of the bonanza acre, the cost of living is nothing; for he lives by the sweat of his neighbor's face; it costs him no effort.

The first duty in the present crisis is to change the method of taxation so as to protect industry from the exactions of the ground-lord and speculator. We must go for our taxes, where narrow resources of the overburdened toiler.

The British Red Cross has provided over 2,000 motor ambulances for the transportation of the sick and wounded. There are now 1,100 behind the British Army in France, and there are almost every region of the war. For the Mesopotamia expedition a special fleet of motor ambulance boats has been supplied for work on the Tigris.



FEED OATS and FEED WHEAT

Selling arrangements have been made with the Grain Growers' Grain Company of Winnipeg for oats and wheat—Government inspection and weight, delivered Toronto rates. Sight draft attached to documents. Quotations furnished on enquiry.

CORN

No. 3 Yellow, hard, Chicago Board of Trade Inspection, delivered at prices running about ninety cents according to freight rates. Corn is considered best buying at present prices. Enquire.

POTATOES

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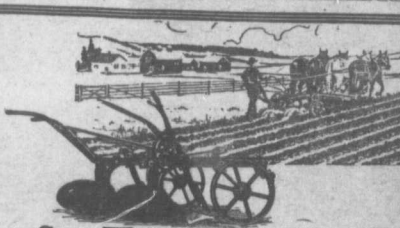
LIVE STOCK

Various clubs are taking advantage of our arrangement for selling live stock. They must be satisfied as they repeat shipments.

WINTER WHEAT

Wanted at high prices. Get together a car of 1,000 bushels. Enquire for price and instructions.

The United Farmers' Co-Operative Co.
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110 Church Street Toronto, Ont.



See This Oliver Plow

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To this end, the Oliver walking gear plow is designed. Two good horses and one man can plow two furrows at a time with this plow. By means of two levers with fine-notched quadrants, the depth and width of cut can be instantly adjusted to suit varying conditions in the field. The height of both furrow and land wheel can be changed, one at a time or both together, giving the driver absolute control of the depth and width of this cut at all times, without stopping the team. Another arrangement enables him to shift the furrow wheel sideways to straighten a furrow. Large or small bottoms may be used, and the distance between the beams changed to accommodate the changes in bottoms.

See this plow first when you are ready to buy. It may save you lots of looking. If your work demands some other design, the H.C. local agent who shows you the walking gear can show you an Oliver plow, either walking or riding, which will meet your needs and do for you the kind of work you want. But, whatever plow you are using, see the Oliver walking gear or write the nearest branch house for full information.

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