

help themselves, make them more fit and more inclined to take their part in the struggle? Free education should be rated as on the whole an individualist measure; the non-contributory old age pensions scheme recently adopted in England, with its failure to grapple with the causes of the poverty it sought to meet, its inevitable sequel in demands for higher pensions and lower age limits, is distinctly a socialist step. It is significant, as has already been pointed out, that in the later Lloyd George insurance measures the non-contributory basis has been abandoned.

Conceivably, the taxing power of the state could be brought to bear so heavily on the rich as to amount to confiscation. But as a matter of fact, while the tendency in Europe is to make the broader back take a larger share of the burden, it can hardly be said on any reasonable interpretation of ability to pay that the rich are as yet taxed unduly. And as for Canada, the case is quite contrary. Here, with our reliance mainly on indirect taxation, our rich men are undertaxed, though there is a tendency now toward direct taxation.

Not only are these policies not necessarily socialistic. They are, on the contrary, the best bulwarks against socialism. They are homeopathic cures, vaccination against its growth. For private property to-day is on the defensive. It has no heaven-born sanction. It will endure only so long as it proves socially useful. The hour of social as well as political democracy has come. The ideal that will prevail, that shared by socialists and individualist reformers alike, is the organization of industry in the interest of the masses of the people. Our existing order will endure if it can be made, and can be shown, to be true, that private property is a better means of attaining this end than collectivist property. It must be shown that within the existing framework of society we can combine private initiative and private energy with social control and social justice. Every tax-dodging millionaire, every city slum, every instance of shady high finance or of overworked and underpaid employees, is a potent argument for socialism. Remove the grievances—and they are many, even though exaggerated by the socialist out of all perspective—and the socialist has lost his best ammunition.

*The progressive policies of social reform outlined are really bulwarks against socialism, homeopathic cures. Social justice and social progress must be secured, but can best be secured by private property and state regulation.*