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on two grounds: first, the fear of an uprising like the French Revolution; and second, the belief in the sanctity and civilizing influence of property. Order and property must at all hazards be maintained, and in the midst of the rapid economic changes which were occurring this could be accomplished only by a policy of stern repression. Under such circumstances there was no hope for the poor.

This philosophy, which dominated the thinking of middle-class Englishmen during the nineteenth century, has been rudely shaken by the present European war. "New Lessons have been learned from the sacrifices made by every home, in the struggle with a spirit that presents the most sinister aspects of the industrial system in a military form." Hence for us today this history of the past has a new value.

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The High Cost of Living. By FREDERIC C. HOWE. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1917. Pp. 275.)

It would not be so easy to quarrel with Mr. Howe's book if he had given to it a title describing its contents. He has written on the subject of food, but one item in the cost of living, taking about two-fifths of the expenditure of the normal family. For this reason nothing save the title warrants calling attention to the fact that he ignores the basic cause for the rise in prices, namely, the world inflation of currency and credit, aggravated by the transfer of perhaps fifty million workers from peaceful production to the tasks incident to unprofitable destruction. The title would not have misled had it epitomized the proposition laid down in the preface: "Monopoly is responsible for the conditions which confront us." As a development of this thesis in its application to food, the book is an interesting specimen of the scapegoat variety of economic literature.

The blame is all laid at the door of the agencies between the producer and the consumer. Buyers, speculators, packers, railroad and steamship managers, cold storage operators—these and the other classes of profiteers that have to do with the distribution of food, share in the castigation. No stress is laid on causes working at either end of the line. No importance is attached to the pressure of population on the means of subsistence, on the occupation of all the arable land, the breaking up of the Western ranges into farms, the exhaustion of soils, the costly recourse to fertilizers. No stress is laid on wasteful habits

of consumption, poor cooking, indulgence in out-of-season foods, country-wide transportation of delicacies, competition for the choicest cuts and varieties, delivery in packages, and a hundred other results of extravagant tastes and ignorant customs. "Monopoly is responsible," and monopoly is monopolized, so to speak.

Even in respect to monopoly, the author differs from most of those who have given scientific investigation to the subject. He minimizes the economic gains that come from joint activities. For example, while dwelling on the enormous profits made by the big packing companies and holding them responsible for the disappearance of local slaughtering, which he would revive, he does not bring out the fact that the huge profits of central slaughtering are due to the utilization of by-products that local slaughtering wasted, and that meats probably cost us far less today than they would if the big packing houses were wiped out of existence and the system of local abattoirs Mr. Howe advises put in their stead.

As far as the author admits benefit from joint activity, he wants it to accrue to the public welfare through public ownership and operation. Here he reaches ground where he may hope for some degree of sympathy from students of the subject. There can be little question that if there is any field where the public resources can be wisely turned into the form of fixed capital, it is the field of the necessities of life. We may welcome, therefore, the stimulus this book may give to the public demand for development of terminal facilities, markets of all sorts, elevators, warehouses, cold storage plants, and even the public ownership of the costlier farm implements, tractors, planting and harvesting machinery, and all the other appliances of food production and distribution. Whether we ought to go beyond the use of the public credit for the furnishing of capital, that is, whether we ought to operate as well as own, would arouse much more controversy. The information Mr. Howe gives about what other countries are doing in these matters is instructive and helpful. Furthermore the book by stimulating a lethargic public into mental activity may justify hyperbole that would not be found in the writings of a scientific investigator solicitous for a balanced and discriminating presentation of facts.

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