

CONSCRIPT PROFITS To Pay for the War

By Ben J. Salmon

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We must make Democracy safe in America.

While President Wilson was leading the line of conscripted poor men's lives down Pennsylvania avenue, the Senate was voting 4 to 1 against the conscription of rich men's dollars. Is this Democracy?

SWAT THE CONSUMER.

The slogan of our lawmakers seems to be, "Swat the Consumer." Incomes have been taxed only slightly. Approximately one billion dollars placed against this source of revenue. War profits taxed approximately the same amount. But the things we eat and wear, with a few amusements and luxuries thrown in, must pay approximately \$19,000,000,000. Nearly nineteen times as much as war profits or incomes. Nineteen thousand millions of dollars in taxes placed upon those least able to pay.

IS THIS A WAR FOR PROFIT?

Swift and Company's net profit for 1917 was over \$42,000,000. This was nearly \$22,000,000 greater than their profits for 1916. Do you wonder why the price of meat advanced? Is Swift a patriot or a traitor?

There have been 7,925 new millionaires added to Democracy's roll of honor in the United States since the world war began.

War profits of a small group of big trusts amounted to \$4,000,000,000 in 1916. Last year, this year, and every year the landlords of America collect approximately \$6,000,000,000 for permitting us to live on God's earth. One year's legalized robbery: ten thousand millions of dollars! These are only partial enumerations of profiteering instances.

The poor man's life has been taxed 100 per cent. That is, he has been conscripted for the period of the war, and, in many cases, for eternity. Why not make the rich man give everything above \$5,000 a year during the war in order to help conquer the Kaiser?

IS THEIR PATRIOTISM GENUINE?

Newspapers were largely instrumental in precipitating America's entrance into the conflict. If they are sincerely patriotic, they will gladly turn their profits over to Uncle Sam.

The columns of newspapers are filled with exultations of patriotism. All that is required to make these proclamations dynamic is a unified demand by the great mass of Americans that the profits of all businesses above \$5,000 per year be taxed 100 per cent to prosecute the war and to liquidate all war indebtedness. The "five-thousand" per annum will enable captains of industry to discharge personal obligations without serious inconvenience.

NECESSITY DEMANDS IT.

Right or wrong, we are at war. Newspapers have been suppressed, citizens jailed for asserting their constitutional rights of free speech, peaceful assemblages dispersed by the authorities, all in the name of "war necessity." Granted that these onslaughts against Democratic institutions were necessary in order to insure success for America, how much more necessary to conscript the wealth of the inordinately opulent that an ample supply of provisions for the army and navy may be procured!

If the exigencies of war demand that ordinary privileges of the people be denied, should not the rich be denied the use of surplus gold? Especially that surplus accruing as a sequence of war.

JUSTICE.

Already the poor are groaning under the war burden. Those in charge of financing the war are constantly devising new schemes and re-working old schemes to get more money from the masses. The thousands of millionaires in this nation should first be stripped of their surplus, then, if necessary, tax the poor. But, until surplus wealth is drafted into the service of America, it is surely undemocratic during these hard times, to further impoverish the workingman and his family.

CAN THEY AFFORD IT?

Below is a list of only a few financiers who will be greatly benefited by the present war:

Name.	Amount of Wealth.
John D. Rockefeller.....	\$500,000,000
Andrew Carnegie.....	300,000,000
William Rockefeller.....	200,000,000
Estate of Marshall Field.....	120,000,000
George F. Baker.....	100,000,000
Henry Phipps.....	100,000,000
Henry C. Frick.....	100,000,000
William A. Clark.....	80,000,000
Estate of J. P. Morgan.....	75,000,000
Estate of H. H. Harriman.....	68,000,000
Estate of Russell Sage.....	64,000,000
W. K. Vanderbilt.....	50,000,000
Estate of John S. Kennedy.....	65,000,000
Estate of John J. Astor.....	70,000,000

W. W. Astor.....	70,000,000
J. J. Hill.....	70,000,000
Isaac Stephenson	74,000,000
Jay Gould estate.....	70,000,000
Estate of Mrs. Hetty Green.....	60,000,000
Estate of Cornelius Vanderbilt.....	60,000,000
Estate of William Weightman.....	50,000,000
Estate of Ogden Goelet.....	60,000,000
W. I. Moore.....	50,000,000
Arthur C. James.....	50,000,000
Estate of Robert Goelet.....	60,000,000
Guggenheim estate	50,000,000
Thomas F. Ryan.....	50,000,000
Edward Morris	45,000,000
J. O. Armour.....	45,000,000

Why not take as much proportionally from these and other rich men as we do from the poor? We leave the poor with less than enough to pay for a meagre living; would it be wrong to leave a rich man only \$5,000 per year, or should he have as much as his avaricious temperament craves?

SLACKERS, EVERY ONE OF THEM.

Tax the land slackers, the coal slackers, the food slackers, the munition slackers, the iron slackers, the oil slackers, the copper slackers, the lumber slackers, the clothing slackers. Tax 'em all, and tax them 100 per cent, just as we tax the poor man's life 100 per cent.

IT IS ONLY FAIR.

We have forced men to join the army, it is only fair that we compel wealth to back them up.

The multitudinous taxes levied upon men of ordinary means, and upon the poor, are hindering the success of our armies in the field. Until every dollar of surplus wealth in America is conscripted and expended we should not allow one penny of taxation to inhibit our chances of defeating the Kaiser! Every time we place burdens upon industry, we make it that much easier for the Kaiser to kill American boys at the front. This is the most despicable treachery imaginable. Sending a man out to stop bullets and then tying his hands so that he cannot defend himself. The vilest form of treason!

THREATS ARE WORSE THAN USELESS.

Threatening to tax the rich will avail nothing. Suppose we merely threatened to conscript America's manhood?

Conscript the wealth of the nation, and if the rich man kicks, let him kick; we want to win this war.

WILL YOU HELP?

Please sign the letter to President Wilson printed on next page and mail as directed.

His Excellency, Woodrow Wilson,
President of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I respectfully urge that you, as commander in chief of the army and navy, apprise Congress of the necessity of taxing war profits and incomes. As a matter of justice towards those who are giving their lives to America, every income of every person and every business in the United States that exceeds \$5,000 annually should be conscripted by the government to pay current war expenses and to liquidate all indebtedness when hostilities cease. If this is done, the billions of dollars thus commandeered will obviate the necessity of burdening the already overburdened poor.

Yours for America and fair play,

Name

Address

City and State.....

Tear off at dotted line, mail to collecting point: **4166 KNOX COURT, DENVER, COLORADO.** After 2,000,000 are received there they will be sent to President Wilson, then the bill will be introduced in Congress. The bill will surely pass, because if Congress and the Senate do not pass it, they will thereby tacitly declare that war should benefit profiteers. Our representatives in Washington will not dare to thus strangle Justice!

These circulars do not grow on trees; they have to be printed; printer must be paid. If you wish to enclose a dime when you send your signature, it will help get more circulars printed. Not necessary to send a dime, unless you wish to help. But do send your signature **NOW.** Mail to collecting point: 4166 Knox Court, Denver, Colorado.

TO INSURE DELIVERY, REGISTER YOUR LETTER AND DEMAND
RETURN RECEIPT

