

# TAX THE RICH To Pay for The War

*By Ben J. Salmon*

## **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?**

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.

I know of a little orphan girl in Denver who works for \$7.00 a week. She was virtually compelled to purchase a \$50.00 liberty bond. Of course, our little friend could have declined, and suffer the loss of her position, but circumstances intervened; she needs the few dollars weekly to keep soul and body together. This case is only one of thousands proximately and remotely similar.

### CAN THEY AFFORD IT?

The little girl could ill afford to contribute \$50.00. But she did it. Below is a list of only a few financiers who will be more greatly benefited by the present war than the little orphan girl:

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 did from the little orphan girl and her poor sisters? 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 below and mail as directed. When 2,000,000 of these signed letters are received, they will be forwarded to the President, and immediately after, a bill will be introduced in Congress providing for wealth conscription upon the basis stated. One of the Congressmen is waiting for the signal—2,000,000 signers—the news will be telegraphed to him and then the big drive in Congress will begin. Help expedite matters by signing and mailing the following letter **today**; don't mail direct to the President.

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 and Address.....  
City and State.....

Kindly tear off at dotted line on top of the letter to President Wilson and mail today to The National War Profits Tax League, care Ben J. Salmon, Chairman Publicity Committee, 303 Cooper Building, Denver, Colorado. **Enclose a dime or a quarter to help us get more of these circulars distributed, thus hastening the completion of this undertaking. Your contribution will also help pay postage, etc., if it becomes necessary to communicate with you concerning the action of our Congressmen after the bill is introduced.**

Be sure to mail your letter to the collecting point—Denver, Colorado, room 303 Cooper Building. After 2,000,000 are received there, the entire allotment will be mailed to the President's office in Washington. If you and others whom this circular reaches will act without delay, this work will be completed by the end of February.