Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library


# RICHARDS TRUST COMPANY

CAPITAL $100,000

LANDS AND LOANS BOUGHT SOLD AND MANAGED IN ALL PARTS OF THE NORTHWEST

WE SOLICIT INVESTORS FOR FIRST MORTGAGE FARM LOANS AT CONSERVATIVE RATES

ACTING AS TRUSTEE OR ADMINISTRATOR, AND PROBATING ESTATES A SPECIALTY

ESTABLISHED 1884

HURON, SOUTH DAKOTA, U. S. A.


Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
c/O Hoover Unemployment Conferance,
Washington, D. C.

Sept. 28, 1921.

Dear Madam:-

Recently I received an invitation to represent South Dakota in the Fair Tariff League, from Mr.H. E. Miles of New York, Temporary Chairman, to revive the National Tariff Association again, of which I was a former member.

I take the liberty to forward, herein, my answer to Mr. Miles to you, as a political thinker, for your perusal. In this letter I analyze the import and export tariff and suggest the key to the latter to make the world pay our National debt, spent for the world, by furnishing the world with the cheapest and best goods. This is to be done under the altruistic labor program, which I have evolved. The import and export tariff may both be used to equalize commercial values, until all is fulfilled in adjusting the spoils system to the merit system. Results of the world war and present conditions, suggest that we ultimately go from the present "individualistic, commercial spoils system" and constant extension and inflation of commercial values and debts, to the "individualistic legal merit system", by domestic labor currency and contraction of all debts and commercial values, ultimately leaving only equalized labor values at cost, in order to effect the greatest possible purchasing power of the dollar in all lines. Then settle and pay for all legal commercial values in property and credits, by labor currency, to remove the waste of needless overheads. By ultimately stopping rents on all credits and all commercial values, the property institution will liquidate itself in twenty years, at which time the merit system in economics may be completed and full benefit of vitalized production obtained.

Instead of the old barbarian way of taxing commercial values, we will simplify taxation by merely releasing the necessary purchasing power to each political division in labor currency against production. This labor currency will cancel itself in paying for goods. Thereby eliminate the waste of thousands of assessors and tax collectors and stop stupid, direct taxation of commercial values of property.

The Christian civilization has suffered violence from militarism, and corruption by commercialism, which have upset everything and failed to simplify and fulfill anything, under law and order, for what is right, fair and just, to organize good will and a square deal as the only solution for the problems in state government. Hence, I suggest the change to the merit system on a practical basis, under law and order, to fulfill the Christian civilization in United States of America first, as the chosen nation of good will to give everybody an opportunity for liberty, education, comfort and enjoyment of life. If we, instead of Russia, or the League of Nations, standardize first, to solve the problems of state government, the nations are certain to copy our legal form and order.

P.S.
Please give publicity to the truth!

Most respectfully,
A. A. Richards

# SOUTH DAKOTA DIRECT LEGISLATION ORGANIZATION

*Motto: "Temperance in all Things"*

This organization favors personal freedom and private initiative under the Christian individualistic legal merit system advocated by R. O. Richards of Huron, S. D., to effect justice as a square deal to the individual in moral liberty, and a square deal to property rights, and to effect order and a square deal in economics by standardization of prices on all farm products and all natural products and by standardization of wages in other pursuits with reward for merit by shorter hours thereby encourage individual initiative and competition in service and stimulate production, and gradually increase the purchasing power of the dollar in all lines by eliminating waste of militarism, commercialism and usury by standardizing the value of the dollar thereby making domestic money a labor currency and public utility in justice to labor in place of haphazard markets and injustice to labor.

Militarism and corruption of commercialism have created continual economic disorder by force and competition creating ill will and finally produced class organization creating selfishness, strife, strikes and war.

We also advocate a legal standard for American citizenship based on individual responsibility in personal conduct on a decent and common sense program and thereby stimulate morality in place of fanaticism and crime.

The object of this is to simplify everything and give everybody opportunity for comfort, to promote life, liberty and pursuit of happiness to which United States of America was dedicated under law and order.

Digital Images, 2010. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

Copy.

*Huron, S. D.*

Sept. 9, 1921.

Mr. H. E. Miles, Temp'y. Chr.,
Fair Tariff League,
44 Whitehall St.,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to yours of 24th instant with reference to my part in organization of the National Tariff Commission Association at Indianapolis in 1908, as the official state representative from South Dakota, will say that your efforts, though well intended to those interested, are not in interest of public welfare; because there is no salvation in taxation. Tariff is a tax. Importation tariff is a tax on the American public. An export tariff is a tax on the people of the world and makes the American public (children) free. We control the gold bullion of the world now. This has transferred the golden scepter from England to Wall Street, which can fix the price of all foreign exchange according to trade balances. This fact might be made to preclude the necessity for an import tariff; because it might be regulated by the monopoly of gold in fixing the price of money to all foreign gold standard countries in settlement of trade balances by the New York clearing house on foreign exchange in protection of American labor and manufacture. I believe President Harding's Administration is aware of the fact and will likely cooperate, by extension of the ten billion dollars of foreign loans by our government to the Allies, during the war, to make and facilitate foreign trade, which is now so much desired to dispose of surplus products, in this country, which are proving to be a curse, instead of a blessing, because of lack of legal order in economies in this country or abroad. I believe in holding the foreign trade, through the golden scepter, and that Uncle Sam, as a ten billion dollar gold creditor, can lead as well as steer the foreign trade, on a just basis, until the League of States, instead of the League of Nations idea, is completed in the world into the ultimate United States of peace, education, morality and vitalized economies under law and order.

So much for the foreign trade. Now as a further analysis of equalization of prices in United States and abroad, which you urge by import tariff tax to cover the difference in cost here and abroad, will say that the Republican tariff idea has produced class organization and has overbuilded our cities and labor unions, until the Urban

# SOUTH DAKOTA DIRECT LEGISLATION ORGANIZATION

*Motto: "Temperance in all Things"*

This organization favors personal freedom and private initiative under the Christian individualistic legal merit system advocated by R. O. Richards of Huron, S. D., to effect justice as a square deal to the individual in moral liberty, and a square deal to property rights, and to effect order and a square deal in economics by standardization of prices on all farm products and all natural products and by standardization of wages in other pursuits with reward for merit by shorter hours thereby encourage individual initiative and competition in service and stimulate production, and gradually increase the purchasing power of the dollar in all lines by eliminating waste of militarism, commercialism and usury by standardizing the value of the dollar thereby making domestic money a labor currency and public utility in justice to labor in place of haphazard markets and injustice to labor.

Militarism and corruption of commercialism have created continual economic disorder by force and competition creating ill will and finally produced class organization creating selfishness, strife, strikes and war.

We also advocate a legal standard for American citizenship based on individual responsibility in personal conduct on a decent and common sense program and thereby stimulate morality in place of fanaticism and crime.

The object of this is to simplify everything and give everybody opportunity for comfort, to promote life, liberty and pursuit of happiness to which United States of America was dedicated under law and order.

#2. *Huron, S. D.*

population is outgrowing the Rural population to an alarming extent. Necessary periodical changes in tariff also tend to millions of unemployed and strikes in trying to adjust the constantly fluctuating commercial values of the foreign and domestic markets (purchasing power); because there is no legal standard of value adopted by any nation to create steady continuous employment and development, as yet, in justice to labor. The annual waste, as a result of lack of legal order in economics at home, runs into the billions and billions, simply because there is no standard of labor value in our domestic dollar. In order to stop this waste of the commercialized gold dollar and fluctuating markets, and consequent fluctuating value of the dollar in purchasing power in the United States first, to fit us for leading the world, instead of the League of Nations, I have a practical remedy to offer, based on mathematics. By bracing the gold standard with the labor standard, by using labor currency for domestic purposes, to do justice to everybody, both rich and poor. There can be no better standard of value for money, than labor when properly equalized.

This equalization program is to come by the simple system of standardization of prices by law on all natural products from farm, forest, mine and water, and also by standardization of equal pay for everybody in all other pursuits, to create and equilibrium in purchasing power of the domestic labor dollar, thereby make one domestic labor dollar buy ten dollars worth, right away, as compared with present prices and gradually increase the purchasing power of that dollar as we eliminate the waste of the domestic commercial spoils system. This will benefit both the person who has capital, as well as the one who labors for a living.

Any change in the property institution affecting legal commercial value shall be settled and paid for in labor currency by the government in carrying out the details of this individualistic legal merit system, which will safeguard property rights, liberty, individual initiative and create competition in service for shorter hours on merit in industry and in the professions; while the farmer, forester, miner and seaman will be given the greatest incentive to produce all they possibly can by the assurance of standardized (fixed) prices on their natural products, as well as by increasing the purchasing power of that dollar, as we eliminate waste of needless overhead expenses and needless duplications and spur on efficiency by free competition in services with individual reward by management and shorter hours for merit.

Digital Images, 2010. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

# SOUTH DAKOTA DIRECT LEGISLATION ORGANIZATION

*Motto: "Temperance in all Things"*

This organization favors personal freedom and private initiative under the Christian individualistic legal merit system advocated by R. O. Richards of Huron, S. D., to effect justice as a square deal to the individual in moral liberty, and a square deal to property rights, and to effect order and a square deal in economics by standardization of prices on all farm products and all natural products and by standardization of wages in other pursuits with reward for merit by shorter hours thereby encourage individual initiative and competition in service and stimulate production, and gradually increase the purchasing power of the dollar in all lines by eliminating waste of militarism, commercialism and usury by standardizing the value of the dollar thereby making domestic money a labor currency and public utility in justice to labor in place of haphazard markets and injustice to labor.
Militarism and corruption of commercialism have created continual economic disorder by force and competition creating ill will and finally produced class organization creating selfishness, strife, strikes and war.
We also advocate a legal standard for American citizenship based on individual responsibility in personal conduct on a decent and common sense program and thereby stimulate morality in place of fanaticism and crime.
The object of this is to simplify everything and give everybody opportunity for comfort, to promote life, liberty and pursuit of happiness to which United States of America was dedicated under law and order.

#3. *Huron, S. D.*

This individualistic legal merit system, according to my estimation, will produce goods in United States five times cheaper than any foreign manufacture to start with. Then we can pass an export tariff law to equalize the cost between here and abroad to hold the trade. The income from this export tax will gradually be able to pay our National indebtedness, which money value United States gave to the world freely, and without taxing the world directly. Then we must hold onto the golden scepter firmly, to steer the foreign trade for liberty, in interest of morality, statehood and justice. With less than seven billion dollars of gold in the world and two-thirds of it in this country, United States government, as a ten billion dollar gold creditor, should experience no difficulty in controlling the monopoly of gold to reach its ultimate fulfillment.

Then, as we finish the Christian individualistic legal merit system first in United States, the American light in state government will gradually be copied by each nation, the same as the Edison incandescent lamp. There is only one solution for economic ails, and that is by producing lowest possible prices by legal standardization of prices at equalized labor cost to establish mathematical justice in purchasing power of the dollar based on labor, with a gold dollar for foreign use and a labor dollar for domestic use, ("a penny a day in the vinyard" and "a measure of wheat for a penny and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine".). The commercial spoils system must yield to the legal merit system. Instead of occasional reward to the producer by the high prices of haphazard (commercial) markets to stimulate production, or as a rake off to monopoly for cornering the market, at the expense of the public, we will have steady daily reward by highest possible purchasing power of the dollar and by steady continuous employment and competition in service to increase production and give opportunity for just reward and comfort to everybody and continuous intelligent development in all lines.

Most respectfully,

R. O. Richards

Digital Images, 2010. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.