

# POEMS FOR OUR TIME

## SELECTION AND COMMENT

By David Morton



David Morton

NO reasonable man could demand a robust optimism and *joie de vivre* from the poets of our decade. The sensitive and thoughtful intelligence born during the first years of our century has had much to discourage it. But, from time to time, one is impressed all over again by the consistent and accumulated disillusionment, lamentation and terror. It is refreshing at such times to read the hearty and heartening lines of a poet who stands up on his two legs and asserts the enchanting goodness of being alive. It is true that John Masefield (1878- ), the present Poet Laureate, wrote the lines below some years before World War I; but it is a safe hazard that he would not alter a syllable or a sentiment today. The lines are taken from his long poem entitled "Biography."

### From: BIOGRAPHY

By many waters and on many ways  
I have known golden instants and bright days;  
All had their beauty, their bright moments' gift,  
Their something caught from Time, the ever-swift.  
And when I count those gifts, I think them such  
As no man's bounty could have bettered much:  
The gift of country life, near hills and woods  
Where happy waters sing in solitudes;  
The gift of being near ships, of seeing each day  
A city of ships with great ships under weigh,  
The great street paved with water, filled with shipping,  
And all the world's flags flying and seagulls dipping. . . .

There seems a world beyond our earthly things,  
Gated by golden moments, each bright time  
Opening to show the city white like lime,  
High towered and many peopled. This made sure,  
Work that obscures those moments seems impure.

Best trust the happy moments. What they gave  
Makes man less fearful of the certain grave,  
And gives his work compassion and new eyes.  
The days that make us happy make us wise.

JOHN MASEFIELD

55-76  
The Filson

(Not printed at Government expense)

## The Liberal Viewpoint

REMARKS

OF

HON. CLARENCE C. DILL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Friday, January 13 (legislative day of Tuesday, January 10),  
1933

ARTICLE BY DR. HARRY ELMER BARNES, ENTITLED "THE  
LIBERAL VIEWPOINT," FROM NEW YORK WORLD TELE-  
GRAM, JANUARY 10, 1933

Mr. DILL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Appendix of the RECORD an article by Dr. Harry Elmer Barnes, entitled "The Liberal Viewpoint," appearing in the New York World Telegram of January 10, 1933. This article is a discussion of the proposed taxation program now before the country.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

### THE LIBERAL VIEWPOINT

(By Dr. Harry Elmer Barnes)

If there is any bedrock proposition in the income-tax situation, it is that taxes must be made as light as possible on the consuming masses with incomes of less than \$5,000. The necessary burden of increased taxation must be thrown on those with relatively large incomes. There is no possible chance of restoring prosperity unless the purchasing power of the great mass of Americans is preserved and, if possible, strengthened.

The standard McGraw-Hill publication, *The Business Week*, makes this proposition very clear. The great majority of manufactured goods and agricultural products, including those on which sales taxes would be levied, are purchased by families with incomes under \$3,000, about three-fifths by families with incomes under \$2,000, and about one-fifth by families with incomes under \$1,000.

Families with incomes of \$3,000 and less paid 73 per cent of the total amount spent for consumers' goods and services, but had only 30 per cent of the total national savings. Families with incomes over \$3,000 paid only 27 per cent of the total amount spent for consumers' goods and services, but had 70 per cent of the total savings. Indeed, in 1929 some 28,000,000 families with incomes under \$3,000 spent \$65,148,000,000 and saved \$3,746,000,000—less than one-sixteenth of what they spent. The 513 persons with incomes of over \$1,000,000 spent \$87,000,000 and saved \$1,045,000,000—twelve times as much as they spent and nearly one-third as much as was saved by 28,000,000 families.

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These figures are devastating in their implications as to sound, progressive taxation policy. If we want prosperity we must have increased purchasing power. So far as taxation is involved, this can only be secured through lifting the tax burden on the masses and raising heavier taxes from the very wealthy. The proceeds from the taxation of the latter must be put in the hands of the masses through public-works projects, unemployment insurance, and the like.

This strategy is sound from the most resolutely capitalistic point of view, for, as Benjamin Marsh, of the People's Lobby, expresses it: "The most productive investment of capital in America to-day is to enable those who produce it to consume."

The tax plan suggested at the New York conference of Democrats—and it now seems this plan will not be pushed—defies progressive economic doctrine. It proposes, for example, to raise the tax on a \$3,000 income from \$20 to \$30 and on a \$4,000 income from \$60 to \$120. At the same time it would only raise the tax on an income of \$50,000 from \$8,600 to \$10,840, on an income of \$100,000 from \$30,100 to \$33,980, and on an income of \$500,000 from \$263,600 to \$283,480.

In the light of the above, the progressive-taxation plan advocated by the People's Lobby is sound and timely.

The following program will balance the Budget as nearly as it needs to be balanced and still provide funds to meet the Federal Government's share of caring for the victims of unemployment.

By reducing taxes on consumption it will increase consumption and employment.

1. Repealing a large part of the nuisance taxes now being levied, and particularly the additional taxes on sales, levied in the revenue bill enacted earlier this year. This will save the poor at least \$500,000,000.

2. Reducing the exemption for the income tax and increasing surtax rates very heavily. This will yield at least \$1,200,000,000 additional revenue.

3. Reducing the exemption for the estate tax, increasing the rates very rapidly, and retaining the entire yield for the Federal Government. This will yield at least \$300,000,000 additional revenue.

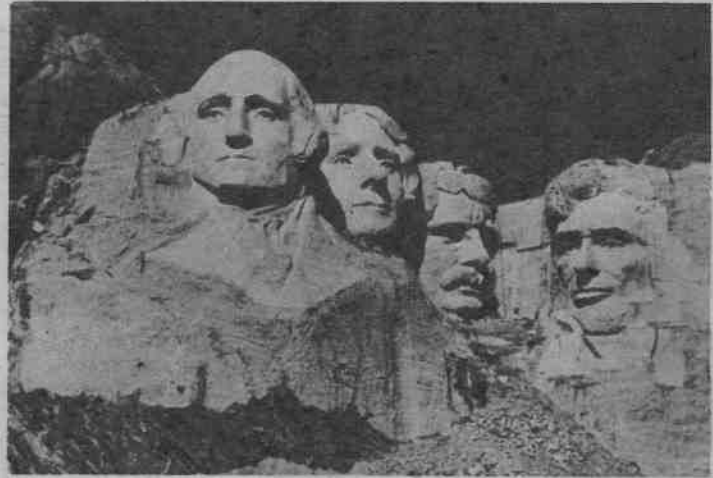
4. A tax upon corporation surpluses. This will yield at least \$500,000,000 additional revenue.

5. Taxation of the income from Government securities as part of the general income and not as a separate tax upon securities. This should yield at least \$100,000,000 to \$125,000,000 additional revenue.

Under the present revenue act the little fellow with an income under \$1,200—and that means most wage earners and farmers in America—pays more taxes in proportion to his ability to pay than multimillionaires.

The Report on Income for 1931, just published by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, shows that after the 75 persons who reported for 1931 net incomes of over \$1,000,000 had paid their Federal income tax, including surtax, this year they had left an average income of \$1,822,738.

154460—8990



Four patriots—Mt. Rushmore, S. D., National Memorial.

## 'My Country ...'

A summation, on 'I Am an American Day,'  
of what America means to her children.

“That the Government, though not actually perfect, is one of the best in the world, I have little doubt.”

—George Washington.

“I believe this the strongest Government on earth. I believe it the only one where every man, at the call of the law, would fly to the standard of the law, and would meet invasions of the public order as his own personal concern.”

—Thomas Jefferson.

“After all, let us compare every constitution we have seen with those of the United States of America, and we shall have no reason to blush for our country. On the contrary, we shall feel gratitude to heaven.”

—John Adams.

“I am not a Virginian but an American.”

—Patrick Henry.

“America does not consist of groups. A man who thinks of himself as belonging to a particular national group in America has not yet become an American.”

—Woodrow Wilson.

“I shall know but one country \* \* \* I was born an American; I live an American; I shall die an American.”

—Daniel Webster.

“I am the youngest of America's children, and into my hands is given all her priceless heritage. Mine is the whole majestic past, and mine is the shining future.”

—Mary Antin, immigrant girl.

believe there is no other country today like America, where freedom of life, that vital factor for happiness, is preserved, where art is so deeply appreciated, and the importance of art in relation to life so well understood.”

—Serge Koussevitzky.

“I love any man who gave me, or helped to give me, the liberty I enjoy tonight. I love every man who helped put our flag in heaven. I love every man who has lifted his voice in all the ages for liberty, for a chainless body and a fetterless brain. I love every man who has given to every other human being every right that he claimed for himself.”

—Robert G. Ingersoll.

“From the equality of rights springs the identity of the highest interests. You cannot subvert your neighbors' rights without striking a dangerous blow at your own.”

—Carl Schurz.

“The spirit of liberty is the spirit which is not too sure that it is right: the spirit of liberty is the spirit which seeks to understand the minds of other men and women.”

—Judge Learned Hand.

“Now in the afternoon of my life, I reaffirm my faith in this country of ours—this infinitely patient, this quick-rewarding, this slow to anger, bold, independent, just, and loving mother of us all. To uphold her, we oppose dictatorship of the right or left. We oppose despotism. We op-

Every consideration we have seen with those of the United States of America, and we shall have no reason to blush for our country. On the contrary, we shall feel gratitude to heaven."—*John Adams.*

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—*Daniel Webster.*

“ I am the youngest of America's children, and into my hands is given all her priceless heritage. Mine is the whole majestic past, and mine is the shining future.”—*Mary Antin, immigrant girl.*

“ I shall never be able to pay my country the debt of gratitude I owe for what she has done for me, but I have tried to repay her by my work.”—*William S. Knudsen.*

“ When I realized my life and my work belonged here I felt that I could and should become an American citizen. I

less brain. I love every man who has given to every other human being every right that he claimed for himself.”

—*Robert G. Ingersoll.*

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“ Now in the afternoon of my life, I reaffirm my faith in this country of ours—this infinitely patient, this quick-rewarding, this slow to anger, bold, independent, just, and loving mother of us all. To uphold her, we oppose dictatorship of the right or left. We oppose despotism. We oppose slavery, whether imposed by the state or individual.”

—*Bernard Baruch.*

“ The United States themselves are essentially the greatest poem. \* \* \* Here at last is something in the doings of man that corresponds with the broadcast doings of the day and night.”

—*Walt Whitman.*

Compiled by **Frances Rodman**

# Looking Forward

Outlines for Discussion and Action

1937

By HARRY W. LAIDLER

With the assistance of

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## L.I.D. PAMPHLET SERIES

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112 East 19th Street, New York City

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**T**HE NEED FOR CONSTRUCTIVE THINKING based on adequate knowledge was never greater than at the present time. It is imperative with respect to both domestic and international issues. Every passing day makes more evident the truth of the statement that "the world of which we are a part is engaged in a race between education and catastrophe." In international matters the world war ended the illusion that the United States is so isolated that it can go its own way without regard to what is happening in the rest of the world. As I write, the danger of a world war is imminent. The forces that involved us in the last war are still active. There is danger that the idea will grow that the way in which we can best cooperate with other nations is through war and direct political entanglement. Clear thinking as to the means by which we can cooperate in other ways for the cause of world order and peace is urgent.

There is no need to dwell upon the seriousness of our domestic problems. Politicians are ready to inflame public opinion for the sake of some party advantage and by methods that are fatal to clear and constructive thought and policies. The problems are so complex that it is comparatively easy to arouse emotion at the expense of intelligent insight and programs of action. Moreover, it is not enough that there be correct knowledge and sound ideas but there must be organization for action to put these ideas into effect.

The L.I.D. through its lectures and discussion as well as in other ways is doing, and doing upon a high level, necessary spare work in promoting knowledge, constructive thought, and organization. It is one of the chief forces making for a genuinely prepared citizenship. It is a personal satisfaction and an honor to commend to public attention its sixth annual course of lecture discussion given by men who treat their respective subjects with candor and insight based upon long study and authoritative knowledge.

JOHN DEWEY

New York City  
October, 1936

55726

RAYMOND GRAM SWING SCRIPT - December 25, 1944

"I love a game, I love a fight,  
I hate the dark, I love the light.  
I love my child, I love my wife,  
I am no coward. I love life.

I'm but the son my mother bore,  
A simple man, and nothing more.  
But -- God of strength and gentleness,  
Be pleased to make me nothing less.

Help me, O God when death is near  
To mock the haggard face of fear,  
That when I fall -- if fall I must --  
My soul may triumph in the dust."

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END OF SCRIPT.....



Extract from Raymond Grant Spring talk  
Dec 25, 1944.

the character + quality of  
After making a tribute to the boys in the service  
he quoted the following poem -

As a simple expression of the soul of a soldier of democracy, I am  
going to close by quoting a short poem, not by an American boy but by a  
British soldier whose outlook on the fundamentals undoubtedly  
is quite the same. During the war in North Africa, the British 8th  
Army held a poetry contest for soldiers, and a volume of their con-  
tributions has been published, called 'Poems from the Desert by  
British 8th Army. The stanzas I am going to read were  
not submitted in the contest. They were found in a slit  
trench. The author has never been identified. These are the lines:

"Stay with me, God, the night is dark,  
The night is cold; my little spark  
Of courage dies, the night is long,  
Be with me God, and make me strong.

I love a game, I love a fight,  
I hate the dark, I love the light,  
I love my child, I love my wife,  
I am no coward, I love life.

I'm but the son my mother bore  
A simple man, and nothing more.

But - God of strength and gentleness,  
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That when I fall - if fall I must -  
My soul may triumph in the dust."

The Filson Historical Society

Post War World Council

I believe there must be world cooperation to achieve economic justice, to assure equality of all races and peoples and to end imperialism & all dictatorialships. I will work with the Council for the attainment of a just, lasting & democratic peace.