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People's Forum

KILLING THE PATIENT

Editor Herald:

Sir: Progress in the science of healing bodily ills has been remarkable in the last one hundred years but our knowledge of social science has not advanced very much since the Dark Ages. Our doctors do not hinder the recovery of sick people by draining off a portion of their blood but give Nature a chance to effect a cure. Our political quacks still adhere to the "guess" system or the "hit and miss" or "trial and error" method.

There are definite indications of the recovery of society from its long sick spell in spite of almost every obstruction that ingenious but ignorant law-makers could suggest. We have bled consumers white through tariffs, trade regulation, codes and quotas. We have spent millions in our efforts to control, stabilize or increase prices of commodities. Taxation of production and consumption has almost killed the patient but in spite of all these illogical, mischievous and fantastic measures, conceived by well-meaning, honest and sincere reformers, there is still evidence of life. Some business is still being done. There are some consumers still able to buy. The recuperative powers of Nature are so great there is still hope.

Germany, Italy, Spain and France are good examples and Russia is the shining example of complete control of all human activities. New plans for the prevention of production are presented continually. The latest local instance is that of Mr. Lassiter, who, if correctly reported, advocates the elimination of all present forms of taxation and proposes an assessment or levy on production to "be based on the amount of production, amount of profit in a given production, etc." He states a five per cent. levy would produce \$15,000,000, and ten per cent. \$30,000,000. The assessment would apply to "every bushel of wheat and other commodities."

During one political campaign in Alberta the voters learned a "levy" was not a tax and now we learn that "a production tax would eliminate the necessity of having to tax everything we purchase." "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

When I was a boy my mother gave me what she said was coffee, but it tasted like castor oil to me.

FRED PEASE.

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Municipal