

**THE SOCIALIST CATECHISM.**

**METHODS OF EXTORTION.**

Q. What did you mean by saying that capital without labor is helpless?  
 A. The most ingenious machinery can do nothing but rust or rot unless it is kept going by laborers.

Q. Why do not the laborers decline to work the machinery for the capitalists?  
 A. Because they have no other means of making their livelihood.

Q. How could this be remedied?  
 A. The State could compete with the capitalist by providing employment for the laborers, and paying them the full value of their productions.

Q. What would be the effect of this upon the private capitalist?  
 A. His power would be gone at once, since no laborer would work for him, except on such terms as would leave him no surplus value whatever.

Q. Is not the existence of capital in private lands an evil?  
 A. Yes, certainly; but capital, as such, would cease to exist.

Q. Is not wealth in private hands an evil?  
 A. Large accumulations of wealth by individuals are an evil; but the evil is different in kind, for they could not longer be used to carry out the capitalist system.

Q. Why not?  
 A. Because the capitalist system presupposes the existence of two factors, and is unworkable and impossible without them.

Q. What are these two factors?  
 A. First, private property is accumulated wealth; and, secondly, the presence of propertyless laborers in the market who are forced to sell their services at cost price.

Q. What do you mean by cost price?  
 A. The wages which will give them a bare subsistence and enable them to work on the morrow; this being the cost of the daily reproduction of the force or power to labor which constitutes their sole property.

Q. Could not the capitalists obtain laborers by offering them the full value of their productions?  
 A. Possibly, but since the only object of the capitalist system is to produce for profit they would cease to wish to employ them when the source of interest and profit was cut off.

Q. But supposing, in spite of their previous principles, they still wished to employ them, what would be the result?  
 A. The laborers would have nothing to complain of in this case; but the result would be that private capital would gradually dwindle away, since it would not be replaced by surplus value, and the capitalist could not compete with the State on equal terms.

Q. What has hitherto prevented the workers from combining for the overthrow of the capitalist system?  
 A. Ignorance and disorganization.

Q. What has left them in ignorance?  
 A. The system itself, by compelling them to spend all their lives upon monotonous toil, and leaving them no time for education.

Q. What account have they been given of the system which oppresses them?  
 A. The priest has explained that the perpetual presence of the poor is necessitated by a law of God; the economist has proved its necessity by a law of Nature; and between them they have succeeded in convincing the laborers of the hopelessness of any opposition to the capitalist system.

Q. How is it that the laborers cannot see for themselves that they are legally robbed?  
 A. Because the present method of extracting their surplus value is one of fraud rather than of force, and has grown up gradually.

Q. Has this not always been the case?  
 A. Certainly not. Under the slave owning system there was no fraud involved, but only force.

Q. What similarity is there between the slave owning and the capitalist system?  
 A. The parallel is complete, with the single exception that force was used instead of fraud.

Q. Explain this.  
 A. The slave owner received the produce of the slave's toil, and returned to him part of it in the shape of food, clothing and shelter. The capitalist takes the whole produce of the laborer's toil, and returns to him such proportion of it as will provide him with necessaries.

Q. What constitutes the chief difference between capitalism and slave owning?  
 A. The fact that the capitalist goes through the form of bargaining with the laborer as to the amount of the portion of the produce that shall be returned to him.

Q. What is this farce called?  
 A. Freedom of contract.

Q. In what sense is it free?  
 A. In this sense—that the laborer is free to take what is offered or nothing.

Q. Has he anything to fall back upon?  
 A. He has absolutely nothing in countries where the tyranny of capitalism is untempered by any form of Socialism.

Q. What is the case in England?  
 A. Humanity has revolted against the reign of the capitalist, and provided the workhouse as a last resource for the laborer, taxing the capitalist for its support.

How has the capitalist turned this piece of Socialism to his own ends?  
 A. By rendering the workhouse so unpleasant to the poor that starvation is often thought preferable; and by insisting that no useful work done in the workhouse shall be brought into his market, where its presence would disturb his calculations and impair his profits.

Q. Why does he allow it to exist at all?  
 A. Because he knows that its existence may stave off for a time the revolution which he dreads.

Q. What do you mean by the revolution?  
 A. The complete change in the conditions of society, which will abolish all unjust privileges, distinctions of rank, or difference between wage payers and wage earners, and will render the workers their own employers.

Q. What other method of appropriating surplus value has prevailed besides those of slavery and capitalism?  
 A. In purely agricultural countries, as for instance in Ireland and Southeastern Europe, different types of landlordism have been quite as effectual.

Q. Does landlordism represent the forcible or the fraudulent method?  
 A. Force is its chief element, since it labels the surplus value "rents," and uses all the resources of civilization, in the shape of police and soldiery, to enforce their payment by the people; but the element of fraud is present, since the laborer is told that he is free to give up his holding if he does not wish to pay rent.

Q. Mention a special type of landlordism.  
 A. The system called corvee.

Q. How does this work?  
 A. The laborer is allowed to work on his own land for a certain number of days, and to keep for himself all the produce of his toil during that time, on the condition that he spends all his remaining time upon the land which belongs to the landlord, who appropriates its fruits.

Q. How does this differ from the capitalist method of appropriation?  
 A. Chiefly in the fact that the laborer knows exactly when he is working for his own benefit, and when for that of the landlord; while under the capitalist system there is no line of distinction, and neither he nor anyone else can tell precisely the exact length of time during which he gives away his labor gratis, although it is clear that his first two or three hours are for himself, and the remaining seven or eight for some one else.

Q. Can you show this to be the case?  
 A. As the producers only get from one fourth to one third of the total produce, the remainder of their work obviously goes to benefit the non-producers.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

**Take Notes.**

Get into the habit of taking notes as you read. Without this precaution, literature flows over the brain in a current, pleasant and wholesome, indeed, but unfruitful. The mind cannot retain distinct impressions without mechanical aids, and there is no condition of mental atmosphere less satisfactory than haziness. Much of the pleasure of which we are conscious exists in memory; it is plain, therefore, that very much of it must be lost by those who neglect to train, assist, extend, and cultivate the memory. Mr. Morritt has described how, when visiting Egglestone and Brignal with Sir Walter Scott, who intended to make these places the scenes of some incidents in "Rokeby," he observed him noting down everything, even to the kind of wild flowers growing near. "I laughed, in short, at his scrupulousness; but I understood him when he replied 'that in Nature herself no two scenes are exactly alike, and that . . . whoever trusted to imagination would soon find his own mind circumscribed and contracted to a few favorite images, and the repetition of these would sooner or later produce that very monotony and barrenness which had always haunted descriptive poetry in the hands of any but patient worshippers of the truth.'"

**A Wonderful Thing is an Egg.**

How many people who are fond of eggs, and eat them daily, ever stop to think what a wonderful thing an egg is. It is one of the greatest wonders of nature. What part of egg is the animal? The clear white part? No. The yoke? No; that is merely food. Break a raw egg, and beside the yolk and the white what do you find? On the membrane which covers they yolk you will see a little whitish circle. That is the animal. When nature brings the young animal at an early period into the outer air or water, it provides it with means to live. A young alligator, no larger than a tiny lizard, takes to the water the moment it creeps out of the shell, and begins to devour what it can. It needs no protection.

**LABOR AND WAGES.**

**BIG STRIKE INAUGURATED**

**Some Thirty Thousand Stonecutters Leave Work.**

AMERICAN.

NEW YORK, May 17.—The lockout of the granite cutters throughout the New England States was declared yesterday morning, throwing 20,000 or 30,000 men out of work. At the same time a number of strikes were ordered in sympathy with the stonecutters, and it was estimated fully 50,000 men employed in quarrying and stone building work had failed to take up the tools this morning at the regular time for beginning work, as the outcome of a difference between the New England associations of granite manufacturers and paving contractors and their employees. Twenty-five thousand men are idle now as the result of the manufacturers' two lockouts and the sympathetic strikes of pavers in this city, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston, Providence, Albany, Troy and New London. Inside of a week over 100,000 men, including stonecutters, pavers, handlers, blacksmiths, drivers, laborers, hoisting engineers, derrickmen, carpenters and masons, will be out. Every city and village east of the Mississippi river, in which buildings are being erected or granite monuments cut, may feel the effects of this gigantic struggle between capital and labor. Wherever there is stone from the quarries of the forty members of the Granite Manufacturers' Association, strikes will be ordered. Work on the Capitol at Albany, on the National Library at Washington, on the monster Betz brewery in Philadelphia, on the Grant Monument in Riverside Park, on the Memorial arch in Brooklyn, on the new Soldiers Monument in a little Ohio village, and on World's Fair buildings in Chicago is already stopped. The capitalists and the unions are both determined not to give in. If the men do not stand firm the backbone of the Quarrymen's union and the Granite Cutters' union will be broken. The struggle may last six months. The original cause of the trouble can be told in a paragraph. The manufacturers want to make the annual agreement with the unions covering the scale of prices and hours of work in January of each year. The unions insist that this agreement be made in May of each year, as at present. In January there is little work and many idle men. In May the quarries are operated to their full capacity and there is employment for every man in every branch of the industry. In January the employers could fix wages for the year at a low rate; in May the men can dictate their own terms.

NEW YORK, May 18.—Neither bosses nor union men show any signs of weakening regarding the strikes and lockouts in the granite and paving industries. Reports of additional sympathy strikes are received at frequent intervals. The unions claim their position is growing stronger. A conservative estimate of the total number of men now affected by the strike throughout the country is 70,000. Of these one-fourth are out in New York and its vicinity.

The New York Association of Working Girls' Clubs has twenty different societies, with a membership of 2,500. Seven societies rent an entire house, twelve rent rooms and one owns its own house.

The superintendent of a big division of the Pennsylvania Railroad in a lecture to employees under him recently declared against the running of passenger and freight trains on Sunday.

Labor Commissioner Robinson, of Michigan, shows in a recent report that the average hours of labor for women in that State are at present ten per day at seventy-five cents.

Over 3,700 journeymen have graduated during the last ten years from the New York City Trade School, which at present has about 600 pupils.

The dry goods firms of Baltimore, Md., have agreed to close their stores at noon on Saturdays throughout the summer months.

In Massachusetts the demands of organized labor have secured the passage of 35 laws during the last five years.

Strikes for eight hours and more wages are being reported from all over the country.

A Seamen's Union of America has been organized in Chicago.

EUROPEAN.

In Lancashire, England, the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners has ordered a general lockout in order to limit production. This action will result in throwing thousands of mill hands out of employment.

To enable the continuance of the Queensland sugar industry it has been found imperative that cheap Polynesian labor be introduced from the South Sea Islands.

The entire membership of the trades unions in Germany is about 350,000 at present, as shown by the reports at the recent National Convention in Halberstadt.

The bakers' unions of Berlin have established a co-operative shop, furnishing bread to 88 different stores and many hundreds of families.

English army nurses are paid \$600 a year, and this is increased \$50 for every year of service until it reaches \$1,000.

Out of the 240,000 domestic servants in London it is estimated that 10,000 of them are always out of employment.

It is calculated that the aggregate annual income of the working classes of England is about \$1,500,000,000.

The sponge industry of the Bahama Islands employs 500 boats and nearly 5,000 men.

The minimum age of employment on the Continent is generally 12, or from 12 to 14.

Chinamen have been imported into Belgium to replace striking iron workers.

CANADIAN.

The masons employed by Crain & Mix, contractors for the new carriage works, Brookville, have struck for higher wages. The contractors say they will go right on with the work by bringing in men from outside points.

The pipemakers employed at the Hamilton and Toronto sewer pipe works, of Hamilton, in the northeast end are out on strike for an advance from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per day.

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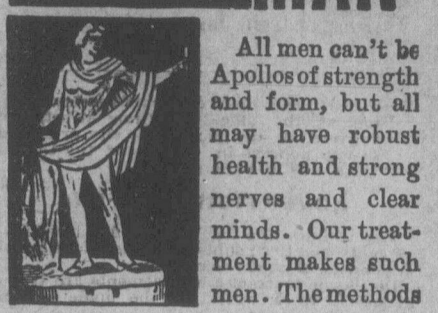
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