

with much confusion of waters. And since we should like to see New Town set rightly and firmly in its historical environment, it will perhaps be worth while to cast a glance back on this world-wide movement.

It may be said, perhaps, that the traditions and sympathies of the common folk have always preserved an element of communal feeling. But the effect of the competitive commercial and industrial system, with its attendant rapid growth of great cities, was to uproot the traditions and discourage the sympathies. New and wider forms of association were needed in order to meet the new conditions. Politically, the hopes of the people were at first centred in the demand for a wider franchise—but there was found to be no magic in this machinery. It is a necessary step, but only a short one. The opponents of the capitalistic and competitive order then began to collect into armies, in all countries, under the challenging banner of Socialism. The early Socialists believed in the method of communities. It was only necessary for a few hundred or a few thousand men and women to join together in a properly organised community for them to achieve at once a state of happiness and prosperity, and for all the world to rush to follow their example. In England, Robert Owen gathered his tens of thousands of followers from all ranks of society, and experiments in community life were made in a number of countries, mostly with unfortunate results. The world, slightly amused, ran on in its old way. The next stage was that of "Scientific" Socialism, inaugurated by the work of Karl Marx. The workers of the world were to unite and prepare for the time when the capitalist system, becoming ever more and more top-heavy, would be overturned once for all, and the whole people, organised as a State, administer thenceforth all things for the common good. Again, things did not turn out altogether as expected. The workers united only to separate again. Even the capitalist