

of the governing class, and all history is filled with struggles between the classes in a country—class conflicts. Of these struggles, the first type is that between the land-owning feudal nobles and the citizens of the trading-towns, whom Marx calls the bourgeoisie. These struggles ended in the overthrow of the feudal nobility and the rise to power of the capitalist bourgeoisie, who are now the masters of our society; but the time is destined to come, and is even now on the way, when the supremacy of the capitalist bourgeoisie shall be overthrown by the labouring masses known to Marx as the proletariat. These people, whether with ballots or with bullets, will assume control of all the means of production and of the process of distribution, and will thereby stop the legalized exploitation of the wage-earner by the capitalist, under which name the Socialist includes the entrepreneur as well as the person whom we call the capitalist.

Struggle of Proletariate and Bourgeoisie.

How have the members of the proletariat been exploited by the bourgeoisie? Marx claims that all the inventions made at the time of the Industrial Revolution have contributed only to increase the wealth of the upper classes and have in no wise helped to brighten the lot of the poor. This, it is generally recognized, is untrue to-day; but when Marx wrote his great book, *Capital*, it was probably true enough that bodies of workers led a life no better than they had led a century before; that the purchasing power of their wages was, if anything, less than it had been in the previous century, and that the greatest distress prevailed, especially in those home industries where the hand-workers attempted to keep up an utterly futile competition with the machine workers. Marx at that time had too many facts on his side to be laughed out of court.

Times have, fortunately, changed. It is probable that at no period in the past has the condition of the working-classes in England, France, Germany and the United States—to name only the four leading industrial nations—

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