

more difficult to surmount, perhaps, than the strange idea that an Empire is essential to a nation's welfare and success."

Mr. Harve, French Socialist: "We detest all mother countries. We will not give an inch of our skin for our own, and if we have to risk our lives it must be for something worth while, and that is to make a revolution."

Ramsay Macdonald, M. P., Socialist: "Empire and Imperialism are expressions which must be obnoxious to any democratic party, because they imply a conception of national destiny and a method of government distasteful to the democratic spirit."

Belford Bax again. "Supposing Social Democracy triumphed in Germany before the other western countries were ripe for the change, of their own initiative, it might then be a matter of life and death for Germany to forestall a military and economic isolation by immediate action, especially against the stronghold of modern commercialism. Should such an invasion of the country take place, it would be the duty of every Socialist to do all in his power to assist the invaders, and to crush the will of the count of heads majority of the people of England, knowing that the real welfare of the latter lay therein, little as they might suspect it."

Bax and Quelch, both powerful leaders of Socialism in England, hold the same opinion as regards monarchy and Imperialism, viz., that Socialism involves political and economic equality, while Monarchy or Empire essentially imply domination and inequality, therefore the Monarchy must be abolished and this is the first reform on the Socialist programme when they come to their own, and yet I have good authority for this statement, there are many people in England today who are ignorant that such a doctrine is being preached and promulgated in every city of the kingdom—Blachford, Hyndman, Victor Fisher, all leading Socialist writers, are particularly loud in the cry of such sentiments as these. "We must turn to Socialism, the only remedy, the only hope." Again: "But all that reasonable human beings can desire for themselves and their offspring can be obtained by moderate service for the community, through Social Democracy and Social Democracy alone."

These statements by leading Socialists may be taken to be fairly typical of the claims made on behalf of Socialism and by its adherents and supporters. There is no evil that it will not cure. It is the moral, political, social and industrial panacea. The temptation to clutch at the delusive as offering a more speedy remedy than true reform is at all times strong. Hence the popularity of Socialism.

In regard to both the past and present Socialists may be described as ultra pessimists, and in regard to the future, unbounded optimists.

At this point in the discussion of this question it may be well to note that nearly all the matter I have quoted from the Socialist side or point of view relates to their destructive policy, but little or nothing is said of their constructive policy.

This is where the great weakness in their scheme discloses itself, for in reality, Socialism is not yet provided with any policy of construction. It is far easier for them to fulminate about what is to be destroyed—what is to be abolished. There is grave reason to doubt whether Socialists have given any serious thought at all to the complex subject of a constructive