

# Why Not Enjoy What You Produce?

Leaflet Number Thirteen.

Wouldn't you like to wear better clothes, eat better food, live in a better house, work shorter hours under better condition than you do now? Of course you would.

Now, who builds all the nice houses which we see all around us? The working class—and they themselves live in shacks or tenements.

Who make all the fine garments and themselves dress in shoddy rags? Again the working class.

Who live on the cheapest and most adulterated foods, whilst themselves producing all the good things to eat? Who build automobiles and then walk? Once more the working class!

Why do you deliver up all these good things to those who never produced them? Because you have to!

Why do you have to? Because you work for wages, your labor-power that you sell for wages being a commodity like butter, eggs, cheese or potatoes, its price is governed by the same laws which govern the price of butter, eggs, cheese and potatoes. Your labor-power is bought by your employer just as he buys coal, coke, lumber or any other raw material.

With the aid of modern machinery, the productive power of human labor is wonderful. The workers produce many times more than they can buy back again and enjoy. Why cannot they buy it back again? They haven't the means to buy it back!

Who have the means? The capitalist class!

Who are the capitalist class? The people who own the earth! That economic class in human society which owns the land, railroads factories and mines.

Then why can these people buy all the good things that you produce? By virtue of their ownership of the things by which you make a living. By virtue of their ownership of the land, railroads, factories and mines.

By what right do the capitalist class own these means of production? By reason of their making and building them? No. The workers make and build them.

Because they manage and run them? No. The capitalists pay men to manage and run them—workingmen.

Why, then, do they own them? Because they have certain pieces of paper which say that they own them. Because they control the powers of government, the parliaments, law, courts, armies, navies and police to back them up when they say that they own them.

And now, last question if all, why do they control the