

MATERIALISM.

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his "Wage-Labor and Capital." In effect then, the worker's "sun"—his wage—although remaining stationary in itself, is considered to be in motion in relation to objects that actually have moved. Hence, our ancestors, in asserting that their sun moved around an object—the earth—which was the real mover, were relatively right and, consequently, not absolutely wrong!

Apply this analogy to the questions of idealism and materialism. Undoubtedly, materialism is the correct theory; but don't let us therefore altogether despise and reject idealism. Materialism is the hidden, vitally essential, strong, rock-set foundation that supports the whole superstructure. But idealism is the lovely superstructure itself, which charms and satisfies both eye and soul! Mankind's anti-materialistic instincts, as we said, are prophetic; for capitalism already offers us the basis for rendering any anxiety about matters material, ridiculous—"Consider the lilies of the field," etc.

Capitalism not only supplies the basis for mastery over material affairs, but it has also furnished the proofs of such supremacy; and Karl Marx gave us the means to understand these proofs in his theory of surplus value which he discovered in the mid-nineteenth century along with his two other discoveries—the materialist explanation of history and the class war principle. His analysis of surplus value lays bare the source of profit and the exploitation of the working-class. A hazy idea still prevails that profit is made by selling goods at a purely artificial price fixed by the will of the seller, over and above their true value. But Marx, in his "Value, Price and Profit" shows that this idea is incorrect. And yet so truly is the theory of surplus value a genuine discovery that even Marx himself can only prove it in this lecture, indirectly: just as the roundness of the earth, contrary to its appearance of flatness, must be, like many another scientific truth, proved indirectly or, as it is called in logic, "symbolically" and not by instantaneous direct observation, i.e., "intuitively."

Now surplus value is what the workers create over and above the value of their labor-capacity; for which latter they get, on an average, just enough wages to maintain it in condition and to rear up fresh labor-powers embodied in their children, to replace the adult powers when worn out and useless. The labor that the worker must do to earn his keep is called necessary labor; and the labor which he performs over and above this necessary labor, as a free gift to his employers, is called surplus labor. It is from this surplus labor that all profit is derived, and the subject is fully treated in "Capital," vol. I, chapter 18—"Various Formulae for Rate of Surplus Value."

There are figures available (for the United States, for example) which give us an insight both into the amount of surplus labor imposed upon the workers, and also the degree of their exploitation. The statistics from 1860 to 1919 indicate that the workers' share in wages in the total wealth produced in the U.S.A., average seventeen per cent. H. Cahn, page 237 of his "Capital Today" produces figures which show that, in a ten hour working day, the necessary labor time, during which the worker produces his own keep is two hours and twelve minutes, and the surplus labor time that goes to the employers, is seven hours and forty-eight minutes.

Of course, under capitalist conditions, wages merely represent, on the average, a subsistence standard. So, if something more than subsistence wages is demanded, under Socialism, somewhat longer hours than the necessary labor time would have to be worked; especially as communal expenses would then be directly borne by the working class. But then, under Socialism, an increase of working powers would be gained by the abolition of those capitalist occupations, such as commercial travelling, advertising agencies, etc., etc., permitting a large addition being made to the necessary productive army.

As regards agriculture, a section of prairie farm land is said to be capable of supporting from 40 to 50 people. A township containing 36 sections would,

therefore, maintain 1440 people. As the prairie provinces alone contain thousands of such townships, one can understand how small a farming population could sustain billions of people. Already the cry is heard that farming "overproduction" is annihilating the prices of farm commodities. The following (newspaper comment) refers to the Canadian crop of 1923:—

"The prairie provinces, with less than two million population, produced enough wheat and meat this summer to feed about fifty million people, yet thousands of families are very poor, their children cannot attend school for want of clothing, and hundreds of families on the treeless prairies, it is stated, have not sufficient money to buy coal. Why, with such great production are there so many in want?"

Therefore, the Socialist contention is well within the mark, that with proper organization the full labor day need not exceed four hours.

All this is proved to be possible. We have the means, material and physiological, to make it possible. Only the requisite knowledge, the will and the organization are lacking. When this trinity do get together and become as one, the Mastery of Materialism over us will be altered into our Mastery over Materialism; which will then be reduced to virtual nonentity, and the Age of Idealism, the Golden Age, the Millennium will at last, a welcome guest, have come to stay with us!

PROGRESS.

SOCIALISTIC REMINISCENCES OF THE KLONDIKE

(Continued from page 1)

him that gives and him that takes." Some of them perhaps, have made money. We may take it for granted that they are all happy and, we hope, living in peace.

But even if they made no fortunes we venture to say that each still won a very valuable prize. Is not knowledge a glorious reward? and does not our particular kind of knowledge make us superior to those petty jealousies incidental to class-interests and born of economic necessity entailed by our present competitive system?

Plutes and barons may feel a temporary superiority over the unfortunates from whose hard work

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they draw their sustenance, but a socialist knowing the meaning and historical import of it all looks out from the window of reality at the ephemeral numery of a passing show. He knows full well that the figures that now occupy the world's stage are like the masked Santa Clauses who diffuse universal pleasure during the years of our childhood by presenting to the families as gifts articles that some of the members earned by their own hard work. Humanity, like the child, is growing. In another sense we might say 'they' are growing. They will soon get rid of their pet delusions. The plural is here used advisedly since we are thinking of humanity as two babies born with every attribute that will make of them an invincible man to be admired and trusted, and an enlightened woman to be loved and honoured.

Surely the acquisition of this truth is more to be desired than all the gold of the Klondike.

Let us hope that those of our cosmopolitan friends who were unlucky financially have the grand consolation of possessing the treasures embodied in the momentous truths that are crystallized in the doctrines of scientific socialism.

PLATFORM

Socialist Party of Canada

We, the Socialist Party of Canada affirm our allegiance to, and support of the principles and programme of the revolutionary working class.

Labor, applied to natural resources, produces all wealth. The present economic system is based upon capitalist ownership of the means of production, consequently, all the products of labor belong to the capitalist class. The capitalist is, therefore, master; the worker a slave.

So long as the capitalist class remains in possession of the reins of government all the powers of the State will be used to protect and defend its property rights in the means of wealth production and its control of the product of labor.

The capitalist system gives to the capitalist an ever-swelling stream of profits and to the worker, an ever increasing measure of misery and degradation.

The interest of the working class lies in getting itself free from capitalist exploitation by the abolition of the wage system, under which this exploitation, at the point of production, is cloaked. To accomplish this necessitates the transformation of capitalist property in the means of wealth production into socially controlled economic forces.

The irrepressible conflict of interest between the capitalist and the worker necessarily expresses itself as a struggle for political supremacy. This is the Class Struggle.

Therefore we call upon all workers to organize under the banner of the Socialist Party of Canada, with the object of conquering the political powers for the purpose of setting up and enforcing the economic programme of the working class, as follows:

- 1—The transformation, as rapidly as possible, of capitalist property in the means of wealth production (natural resources, factories, mills, railroads, etc.) into collective means of production.
- 2—The organization and management of industry by the working class.
- 3—The establishment, as rapidly as possible, of production for use instead of production for profit.

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