

is probable that one-third of the total income of the American capitalist is at once reinvested in production. This service, under socialism, necessarily would be assumed by society as a whole. From the total product there must first, then, be made the large deduction necessary for the carrying on of industry. Further, on the assumption that compensation rather than confiscation will be adopted, there must be made large deductions for the payment of the interest due the former owners of the capital appropriated. No fraction of this income can be directly applied, under a socialist regime, to reinvestment; it must perforce be spent in consumption goods and society as a whole be burdened with the double task of providing capital and providing for the ex-capitalist. Kautsky is only facing the inevitable when he admits that there is little possibility of raising the workers' rewards from this source and that their only hope of betterment lies in an increase of production beyond the present level.

Under the existing system, it should be borne in mind, this betterment by the improvement of production is not merely a vague dream but an actual and continuing reality. The increase in the world's wealth is constant and substantial, at least a proportionate share falling to the working classes. What possibilities of increased production has socialism to offer to compare with these realities? In the first place, it is hoped, the productivity of labor could be increased by concentrating work in the largest and most perfect industrial plants and throwing the rest out of service. This appears quite feasible, in theory. It is, as the references to trust precedents show, a tendency which is actually at work in existing society. Yet not all production can be carried on by large-scale factory methods. Again, it is hoped, that increased productivity will result from abolishing the parasites, turning the superfluous hosts of middlemen to more productive employment. Assuming that the charge of parasitism is sound, what of the host of parasitical statisticians required to keep up the equilibrium between demand and supply?

Grant that so far as the formal organization goes, with the whole available population enrolled in productive employment, and concentrated in the largest and best-equipped establishments, the socialist machinery would be adequate; the all-important question remains, what motor-force would be available to drive it? Were the organization never so perfect on paper, the collectivist state could survive only if the motor forces influencing the individual workers were approachably as strong as those in operation to-day. For whatever it may work of ill, the existing institution of private property supplies this absolutely needful stimulus. It has grown up and flourished