

SOCIALISM

(CONTRIBUTED BY J. H. TRIPP)

Probably no other subject is more widely discussed in the world today than that of socialism. Undoubtedly no other subject is more generally misunderstood and misrepresented. The capitalist press never omit an opportunity to confound socialism with anarchism or some other freak movement in their mad endeavor to stem the tide of revolutionary propaganda which is sweeping over the world today. Even some of the prominent leaders in the trades-union movement in America have denounced socialism in the strongest terms. But like all other revolutionary movements founded on truth and justice, socialism has withstood all assaults, and emerged from the conflict stronger and grander than ever in the justness of its principles. Slowly, but surely, "the truth that makes us free" is being learned by the workers, and the day is not far distant when they will see the fruition of their labors.

No subject is of more vital importance today to the wage-earners than socialism, as it is the only logical solution to the irrepressible struggle which is being constantly waged between Capital and Labor throughout the world. It strikes directly at the root of the evil, in as much as it stands for the abolition of wage-slavery. It does not waste time in fighting effects, but seeks to remove the cause.

Socialism is essentially a product of the nineteenth century. It was impossible during the days of individ-

ual production, when every man worked in his own shop with the crude tools of his time. Not until the small tool, operated by a single individual, gave way to the giant machine manned by a score of workers, was socialism practicable or necessary. Today we have social production; i.e., production carried on by a number of workers working together. Socialism simply means that as we have social production today, we should also have social ownership. The trend of capitalist society is to increase social production and decrease social ownership. The wealth of the world is constantly becoming centered in fewer and fewer hands, until today we have the Rockfellers, the Morgans, the Carnegies and the Vanderbilts, owning or controlling the largest part of the wealth of the United States.

Socialism, in a nutshell, means that the worker shall receive the full product of his toil, and not about one-fifth as at present. It means that he shall share in the blessings of labor-saving machinery, instead of being dumped on the labor market as a result of it. It means that labor-saving inventions shall be used to lessen the hours of labor, instead of increasing the intensity of the workers' toil. It means more leisure time for the worker to enjoy the gifts of nature, and to develop himself as nature intended him to be developed. Under capitalism the worker is nothing more than a mere machine, without any will but his masters'. Under socialism, he would rapidly develop into the noblest specimen of manhood, with

"the elements
"So mixed in him, that Nature
"might stand up, and say to all
"the world: This was a Man!"