

The Working Class and Master Class

Leaflet number Five.

One often sees the term, "the working classes," used by capitalist speakers and in the capitalist press.

There are no working classes.

There is a Working CLASS.

Why is there a Working Class?

There is a Working Class because there is a Class which doesn't work, for the most part, with which the Working Class is compared.

Why does not this class work?

Because they have no need of working, because they are in a position to make the other class work for them.

They are in the position of owners of the means of production, the means of life.

This gives them the power of forcing those who DO NOT own the means of production to beg the owners for the opportunity to produce, and to get the opportunity when it suits the owners to let them have it.

It suits the owners to employ those who do not own when they can receive profit from their labor.

The Class line can only be clearly drawn between those who own and those who do not. It can only be drawn on property lines.

It can not be drawn on organic lines, for all members of the human species are organically the same.

It can not be drawn on lines of color or race, as we have Anglo-Saxon capitalists, German capitalists, Chinese capitalists, and negro capitalists; we have Anglo-Saxon workers, German workers, Chinese workers and negro workers.

There are capitalists of all races, and workers of all races.

The Class line cannot even (though we use the term "the working class" popularly) be drawn between the idle class and the working class because there are a number of the capitalist class who take part in industry and there are always a number of the non-owning class who are forced to be idle because the jobs will not go round.

Truly, there are a number of those, whom we may term petty capitalists, in society, little business man and the like, those whom Kautsky speaks of as "unclassifiable hybrids, belonging wholly to neither class, and partly to both," those whose lives are a continual worry, who are despairingly but fruitlessly striving to maintain their position, "hanging on by the hair of their eyebrows," but as they are bound to be shook off into the working class before long, they are a negligible factor.

Having endeavored briefly to make the matter clear, I