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LET US CLEAR THE WAY FOR THE SOCIALIST STATE

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PARASITIC LABOR

There is much labor now performed which is well remunerated, which under a sane system would be entirely eliminated. Imagine, if you can, a system of production of the necessities of life in which all useless labor was done away with. Imagine a form of government under which all who could work would be given something to do which was really to the advantage of the public.

Under such a system the great majority of the lawyers would have nothing to do. The lawyer is a creature whose chief office it is to decide between two disputing owners as to whom a certain piece of property should belong. The lawyer has to decide according to a very cumbersome system of law. These laws would be done away with and the lawyer would find little to do. The doctor would also have little to do, as sickness results principally from unhealthy surroundings, and under this system would be introduced the surroundings would be healthy.

The real estate brokers would be done away with, as people would no longer buy or sell real estate. The stock brokers would find their occupation gone. Under this system people would no more buy or sell railroad shares than they would buy or sell shares in the post office department. The landlords would be abolished. The idle rich and all their flunking attendants would go. Commercial travellers would no more travel up and down the country selling dry-goods. Under this system commercial travellers would no more persuade people to buy goods than they would to buy postage stamps.

Three-quarters of the store keepers would find their occupation gone. One storekeeper with four or five clerks could just as well do the business that four or five storekeepers with their clerks now do.

Notaries would have little to do. Notaries draw deeds and there would be few deeds drawn under this system. Trust companies would be abolished, as their occupation would be gone. A trust company exists for the purpose of holding valuable securities and the valuable securities would be vested in the public.

It is almost impossible to enumerate the amount of parasitic labor that is now done and which under a socialist system would be found to be useless. Police, soldiers, navies, the makers of war implements, etc., would have to turn their attention to other lines of endeavor.

USEFUL LABOR

Under a socialistic system there would be much labor to be employed along right lines. There is the vast army of the unemployed which would have to set to work at something useful. There is also the vast mass of intellect and labor which is now doing useless labor and which would have to be set to work along right and useful lines.

All this labor is kept at work now to uphold the interests of private property. The home is neglected. The first thing this immense army of intellect and labor would be set to work to do would be the providing of homes for the people. The home is the foundation of the state, a fact which seems to be entirely overlooked at present in the mad rush for private wealth. After the homes were provided, the vast army of labor would be set to work to beautify the homes and to make life worth living. Broad streets and beautiful buildings would take the place of the slum areas. Trolley lines would stretch out to the lonely farms. Parks would be created; public libraries would be erected; railroads would be made safe and comfortable for travel and they would be beautiful. People's palaces would be built for the recreation of the workers. Old age would not be dreaded, and the young would be given the best of care. The nightmares of rented shops, of tainted milk, of penniless old age, of fever areas and of the hunt for work would be things of the past.

It but needs a sane system of organized production to bring this happy state about. Is it any wonder that the

socialists work and long for the coming of the socialist state?

THE COMING OF SOCIALISM

The parasitic labor is being done away with. With the consolidation of firms, commercial travellers are being thrown out of employment. With the consolidation of large industries, factories are being closed down permanently and a permanent army of unemployed has come into existence. Lawyers are finding it more difficult to make a living and doctors, while the need of them is growing greater, are finding it more difficult to get patients who can pay. Storekeepers are being crowded out or are being financed by wholesale houses and are becoming mere puppets of the wholesalers.

Everywhere the consolidation of business interests and the elimination of useless labor is going on. The profit and benefit resulting are being absorbed by the few while those thrown out of employment either become hangers-on of the rich or are thrown into the unemployed class.

The days of business freedom are over. The march of destiny is on and cannot be stayed. It can only be directed. The master spirits of the large corporations are endeavoring to direct destiny to their own selfish ends. They desire to become supreme and to throw humanity back into a state of bondage and obedience to the few. These master spirits allow the people to think they are governing themselves through representative institutions, while they seek to bribe and control the elected representatives of the people. The fight on the American continent will take place at Ottawa and Washington for the real control of the powers of the government. The battle is on in earnest between the Socialist party and the Liberal and the Republican parties masquerading under the cloak of the people's will.

Victoria and New South Wales are to give a Dreadnought to Great Britain. If Canada makes a contribution to naval defence it should be in the shape of Dreadnoughts to be kept in Canadian waters under the control of a working-man's parliament.

Sir Edward Grey has declared that bankruptcy is ahead of Europe. Now bankruptcy is not a bad thing. Bankruptcy often means merely the wiping out of the debts a few scoundrels have piled up against an individual.

If a man does not work neither shall he eat, seems to be good common sense. Yet the capitalist press yawns against the socialists who try to legislate the maxim into practical application.

Did you ever see a parasite give up being a parasite? Did you ever see a capitalist get off the backs of the workers willingly? If you have you no doubt thought he was a fool for his pains.

Will socialism be ushered in by the ballots or bullets? It will be ushered in by the ballots of the workingmen unless the capitalist class monkey too much with the franchise.

Hungarian and American miners have been fighting each other in Terre Haute, Ind., for jobs in a mine. This is the logical conclusion of economic competition.

A capitalist is a good friend and boon companion to those in his own set. But he is often a fiend incarnate to the workers who produce the wealth he squanders.

The brotherhood of man cannot be practical under a system where every man is a potential competitor in the business market.

The single taxers are abroad in the land. They are not half bad chaps, but should study economics.

THE NEW DEMOCRATIC FIGHT

The old democratic fight was for the right to live. Under the old system a man's life was at the mercy of the king or of the noble. Those who controlled politically were the absolute masters of a man's life and property. Slowly through the ages the common people have struggled against terrible odds for the right to live. Martyrs have gone to their death and many rebel patriots have been hung or shot because of their fight for liberty. Today it can be truthfully said that man has the right to his own life so far as physical force on the part of organized society is concerned.

Now comes the second fight, the fight that must be fought before the principles of democracy can be said to have triumphed. The second fight is the fight for access to the means of life equally by all in proportion to the work they do. A man's life is worth little, and will soon become extinct if he cannot get access to food, clothing and shelter. These necessities are coming more and more under the control of the few, and the many have to crawl to the few and beg an opportunity to do work in return for scant clothing, poor food and hovel shelter.

Even the crawling and the begging is useless in many cases. The vast army of the unemployed and the vast army of the destitute men, women and children, in all civilized countries today show that the industrial masters care little for starving humanity.

When the second fight takes place and has triumphed; when all men, women and children can at right have access to the means of life; then indeed we shall have democracy triumphant, and humanity shall have realized that state of blessedness which a lying Kipling declares to exist at present, "Leave to live by no man's leave underneath the law."

LAISSEZ FAIRE

About a hundred and forty years ago Adam Smith founded the modern school of economics under the teachings of which the trusts have grown so powerful. Adam Smith put forward an ingenious theory based upon freedom of contract and competition.

Adam Smith took the ground that commerce should be left free and untrammelled. He gave many illustrations from history where competition had acted beneficially under certain circumstances. He directed these incidents into a theory and obtained a large following.

Commerce and industry were beginning to take their modern form. The old feudal privileges and imposts hampered the rising classes. The new powers immediately took up Adam Smith and his "Wealth of Nations" became their bible.

Anybody can prove anything from history if he will only pick out the right incidents as illustrations. The vast facts of history disprove Adam Smith's doctrines. Competition is always a passing phase, and freedom of contract has never existed and never will exist, since no two men are ever born equal in capacity and as through history no two men have been absolutely free to contract owing to the variation in their economic conditions. There have been struggles between different class interests and Adam Smith assisted the triumph of the industrialists against the feudalists.

To-day the industrialists are becoming despotic. The new struggle is between the industrial barons and the slave workers. The old, old struggle for liberty is being reenacted in modern times. The class which once sought liberty has now become repressive. The yolk placed upon the neck of the worker by the industrial capitalists must be thrown off before liberty of the individual can be achieved.

In olden days civilization rested on slave labor. Today civilization rests on machine labor tended by wage slaves, kept at their tasks by the vast army of the unemployed clamoring at the gates of the factories. Socialism aims at developing a civilization based on machine labor where all men will enjoy the fruits of civilized effort equally.

THE BASIS OF TYRANNY

The socialists are much blamed for putting forth the doctrine called "The Materialistic Conception of History." This doctrine declares that civilization is determined as to character and morality by the system of the production and appropriation of the necessities of life. This doctrine is said to be against religion, but it seems to be able to explain things that are otherwise very puzzling.

Those countries where the soil yields but scanty return for the labor spent generally develop a race of free men to whom obedience to a ruler is repugnant. On the other hand, those countries which produce abundantly the necessities of life with little labor produces races over whom kings and nobles rule as of right and without any idea of the freedom of the subject.

The explanation is that in those countries where food is difficult to get by hard work there is no surplus left over after the needs of the workers themselves have been supplied. A king therefore, could not arise who could take away from the workers to supply the needs of nobles and courtiers, generals and soldiers.

In those countries where much comes from little labor it is easy to keep four or five people from what one worker produces. It is possible, therefore, for a ruler to arise who can get soldiers around him and who can compel the workers to yield up food and clothing sufficient for the wants of kings and nobles, generals and soldiers. The workers would, no doubt, prefer to produce only for themselves and then to live without work upon their actual production of the necessities of existence. The king's armies, however, will see to it that the workers work hard in order that the king may have enough in taxes and food to keep the army well supplied.

Thus it is that in rich countries the very fact that the country is rich makes the enslavement of the workers possible. The kings and nobles and courtiers become very civilized while the workers remain little more than mere brutes of labor like the horses and elephants. This is the materialistic conception of history. It is not so very dangerous or bad when explained.

The idea the socialists have is that it is only right that those who do the work should enjoy the civilization, and many intelligent thinkers, as well as the workers themselves, are taking their stand with the socialists.

THE NEWER PHASE

In Canada and America a newer phase in politics is being developed. Formerly the large interests would put forth a common man to be elected by the people. After the ordinary person was elected, they would buy him. Now the election of a corrupt man is unsatisfactory to the large interests. Such a man cannot be depended upon even after he is bought. The result has been a reign of corruption which has disgusted those men who most benefited by it. We are now getting into a state of political activity where the big men who have consolidated their power are becoming allied with the so-called moral element. The prominent business men, the men with large interests and vested rights, are coming forward themselves to be sent directly to Washington and Ottawa.

In the European countries, where vested interests have held sway for centuries, those who benefited from privileged rights have been accustomed to go to the Parliaments almost as of right. The democratic voters handicapped by economic, political and legislative disabilities have had to fight these representatives as best they could.

The American tendency of the big interests to directly represent themselves, simply makes the issue between privileged wealth and human needs more clear cut.

THE YELLOW PRESS

Many persons have condemned the yellow press. Ministers of the Gospel, educationalists, moral reformers and a host of conventionally moral beings have been loud in their denunciations

of the literature of the yellow press; they have condemned the yellow journals in the open, and have read them on the sly.

The yellow journal has had a function to perform and has performed it. Until the advent of these radical and vulgar newspapers the great public looked up to the leaders in politics, in finance, in industry and in society as being superior creatures, as made of different clay from the ordinary mortals.

Along came the yellow journals and laid smudgy fingers on the business and social idols. The public was all aghast at the sacrilege and stared in pained amazement at the performance.

The public watched closely, and yellow journals, with their smudgy fingers, brought the quondam idols close to the public gaze for minute inspection.

Every detail of private life, every scandal and every common trait of the supposedly superior beings were set forth and the great public were dismayed and disgusted with their idols. "These be not Gods," cried the public, "But men and women like ourselves with greater defects because of greater opportunities for evil."

The work of the yellow press is done. The public is awakened and it remains for constructive policies to be fashioned, so that the public will not go back to newer idols in lieu of their broken idols of the past.

Jim Hill, the railroad man, sees no sign of returning prosperity. Jim Hill should remember that his railroad is in the north. Were it down in Mexico now, where starving wretches are compelled to work at twenty-five cents a day or be shot, Jim would perhaps be rubbing his hands and talking about how business was picking up.

It is reported that a Canadian corporation has secured large timber concessions and railway properties in Mexico. Our Canadian financiers do not mind whether their dividends come from real slavery or not. The Canadian capitalists are of the same brand as the American kind.

One of the stock arguments against socialism is that you cannot change human nature. If that is so, all the preaching by moralists and ministers is useless and should be stopped as a wasted expense.

Christ taught peace on earth, good will towards men. The rulers of the christian countries are piling up armaments of war against each other. It is the socialists alone who are practising the doctrines of peace.

Socialism is the fulfilment of Christianity in a scientific manner. Socialism is certainly not the fulfilment of Christianity as taught by the average paid preacher to tickle the ears of his bourgeois audience.

The class struggle is an existing fact. Socialists cannot be blamed for it any more than can a doctor be blamed for the existence of the scarlet fever he discovers in a patient.

The capitalists want more dividends and the workers want more pay. When two classes of people are after the same thing it is useless to deny class antagonisms.

Socialism does not want to change human nature. It wants to work hand in hand with natural laws and allow humanity to develop along right lines.

Hovels for the workers and palaces for the idlers is a condition of affairs that will have to be changed before true civilization can develop.

Under socialism the present capitalists will not starve. The workers will be philanthropic and give them some useful work to do.

How can men practice the golden rule under the rule of gold?

GENEROUS STRATHCONA

Strathcona is hailed as a generous being. He has just given a quarter of a million dollars to the Dominion of Canada. The interest from this sum, ten thousand dollars, is to be spent every year in teaching the youth of Canada to shoot. This old man, Strathcona, a man with almost his two feet in the grave, at a time of life when

he is supposed to be thinking of the future life and preparing for it, can find nothing better to do than to hatch up schemes for preparing the future men of the country to murder each other.

Warfare is murder. It matters not whether the killing of men has been sanctioned by a lot of disreputable idlers assembled together at Ottawa or not. It matters not whether a lone ruffian goes forth to kill a defenceless woman, or whether a company of men are ordered by a professional murderer in gold lace to shoot at another company of men. The act of murder is committed.

Now this old fellow, Strathcona, who has been raised to the peerage for some unknown reason, has murder in his heart. Else why does he go to work and set aside a quarter of a million dollars, which sum, in justice, should belong to the toilers on the C. P. R. system, in order that young boys may be taught to kill their fellow men?

SIR FREDERICK BORDEN

A lot of criticism has been recently aimed at Sir Frederick Borden. This criticism is aimed to show that he is an incompetent rascal and should be kicked out of office. In our opinion, Sir Frederick Borden, if he is an incompetent rascal, should be kept in office.

To those who read history it is surprising at times what evil good men in power have done, and what good evil men in power have done. This can be shown in the case of Sir Frederick Borden as set forth by his critics.

We have a force of men in Canada organized into a force called an army. These men are legalized murderers. Their business is to shoot to kill their fellow men and they are kept like hounds in leash against the time when their masters shall turn them loose upon their fellowmen of another country, or against their own fellow citizens in the time of a strike.

Sir Frederick Borden is the Minister of Militia. In other words he is the boss legalized murderer. Upon his capacity and upon his honesty, depend the efficiency of the trained murderers under him.

Now, murder is bad, and war is murder. It matters not whether King Edward or Laurier or Strathcona or the parliament of Great Britain or of Canada legalized the war or not. The crime of murder is there just the same. And the more men that are killed the more murders there are committed.

If Sir Frederick is an incompetent rascal, he should be kept in office. He is blamed because there are too many generals under him and not enough soldiers. The fewer soldiers there are in the field the better. Under the present system of capitalistic government the more the military service can be disorganized the better.

If Sir Frederick Borden wants to spend the money in gold braid for himself and his fellow junketers at Ottawa all is well. There will be less money for guns. If he wants to journey round the country enjoying wine suppers with local militia officers, it is also well. He will have less brains with which to plan efficient army schemes.

If Sir Frederick Borden is as incompetent as his critics say he is, he should be kept in office, for the more incompetent the boss legalized murderer of Canada is the better the actual workers are pleased.

Why the capitalists are provoked against the socialists is because the socialists are showing the workers that the capitalists are useless. Capital may be useful but the capitalists are a drag on society.

How often do rich men declare that they have had to fight hard for all they have got. So does a wolf have to fight hard with his fellow wolves for the game they have pulled down.