

The Root of All Diseases

BY F. EVANS.

If we look into the present order of things, the first thing that attracts our attention is the straightened circumstances and hand to mouth existence of the majority of society. Yet this destitution is supposed to be the natural order of things and it is supposed that it cannot be altered. Moreover we are told from certain sections of society that it is the acme of perfection, the best possible of all systems.

These boosters and champions of capitalism have a lot to explain and answer for. They would confer a great obligation by telling us why it was necessary, during the last ten years, for millions of workers to die ignominiously for the perpetuation of such an exalted system. This toll in life has been demanded by capitalism in that short space of time. What a hideous calamity! First the world war with its bloody horrors demanding millions of the flower of mankind from every corner of the earth. Then the flu epidemic that was a direct counterpart of the war, being produced by battlefield conditions, the mortification of human bodies and the spread of germs from this decomposition. Combine with this state of affairs the lowered physical condition of the human race and the stage is already set for any ills that flesh is heir to. The only wonder was that the epidemic did not take a toll ten times greater than it did.

Another charge of mass assassination to be laid at capitalism's door is the millions that have died from famines in different parts of the world in this same period of time. This wholesale starvation was caused in the main by capitalism's savage hordes of plundering, rapacious, military adventurers. These mercenary hounds were hired for the express purpose of destroying the rising revolutionary working class in Russia. Being unable to fulfil their contract, and finding themselves utterly bested at every turn of the wheel, they appeased their ravenous appetite for blood by pillaging and burning the peasant's granaries and stores. These buccaners, let it be remembered, were the ones looked upon as capitalism's heroes and saviours; they were acclaimed and lauded from every section of the master class as humanity's protectors.

Why should we, the exploited, have any desire to work or fight for the continuance of this system? All it means for us is a hell upon earth. At the best our miserable existence is a hideous nightmare. The only thing we get enough of is abuse and starvation. True, if we are lucky enough to find a job, we may get our pork and beans regularly. It is lamentable the contented way the workers accept this clean and muckstick environment, although, 'tis a fact that most of them are perfectly satisfied and would strenuously oppose any organized attempt on the part of any group to shake off the yoke of bondage.

With such a woebegone outlook, no wonder new cults and religions are erected and established every month. Each new quackery has its own set of jugglers and "Pecksniffs"—all of them combine to hoodwink the workers. It is because of the hocus pocus and the conjuring powers possessed by these charlatans over the exploited class that they are supported and the system perpetuated. The result of this mental chloroform is demonstrated by the drowsy apathetic attitude of those exploited towards the things that should interest them the most. These blaze of glory doctrines all hold out the olive branch to the toilers. It is this mythical happiness that follows in the eternal celestial sphere, that accounts for the success of such inspired catechisms in this earthly vale of tears. What a relief to know that after we are dead we will enter majestically into the joyous land of promise! A place where angels and saints reign forever. A resort where workers can dissipate in luxury and laziness for blessed eternity!

Besides these heavenly scraps, capitalism has

several other groups and associations of defenders. One of these clusters is known as the medical practitioner. These magicians would have us believe they are really scientific. They say they know all about the cause of disease and can cure people of almost anything. The cure can be attained by many peculiar and varied methods, the patient usually choosing the one to meet his fancy. Some prefer the process by the drug, draught, dose or diet way. Others pick a remedy that will stem the tide just as successfully, by the administration of plaster, poultices, potions or pills. All the patient does is to produce the cash. The cure wizard, by waving a wand and casting a spell, will accomplish the rest.

Only the other day a New York doctor conducted an operation to cure a kleptomaniac. He grafted a few sheep glands on a man, and afterwards said the fellow would never steal anything again. If capitalism could only produce more doctors like him, and enough sheep, they might be able to do away with 90 per cent of the police force. Another charmer, advertising his wares in a newspaper of recent date, claims he can by administering a few radium tablets, make a person immune from all prevailing diseases; with this he throws in for good measure a guarantee of long life and happiness. Other soothsayers will "cure" human ills with the same surety and success, with packets of iron, cubes of gold, tablets of yeast or by a thousand and one other ways.

None of these conjurers have ever got down to bed rock. None of them have ever made a serious study of the cause of prevailing disease. They have never made an examination into the facts of economic life. Not understanding the cause, they cannot give a scientific analysis. Their cures, remedies and wares, are 99 per cent hocus pocus, and in many cases they have been proved not only useless but harmful. We claim, these conjurers are of no use to society in general; we also assert that from a working class viewpoint they are like a lion in our path—a general hindrance—and an all around nuisance. At all times they have been amongst the standard-bearers of reaction and are with the staunchest supporters of capitalism today.

How can anyone in his right senses expect the working class in their present slough of despair to be anything but a diseased mass of humanity? The food they eat is for the most part unfit for consumption. It has been produced for profit, not to be eaten. Read Upton Sinclair's novel, "The Jungle"; he gives there a good description of the rotten, cankered, tainted heaps of conglomeration that have been used for canned meat in the packing houses of Chicago. In fact, nearly everything the working class consume is either canned, imitated or adulterated. The same holds true of the workers' wearing apparel; this too is counterfeit, a pile of shoddy rags, not fit to dress a scare-crow up in, even at that they cannot obtain enough of these dog's clothes to keep them warm or to cover their bodies decently.

The cause of disease is not to be found or removed by the Chiropractor's kidney punch; nor are we any nearer the discovery of its origin by practicing Fletcher's theory of food mastication. These practices are but an ineffectual attempt to stay disease, with a desperate endeavor to restore some of Capitalism's shattered wrecks.

The real cause of disease has its genesis in the quagmire and polluted conditions of capitalist society. The only work of any importance for those that have a sincere desire to rid the world of disease is, first of all, to discover the underlying cause. This work entails a complete analysis of society. To understand means to dig deep into the foundations of the system, and socialists are the only ones who are willing to excavate and get down to the roots; therefore they are the only ones that can give a

correct interpretation of the present order of things. Disease, misery and oppression is the spawn thrown from capitalism; to be rid of the former means the complete annihilation of the latter.

Therefore, the main thing of importance is for the working class to study and realize their own condition; when they understand that they will no longer remain such willing galley slaves; they will refuse longer to accept drudgery as their lot. Freedom and health can be obtained by the working class when they desire it, but they must first slip the collar and tear asunder their present bonds of slavery.

(Continued from page 1)

woods after the Civil War. However, the present one has only the name and its anti-negro attitude to connect it with its predecessor. In Washington and Oregon it is anti-wobbly. By taking this stand, it is thus able to line up many patriotic scissorbills of those two lumber states.

In California the K. K. K. follows exactly the same kind of tactics. Composed of the same economic elements, a skilfully woven blanket of reactionary propaganda is adhered to. The prejudices and passions of an unenlightened populace are appealed to. Thus we see an anti-Jap activity on their part as well as an anti-Wobbly, anti-Red and anything that smacks of progression.

And finally, so that nothing should be missed that will add strength and numbers to the Klan, we have an anti-foreigner fare dished up for consumption. Now as America for the "Americans" has long been a favorite dish of this "God's Country," it follows that those who have been treated to a pure American mental message and who are, therefore, qualified as 100% Americans, readily flock to the banner of the sheet and pillowslip.

Of course the mysticism of the Klan, in general with its fiery cross, is always a mark for the religious fanatic outside of the reach of the Pope. But we socialists are more concerned with how the Klan and such kindred organizations must function during a revolutionary crisis. There is the major antagonism of modern society to be considered. We speak now of the Class Struggle, or the struggle between the exploiters and exploited. This struggle is being carried on consciously and politically by members of the revolutionary ranks. Also by many of the members of the upper tier of capitalists. This struggle must finally be brought to a show down. The reason why the powers that be beam so benignantly on the Casey's and the Kluxers is because they see in such methods of keeping the workers divided and also valuable tools to be used in the interests of the dark forces of reaction.

Recognizing such a fact it should be the duty of all those within our ranks to fit ourselves mentally in order that we may better be able to carry the gospel of Marx and Engels into the darkest recesses of the vacant minds of the workers of modern society. For as our ideas, so are we. As long as ignorance of the science of society exists among the workers, there is always existing prospective material for such fascist organizations here dealt with. And though some may rejoice at the squabble between the Casey's and the Kluxers, let us bear well in mind that they must of necessity, by virtue of what they both basically stand for, unite to protect it.

From what has been touched upon, the truth of our opening premise is fully substantiated, and for what they stand for, in general, society, Capitalism, our conclusion is beyond dispute. The October is a work and it must be combated intelligently, and only the revolutionist can do this successfully and carry it to its finale.