

talist class declines in numbers, while the exploited labourers are continually increasing in numbers, and are finding it harder and harder to make a living. The centralization of the means of production finally reaches a point where the capitalists can no longer resist the determination of the people to expropriate them. They, the expropriators of the property of smaller men, are in turn expropriated by the State and a communistic system of society is established.

Marx would make land and all the instruments of production collective property, and would have all subjects of the State share equally in labour and in the produce of labour. Thus his prospective Communist State is a Labour State, in which labour will be compulsory on all able-bodied citizens.

The Mistakes of Marx.

Marx was, fortunately for humanity, entirely wrong in stating that all industry is becoming concentrated in the hands of a few. Though, as we have seen, there is a strong tendency toward the increase of large-scale business, it cannot be said that small-scale business, as a whole, is on the decline. Small retail shops exist in thousands in our cities by the side of the great department stores, and hundreds of thousands of farmers own and manage their own land. The same is the case in other countries. Out of a total of 8,333,000 employees in the trade, industry and commerce of Germany in 1907, practically 3,000,000 were employed in businesses having five or less employees, and over 2,000,000 more in medium-sized factories employing from six to fifty persons. These results are all the more impressive because they do not include the agriculturists.

The rich also were, according to Marx, becoming ever richer, while the poor became poorer. This, again, is erroneous. In Saxony, to quote the figures of Bernstein, proletarian incomes of \$400 or less a year increased in number only 33% between 1879 and 1894, while incomes of from \$400 to \$2,400 increased over 70%; those from