

40 CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIALISM

children of those who could not afford it did without; but now the education of the children and youth is controlled by the state for the benefit of all, and the children of the laboring man have the same opportunity in the public school as the children of the well-to-do. And this is also Socialism—so far as it goes.

And there was a time when the king used to send his messages by postmen, upon the fleetest horses, throughout the land, but now the collection and distribution and conveying of the mail is managed by the government, and the poorest laboring man can send his letter to distant parts of the empire by a two cent postage stamp. And this is Socialism—so far as it goes.

And in Belgium and Germany and Austria-Hungary and Switzerland and Italy and Australia the government owns and operates the railways; and in Germany, for example, the great majority of the people travel for one cent a mile.* And this also is Socialism—so far as it

*As a matter of fact, in countries in which the railway systems are owned and controlled by the government, not nearly so many accidents occur, and the percentages of deaths and injuries through accidents, is ever so much less. The railroads of the United States kill several thousands of persons every year; whereas in the year 1906, three persons lost their lives