

fluous as a knowledge of Greek and Latin to an Irish hod-carrier. So long as he is sufficiently loquacious to be able to disguise his lack of knowledge in a flow of words and strictly obey the orders given by the interests responsible for his politics, he is amply qualified to perform the service required by his masters.

As these political worthies just at this particular season will be appealing for support at the polls in order that they may secure those points of vantage from whence the interests they represent may be conserved and protected, they should be questioned closely in regard to existing conditions and compelled either to render a satisfactory explanation or to confess their ignorance. Their silly prattle in regard to “better terms,” “our splendid resources,” “our destiny,” “our immigration policy” and the graft and corruption of the other gang should not be allowed to pass for argument. All such stuff is balderdash and has no bearing upon the cause from which the evils of unemployment, industrial depression and general social stagnation spring. If these political spokesmen of the Capitalist Class can give no valid reason for the unsatisfactory conditions now existing and can offer no remedy therefor, they should be retired to private life instantaneously. They should be elected to stay at home forever. It is a foregone conclusion that they can give no satisfactory explanation nor offer a remedy. And besides they would not if they could. They would lose their jobs if they did.

The Cause of Industrial Depression.

The conditions existing in Canada to-day, and which give excellent promise of being still further aggravated and emphasized in the near future, are due to the fact that the country is afflicted with the same curse that rests upon every country under the sun and that curse is Capital. The resources of the earth and the machinery of production is held as the property of the Capitalist Class. Its ownership is determined and defended by the power of the state, i.e., government. By virtue of its ownership of the means of production the Capitalist Class stands absolute owner of the working class. It is in a posi-

tion to at all times command the services of the workers in the production of wealth and it is also absolute owner of the wealth brought forth by their labor. Under such circumstances the means of production become the title deeds to the human chattels who are forced to depend upon their labor for their sustenance.

The Working Class is the only wealth producing factor in human society. It, therefore, becomes from a profit-making standpoint, the only property worth owning. It is the only sort of property that can produce a profit. The wealth and power of a ruling class can only come from the toil of the slaves which it possesses.

Under the rule of capital, industry can only be carried on when a profit can be realized from it. The principal part of the market for goods produced is furnished by the workers themselves. The volume of goods consumed is measured by the wages of workers. Under no circumstances is the slave entitled to anything over and above his keep and the standard of his living is largely determined by his masters. The workingman of to-day, whether farmer or wage earner, is a slave. He has to do all that a slave was ever required to do, i.e., work for his master. The wage earner has to surrender his power to labor directly into the hands of his capitalist masters. The farmer, working upon what he considers his own farm, first coins his labor power into products, as wheat, corn, beef, etc., and is then compelled to surrender the products into the hands of the same class to which the wage earner surrenders his labor power. Neither has any voice in determining the price he shall receive. The wage earner must accept the price fixed by the market for his labor power. The farmer must accept the market price for his products. When either of them purchase goods in the market they are also compelled to pay a price determined by some power beyond their control. Whenever the wage earner and farmer figure up at the end of the year they consider themselves lucky if they come out square with the world. In the majority of cases they come out in the hole. That is a fate reserved for the modern slave. The chattel