

opportunity for boundless luxury and maddening display; to the many, a starving pittance which barely keeps body and soul together and shuts out all hope of development and a share in the gains of civilization. Centuries ago in Merrie England John Ball preached the contrast between lord and peasant, oppressor and oppressed: "Ah ye good people, the matter goeth not well to pass in England, nor shall not do till everything be in common, and that there be no villeins nor gentlemen, but that we may be all united together, and that the lords be no greater masters than we be. What have we deserved, or why should we be kept thus in servage? We be all come from one father and one mother. Adam and Eve, whereby can they say or show that they be greater Lord than we be, saying that they cause us to labor to bring forth what they consume? They are clothed in velvet and furs; we are dressed in poor clothes. They have their wine, spice, and great bread, and we have outtake of straw, and water to drink. They dwell in fair houses, and we have the pain and the toil, rain and winds in the fields. Be the produce of our labor they keep and maintain their estates. We be called their bondmen, and without we readily do their will we be beaten." And today, after five centuries of progress in civilization, with political freedom secured and the industrial system revolutionized, a calm observer in modern England, Frederick Harrison, can pass this damning verdict: "To me, at least, it would be enough to condemn modern society as hardly an advance on slavery or serfdom, if the permanent condition of industry were to be that which we behold: that ninety per cent. of the actual producers of wealth have no home that they can call their own beyond the end of the week; have no bit of soil, or so much as a room that belongs to them; have nothing of value of any kind except as much old furniture as will go in a cart; have the precarious chance of weekly wages which barely suffice to keep them in health; are housed for the most part in places that no man thinks fit for his house; are separate by so narrow a margin from destitution that a month of bad trade, sickness, or unexpected loss brings them face to face with hunger and pauperism."

Consider that in one year in the United Kingdom eight millionaires die, leaving between them as much wealth as is left by 644,000 poor people who die in the same year. An American socialist, Robert Hunter, computes that even in the United States four million people are forced to seek public relief every year. Poor slum housing conditions and lack of recreation facilities take heavy toll in weakened bodies and premature deaths. The lack of means, the promiscuous overcrowding, the lack of healthy outlets, drive thousands of work-