

## WHAT IS SOCIALISM?

### EXIT THE MIDDLE CLASS.

That the principle of co-operation is rapidly gaining ground everybody knows. The trusts are examples of this. They do things on a big scale, which means economy, system and efficiency. And it is due to this large-scale production alone that the trusts are so successful. This is what enables them—at least very largely—to kill off their smaller and less well organized competitors so easily. The small manufacturer sets up a howl loud enough to raise the dead, but he must go. The small shop-keeper lays awake nights worrying over the advent of the big department store and the insidious mail-order house. He, too, is doomed. The small farmer, the homesteader, with his oxen and his hand-plow, is being rapidly transformed into the tenant and the wage-slave by the introduction of the \$4,000 steam-plow and the \$3,000 harvester. They must all go. The Jugernaut of intensified Capitalism is trampling them into the dust. They have performed their part; their work is over. There remains but the funeral!

That this is so may be realized when we consider the two hundred odd restaurants of J. Lyons & Co. in London alone; the enormous chain of United Cigar Stores, stretching throughout the entire eastern edge of this continent; the great farming companies, such as the one south of Lethbridge, which has a capital of a million dollars and owns 220,000 acres of land. What chance has a man with small capital to compete with such concerns as these

Under Socialism, however, we should see the same thing—co-operation and a high degree of organization—even more developed than to-day—with this difference—that the owners and beneficiaries of these industries would be the men who work in them, the men whose labor-power, mental and physical, has created, built up and developed them—not the useless and parasitic class of wealthy loafers who own them to-day.