

## The Relation of the Church to Capital and Labour

BY REV. JAMES CARRUTHERS

A CASUAL study of these terms, as popularly stated, plainly shows that there is something wrong. There is trouble in the human family, and for the peace of all concerned family troubles should, nay, must be settled. What is the trouble? What is the problem?

First Capital: Capital is something different from wealth. Wealth has been defined as that which satisfies the desire of men; Capital as the aggregation of the surplus wealth which has been saved from immediate use in satisfying men's desires and is now set to the purpose of employing and rewarding labour. A capitalist is described as a man who controls a large portion of the resources of nature and of the forces and enterprises and labour of the world.

Labour is the work-a-day labour—that is, the man whom the capitalist provides with the materials, the machinery and such like for the purpose of production and distribution, and who receives as his immediate reward a wage agreed upon.

The Church is more difficult of definition, not from a theological standpoint, but from the standpoint of this present strife. It may mean the body of people assembled, or it may mean the ministers. Judging from such charges as Labour brings forward, namely, that the Church has been subsidized by capital, it would mean the rich, influential people and the ministers whom these people support—said ministers loom-

ing high because they are the instruments best known.

### CHRISTIANITY NOT A PATRICIAN RELIGION

If you begin with these definitions and work them out you will discover before you are very far on the road that one of the great evils is that these children of the human family do not seem to understand one another, nor do they really have a correct knowledge of themselves. For example, you hear that there is a chasm between the Church and Labour, as evidenced by the masses of people who never enter a church. If this were true, it goes to show that there is something wrong, for the Christian religion was never a patrician religion. Jesus was a carpenter, several of his disciples were fishermen, and practically all of the early Christians were from among the toilers. But while it is true that there are the masses who never enter the church, we must remember that this has always been the case. Before ever the strife took place, at least in its present form, men followed the same course as they do today. As a matter of fact the larger proportion of the membership is from among the toilers, and the percentage of the workers in every department of the church is infinitely higher among those who toil than among those who may be supposed to be persons of leisure.

### INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY'S DEMANDS

Perhaps Ramsay Macdonald puts the matter in the briefest form. He says: "The two standard demands