

Private Ownership

and personal speculation is the foundation rock upon which selfishness rears its ugly blighting and destroying form.

Competition—the Child of the Devil—is

said to be the life of trade. This, however, is not true, because it kills the trader financially, and is intended for that purpose, and ruins trade by overstocking the market, and so it goes *up to-day and down to-morrow*. These conditions in trade and commerce need not exist, and would not were it regulated as it easily may be, under any and all conditions of society, when such society or community is properly organized along these lines. Take an example of the up-to-date plan. A person discovers that he can make a fair living by producing a certain article of food or clothing, or something else, which the community need, and to do this to the best advantage he secures all the modern appliances, and in these and other ways invests a large amount of money. After this line of produce is well introduced, some other persons discover that this man is making a few dollars, and so, seeing competition is the so-called life of trade, a "company" is formed, and forthwith commences manufacturing the same line of goods. If they, like the big strong hog, can steal the trade away from the other man he must fail, and he and his family, after, it may be, a lifetime of hard work, find their source of income cut off—the business from which they secured their livelihood ruined! The newspapers, however, will sympathize with him by saying, "Mr. — has failed, with liabilities at \$50,000, more or less; creditors will meet next week."

What is the next procedure under laws of a so-called civilized community? Why, the "owner" of the house in which this family resided comes and takes possession of their household effects for back-rent unpaid, and unceremoniously forces the man and his family into the streets to perish, if charity is not found to help them. What worse did the strong hog do to his mates? Yet this is the daily experience along every line of industry, as may be seen by the reports of the press: "Failures in Canada last week 45, in the United States 365, in England" so and so, and in every other country the same, to some extent, less or more, is true, wherever private ownership and individual speculation is allowed by law. Another instance: A man with a very small capital may find that if he had a horse and waggon he could make a fair living at hauling goods for the citizens of his town. To accomplish this he will have to give his note at sixty days for a ten dollar harness, after spending all his ready cash for a horse and waggon. He has only got fairly agoing, when two or three men start in at the same business, and down goes the profits and away goes the trade which would have sustained one person, and when the ten dollar note comes due he cannot pay. Then the law of a civilized country, so-called, comes into play. The man is sued, and his horse and waggon taken, and seeing they have been used, the waggon marred and the horse poor, and the "trade all cut up," the whole plant will not sell, "under the hammer," for more than ten dollars. Then the hog act is performed, and another family sent out into the cold shadows of charity for help. The reader only requires to give the imagination a little scope, and pictures of this kind, real and varied, will flit by, by the score, in a dismal and sad procession.