

in every large city who don't go to market because they have nothing wherewith to buy: then what use have they for teeth, or how many dentists can they support? Some will say, if you educate the people to attend to their teeth, dentists would get more to do. But education, under present systems, only increases the misery of the poor because they learn what might be done, and have not the means to do it.

Every intelligent student of human affairs knows that the conditions of mankind are steadily growing worse, and with an increase of wealth we have an increase of want. This is the great modern paradox. The ingenious sophistries of some modern political economists make it difficult for the people to understand this. In fact, they flatly deny that it is true.

We owe it to an American writer to have cleared up this difficulty more completely and more intelligently than has been done before, and I would recommend those who wish to understand how it is that our present economic system necessarily produces and perpetuates poverty to read Edward Bellamy's new book, "Equality."

The limited time at my disposal prevents me going into this subject very extensively. In the production of wealth there are three great factors, Land, Labor, and Capital, and under the present system each claims remuneration, but only labor should be rewarded. The trouble arises not so much from the production of wealth, although the system is very poor, not well organized, and subject to an immense amount of waste of effort and time. But of the system of the distribution of wealth every intelligent and honest man in the world ought to be heartily ashamed. There are four great factors in the distribution of wealth which I will briefly note just for the purpose of drawing your attention to the subject: namely, Rent, Interest, Profit, and Wages, which need to be carefully studied in all their relations to society before any adequate idea of the reasons for the widespread discontent, poverty and misery of men, women and children in Christian countries can be had. The three first factors, rent, interest, and profit, under our individualistic economic system, are monopolized by the comparatively few, and as they absorb the bulk of all surplus wealth produced, the mass of mankind must of necessity be left poor.

The fourth factor, wages, distributes a portion of the wealth produced among a very much larger number of persons, and is the only saving or redeeming factor in our miserable, unscientific and unjust grab game. But the wage earners, with those dependent upon them, constitute about nine-tenths of all the consumers of wealth, and so they are paid only about one-fourth to one-fifth in wages of what they produce. Consequently they can buy back only a small part of the wealth produced. Hence the modern paradox of