

WHAT IS SOCIALISM?

That this is true may be seen by the following example: Suppose three of us own a pile of wood, which must be split. If I have to do it alone, it will take me three days. But if you, who are spending your time learning the goose-step, and the third man, who is spending his time making mud pies, are put to work to help me, we can do it together in one day.

This, of course, applies, not only to the men already mentioned, but also to all others engaged in useless toil, such as salesmen, commercial travellers, advertisers, middlemen, stock-brokers and other gamblers. Some of these may be necessary to-day, but under Socialism there will be no need for them, as people will then have plenty wherewith to buy and no motive to hoard. They will not need to be persuaded and cajoled into acquiring objects they desire and that they can well afford.

CO-OPERATION AND ECONOMY VS. COMPETITION AND WASTE.

Furthermore, Socialism will be far more economical and scientific than the present system—if such it may be termed. Take, for example, any town. We see numerous different stores, different bakeries, different restaurants, each with its own staff, books, accounts, equipments, etc. How much energy and material is lost here? Time after time we see a delivery wagon go up a street, stop at one or two houses and return. Then up comes another from another store, and then another, and so on, each one delivering at one or two houses only. How much more economical and efficient, how much more sensible and scientific to have ONE wagon go up and stop at ALL the houses, to have ONE big, systematized store, ONE big, adequate bakery, ONE big, well-planned restaurant, instead of so many small, unsystematized, re-duplicated ones! Why not co-operation and economy, with the workers as owners and beneficiaries, instead of competition and waste, with the idlers as owners and beneficiaries?