

# The Working Class and Master Class

Leaflet number Five.

One often sees the term, "the working classes," used by capitalist speakers and in the capitalist press.

There are no working classes.

There is a Working CLASS.

Why is there a Working Class?

There is a Working Class because there is a Class which doesn't work, for the most part, with which the Working Class is compared.

Why does not this class work?

Because they have no need of working, because they are in a position to make the other class work for them.

They are in the position of owners of the means of production, the means of life.

This gives them the power of forcing those who DO NOT own the means of production to beg the owners for the opportunity to produce, and to get the opportunity when it suits the owners to let them have it.

It suits the owners to employ those who do not own when they can receive profit from their labor.

The Class line can only be clearly drawn between those who own and those who do not. It can only be drawn on property lines.

It can not be drawn on organic lines, for all members of the human species are organically the same.

It can not be drawn on lines of color or race, as we have Anglo-Saxon capitalists, German capitalists, Chinese capitalists, and negro capitalists; we have Anglo-Saxon workers, German workers, Chinese workers and negro workers.

There are capitalists of all races, and workers of all races.

The Class line cannot even (though we use the term "the working class" popularly) be drawn between the idle class and the working class because there are a number of the capitalist class who take part in industry and there are always a number of the non-owning class who are forced to be idle because the jobs will not go round.

Truly, there are a number of those, whom we may term petty capitalists, in society, little business man and the like, those whom Kautsky speaks of as "unclassifiable hybrids, belonging wholly to neither class, and partly to both," those whose lives are a continual worry, who are despairingly but fruitlessly striving to maintain their position, "hanging on by the hair of their eyebrows," but as they are bound to be shook off into the working class before long, they are a negligible factor.

Having endeavored briefly to make the matter clear, I

shall now on use the terms "working class" and "capitalist class," or "ruling class" for reasons of brevity and popular usage.

The owning class has always been the ruling class, the dispossessed class has always been the slave class.

The owning class is the master class now.

Our class is the slave class now.

Owing to the improvement in the tools and method of production, the fashions in mastership and slavery have changed from time to time, but though the FASHIONS have changed, the THING has always remained the same.

Mastership consists of the POWER to make and keep others in slavery.

Slavery is the condition of being forced by any means, to work for others.

The first class of slaves were forced to work by means of armed guards. They were chattel slaves, who could be bought and sold just the same as horses and cattle are now.

Sometimes they revolted (read "The Ancient Lowly," by Osborne Ward), but were always put down in the end.

When this system of slavery passed out of date, out of fashion, the slaves were forced to work for their feudal lords because these lords owned the land; this was a modified form of ancient slavery; sometimes the slaves revolted under THIS system, but were always put down in the end, armed force being used by the masters when necessary, as it is now. (Read "Six Centuries of Work and Wages" and "The Economic Interpretation of History," by Thorold Rogers, and "The Industrial History of England," by DeGibbens.)

But, of course, we are free men now under capitalist regime, especially we who live under the sway of the glorious British Vampire; we are not bought and sold at the block; they cannot treat us to a whipping now. (How about the savage sentences of Magistrate Shaw, in Vancouver, of ten and fifteen years and twenty and thirty lashes, awarded to wage slaves driven by unemployment to robbery at the point of the pistol. Did you ever see a flogging and hear the screams? The writer has.)

Of course, all that our masters can do now is to force us to work by "economic pressure," that is, they have the goods and we have not.

So down we go into the mines and dig coal, iron, silver, lead, copper, etc.; we go to the forests and cut logs; we slave in the saw mills and turn the logs into planks, boards and scantlings; we work the land; we work on the sea as seamen and fishermen; we build the houses; we cook the food; we take care of the houses; we make the beds of our lords; we wait on them hand and foot.

Let us take a typical capitalist, one who spends all his life in pleasure, one who does nothing in production.

He gets up in the morning (or afternoon probably), after his breakfast has been brought to him in bed; he has his bath, which has been filled by his valet; very likely his valet helps to wipe him after he has had his bath. His clothes, from hat

to boots, have been already laid out by the valet, who assists to put them on.

He goes to his club and is waited on hand and foot.

He has but to say the word and a motor-car, produced by the working class, driven by a member of the working class, is at his disposal instantly.

Every place he goes is built by the working class, every vehicle he rides in is driven by the working class, every pleasure he enjoys is provided by the working class.

He is driven home in the evening to dinner (probably filled with champagne, also produced by the working class), he sits down to a mahogany dining table, covered with snowy linen, sparkling cut glass and silver, choice food and flowers, all produced from source to table, by the working class.

A chair, produced by the working class, is pushed under him, when he gets into position, by a member of the working class, he is waited on by a member of the working class, the table is cleared, when he has finished his meal by a member of the working class.

Eventually, he retires to rest, to a luxurious apartment, to a bed made by a slave-girl—a member of the working class.

Can you deny this? You know you can't.

Briefly, the capitalist class is the class that is waited upon, hand and foot.

The Working Class waits on the Capitalist Class, hand and foot.

The function of the Capitalist Class is to receive presents.

The function of the Working Class is to give presents.

The Capitalist Class have their stocking hung up all the time.

That good, kind Santa Claus, the Working Class, is filling that stocking all the time.

At times the stocking gets too full, hence "the unemployed problem," which will never be solved while capitalism lasts, but will, on the contrary, become intensified.

Enough said: the only hope of the working class is to turn class property into collective property, by seizing what stands in the way—the powers of government—and using them on its only behalf as long as necessary, and then discarding them.

N. B.—This leaflet is for free distribution. Your aid, either financial or otherwise, in carrying on this method of propaganda will be appreciated by

The immediate future does not look especially bright for the working class. It will grow darker still until the workers rise manfully to the task of removing the curse of capital from the means of production, thus clearing the way for a better, a more decent civilization. The problem of production has been solved by the working class. The task now at hand is the solution of the problem of how to so handle the means of production and dispose of the product as to best conserve the interests of all.

An understanding of the principles and program of the Socialist Party of Canada will point out the solution.

Mr. Workingman, the above article is published for the sole purpose of starting you thinking. If it has accomplished that we are satisfied.

The Socialist Party of Canada is not organized as other political parties are, to catch your vote, but to educate you to your own material interest. The ballot is used to obtain what you want, but unless you **know** what you want it is of **no use** to you.

Therefore our object in this leaflet is to start you thinking. Should you care to investigate the principles of Socialism further, we would advise the purchase of some of the following books, which can be obtained either from the Socialist Local in your town, or from the Western Clarion, Labor Temple, Vancouver, B. C.

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