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EDITORIAL

HOCH'S IDEAL.

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GOV. Hoch of Kansas is in a stew about what he calls the tidal wave of Socialism sweeping over the country, and the individual being “swallowed up in the government.” The Governor must be living with closed eyes. The danger of the individual being “swallowed up in the government” is not a danger that is pending, it is a calamity that our people are now actually laboring under.

What is the status of the men and women in the sweat-shops? What is the status of the famishing miners in the mining regions? What is the status of the wornout weavers in the mills? What is the status of the railroad men, whose mutilated limbs strew the highways of the nation? What is the status of the hundreds of thousands of children in factories, and on streets peddling papers? What is the status of the women in the chain factories of Illinois? What is the status of the prematurely grey shoemakers, who are lashed to the Goodyear machine? What is the status of the composers, the mortality among whom is appalling? What is the status of the chain-gang-looking gangs of men in the sugar and oil refineries? What is the status of the steel workers in the Carnegie plant? But why go through the long list of the men who do the nation's work? What, in short, is the status of the Working Class?—They are swallowed up head and heels in the government, the real government, the maker and unmaker of the political government, the CAPITALIST PLANTS AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

But being himself a political product of the capitalist economic government, Gov. Hoch, perhaps, follows the custom of the Capitalist Class; when he thinks of the people or the nation, the Working Class does not enter into consideration, only the Capitalist Class is considered. Is that class, excepting the trifling percentage that constitutes the Morgan or plutocratic top-notch, a sample of in-the-government-unswallowed-up individuality? What is the status of the large body of

minority of stocks stockholders? What is the status of the politicians whom the crack of Roosevelt's patronage whip corralled so as to elect a boy as Speaker of the Assembly in Albany? What is the status, in short, of the bulk of the Capitalist Class?—They are swallowed up, head and heels, in the government, the real government, the maker and un-maker of political government, the capitalist plants and administration of the land, run by the plutocracy. They have no opinion of their own. They dare utter none, if they have any. They are swallowed up in their own governmental system.

It is with man as with birds. The coloring of birds is either protective or amorous. When there is no danger to life, the bird's free and happy spirit manifests itself in beautiful plumage. Where there is danger of life, the bird merges its individuality in the color of its surroundings: its plumage adopts the prevalent surrounding color. So with man. Assured existence warms individuality into being; precariousness of existence, swallows up individuality, freedom of thought and action vanishes. Such is the aspect presented by our masses to-day. They are swallowed up in the government—and that is a curse peculiar to capitalism that Socialism only can lift.

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