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EDITORIAL

THE INOPPORTUNE MALLOCK.

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MR. WM. MALLOCK, the alleged English scientist, comes among us at an inopportune time for the propagation of his anti-socialist theories. The interstate commerce, insurance, trust, and other public and private investigations, demolish most effectually his theory that the wealth of the many is due to the management of the few. They prove, on the contrary, that to the mismanagement of the few is the poverty of the many due. To the few capitalists who own the land and machinery and cause them to be mismanaged according to their class interests is due the fact that whole states in the northwest freeze within easy access of coal beds, children die in summer by thousands for lack of ice, wheat rots in piles on the ground, cotton acreage is reduced, or cotton burned when grown; the forests and other natural resources are wasted; fiduciary trusts despoiled, property of competitors destroyed and the lives of the working class sacrificed; while the stability of society is threatened by “an all-around apparent prosperity,” which the *New York Sun* declares to be “the most ominous disclosed in our history.”

These few capitalists are sacrificing society to their private profit. With a reckless disregard for the welfare of society, that are exhausting natural and human resources, curtailing production and distribution, manipulating transportation and exchange, deteriorating and slaying the race, and otherwise abusing the fundamental factors of present and prospective social well-being. They, in the pursuit of their class interests, not only maladminister the slowly-evolved gifts of nature, but also the socially-evolved and operated machinery by which those gifts are rendered of value to man, promoting his varied life and development on this earth. So much has this become a glaring fact that the capitalist system is a standing reproach to civilization; and is now no longer on the offensive, but the defensive. Scientists in the technical world declare the capitalist system has

outlived its usefulness, and is unable to meet its own requirements, not to mention the advanced demands of the times. Economists point out the dangerous top-heavy speed at which it continues on its headlong downward rush. Moralists dissect and expose to full view its putrid decadence; while even its own friends declare that it gives rise, in this country, to a social atmosphere more tense than that which preceded the firing on Fort Sumpter *{sic}*. On all sides, the system by which the few dominant and exploit the many, to their own enrichment and impoverishment of the latter, is held to be a vicious system, detrimental to all concerned, especially the great working class, who constitute the bulk of those whom Mr. Mallock declares to be its chief beneficiaries.

The many, especially the most advanced element of the great working class, do not want the capitalist system. They demand its overthrow. The working class, led by the socialists, clamor for a system in which social well-being shall repose in the social ownership and operation of the socially-evolved and operated machinery of production and distribution. They want Socialism for the many instead of the few, as at present. Mr. Mallock's argument will not still their desires, as those arguments are made at a time most inopportune for the successful attainment of his object. Capitalism is doomed; it is its own executioner; and not even a Mallock, with all his untimeliness, can save it.

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