

The Iowa Socialist

Vol. 2 No. 79

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Thoughts With the Halls On

E. T. Anderson

Machines don't care who run them.

The fruits of your labor are picked by your master. To garner them yourself would be Socialism, and of course you don't want that.

AN IMPROBABLE STORY.

Once upon a time there was a "hand"—just a shop "hand;" but there was one remarkable thing about this "hand"—this one had a thinker in his dome.

On pay-day he would receive his "wages," after which he would go the rounds dispersing the same.

First, the landlord had to be seen with a couple of \$5 bills, balance left in the pay envelope, \$8. The thinker in the dome ticked off a "thought": "I have purchased the right to live on the earth for thirty days more, it's true that I furnish funds for RENT."

The next place visited by the "hand" was the grocery store where he procured his provisions from pay-day to pay-day. Here he handed over the sum of \$6.75 for necessities for the past two weeks. After getting outside again his thinker told him that at least \$1.35 of that \$6.75 was a profit to the retailer and God knows how much to the jobber and manufacturer. Then the "hand" said to himself: "I furnish funds for PROFIT."

After looking into the pay envelope the "hand" discovered that he only had remaining the sum of \$1.25. At first he thought he would buy an automobile, but on second thought he concluded to go around by the loan office and pay a part of the interest on a chattel mortgage the loan people held on his house furnishings. This done, which took the remaining \$1.25, he said to himself: "I also furnish funds for INTEREST."

On the way home he thought (with the use of his thinker) "my money is all gone and I have failed to see the coal and wood man, the doctor, the shoeman and the dry goods dealer, but thank God I'm not afraid of being held up."

Arriving home, he found his faithful slave (his wife) sitting up awaiting his arrival, and the first thing she said was, "John, did you get Willie a pair of shoes?" Now, John being a thoughtful kind of a fellow, answered by telling her that he would get her a new dress and Willie a pair of shoes on the next pay-day. After sitting silently by the stove for a long while the "hand" told his wife that he had thought it all out, and that was, that his class, the working-class, paid all the RENT, INTEREST and PROFIT, and as the present system, supported by both the democratic and republican parties upheld the rent, interest and profit schemes, he was going to vote to do away with all three. His wife, asking him what ticket he was going to vote, he replied: "The Socialist ticket, as that represents the only party wanting to do away with RENT, INTEREST and PROFIT."

The factory is simply a penal institution; it means so many hours a day of "hard labor," and it means also the atrophy of men's brains and the loss of all interest in a man's lifework.—Ernest Crosby.

Poverty is no crime—but it is an incentive.—Harvard Lampoon.



What's the Use?



"What's the use of voting the Socialist ticket at a minor election?"

Many well meaning workingmen, who do not understand what Socialism is, but think they do, have asked this simple question.

Well, what's the use of voting at all?

What is a vote for, anyway?

Many people have the idea, silly as it may seem, that the only use for a vote is to get some slick politician a job. This is the class of people who complain of the "grafting" that is so prevalent in politics just now. They keep trying and trying to get a "good man" in office, but invariably fail.

A vote is a declaration of principles. When you walk up to the ballot box you say: "I want so and so." If you place a cross at the head of the Citizens (republican) ticket you say: "I want capitalism, with all its joys of poverty, crime, etc." When you vote the Democratic ticket you say: "Capitalism is good enough for me. I don't mind being robbed, only I want to smash the criminal trusts." In other words, you are satisfied with your condition. You think you have enough of the good things of this life; that it is only right that the workingman should slave for others; that he should be "laid off" when he makes more goods than the boss can sell.

A vote for Socialism, however, is an entirely different thing. The man who votes this ticket says: "I am not satisfied. I do not like my condition. I think I am entitled to the value of all I produce. I think the working class should run this government, since they are in the majority. They create everything. Were it not for this class doing all the useful work of society, everyone would perish, and consequently they should rule."

Suppose you do vote the Republican ticket because the boss suggests that you do. Will he hesitate to reduce your wages? And would it make any difference if you voted the Democratic ticket?

Suppose you go on strike. Does not the Republican and Democratic government alike ply the injunction, the policeman's club and the militia, as occasion demands? Have you not read the history of both these parties? Have you forgotten the street car strike of last summer? Have you forgotten how in that strike a Republican sheriff served you with injunctions issued by a Democratic judge? In view of this can't you see how silly it is for the Democratic party to come before you and ask you to down the present mayor? Are their own skirts clean? Their own candidate for mayor was an alderman-at-large during the time of the strike. Did he protest against any action of the mayor with reference to the strike? Did he do anything for you as a union man, or a workingman?

But suppose you controlled the government, which you can do, easily enough, would you help or fight yourself? If your class, the working class, controlled all the powers of government, would you set the militia, the injunction or the policeman upon strikers who were merely trying to better their conditions?

And suppose you controlled the entire government, municipal, state and national, would it not be natural that your class should take possession of these powers of government and use them for the interests of your class, as is now being done by the capitalist class?

What else could you do but take possession of that which your class has created—the means of production and distribution, and from that time on see that the working class received its just dues, i. e., all it produced?

This is merely a suggestion of what Socialism means.

To find out just what it means will require some study and some thinking, and if you have not forgotten entirely how to think, now is the time to do some of it.

Subscribe for a Socialist paper.

Buy some Socialist literature.

Read.

Study.

Think.

If we should tell you that Socialism would abolish entirely poverty, crime, strikes, lockouts, etc., you would say that we were dreaming, so we won't say it.

Read up a little bit and you will find it out for yourself.

And Socialism is not a plan.

It merely means that you will sooner or later be forced by conditions to take over the powers of government and exercise them in your own interests, and when you do this the only thing you can do is to take possession of what you have created and what really belongs to you now, only you haven't sense enough to know it, as a class.

Minor elections!

Bah!

There are no such things.

Every chance you get to vote at all, is a chance to strike a blow at the conditions that oppress you, and every blow counts. Don't be afraid you are losing your vote by casting it for the Socialist party candidates. Don't be fooled by the thought that the Socialists won't be elected anyway.

Last Monday the Socialists of Boone elected two out of five aldermen.

You can do the same or better in Dubuque if you want to.

Register your convictions.

Wake up!

Be a man!

Vote for what you want—good conditions for yourself and family. In other words—VOTE THE STRAIGHT SOCIALIST TICKET next Monday. You will find it in the third column on the official ballot. The candidates are all workingmen. Vote for your class and, therefore, for yourself.

Why Fear Socialism?

Geo. W. Downing

If every voter in the United States thoroughly understood what Socialism is, the Socialist candidate for president would be elected next fall by an overwhelming majority. Most people either know nothing of this great world movement, or have wrong ideas of it. I have never yet read or heard an argument against Socialism. But I have read and heard many against something that somebody conceived to be Socialism.

Socialism is not anarchy; although many otherwise intelligent persons have an idea that if it is not anarchy, it is the next thing to it. It is not anarchy, but quite the opposite. Socialists everywhere teach opposition to violence. They show that the ballot is the only solution of the questions that confront us. Their philosophy teaches them not to lay the blame for their misery on ANY individual. So among Socialists you find no hatred toward any of the great capitalists. They know that the SYSTEM OF PRIVATE CAPITALISM and not any INDIVIDUAL capitalist is to blame. They know that so long as the present system lasts, the robbery will go on. And they understand that so long as the people INSIST on being held up, that it is immaterial whether Rockefeller or some "rockier feller" goes through their pockets.

Some farmers are afraid that Socialism will take their farms away from them. In the light of Socialist philosophy, of course, this is absurd. But the absurdity of it will not prevent the opponents of Socialism from using it to try to frighten the farmer from his only economic salvation. Don't be afraid of Socialism taking your farm. Socialism will not confiscate your farm, but capitalism WILL. Even if the Socialists DID intend to take it, in all probability the mortgage will have it before they can get around to it. If there is any single sentence that expresses the Socialist idea of justice it is this: "To the laborer the full product of his toil." It requires no argument to prove that the farmer is a laborer. He labors harder and longer than any city wage slave ever did. We know that during all these latter years of capitalism, the farmer, for every hour he has been permitted to work for himself, has been compelled to work several hours for the idle takers of rent, interest and profit. The farmer has been robbed all these years and is today being robbed more than ever before. Is it then not an absurd thing to say that the party whose slogan is: "To the laborer the full product of his toil" is going to take from this long abused and despoiled laborer what little he has left? No, no; Socialism will not take your home or your farm. On the contrary, we will guarantee you the full product of your labor—we will remove from your emaciated body the leeches of capitalism.

Do you know what it means to be very great?

To be very great is to be very simple. The simplest man on the earth is the greatest man on the earth:

Greatness shrinks from greatness: it disappears off the trail:

It has work to do and does it according to the work. —Horace Traubel.

Applicant: "Say, if I lick your office boy, can I have the job?"

Chief Clerk: "No. This is business—not international politics.—Life.

SOCIALIST TICKET

For Mayor
ERNEST HOLTZ.

For Treasurer,
A. A. TRILLER.

For Attorney,
DAVID SPENCE CAMERON.

For Recorder,
A. A. LEONARD.

For Auditor,
PETER BRANDT.

For Assessor,
C. J. MATHIS.

For Engineer,
G. R. BRANDT.

For Aldermen-at-large,
H. E. COSGROVE,
L. J. RIECK.

For Alderman—1st Ward,
C. HOLMBERG.

For Alderman—2d Ward,
E. BRASHER.

For Alderman—3d Ward,
A. McALEECE.

For Alderman—4th Ward,
H. E. FISCHER.

For Alderman—5th Ward,
JOHN ENSER.

The Iowa Socialist

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Socialist Party Ticket

- Mayor—Ernest Holtz.
 - Treasurer—A. A. Triller.
 - Attorney—D. S. Cameron.
 - Recorder—A. A. Leonard.
 - Auditor—Peter Brandt.
 - Assessor—C. J. Mathis.
 - Engineer—G. R. Brandt.
 - Aldermen-at-Large—H. E. Cosgrove, L. J. Kieck.
- ALDERMEN.
- First Ward—C. Holmberg.
 - Second Ward—E. Brasher.
 - Third Ward—A. McAlece.
 - Fourth Ward—H. E. Fischer.
 - Fifth Ward—John Enser.

PARTY POLITICS

It is amusing, just before election, to see how anxious each of the old parties is to give the people, the dear gullible people, an "honest, moral administration" of its affairs. Each party is greatly concerned over the proper regulation of the saloons, and the so-called "social evil." Each party poses before the public as the quintessence of honesty in the management of public funds. Each party nominates some candidates with a view to catching the votes of the "good" people, and other candidates to secure the votes of the "saloon element." All these things BEFORE ELECTION. After election, you hear nothing but an ominous silence on these subjects from the successful party.

The Socialist party alone stands on principle. Knowing that temperance, social purity, honesty in public affairs, as well as all other phases of life are the result of the economic system under which we live, the Socialist party bends all its energies TO CHANGE THE SYSTEM.

Do you think that any saloon keeper runs his business because he just dotes on it?—because his ideal in life is to be a saloon keeper? Not at all. He is in it for PROFIT. Abolish the profit system, and he will seek some useful employment, and the chances are that he will be GLAD TO DO IT. Thus the temperance problem would solve itself.

The same thing applies to the "social evil." Under a just system of industry, where all the workers will receive the full product of their labor, and women will be economically independent, SURE of a comfortable living, it will be possible to build pure homes, and woman will no longer put her body upon the market to gain a livelihood.

Woman, under Socialism, will no longer be the rich man's plaything or the poor man's drudge, but she will be the helpmate of man in all the walks of life, standing always on equal ground with him; and whether as mother, wife or daughter, always devoted to their mutual interests, a companion in the truest and best sense of the word.

When we cease to have the spec-

tle of idle rich living off the labor of over-worked poor, when all must labor or starve, when all are secure in the possession of the result of their labor, then this bugbear of dishonesty will disappear from off the earth.

Such is the goal toward which Socialism tends.

We have no bids to offer for votes for our candidates. They stand for a principle; they are pledged to work for the Socialist program.

Study Socialism; understand the program; if it suits you, then vote the Socialist ticket. We have no desire to get a few men into office. We do desire to get control of the machinery of government, that it may be used to change the industrial system from its present crushing basis of private ownership for private profit, to collective ownership and collective management of the means of production and distribution of all the necessities of life.

These are a few of the differences between old party politics and Socialist party politics. We will know next week which kind you like best.

The people who think a four hour day is a "dream" may find interest in the following figures of Professor Hertzka, the famous Austrian statistician:

"I have calculated how much labor and time are necessary with the aid of the present mechanical appliances to produce what is required to support in ease and comfort the 26,000,000 inhabitants of Austria—viz: food, clothing and shelter, consisting of a five room house to a family, and including fuel, medicine, furniture and utensils. I find it would require 26,000,000 acres of arable land and about 8,000,000 acres in pasture, or about 1 1/2 acres per capita, and 615,000 workmen working 11 hours per day 300 days in the year. These 615,000 are but 12.3 per cent of the population able to work excluding the women, children below sixteen years of age, and men above fifty years. If instead of these 615,000 men the whole 5,000,000 men able to work were engaged, they would need to work but 37 days in the year, or if they were to work 300 days in the year they would need to work only 1 hour and 22 1/2 minutes per day. Again, if all the luxuries of life were included it would require 5,000,000 workmen, or 20 per cent of the population able to work, 2 hours and 11 minutes per day, 300 days in the year. With this working power 26,000,000 Austrians would be supplied with all their hearts could possibly desire. But if, again, the whole 5,000,000 men were employed 3 hours and 12 minutes per day they would need to work two months of the year only. Behold what time could be spared for study and pleasures, while the cares of life, in so far as wealth is concerned, would be obliterated altogether.

"Ben Franklin said, more than 100 years ago, that if all the people worked four hours a day and the wastes were eliminated we could produce enough for all. What shall be said today when we can produce a thousand times more than we could in Franklin's time?"

Are wages on the toboggan? On the heels of the 10 per cent reduction of the textile workers and the 5 1/2 per cent reduction of the bituminous coal miners comes the report of a 20 per cent reduction for the iron, steel and tin workers. With the Western Federation of Miners engaged in a life and death struggle in Colorado it begins to look as though organized labor will have a hard row to hoe for the next few years. The union men who fear that Socialism will disrupt the unions would do well to be on their guard lest capitalism succeeds in its own strenuous efforts in that direction.

It only remains for Sam Gompers and John Mitchell to add their voices to the chorus of the "pure and simplers" (?) in the endorsement of Hearst to remove all

doubt from the mind of the man who may have had a suspicion that William R. is a Socialist. Then too, if he were a Socialist no union would endorse him, as it would be "bringin' in politics" and would surely disrupt the union.

How is the working class going to secure ownership of the means of production and distribution? Since the workers already own these things by right of production and even Carnegie and others of his ilk have admitted that they merely hold these things "in trust" (?) for the people all that is necessary is to discharge the "trustees"—by electing Socialists.

It is strange how the average workingman who is asked to buy a five cent Socialist pamphlet suspects that he is going to be exploited of his nickel. Of course he doesn't know he is being exploited to the tune of five or ten dollars every day he works for a capitalist master.

The difference between the republican and democratic parties depends upon circumstances. If the republicans are in office they are "grafters," and the democrats being out are "reformers." If the democrats are in they are the grafters and the republicans are the reformers.

It is possible that the men who proudly boast that they would vote for a "yaller dog if he was on the democratic ticket" will have at least the opportunity of voting for the "yellow kid" next fall. And that's about as near as they will ever get to voting for a yellow dog.

At any rate the Hearst presidential boom is furnishing a lot of free advertising for Hearst's worthless yellow sheets, and the Hearst millions are piling up at the expense of the pennies of the working class. Perhaps, if the truth were known, this is the object of the "boom."

We have only pity for the workingman who doesn't know enough to vote the Socialist ticket, but our supply of profanity is too limited to express our disgust with the man who claims to be a Socialist and then neglects to vote the ticket.

Workingmen out of a job who have been regularly voting to give some smooth politician a soft snap should, just for a change, vote to get themselves a good job by putting a cross in the circle at the head of the Socialist ticket.

In Iowa idiots and the insane are not permitted to vote. It is fortunate for the working class that lack of comprehension of one's class interests is not generally accepted as evidence of idiocy or insanity.

It is perhaps true, as John Mitchell says, that now is a poor time to strike—on the industrial field—but it is always a good time to strike on the political field about election time.

The men who say the Socialists are all right but impracticable and who insist on having something practical generally get it—in the neck.

Next to voting for the democratic party the best way to "throw away your vote" that we know of is to give it to the republican party.

The workingmen of Dubuque will have an opportunity of voting for themselves next Monday.

The only way to get Socialism is to work and vote for it.

Vote the straight Socialist ticket next Monday.

A vote for Socialism is a vote for yourself.

SOCIALIST PLATFORM

Adopted at Indianapolis, Ind., 1901.

The Socialist party in national convention assembled, reaffirms its adherence to the principles of International Socialism and declares its aim to be the organization of the working class, and those in sympathy with it, into a political party, with the object of conquering the powers of government and using them for the purpose of transforming the present system of private ownership of the means of production and distribution into collective ownership by the entire people.

Formerly the tools of production were simple and owned by individual workers. Today, the machine, which is an improved and more developed tool of production, is owned by the capitalist and not by the workers. The ownership enables the capitalists to control the product and keep the workers dependent upon them.

Private ownership of the means of production and distribution is responsible for the ever-increasing uncertainty of the livelihood and poverty and misery of the working class, and divides society into hostile classes—the capitalists and the wage workers. The once powerful middle class is rapidly disappearing in the mill of competition. The struggle is now between the capitalist class and the working class. The possession of the means of livelihood gives the capitalist the control of the government, the press, the pulpit and the schools, and enables them to reduce the workingmen to a state of intellectual, physical and social inferiority, political subservience and virtual slavery.

The economic interests of the capitalist class dominate our entire social system: the lives of the working class are recklessly sacrificed for profit, wars are fomented between nations, indiscriminate slaughter is encouraged and the destruction of whole races is sanctioned in order that the capitalists may extend their commercial domination abroad and enhance their supremacy at home.

But the same economic causes which developed capitalism are leading to Socialism, which will abolish both the capitalist class and the class of wage workers. And the active force in bringing about this new and higher order of society is the working class. All other classes, despite their apparent or actual conflicts, are alike interested in the upholding of the system of private ownership of the instruments of wealth production. The democrat, republican, the bourgeois public ownership parties, and all other parties which do not stand for the complete overthrow of the capitalist system of production, are alike political representatives of the capitalist class.

The workers can most effectively act as a class in their struggle against the collective powers of capitalism, by constituting themselves into a political party, distinct from and opposed to all parties formed by the propertied classes. While we declare that the development of economic conditions tends to the overthrow of the capitalist system, we recognize that the time and manner of the transition to Socialism also depends upon the stage of development reached by the proletariat. We, therefore, consider it of the utmost importance for the Socialist party to support all active efforts of the working class to better its condition and to elect Socialists to political offices in order to facilitate the attainment of this end.

As such means we advocate:

1. The public ownership of all means of transportation and communication and all other public utilities, as well as of all industries controlled by monopolies trusts and combines; no part of the revenue of such industries to be applied to the taxes of the capitalist class; but to be applied wholly to the increase of wages and shortening of the hours of labor of the employes, and to the improvement of the service and diminishing the rates to the consumer.

2. The progressive reduction of the hours of labor and the increase of wages in order to decrease the share of the capitalist and increase the share of the worker in the product of labor.

3. State or national insurance of working people in case of accidents, lack of employment, sickness and want in old age; the funds for this purpose to be collected from the revenue of the capitalist class and to be administered under the control of the working class.

4. The inauguration of a system of public industries, credit to be used for that purpose in order that the workers be secured the full product of their labor.

5. The education of all children up to the age of 18 years, and state and municipal aid for books, clothing and food.

6. Equal civil and political rights for men and women.

7. The initiative and referendum, proportional representation and the right of recall of representatives by their constituents.

But in advocating these measures in steps in the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of the cooperative commonwealth, we warn the working class against the so-called public ownership movements as an attempt of the capitalist class to secure government control of public utilities for the purpose of obtaining greater security in the public exploitation of other industries and not for the amelioration of the conditions of the working class.

Clubbing Offer

The Iowa Socialist for one year and any of the following papers for one year for 60 cents: *Wiltshire's Magazine*, *Coming Nation*, *Chicago Socialist*, *The Vanguard*; or the *Iowa Socialist* for one year and *The Comrade* for six months for 60 cents.

P. C. Murray, the lawyer in the office building, makes a specialty of drawing wills and settling estates.

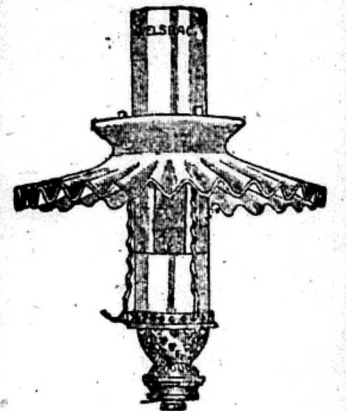
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Trusts and Socialism

Christopher Grosse

Fellow workingmen, if the editor of the Sioux City Tribune should address you during the campaign (that is if Hearst is nominated) he would doubtless tell you what a great friend Hearst is to you; what great things Hearst would do for you; that he stands absolutely for the sole interest of the working class, and you, very likely, would be carried away with it. Now, let me state to you right here: There is but one party which stands for the interests of the working class, and that is the Socialist party, and that you might know and not be deceived by that class of sophists to which the editor of the Tribune belongs, read the following which is a clipping from his editorial columns of the issue of March 21, "How to Avoid Socialism:"

"The Wall Street Journal quotes some big New York financier on the subject of the merger decision, as follows:

"I am amazed at the scope of the verdict of the supreme court of the United States in the Northern Securities case. To me there appears a point which as yet no one seems to have realized, which is that this decision is likely to be the forerunner of Socialism in all its forms.

"When the supreme court of the United States says that it is its opinion that the public must be protected against the encroachment of combinations of capital it seems to me it is striking a blow at the liberty of the individual, for what is a corporation of any character but a combination of individuals. As far as I can see, any interested party may now go before the supreme court and ask for a receiver for the Northern Securities Company, and one may be appointed who will be hostile to every interest involved in the Northern Securities.

"Such a receiver would be the representative of the United States government, which would mean that the government of the United States would take charge of the Northern Securities Company.

"Under this decision there is an opportunity for William K. Hearst to go before the United States supreme court and ask for a receiver for each and every so-called trust, which, under this decision of the

court, is an open violator of the Sherman anti-trust law.

"Granting all that this great financier says is true, it is a wonder he does not recognize the very simple way out of the socialistic tendency. If trusts and mergers and those who promote them really fear Socialism, all they have to do is to quit forming monopolies and mergers and violating the laws. The logic of the above wail from Wall street is that combinations in restraint of trade should be allowed to go on without interference from the laws or the courts, lest such interference encourage Socialism. But such absurd logic cannot emanate from a broad mind or from one who is able to see beyond his own immediate personal profit.

"Unrestricted combination in restraint of trade would do more to bring on Socialism than all of the 'trust busting' that could be attended to by the courts. The tendency, instead of being as this Wall street man describes it, is actually to discourage Socialism. That ought to be plain enough. Monopoly encourages Socialism; the law says there must be no railroad monopoly; if there is no railroad monopoly there is not that encouragement of Socialism. J. Pierpont Morgan has done more to the socialistic spirit in late years than any other influence. Now the United States supreme court tells him he cannot keep on. Any man of intelligence can understand the significance of this as it affects Socialism."

What does the editor stand for? The middle class. And what does this class ask you to do? To save them from the clutches of the trusts. What are they willing to do for you? Just form a citizens alliance and kick you out of town if you ask for a decent living, that's all. Wake up, friends; find out to what class you belong and then vote for it.

Socialism and the Farmers

J. W. WILSON

Can Socialism be established without making the private farm public property? I must answer that I think it can, and to my mind will be established in no other way. Most Socialists have the idea that in order to establish Socialism we will be compelled to make all farm land public property and tear down all fences and go to farming on the intense plan. I don't think this will ever be except in some instances, say the raising of wheat which can be done on the vast wheat lands of the North and West. I claim that all that is necessary will be for the collectivity to own and control the dominant means of production and distribution—those instruments of production through which all raw material must pass before it is ready for consumption. It is these instruments which enable the great capitalists to control the situation now because they own them. Transfer this ownership of these essentials to the public and the public will be able to say what the price to the consumer shall be, and with public ownership and control and democratic management by the working class the price would be fixed according to labor cost, figuring the cost of finishing the product and also the cost prices paid the farmer for raising raw material. Some might say that the farmer would have the advantage in fixing the price of raw material, but it would not make any difference what price he would agree to sell at—he would have to buy back the finished product for his own use, and whatever the price of raw material it would be added to the total cost of production. I believe there is an advantage in talking Socialism from this

point of view to the farmers because so many farmers think we are going to confiscate their farms, when in fact we are only going to destroy their privilege to exploit others, which they are compelled to do because the great capitalists exploit them. Under this system every farmer would sell his crop direct to the government and would receive the full labor value for his part in production measured by the labor value of the factory workers as he would sell and buy at labor cost, or he would simply exchange his labor with the factory worker on equal terms. This would not interfere with the farmer owning his farm individually and would do away with the argument that we want to confiscate the farms. If the farmers who live close together wanted to co-operate they could do so voluntarily.

Some might say that this program is not in accord with revolutionary Socialism; that it is more populist than socialistic. This argument could not hold because I realize the necessity of the proletariat capturing the state before such a program could be put into practice, while the populists would have the middle class come into possession of the state and would use public ownership to reduce their own exploitation but would still continue to exploit the wage workers for their own special benefit. Then again, they would have competition in business outside of those things which are natural monopolies, while under the system named above competition would be impossible. Then some might object that the wage system would still be in force. It is not the wage system that wrongs the workers today, but the competitive wage which is forced upon the workers. I take it for granted that there will be wages under Socialism, but the workers will not be



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forced to compete with each other to determine the price of wages, and the total product produced would be the wages of the workers measured by the total number of producers, including the farmer as a producer. But whatever the advantages in talking to the farmer from this standpoint, we must always tell him that if he joins the Socialist party he is joining a wage workers' party and not the wage worker joining a farmer's party. Some might say what is the difference? You are going to take the farmer anyway. The difference is this: that all exploitation is the result of competitive wage labor. In order to abolish this there is only one class which can be depended upon to do this—the wage working class, because it is to its class interest to do so. All other classes live off of wage labor and it is to their interest to maintain a competitive wage so as to procure cheap labor. Therefore, if the farmers want to establish just conditions and do away with the possibility of becoming absolute serfs in the near future, they must work and vote for the emancipation of the city wage worker through Socialism, for the farmer can never hope to hold the balance of political power again. Fifty years ago he was the dominant power, but the factory system and giant capitalists have taken his place.

Socialism and Wars

H. C. MOORE

Universal Socialism is the only certain preventative of race, religious or commercial wars; the only basis upon which peace on earth good will to man can be established.

The fertility and extent of the earth's surface is sufficient to support in comfort and luxury more than twenty fold its present population but destructive wars must cease, standing armies be abolished before that condition can be obtained. Consider the causes that have brought about the destructive wars that have ravaged the earth. Take the one now raging between the Japanese and Russians. Japan's limited territory, filled with numbers that tax its capacity of production to its limits for a scanty subsistence, is compelled to seek an outlet for its natural increase, or, to adopt the Malthusian doctrine of race suicide to stop that natural increase. On the other hand, Russia with a sparsely settled territory, sufficient, when properly developed, for many times its present numbers, still

greedily grasping more territory. In the struggle for commercial and military supremacy the Russians have for centuries tried to get a foothold on southern seas where they could carry on an ocean commerce from which in winter they were excluded by the rigor of their climate. To obtain a harbor on the Mediterranean seas they have frequently engaged in bloody wars. Jealousy of the other European powers led them to unite in opposition, and they have always succeeded in defeating the aim of Russia to oust the Turks from their possessions. Defeated in this object the successful war of the Japs with China and its entanglement with European powers, gave a favorable chance for Russia, which she eagerly accepted, and from the proximity of Chinese territory to her own she seized upon Manchuria and took possession of Port Arthur. Other European powers joined in this despoiling the Chinese empire, wresting from Japan the fruits of her victory which unaided by them she had secured. Thus Japan was left to hold the empty bag, while the prize was taken by the Europeans. Russia pledged herself to restore Manchuria to China when order had been established, but her course plainly indicated a determination to permanently annex it to her possessions. In all these dealings with China, commercial greed has been the dominating motive with the powers opposed to her and all required a slice of her territory. That our own government took any part in this Chinese broil can only be justified on the ground of protecting our consuls at Peking from the fury of the Chinese people, a state of feeling natural enough when one's native land was being ravaged and despoiled. It was the spirit of commercial greed that led to all this turmoil and destruction and so long as it holds dominance, so long as the dollar is almighty and is worshiped, as it is today, will it continue to bear the same kind of fruit, the same crop of evil. Is this disorder and strife a part of the infinite plan of human existence? For what purpose was man endowed with intellectual and inventive powers? For what are given his noble aspirations, his love of justice his instinctive desire to relieve the woes and sufferings of his fellow man? Not one so brutal but he will rush to rescue his fellow man from flood or fire.

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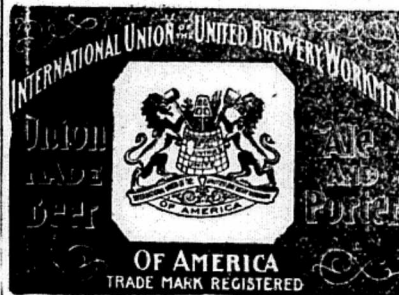
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