

Revolutionary Socialism

It would be hard, indeed, to find a question that is more widely discussed, and at the same time, more thoroughly misrepresented, by its opponents...

The opponents of Socialism have characterized it as Anarchy in disguise, as the dreams of a lot of fanatics...

Some who proclaim themselves Socialists, define it as Christianity modernized, as love and charity, and other creditable emotions and sentiments.

Socialism is not Christianity modernized; neither is it the imaginative scheme of any man or body of men.

It has been the mistaken belief of a great many well-meaning, but misguided people, that they could acquire a complete knowledge of the importance of the theory of Socialism in a short time...

Socialism is a science, and like any other science, requires study.

Shaeffel, the Austrian economist, Minister of Education and author of "The Quintessence of Socialism" says it took him years to grasp the full purport of Socialism.

Socialism and Capitalism.

Those who would understand Socialism must understand capitalism. "But", you may say, "Socialism does not exist, at least not as yet." But it does exist.

The Socialist being an evolutionist, and believing in the law of progress, is logically an optimist. He does not contend that the capitalist system was not necessary at all, or is without value...

Socialists work for the establishment of a co-operative commonwealth, that is, a system in which land and machinery shall be social in ownership as well as in operation.

AT ITS OLD GAME

[The below is the English translation of the editorial published in the "Volkszeitung", the secret organ of the A. F. of L., and referred to in the article "Making Ready for the Third Act", found elsewhere in this issue.]

It has often been pointed out in these columns that all good intentions to the contrary notwithstanding, antagonisms must with natural sequence spring from the existence of several trade unions of the same calling, which in case of struggles with the bosses must lead to a condition where one labor organization takes a stand against another...

If this is self-evident from the mere existence of two unions in the same trade, even though both organizations have originally the best of intentions not to be guilty of any support of the capitalists and to live in peace with the

necessary. Capitalism is the power that is perfecting the means of production and exchange, and making it possible for society to take possession of the finished tool, the great international trust that is fast nearing perfection.

In the early days of capitalism, everything was in line with the capitalist system of production. That is to say the system of ownership harmonized with the system of production and exchange, both being individualistic.

Socialists claim that it is the same in society as in biology, that there is no fixity in social life, that the world is constantly changing in its economic condition as it is in its biological one.

There are no germs of decay in evolution; on that every thinking person is agreed. Society is slowly changing; like the evolution of the human race biologically the change is not perceived until the completion of the evolutionary process is reached...

The working men, as a class, are governed in their actions by their material interests; and so are other men and women. But the material interests of one class of society differs greatly from that of another class, and are opposite and conflicting.

Socialism and Slavery. The Socialists contend that a person who is compelled by force of necessity; due to his non-ownership of land and capital, to sell himself by the hour, day or week to another for a price, called wages, and that price only enough to supply his immediate wants, is a wage slave, because his labor or labor-power is a commodity on the market, bought

Some there be, and not a few, that

think that if they could get a majority of votes for Socialism, no matter by what methods, that the social revolution would be accomplished at once. But this is an error, and a very grave one; for without an intelligent understanding of the conflict of interests in capitalism and the constructive theories of Socialism, backed by a powerful economic organization, the social revolution would be still born.

The real revolutionary Socialist is called an impossibilist by the opportunists. It is because the latter do not understand the class conflicts growing out of evolutionary progress. They hope to attain to an ideal state before the people are in any way capable of holding the advance made against the reactionaries and grafters who will, in the hour of the seeming victory of Socialism, fall over themselves to be a part of the winning army.

That the average American has a large amount of intelligence is of course beyond question, but intelligence does not always imply knowledge; a man may be very intelligent and at the same time be in a state of ignorance regarding social and economic questions, because his environment has been of such a nature that he has been constantly misinformed on those questions.

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and sold just as horses and cows, pork and other merchandise. We hear of the "labor market". What is the "labor market" but a wage slave market? As Socialists have often said the very terminology of capitalist society proves the slave character of wage labor.

Some there are who, admitting that labor is bought in open market and exploited by wage slavery yet claim that it were ever thus and thus it will ever remain. They are fond of quoting Aristotle, who, they assert, was a very wise man and knew what he was talking about, when he said that slavery must always exist.

Aristotle, the greatest mind in ancient society, said that slavery must always exist, because "the wheel does not turn of itself; the needle does not sew of itself." He explained that society must have an intellectual class to do the thinking, and that class must be a leisure class; they must be surrounded with every luxury, in order to give their brain a chance to develop, and in order that this leisure class be furnished with the means for development there were slaves for the lords, and apprentices for master-workers.

Aristotle's conception of an ideal society has been realized. We have marvelous labor-saving machinery to do the work of slaves. The wheel now turns of itself, the needle sews of itself, the weavers' shuttles weaves of themselves, every tool, when summoned does the work that befits it.

Aristotle was a heathen and knew nothing of the beauties of Christianity, but he exhibited a profundity of wisdom, and a loftiness of sentiment that puts to shame the present-day "thinkers" who prostitute their intellect for the ruling class may continue to rule and pay them their "thirty pieces of silver."

Says Marx, of the Ancients: "They, perhaps, excused the slavery of one on the ground that it was a means to the full development of another. But to preach the slavery of the masses, in order that a few crude and half-educated upstarts might become eminent spinners, 'extensive sausage makers', and 'influential shoe-black dealers'—to do this they lacked the bump of Christianity."

All roads lead to Socialism, even the writings of the extreme individualist, Herbert Spencer, prove it; he said: "No one can be perfectly free till all are free. None can be perfectly moral till all are moral. No one can be perfectly happy till all are happy."

Under our present industrial system none are perfectly free, not even the favored ones, the capitalists. They must commit shocking crimes to save their millions from ruin by their own kind. They are under the necessity of creating markets for their goods, that results in bloody foreign wars and lying advertising.

Worse than in New York, was done to the capmakers' union in Detroit. According to the aforesaid leaflet, over 100 members of this union were locked out on November 27, although the union had a contract with the firm in question.

SLOBOVIN IN HOT WATER. Isaac Bloom is in the Tombs and today will be sentenced for perjury by Recorder Goff, in whose court a jury Wednesday found him guilty. Bloom lost his suit against the Metropolitan Street Railway Company in January last for injuries which he alleged resulted in paralysis of his legs and arms.

The Attention of Workmen is Called to the DAILY PEOPLE, The Official Organ of the Socialist Labor Party. It is owned by Workmen, Edited by Workmen, Supported by Workmen.

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PLATFORM

Adopted at the Eleventh National Convention of the Socialist Labor Party, July 1904.

The Socialist Labor Party of America, in convention assembled, reasserts the inalienable right of man to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

We hold that the purpose of government is to secure to every citizen the enjoyment of this right; but taught by experience we hold furthermore that such right is illusory to the majority of the people, to wit, the working class, under the present system of economic inequality that is essentially destructive of THEIR life, THEIR liberty and THEIR happiness.

We hold that the true theory of politics is that the machinery of government must be controlled by the whole people; but again taught by experience we hold furthermore that the true theory of economics is that the means of production must likewise be owned, operated and controlled by the people in common.

We hold that the existing contradiction between the theory of democratic government and the fact of a despotic economic system—the private ownership of the natural and social opportunities—divides the people into two classes: the Capitalist Class and the Working Class; throws society into the convulsions of the Class Struggle; and perverts government to the exclusive benefit of the Capitalist Class.

Thus labor is robbed of the wealth which it alone produces, is denied the means of self-employment, and, by compulsory idleness in wage slavery, is even deprived of the necessities of life.

Against such a system the Socialist Labor Party raises the banner of revolt, and demands the unconditional surrender of the Capitalist Class.

The time is fast coming when in the natural course of social evolution, this system, through the destructive action of its failures and crises, on the one hand, and the constructive tendencies of its trusts and other capitalist combinations, on the other hand, will have worked out its own downfall.

We, therefore, call upon the wage workers of America to organize under the banner of the Socialist Labor Party into a class conscious body, aware of its rights and determined to conquer them.

And we also call upon all other intelligent citizens to place themselves squarely upon the ground of Working Class interests, and join us in this mighty and noble work of human emancipation, so that we may put summary end to the existing barbarous class conflict by placing the land and all the means of production, transportation and distribution into the hands of the people as a collective body, and substituting the Co-operative Commonwealth for the present state of planless production, industrial war and social disorder—a commonwealth in which every worker shall have the free exercise and full benefit of his faculties, multiplied by all the modern factors of civilization.

History of a Proletarian Family... Across the Ages

By Eugene Sue. Translated by Daniel De Leon.

In order to understand our own time it is absolutely necessary that we know something of the times that have gone before. The generations are like links in a chain, all connected. The study, by which we can learn what has been done and thought before us, is history, and this is perhaps the most fascinating of all studies.

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