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Will Socialism supplant the present system, or will the capitalists remain and be of use to the working class? It is well, at times, to take stock of principles and ideas that have circulated widely among many people.

The Scientific Socialists declare that their theories practically originated and became public with the issue in 1848 of the Communist Manifesto which was the joint work of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, subsequently enlarged by the three large volumes of Marx's Critique of Capital.

Briefly stated, the Communist Manifesto sets forth the theory that capitalism, or the modern industrial system, has broken down all previous class distinctions, such as noble and serf, and primitive means of production, leaving the capitalist and laborer face to face, that the capitalists are becoming fewer and fewer, while those who are reduced to wage slavery are constantly becoming more numerous.

Value, Price and Profit, sets forth the idea that the wages of the workers is governed by the cost of living and the selling price of an article is governed by the number of hours, according to the usual factory processes, it took to produce that article.

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In the three volumes of "Das Kapital" to give it its German name, the capitalist mode of production is analyzed fully. The capitalist system, as an abstraction, (the Germans are great on abstractions) considered in its pure state as apart from human passions and non-economic interpenetrations, is pulled apart like a watchmaker pulls a watch to pieces, and its parts studied.

We cannot go into the questions raised in any full manner, because book after book has been written for and against these theories. There are, however, certain aspects of the questions raised which the workmen should bear in mind.

How Long Will The System Last?

The last words of the first part of the Communist Manifesto are these, "What the bourgeoisie therefore pro-

duce, above all, are its own grave-diggers. Its fall and the victory of the proletariat are equally inevitable." The above paragraph was written in 1848, over seventy years ago. Capitalism has not fallen in any of the capitalist countries. An attempt at communism is being made in Russia, but Russia was one of the least developed countries along capitalist lines in Europe. In the United States, which is the most advanced country along industrial lines, the Socialist party is the weakest. If the capitalist system has lasted for seventy years since its fall was predicted and scientifically proved according to Marx, why cannot it continue another seventy years?

It was laid down by these Socialists that the machine age is creating greater and greater wealth, and there is not sufficient outlet for the wealth created because the workers cannot buy back with their wages the wealth they have produced. It is true, it is said, that a part of the wealth the workers have created goes to extend the system of production, laying new railway lines, making new factories, but that, as these come into operation, the problem is only made greater because there is a greater volume of wealth created.

This was said seventy years ago, and still the capitalist system seems to be supported by the great majority of the people. The final crisis has not yet come, and may not come for many years. For capitalism has a way of creating greater and greater demands for extension purposes. In New York city four story buildings were torn down to build ten story buildings. These were torn down in order to give place to forty story buildings. Railway engines are built and in a few years are scrapped to give place to heavier engines. One invention is placed on the market and millions of dollars are spent to operate the invention, when another invention comes forward to cause the first equipment to be scrapped, and millions more spent.

Says the Communist Manifesto, "The bourgeoisie has subjected the country to the rule of the towns. It has created enormous cities, has greatly increased the urban population as compared with the rural, and has thus rescued a considerable part of the population from the idleness of rural life."

Since then, the electric car has come, the automobile, the flying machine, the rural telephone, the tractor, the gasoline engine, the harvester, electric power for country regions, and many more inventions that have transformed rural life is but beginning. Many people hold that the cities have become overgrown and a conscious effort is being made to reduce their size. Henry Ford is leading the way in placing his plants in small towns. This tendency may grow. We may see a vast extension of the building up of small towns, thus causing a great increase of labor needed in the building trades, thus delaying the falling of capitalism of its own weight.

America is the foremost industrial nation, and Canada is rapidly coming forward to second place. Those who have seen the little railways of Europe and the small houses, and the primitive methods realize that in large sections of Europe capitalism has hardly begun its career. Then in the outlying regions of Africa and Asia there is room for a large employment of labor to bring these countries up to European standards.

Should America double her productive capacity, there will be need for much labor to do this. Then if we suppose that Europe applies its labor to the creation of the means of production to equal that of America, and then again recreates its wealth producing machinery to equal the then American standard, and if such process of the creation of the machinery for the production of wealth takes place in Asia and Africa, it may be many, many years before capitalism is ready to fall of its own weight.

As to the class struggle, this theory originated in Europe where peasants had been peasants and the rulers had been rulers for centuries. The class lines seem to be tightly drawn. It originated in the mind of a writer who was brought up in Germany, in a country where rulers did not know how to yield. They stayed on top till they got removed by revolution. The British rulers have known how to give a part of their power to hold the rest. Moreover, in Canada and the United States, it is only recently that a separate moneyed class is being formed. The successful men who have become wealthy are in many cases remembered as poor, barefoot boys. The class struggle theory does not take very deep root in a country like Canada. It is as yet largely foreign to the thoughts of the native born Canadian.

As to the theory of the robbery of the workers at the point of production as laid down in the doctrines of surplus values, Canada is still a young country. Her industries are still being built up. In an old, settled country, processes may become established and firms may go on from generation to generation, apparently automatically. In Canada, however, most men have seen industries begin, have seen some of

them built up into successful undertakings, while others, which had equal good chances of success, have gone under, and the people reason that if the worker is robbed at the point of production, why did not both firms succeed. As the one firm fails and the other succeeds, Canadians are still concluding that success depends upon the man at the head as much as upon the worker in the shop. It may be true that as we grow older, historic conditions will change and the workers may manage industry. It is, however, felt by the majority that the individualistic spirit in the people is still too strong to submit itself to social aims and communist effort.

Materialism is Dead With regard to the booklet Socialism, Utopian and Scientific, which declares for materialism in philosophy, it must be remembered that it was produced at the time when Darwin, Spencer, Huxley, Haeckel and other like scientists were the vogue. Materialism was the scientific atmosphere. Engels simply took the current thoughts of the day and applied them to one particular phase. Since then scientific thought has gone almost completely back on itself. Materialism as a philosophy is dead. But the copyrights on the works of these writers having expired, they are circulated in cheap editions. These whose means are limited by them. The modern writers whose works are copyrighted and therefore dear, do not reach the working class. Consequently an outworn philosophic doctrine is read by the workers not only in Engels' writings but in the writing of other scientists of his day.

The big work, "Das Kapital," is much in vogue among scientific Socialists. By some it is considered a Socialist text book. It is nothing of the kind. The Critique of Capital, as its name implies, is a criticism and analysis of the capitalist mode of production. Socialism aims at the substitution of a Socialist mode of production and distribution. The Critique of Capital studies the symptoms of the capitalist system, goes over its whole system, and like a doctor with a patient, pronounces the capitalist system is in a dying condition. A deathbed scene does not tell us much about the joy of living. So Marx's attendance at the deathbed of capitalism does not tell us much of the joys of Socialism living.

Qu'est-ce, pour le député, que l'intérêt général et le bien public? Pure affaire de comédie: le député veut venir, et l'électeur doit être son marchepied. Travailler pour le peuple? Allons donc! C'est le peuple qui doit travailler pour lui. On a nommé les députés un hôtel et voter, cette méthode phare est d'une rare justesse. Le parlementarisme crée des conditions tout à fait analogues à celle du temps patriarcal. Les députés occupent la situation des patriarches; leur puissance repose sur leur richesse, qui consiste dans la possession de grands troupeaux. Seulement, ces troupeaux ne se composent plus aujourd'hui de bêtes réelles, mais de ce bétail métaphorique qui, le jour du vote, dépose son bulletin dans l'urne.

La scène se passe dans un ministère: Un chef de bureau, sévère, à l'un de ses sous-ordres: — Je me vois, monsieur, dans l'obligation de vous changer de service. Non seulement vous dormez au bureau, mais encore vous ronflez et cela réveille à tout instant le chef de division qui travaille dans la pièce à côté.

Le célèbre Pope était bossu et avait les jambes courtes. Le roi d'Angleterre, l'apercevant un jour dans une rue de Londres, dit à ses courtisans: — A quoi sert ce petit homme qui marche de travers? — Pope, l'ayant entendu, répondit: — A vous faire marcher droit!

— Eh bien! où en es-tu avec Jeanne? Te détestes-tu à l'épouser? — Mon cher, je me fâte, j'hésite. Il y a son passé... que tu lui reproches, à son passé? — Sa longueur.

Il ne faut jamais parler de soi ni en bien, ni en mal; celui qui se vante est un orgueilleux, celui qui se rabaisse est un sot. Aristote.

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THE HERALD UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

The Montreal Daily Herald has passed under new management. From the viewpoint of organized labor, the change is a great advantage. The other English daily newspapers give the capitalist point of view. Labor is crowded out altogether, or labor news is given insignificant mention in obscure items. When labor news is featured it is quite frequently distorted to the disadvantage of labor.

The Herald in its few issues under the new management, seems to be adopting a very fair attitude to labor. Not only is it fair, but it is discussing in a public manner the questions which greatly interest labor.

A new campaign is being waged for industrial injuries to workers. One of the most pressing demands Quebec labor has put forward, The Herald is publishing a series of four or five articles on the subject, in the Wednesday and Saturday editions, the two first of the series having been published on March 12th and 16th. The articles are not written from the standpoint of labor, but in an impartial manner, and being written in that manner, labor benefits, for labor is in a position to see the arguments brought forward against its proposals as well as those arguments in their favor.

The question of lower wages is much to the front among the employers at the present time. One of the great drives on now is to reduce the remuneration of railway workers. While the other papers carry long despatches of what railway capital has decided to do to labor, The Herald in addition to presenting capital's side, presents labor's side also. In its issue of March 17th, it publishes, on the front page under a double column heading, a special despatch occupying nearly two columns of space, being an article from A. R. Mosher, Grand President of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees, presenting the railwaymen's reply to the move for lower wages.

In its issue of March 15th, in an editorial, it asks the Montreal Star why a law short years ago it was in favor of government ownership and why, now it is against government ownership. In another editorial a little while ago it dealt editorially with the Labor gains in the British and Scotch by-elections.

The change of management has meant a change of policy. Independence has returned, at least in a measure, to Montreal English daily journalism. The Herald is to be congratulated upon its new policies.

Qu'est-ce, pour le député, que l'intérêt général et le bien public? Pure affaire de comédie: le député veut venir, et l'électeur doit être son marchepied. Travailler pour le peuple? Allons donc! C'est le peuple qui doit travailler pour lui. On a nommé les députés un hôtel et voter, cette méthode phare est d'une rare justesse. Le parlementarisme crée des conditions tout à fait analogues à celle du temps patriarcal. Les députés occupent la situation des patriarches; leur puissance repose sur leur richesse, qui consiste dans la possession de grands troupeaux. Seulement, ces troupeaux ne se composent plus aujourd'hui de bêtes réelles, mais de ce bétail métaphorique qui, le jour du vote, dépose son bulletin dans l'urne.

La scène se passe dans un ministère: Un chef de bureau, sévère, à l'un de ses sous-ordres: — Je me vois, monsieur, dans l'obligation de vous changer de service. Non seulement vous dormez au bureau, mais encore vous ronflez et cela réveille à tout instant le chef de division qui travaille dans la pièce à côté.

Le célèbre Pope était bossu et avait les jambes courtes. Le roi d'Angleterre, l'apercevant un jour dans une rue de Londres, dit à ses courtisans: — A quoi sert ce petit homme qui marche de travers? — Pope, l'ayant entendu, répondit: — A vous faire marcher droit!

— Eh bien! où en es-tu avec Jeanne? Te détestes-tu à l'épouser? — Mon cher, je me fâte, j'hésite. Il y a son passé... que tu lui reproches, à son passé? — Sa longueur.

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