

THE LABOUR LEAFLET

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LABOUR is the source of all wealth, "therefore all wealth belongs to labour," and recently when labour integrity was at its best, it was found by economists and statisticians, that the estimated gross or total annual income of all the folk in Great Britain and Ireland came to something liked £1,300,000,000.

THE MILLIONS of folk who do the manual labour, or in other words, men and women, boys and girls, who do the laborious and physical toil, which go such a long way in creating the above annual wealth, only receive somewhere distributive as a gross amount over all, about £300,000,000 per annum, out of the total amount created by the labour advantages which should be for the good of all.

THE EMPLOYERS of folk who labour, and those who live by mental or brain work, to them it may be assumed that they get, or rather in ordinary instances retain, an amount no less than £100,000,000.

TO ARCHITECTURAL WORK, the genius' mental and physical skill, another 100,000,000 may be assumed to them who do such useful duties, which should be a benefit to other labouring folks, but which is too much grasped to advantage of idleness by capitalists or idle scoundrels.

TO PROFITS in honest businesses of distribution etc., say another £100,000,000. and to DISHONEST PROFITMONGERS, and sweaters of labour, say £50,000,000 this still leaves yet £650,000,000 unaccounted for, or over one half of the total value of labour going to daylight or LEGALIZED ROBBERIES, or in other words to those whom no truthful person could look upon as ought else but drones or slugs who do nothing at all for it. A few thousands of persons by privilege of law enjoy a life of idle and extravagant luxury, while the millions who by their mental and physical labour and skill combined, create the whole amount referred to, continue under tyranny and ill paid labour, the majority in poverty, and large numbers in utter misery and destitution, CAUSED BY THE DRONES having all political privilege, etc.

THE CONDITION OF SOCIETY — thus illustrated, the pulse of it as felt, or is felt by all honest thinking persons, to millions is much worse than chattel slavery could now be, or in instances was, ought therefore to be revolutionised or changed the opposite way about, namely from unsocialism to a condition of Socialism ; or to put the injunctions of St. Paul, "That if any would not work, neither should they eat"; or, "Let him that stole, steal no more, but rather let him labour."

SOCIALISM as said — "Should be the hope and aspiration of every honest man and woman, whether brain or hand worker, but the fear and dread of the wilfully idle," and added thereto of all who are dishonest either in thought word or deed.

SOCIALISM may be defined "an art," or rather "a social and scientific ideal," when realized will result in a "Condition of Society," with privileges of law, etc., in which that amount of labour value, over one half (£650,000,000) of our annual income of wealth, would go not to drones and slugs, but to the exchequer of labour instead. SOCIALISM does not mean disorder, confusion or violence, etc., as stated by the opponents of it, but it means the complete opposite.

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POVERTY

THE CAUSE AND THE REMEDY.

Why such extremes of poverty and wretchedness? Here is a home question for all workers; and indeed is it not the duty of everyone to make real and earnest effort to find why it is that many who day after day and year after year work hard and long, can only just exist in want, misery and degradation. Why it is that there are men and women who neither work nor wish to work, and yet can live in splendour and extravagant superfluity.

The Reason is this. It is because certain persons have the legal privilege of taking from the workers a portion of their earnings without doing any sort of work in return.

The Hereditary Landlord is a type of those predatory individuals who live on the labour of others: he has merely inherited the legal privilege of taking from the workers some portion of the good things which they produce, and makes no pretence of having created anything by his own labour — he makes no pretence of having worked either for the capital value that he controls or for the tax he levies in the shape of rent. Those who refuse to give to this large scale robber, are shot down and killed by an organisation called "Tory Government" whose main aim is now to uphold the right of the privileged classes to live upon the labour of the deprived classes.

The Hereditary Capitalist, in his unalloyed form, is represented by one who inherits shares in a joint stock company : he like the hereditary landlord makes no pretence of having worked for the capital value which he owns, or for the interest which he takes. He like a highwayman is a purely predatory animal.

Landlords and Capitalists are sometimes workers as well as takers of rent and interest ; as workers, whether they work with hand or head, they deserve reward. The man who accumulates a large fortune by trade or by factory operations, is generally both worker and taker of other mens' earnings : but his "large fortune" depends mainly on his adroitness in finding means of making others work for him.

The "Large Fortune", which such a person bequeaths to his sons or heirs generally takes the form of a prospective control over the workpeople of the future generation, a control which compels the workpeople to give up a share of their earnings as a tribute to the non-worker. The legacy is as a rule, the transmission of a legal right to levy interest : interest not being any part of the original legacy, but a tribute paid by contemporary workers.

What Socialists Say. That it is unjust for the land, and also those vast stores of material wealth which past generations have made, to be owned by individuals who possess them by accident of birth, and who use them as a means of gathering interest and rent from those who are excluded from possession by the accident of birth. Constructive socialists hope to so influence the state as to make it really and truly the mouthpiece of the will of the whole people, and the sole administrator of land and capital.

Then may each labourer — whether he be architect or hodman. director of a factory or a chimney sweeper in the same - hope to receive the full reward of his labour.

English Workers pay to Landlords and Capitalists no less than £400,000,000 a year for permission to use that land which God gave, and those appliances or machines which past generations made. In making this estimate a full deduction has been made for such labour of superintendence as is done by Landlords and Capitalists.

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