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The Socialist

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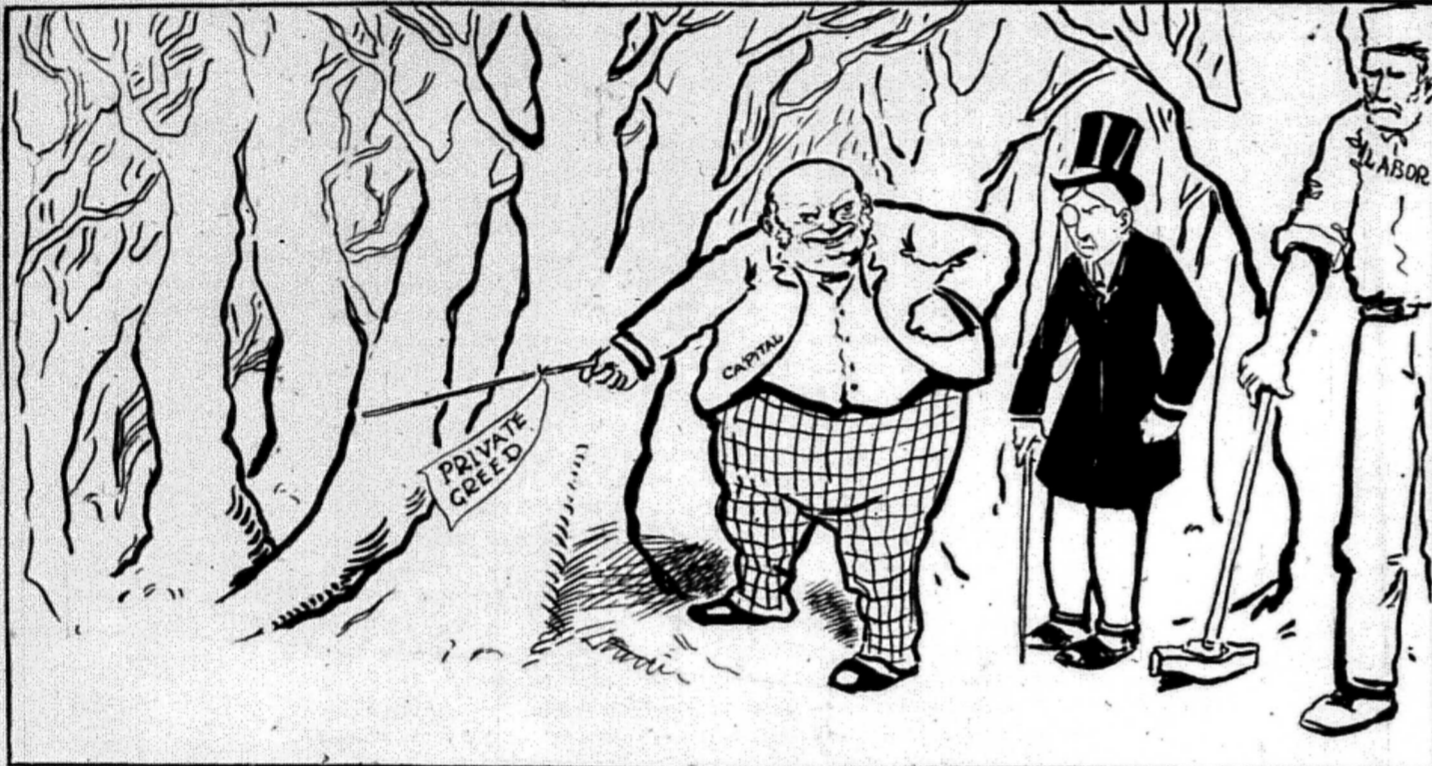
116 Virginia Street., SEATTLE, WASH., MAY 17, 1903

The number on the label opposite your name is the number with which your subscription expires.

No. 145

REAL FAIRY STORIES No. 4

Once the Ogre and his Son were in a great forest. The Son said: "How wild and desolate it is here."



But the Ogre said: "Never fear, my son. I have my wand, and our Slave will change this forest into cultivated lands, teeming with crops, he will open mines for us, build great cities and factories, and make railroads for you to inherit, you, who have never soiled your hands with work. Our Slave does all this for the poor board and poor clothes I give him."

From Chase in the South

Gainsville, Texas, April 27, 1903.

Editor "The Socialist."

Dear Comrade Editor:—I visited once upon a time one of our governmental manufacturing institutions and what I found there and an incident connected therewith may be of interest to you or your readers. It was in Rock Island, Ill. The plant was situated in a beautiful park, with fine, imposing shade trees, splendid concrete side walls, bicycle paths and drive ways.

In the center of this park was ten rows of stone building through which I meandered on a tour of inspection and investigation.

In the basement of one building I found a thoroughly equipped up-to-date machinshop, with all the modern lathes, etc. In another I found a blacksmith shop with modern bellows, anvils, tripammers, etc. On the next floor I found a long line of machines of the most up-to-date style, which were used for the purpose of making into shape, steel, copper, lead, bronze, etc. I soon discovered that all these metals were being wrought into implements of destruction, such as cannon, cannon wheels and carriages, guns, cartridges and the like.

On another floor some 200 men were marking upon leather making harnesses, knapsacks, saddles, sabers, holders, etc.

In a word, everything conceivable, nearly, for destroying life, was being turned out in that institution, which the people of this country maintain and operate through their government.

I asked a man after my visit if he did not think it possible to run a shoe factory and make shoes for ourselves as well as we could make guns or cannon-balls. "Oh, well," said he, "that's different." "But how different?" I asked. "Is there any material difference between a cannon-ball and a shoe? And does it not require labor to make both?" "Yes," he said, "I suppose so." "And could we not make shoes as easily as we now make the cannon-ball?" I asked. "Yes, I guess so, if we tried," he replied. "And would it not be better, when you come to think of it," I asked, "and more in keeping with common sense and civilization for us to make shoes to shoe the shoeless than it is to make bullets to bullet the bulletless?" "Perhaps so, sir; perhaps so," he replied, and turned away round the corner and was lost among the seventy odd million other perhaps so's.

Fraternally yours,

JOHN C. CHASE.

P. S.—You people out there seem to be doing something in the way of making Socialists. We are making a few just now here in Dixie land. Say, there will be "something doing" in 1904 all right.

My regards to the comrades who enter your sanctum.

J. C. C.

TO GET RID OF HIM.

Norman, Wash., May 3, 1903.

The "Socialist."

Enclosed please find twenty-five cents for another six months' subscription.

Six months ago I had to take the "Socialist" for half a year in order to get rid of the agent, as I was very busy when he was around.

But lo! and behold! Why didn't I drive him out of the house instead? That confounded "Socialist" has converted a populist into Socialism.

As to changing the name of your paper, I must say that I do not think it can be bettered any, as the present name can not be misunderstood by anyone.

Respectfully,

JOHN KLATT.

THEY ARE COMING.

There is a crying need for a press which shall do for the working class, what the capitalist press does for the capitalist class; a press which shall raise its voice in protest against everything calculated to harm the working class; a press which shall stand for the rights of the toiler, a press which shall teach the toiler to think with his own brains, and see with his own eyes and speak with his own tongue.

Such a press the Socialists are now providing.—"The Peoria Socialist," (latest addition to the Socialist press of America).

THE INSECURITY OF LABOR

This is the title of Carroll D. Wright's first article in Collier's Weekly. These are his opening words:

Economic Insecurity.

A new term has grown up in political economy—economic insecurity, which means the insecurity that attaches to labor when the workingman has exhausted his energy, or has become ill, or is incapacitated by accident or other misfortune. Under the wages system there is no security or protection against this incapacity, and the workingman, when he meets these conditions, is left to take care of himself, to live upon friends, or to become the object of public solicitude.

The Weakness of the Wage System.

The condition described is known as economic insecurity because a man coming under it is insecure through the remainder of his life from an economic point of view. This is the weakness of the wages system. Such insecurity did not exist under the systems which preceded the wage system, because under the feudal system, which meant service on the one hand and protection on the other, the serf was entitled to food, raiment and shelter during his entire life. These two conditions, protection and service, were inseparable. So, under the slave system, the humane master—and I am inclined to believe that the large majority of slave-owners were humane—cared for his slaves through life. They were quite sure of food, clothing and shelter as long as they lived. But he proceeds to speak of this change as

The Emancipation of Labor.

With the emancipation of labor under our modern system—that is, when the workingman was entitled to make contracts, thus passing from status to contract—he must take care of himself. When he becomes ill, meets with accident, or grows old, or is incapacitated for any reason, there is no one to whom he can turn to make his future secure. He has expended his strength that production might go on and that society as a whole might prosper industrially.

A splendid Emancipation this. "He has passed from status to contract," let not the wage slave forget that. He may be worse off. There may be no one to help him when he is old or sick or injured. He may be less secure than the slave or the serf. But "he has passed from status to contract," he has been emancipated!

We wonder why Carroll D. did not advise the worker to "save" out of his earnings, to lay by a store for his old age. The capitalist dandles tell us the workingmen have untold millions in the Savings Banks. How did Mr. Wright overlook this fact? Why not declare it is the worker's shiftlessness that brings him to want in his old age? It is his own fault, he has

wasted it in drink, say the Christians generally. But Carroll D. Wright seems to have dropped that old "chestnut" anyhow.

This fact of the "Economic Insecurity" of the Wage Slaves is so stupendous a fact of modern society that to deny it is to declare oneself a fool.

It is an awful truth that the Iron Law of Wages keeps a wage worker's income down to the subsistence level, and he simply cannot provide for his old age.

Mr. Wright's Remedy.

After declaring that the remedy "must be one that will not degrade the worker," for he "will not accept charity"; and after quoting Germany's "Compulsory Insurance" laws; after asserting that Society will not solve this problem "through the fallacious methods of Socialism"; after saying, "We all know that great-hearted employers and corporations, like railroads and great industrial establishments, do much to enable their employees to avoid this condition"; he finally reaches the sapient conclusion that "the genius of the world will solve the knotty problem, or at least alleviate the conditions by reasonable methods."

His Last Words.

Here are this philosopher's concluding sentences:

The burden is on society to see to it that economic adjustments are good, with the moral end in view of securing the best results not only from the point of view of production, but from the point of view of high citizenship. May we not look for such protection from an enlightened community?

His Interests Blind Him.

Carroll D. Wright is an employee of Capital. He is an official of a Capitalist government. He is the Capitalist Commissioner of Labor. He sees with Capitalist eyes. He speaks as Capitalists speak. His whole moral vision is obscured, worse, inverted. What is really immoral, monstrous, appears to him normal and moral.

His reasoning faculties are perverted, too. He can actually speak of the workingman as having "expended his strength that production might go on and that society as a whole might prosper industrially," and yet fall to perceive that this man who constitutes "Society as a whole" has been exploited and robbed of what was his by the right of creation.

In fact the attitude of this man is that of the vivisectionist who coolly observes, and superintends the skinning alive of his victims—philosophizing the while on the probability of sensation becoming blunted through long exposure of the nerve tissues, and whether something might not sometime be done to relieve their sufferings, in case they did suffer.

Only in the Commissioner's case, the victims are men, women and children, millions of them.

Their economic insecurity gives him and his class economic security. And that is the explanation of the whole matter.

STILL HOAXING THE WORKERS WITH JUGGLED FIGURES

How Carroll D. Wright Serves the Capitalists' Interest.



Mr. Wright.—"You see! You are getting better off every day!"
 Puzzled Wage Worker.—"I'll be jiggered! I never would have known it!"

(In the Boyer's Weekly article Mr. Wright asserts that the wages of Carpenters, for instance, in 1860 were \$2.00 a day, increasing to \$2.45 in 1901 (or \$50.70 a week). The government census reports him, however, that wages in the period between 1860 and 1900 the average carpenter's wage DECLINED 25 per cent. False in one thing, false in all!)

—From the Social Democratic Herald, Milwaukee.

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