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Gaining Ground.

Every nation on earth is to-day convulsed more or less with the universal impulse towards democracy. In Russia it is the most fearful, but not the most forcible. Turkey has had to concede a constitution. China is becoming restless. Japan is imprisoning the Socialists, and the tremendous increase in the Socialist vote in England, Germany, France, Belgium, Holland, Italy and Spain, to say nothing of the tremendous public agitation concerning predatory wealth in this country, ought to serve notice on all intelligent people that something is doing in this old world different from any other epoch in its history. That democracy is destined to conquer all forms of tyranny that spring from the private ownership of wealth (and all tyranny springs from that alone), is patent to all who are not very ignorant. The rich and powerful are quaking. The recent speech of Roosevelt shows that he sees the danger very clearly and knows that unless he can check the growing tyranny of private ownership its days are few. He says plainly that the greed of the rich must be checked if private capital is to be maintained. He believes in skinning the people with profits, but he warns his pals that they must take less at a time or they will arouse the people, and then the people will refuse to recognise their right to take any. They are told that it is better to reduce their tribute than to risk losing all tribute. But his action will not stop the world-wide movement to do away with the tyranny of capitalism. The people have advanced far enough in their contemplation of the capitalist system to see its ghastly results, and more and more people are waking up to resistance against its extortion and corruption.

Millions of people now see that all crime and corruption come from the owners of great wealth. Whenever a case of bribery is exposed they can see that the owners of rich corporations are the ones who have paid the money to debauch the public service. If a San Francisco is debauched, the papers tell how the franchise holders paid \$750,000 out of their robber tills to do the debauching. If a state legislature is bought to pass laws for a corporation or sell a senatorship, the papers disclose the personality of the hoodler—and the money always comes from the rich. The rich are a menace to the freedom of the people, just as kings are a menace to the freedom of a people. They are of the same character and live off the people in the same way.

There has not been a case of bribery in any state, city or public contract that rich men have not caused. Who would vote money into the hands of the rich if the rich did not offer the bribe to have it done? There is no use trying to get honest men in office so long as great concentration of wealth is permitted,

and its owners thereby furnished with the means and the incentive to carry on their game of robbery. Men untempted do not fall. The only way is to take away the temptation, and that can only be done by taking away the conditions in which men profit by bribery. Poor men never bribe; they haven't enough personal interest or wealth to pay out sums great enough to corrupt public servants. When people declare for an industrial democracy; when they say that the industries of every nation shall belong to the people of that nation, and that those who consume must also help to produce, then none will have that great power of private wealth to corrupt the public service. Toward that end society is tending.

The movement in this country is not for political or religious liberty—we have that—but for industrial liberty. And industrial liberty is not possible with the private ownership of the jobs by a class of capitalists. The man or men who own the jobs own the men who own no jobs, but must work at some job or starve. The men who own the railroads, banks, elevators and mills, not only own the men who must work in them, but they own the farmer, for they control his products. They put the price on everything the farmers buy or sell. The farmer is therefore no more independent than those who work for wages, and, if a tenant or mortgaged serf, not so well off, as he has to work longer hours, has a lower standard of living, and bears all the responsibilities of his vocation. The ordinary wage slaves have none of the worry, except that of getting or holding a job.

The recent phenomenal rise of the Farmers' Co-operative and Educational Union and Society of Equity, with nearly a million and a half of members, gained within three years, is evidence that this protest against existing conditions has reached the farmers as well as the labor unions. The same impulse is behind both organizations. That impulse is, consciously or unconsciously, towards industrial democracy—the abolition of the private ownership of capital. I know that most of them will deny it, but that makes no difference. Most of the colonial fathers would at first have denounced any man who said their agitation against King George's tax on tea was directed toward wiping out royal rule in the colonies—but it was. When the anti-slavery agitation first began to gather force, few of its members realized that it would finally abolish chattel slavery; they wanted to restrict it. But it abolished the so-called divine institution.

And now all this frenzy and agitation over wages, hours, commissions, bribery and graft is simply the expression of that growing protest that means the overthrow of the capitalist system from which these evils flow. Probably the greatest factor in the ultimate abolition of capitalism will be the actions of capitalists themselves, just as were the bull-dozing tactics of King George and his partisans, and the actions of the slave oligarchy. Had these met the people half way, and had they reasoned and discussed the matter fairly, both would have fared infinitely better. But that could not be expected, because wealth and power have always been dictatorial and always will be; and Roosevelt's attempt to get the rich to see the danger their system of profits is in will be as futile. They are hot-headed and domineering, and cannot be otherwise. We Socialists are as certain of that action on the part of the rich as we are of any other result of the system.

The future is assuredly for Socialism.
—Fred. D. Warren.

An Alias Wanted.

What Socialism needs in America is an alias. The term "Socialist" is the fighting word of American politics. A month ago a Philadelphia newspaper proclaimed a creed which was merely a practical application of the Golden Rule in neighborly relations; but in subscribing to it the paper called it Socialism. And there were fireworks in the evening. Respectable and orthodox people wrote angry letters to the editor, denouncing him for teaching Socialism; he was branded as an infidel, a destroyer of public peace, denounced as an anarchist and a disturber of traffic—all because he had called his creed Socialism. And it was not Socialism at all, as Socialists recognize their creed; it was individualism applied simply to the Golden Rule. The term damned it. If a man would state a proposition in geometry and declare it to be Socialism, the world would set to work to prove the proposition false before it thought to disprove that it was Socialism.—The American.

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