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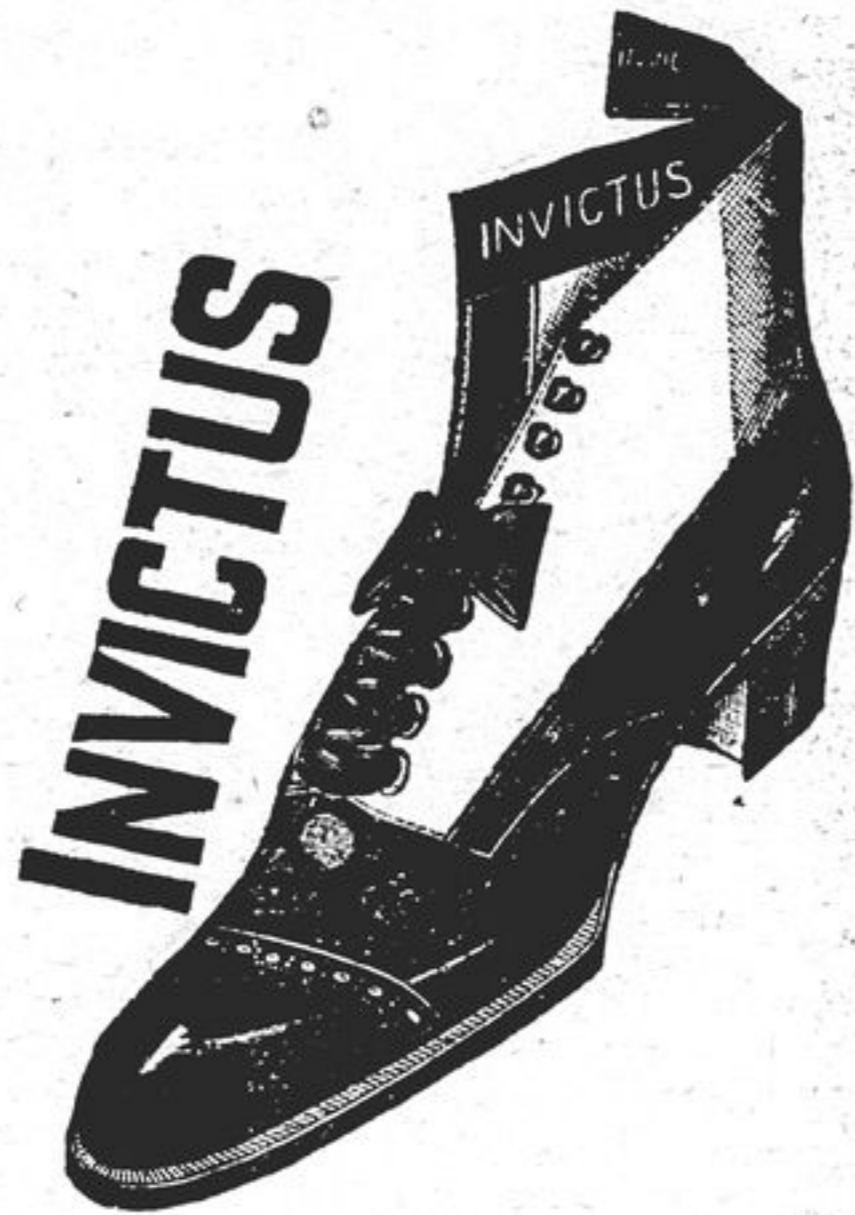
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**R. M. HAMILTON,** MANAGER.

**The Length of the Tether.**

The Chicago Daily Socialist has compiled figures to show that there are in the United States 6,305,000 workers actually known to be idle. The probability is that the number exceeds this figure, and the end is not yet. The slight revival in industry that naturally came about with the advent of spring, has collapsed. The outlook for the future is, to say the least of it, gloomy.

What is there to bank on for a return of "prosperity?" The first requisite to capitalist production is a market. Where shall capitalism turn for a market? The home market is glutted and glutted. While it is true that there is not the same overproduction of commodities as in previous panics, there is a potential overproduction. Under corporation management factories have been systematized to produce to order only. To limit production to the absorbing power of the market. The absorbing power of the market is now at a very low ebb, and it is failing; 6,305,000 out of employment means that number with difficulty able to procure the bare necessities of life. Consumers only of the minimum.

So enormous is the productivity of labor armed with modern machinery that, at the best of times, it was necessary to expand the consuming power of the people by means of extensive credit. Everything was on the instalment plan. Much of what the consumers bought at the high tide of prosperity is yet to pay for, and at the same time it is keeping the vast majority of them humping to pay for what they need now. Here and there factories and mines are working in a spasmodic way, but even these must presently come to the end of their tether. When their little market is filled up, they must thrust out their workers into that vast workless army, thus further reducing the absorbing capacity of the market.

Everyone has been counting on the future. Now there is no future. We must retrench to pay up for the past till "things pick up a bit." And the more retrenchment the less chance there is for things to pick up. As for the foreign market, where is it? Con-

ditions similar to those in the States prevail everywhere. Every land has its own unemployed problem—its own desperate need of a field for exploitation into which its capital can expand.

During the last period of expansion capital expanded into every available nook and cranny. Populated prairies and deserts. Flung its railway and steamship lines over mountain and plain, ocean and lake. No available resource of the earth was left unconquered. Now, like Alexander of Macedonia, it can find no new worlds to conquer. What shall it do? Even the great remedy of former panics, a war, will hardly serve. So enormous is the productivity of up-to-date machinery, that a war of the most gigantic proportions would be but a temporary alleviation of the situation. And who is there to fight? What nation dare fight? Not Japan, with her strangling debt and her bonds at 67. Not the States, with her insignificant army and doubtful navy. Not any of the European nations, with their revolutionary proletariat. What shall capitalism do to be saved? Better something soon. If Capital can not find some solution, or half solution, Labor will have to.

As the days go by, signs and portents multiply foretelling the doom of capitalism. Its course is nearly run. Only a miracle can give it a new lease of life. Its growth has stopped, and what cannot grow must die. Stagnation and starvation, mental and physical, are universal. But one pre-revolutionary symptom is lacking. The world's governments are not yet put to their wits end for money. But that is coming. Deficits are the order of the day. Germany contemplates a loan of two hundred and fifty millions. Russia of one hundred millions. Others are also looking towards the pawnshop. It is the bread line of the rulers.

On the other hand the masses are stirring. Millions cannot starve quietly and in patience for very long. The powder is dry; it needs but the spark. How soon that may come we do not know, but it behooves us to be prepared. What are you doing?—*Vancouver, B. C., Western Clarion.*

**Parable of the Squirrels.**

There was once a squirrel who lived not far from the dwellings of men. Being of an observant nature, he profited from the study of the customs of human beings. At last he cast about for the means of putting the result of his observations into practice. So he hunted up a brother squirrel, and made a business proposition to him.

"I know," said he, "where there is a tree laden with nuts. Gather them for me, and I will allow you one out of every four."

But the second squirrel looked at him in amazement.

"Nonsense!" said he. "Gather your own nuts and I'll gather mine. There are nuts enough in the woods for us all." And, whisking his bushy tail about, he disappeared into a hollow stump near by.

"I see," said squirrel No. 1, "that he does not grasp the great principle of profit sharing. I fear our race is not yet ready for civilization."—*Quest.*

When you sell your time you sell yourself, for you go with your time.

"I care not who makes the laws, so that I may make the profits." This is the creed of capitalism in respect to the law and the profits.

Labor is the only thing that is always sold upon the market without a profit. When labor is sold, the profit must come the other way.

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