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VOL. XXXIX.

FENELON FALLS, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1911.

No. 10

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"Acquiring Possession."

To ask how Socialists will take over the industries is like crossing a bridge before we come to it. It is not ready to be taken over yet. Yet industry is now being concentrated into the hands of fewer and fewer persons, and every concentration makes the final change all the simpler. When the time comes to effect that change the whole people will be ready for it; to aid in the solution industry will be in the hands of a very few persons, and the change will not be difficult.

How was the change made from slave holding to the present system? The slaves might have been bought much easier than they were freed; but the masters were too intent on maintaining slavery, and as a result slaves were merely taken away, and, under the peculiar conditions then prevailing, it was done according to law. The taking over of industry will be simpler for several reasons. It can be proven that the wealth of the nation has been acquired by the few through trickery and practical confiscation. To take it would be merely to restore to the people that which is really theirs, but which has been stolen from them and unlawfully held by othersnot confiscation, but restitution.

To test the opinion of the people in the matter, the Appeal a year ago began the cry of "Confiscate the Railroads," using the harshest terms and expecting to hear wide protest. But, to its surprise, not even one capitalist paper has made even a single objection, which shows that the people already feel that the railroads have been acquired by fraud, and that to take them back, even without pay, would not be wrong. It would not necessarily be illegal. If the government thinks you have property which is inimical to the public welfare, it confiscates it to-day.

But though this extreme test shows that the people are rapidly getting into the mood for confiscation or restitution, in case it becomes necessary, it will probably not be necessary. The government or some state or municipality owns an interest in every trust and corporation, in the form of franand, whenever the people capture the courts, the special charters and franchises may be cancelled by legal pro-

them to be got at reasonable figures. if we do not wish to do it. The government may build parallel lines of plants, and proceed to capture the field by means of competition; and no private business could stand before a

business conducted by the people without profit. This would be exactly the process used by the trusts in acquiring industries from the small owners, and if it was right in one case it should be right in the other. The fact is, it would probably be entirely unnecessary to build more than a fourth of the mills and roads necessary to do the work, before the entire trust system. would collapse and leave the people in the full possession of their own. It would not be unjust to the present owners of industries, since they would still have an undivided interest in all industry, with assurance of greater safety than they can possibly have now. It would be merely the proposition they made to those who surrendered private holdings to acquireundivided interest in the trust.

As far as debt is concerned, it amounts to nothing, providing there is real productive property behind it. Sofar, we have had little experience inpublic control of PRODUCTIVE industry, but only in destructive and expensive. Every productive industry would certainly make its way and pay for itself, for the public, just as it did for individuals. It is probable the whole people would have to go deeper into debt to acquire all industries than the individuals "owning" the trusts are now in debt (bonded) for those same industries. With the government in complete charge of the money making function and also of all production, with the tribute of interest and profit gone, the people would soon pay out and would own everything. Suppose the trust magnates were to be paid the real value of the property they hold, and were unable to reinvest the money that they received, they would . have no use for it but to spend it; and, as they spent it, the debt would be cancelled by the mere act of spending it.—Appeal to Reason.

They Are Distinct.

Socialism is the hope of the working class. Radicalism is what the middle class strive for. These two things are frequently confused, but are dischise and charter. Most of the cnar-tinct. Socialism aims at the abolition ters and franchises have already been of rent, interest and profit. Radicalrendered void by usurpations on the ism aims at the prevention of the few part of the corporations themselves; absorbing immense profits. Socialism aims at doing away with wage slavery. Radicalism aims at the continuation of wage slavery under a great number ceedings, which will at least take the of little masters. It matters little to water out of these things and enable the workers whether a thousand of them are robbed by one large capital-But it is not necessary to buy them ist, or whether they are robbed in bands of a hundred each by ten little capitalists. Socialism strives for the railroads and duplicate manufacturing emancipation of slaves. That is why many radicals look with horror upon Socialism .- Cotton's weekly.

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