

UNEMPLOYMENT

Can the Problem BE SOLVED?

World Economic Deadlock

The existing great economic depression with the accompanying unemployment is the inevitable outcome of the way in which the economic life of the world has developed—the existing phase being known as “Capitalism.”

The United States of America

The U.S.A. is the most highly developed of Capitalist countries, and it is estimated there are at present 10,000,000 unemployed in the area under that Government.

An authoritative writer, analysing the position in that country, states that with modern methods of production and distribution, 30% of the population can produce all the food needed, another 30% can produce all other things needed—that is 60% in all. What about the remaining 40%? These have to be provided for either as idle rich, or as idle poor—the unemployed—or by the possibilities of production for export trade.

International Trade and Conflicting Interests

The position in other parts of the world is similar to that of the U.S.A. to a more or less extent, all requiring a growing export trade to ensure “prosperity”—a condition that will even then only be enjoyed by a relatively small proportion of the respective peoples. International Trade for the exchange of materials and products not natural to or not economically manufactured in the country of import, if equitably arranged must be mutually advantageous to exporters and importers—but International Trade under Capitalism has become a rivalry for markets for the same kinds of goods in the same places—hence Tariff Walls, Armaments, and Wars.

No Solution By Commercial Competition

With internal markets unable to absorb the output capacity of modern industry, with foreign markets curtailed, with the burden of war and other National Debts and the consequent muddled state of financial affairs generally, this country and the Capitalist world has come to a position of impasse.

Changing Opinion

A large and growing body of opinion in this and other countries, while recognising the tremendous constructive developments that have taken place through the Capitalist economic stage, realise that the defects of this system and which are unavoidable to it, are now operating in a rapidly cumulative form, and that we shall be forced by circumstances if we do not do so by intelligent action, to quickly develop a better economic organisation, or our civilisation will degenerate even to a possible condition of barbarism. The next stage in forward development is to one which may be broadly termed "Socialism."

The Meaning of Socialism

There exists much misunderstanding and not a little deliberate misrepresentation as to what is meant by Socialism.

Some Definitions—

Murray's New English Dictionary says Socialism is:

A theory or policy of social organisation which aims at or advocates the ownership and control of the means of production, capital, land, property, etc., by the community as a whole, and their administration or distribution in the interests of all.

Webster's Dictionary describes Socialism as:

A theory or system of social reforms which contemplate a complete reconstruction of society, with a more just and equitable distribution of property and labour.

The "Century Dictionary" defines Socialism as:

Any theory or system of social organisation which would abolish entirely or in great part, the individual effort and competition on which modern society rests, and substitute co-operation, would introduce a more perfect

and equal distribution of the products of labour, and would make land and capital, as instruments of production, the joint possession of the members of the community.

The "Standard Dictionary" describes Socialism as:

A theory of civil polity that aims to secure the reconstruction of society, increase of wealth, and a more equal distribution of the products of labour through the public collective ownership of land and capital (as distinguished from property), and the public collective management of all industries.

"Worcester's Dictionary" says of Socialism:

The science of reconstructing society on an entirely new basis by substituting the principles of association for those of competition in every branch of human industry.

The "Encyclopedia Britannica" says:

The ethics of Socialism are identical with the ethics of Christianity.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald has thus expressed his view:

Capitalism organises human beings for economic and material ends. The aim of Socialism is to organise economic and material resources for human ends.

Poverty Amidst Plenty

Human ingenuity under the Capitalist system has brought about the possibility to produce abundantly—so abundantly that there could be a good living available for all, but there is a lamentable failure in the distribution of this abundance.

Why ?

It is because our wonderful means of production are controlled by individuals or small groups of individuals for their personal ends—without relation to the well-being of society as a whole. Labour-saving machinery and methods, instead of reducing hours, makes unemployment; wages being less than the selling prices of the goods produced, cannot buy back the values created, hence apparent over-production and more unemployment. Conflict for export markets makes for wars with all the misery and waste entailed.

Quote Prof Harold Lasswell

Plan or Perish

"Given a country and a people, the problem is how shall that people make the most of that country and themselves."

The Capitalist system cannot do the job, the present world position shows that. It will have to make way for a better system—or our civilisation will perish.

The associative developments under Capitalism are in the main good; the defects of Capitalism lie in the disintegrating effects of competition for markets and the evils of usury.

The only hope of the future lies in the much greater development of the associative principle for the fuller development of human life.

This must involve great changes in the organisation of industry and in the control of the means of life. All parts of the world are more or less interdependent, but geographical situation and natural resources can allow of New Zealand being very much more self-contained with great advantage to its population.

The only way out of the existing almost chaotic conditions is by drastic change with the objective of—

The establishment of a Co-operative Commonwealth.

Based upon:

The socialisation of the socially necessary means of Production, Distribution and Exchange.

With:

Production for use instead of for profit.

Issued by the Christchurch Branch of the

New Zealand Socialist Party.

Trades Hall, Christchurch.

UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY LIBRARY



AU05406994B

*Most execrable crime, Probbing a Blind man
Probes the power of an Enthusiast minority
who have made pup their word when they want
The gloves are now off in the fight
New Zealand Worker, 126 Vivian Street, Wellington.
have fought with 8 or gloves, now
will have to probe with bare hands
in the business*