

Crumbling Capitalism

(September 1, 1906)

The highest point in the development of capitalism has about been reached and symptoms of decline, the forerunners of collapse, are now setting in.

The daily happenings all about us foreshadow the impending organic change in society. The average capitalist daily is almost exclusively a chronicle of crime. The fully developed capitalist metropolis is a seething madhouse. The countless schemes of reformation that have been and are being tried are at best so many drops of laudanum administered to soothe the patients with no possible hope of returning sanity.

The man who can calmly survey the situation in capitalist society and see its hell of horrors and remain unmoved is himself a victim of its debasing influence, and upon examination will be found to have a heart turned to adamant, a condition peculiar to those who write and preach about the wonderful prosperity of the country.

The numerous and increasing ills with which the body social is afflicted are all traceable to the capitalist system, in which the dollar is the ruling deity, and man, especially the working man who makes the dollar, is its most abject victim.

Strange, indeed, to a reasoning being that the easier it becomes to produce wealth, the more uncertain is the portion and the more precarious the position of those who produce it.

Socialism, and socialism alone, explains this and the many other contradictions in capitalist society. The abolition of the capitalist system and the wage slavery upon which it is based will put an end to the misery of the millions and nothing else can do it.

The socialist movement has this end for its supreme aim and, keeping pace with the economic development, is increasing and will continue to increase in power until the fateful hour strikes and the working class triumphant rear the superstructure of the socialist republic upon the foundations laid for it in the capitalist system.

The millions of workers — wage-slaves, male and female, the immediate victims of the capitalist system, its breathing, suffering, and despairing merchandise — must be aroused to consciousness of their class

interests and their class power, industrial and political. Great as the task is, it must be accomplished, and mainly by the working class itself. Little help will come from without. All hope and all of the latent powers necessary to realize it lie within it.

The slumbering hosts must be wakened, the apathetic and indifferent must be aroused, the ignorant must be educated, the contented must be stirred to discontent, and all must have their eyes opened and be made to see and feel and realize the pressing need of a united working class for the overthrow of the present exploiting and brutalizing system, which makes the producers of wealth the despised victims of the parasites who absorb it.

Industrial and political unity of the workers will accomplish this great historic end and solve the problem of the ages.

This is a year of great opportunity for socialists and all should strive with all their might to make the most of it. The spreading of sound literature is of great importance and in this every comrade should take an active part. The quiet single-handed work of the rank and file is the most important of all in building up the movement and this should be pressed to the limit by every socialist and every class-conscious worker in the land — in factory, mill, and shop; in quarry, mine, and railway yard; in depot, store, and marketplace; in short, everywhere, day and night, each worker — should do his best to sow the seed and spread the light, and if all, or even half of all will make up their minds to engage in the propaganda to the fullest extent of their ability and opportunity, the Socialist vote in the United States this fall will be heard around the world.

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