The Washington Socialist

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JUDGE BLACK'S REMEDY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

"Back to the Land"

AND HARD LABOR FOR LIFE

But Will This End Poverty?

So accustomed have the majority of people become to the false idea that there is a good excuse for poverty among the workers, they concentrate their minds on but one aspect of the problem of life and labor; namely, **how to avert destitution through enforced idleness.** Under capitalism, this problem, sordid and mean as it is, has not been practically solved. It would be but a petty achievement if it were solved, satisfactory to slaves and slave drivers, mayhap, but of little interest to real men and real women.

"A great deal has been said recently about the unemployed and what to do to help them temporarily," recently remarked Judge W. W. Black. "I have seen nothing, however, on the subject of how to prevent unemployment. It seems to me that at this time this should receive a good deal of consideration. Locally I think that the way to prevent unemployment **is to induce the ordinary man who has to work for wages to buy five or ten acres of logged-off land close to a city where he can, when times are good, work at the mills and factories, and when times are hard he will have steady employment on his land.** There can be no doubt but that this would be a sure cure for unemployment. There is always something to do on land."

A Chimerical Scheme.

Where is the money coming from to "buy five or ten acres of logged-off land close to a city?" As each unemployed man can see the impracticable nature of this advice for himself, we need not waste space on the argument. Judge Black's "nothing down and the rest on time" scheme is a thing of the past. The trick of arguing for the present day in terms of by-gone years and experiences is too common to call for criticism. We're all on to the game. And we are all well acquainted with men who are struggling right now for a beast's existence among the stumps. Almost to a man they are poverty-stricken and disconsolate. They pay too dear a price for such a life as is their lot.

But Where's the Money Or the Available Land?

Even if some poor beast is so enamored of a life of dirt, ugliness, deprivation and hard labor that he is willing to undergo the ordeal of fire and stumps in order to hang on by the eye-lids, where is the money to come from, or how is he to get his start? Judge Black himself says, in the interview above referred to:

"It must be remembered that the ordinary man working in a mill, when he takes out such time as loses by sickness and holidays and the time a mill is likely to be idle, does not receive over $500 for an entire year's work. There are instances where one acre of raspberries has produced an income of $500 a year. If to small fruits are added some chickens and cows and vegetables, which the women can readily raise on such a tract as I have described, he is sure of food and he has free fuel, free water and free rent, while if he is working in a mill he has to pay rent, pay for fuel and water, out of what he earns. A man who has a tract of land close to town with the aid of a bicycle or a cheap motor vehicle, can work at the mills when such work is profitable and be sure of employment where he is his own boss whenever the mill shuts down. It is true that a large amount of our land is held by speculators who demand an exorbitant price for it, yet it would be better for them and for the community if they would sell their land at reasonable prices and on such terms that the man without money could buy it."

If, as the judge admits, $500 a year is the average pay yearly of a mill hand, how is he to support his family out of this miserable stipend and still save money to buy logged-off land from "speculators who demand an exorbitant price for it"?

That Terrible "If."

The judge says "it would be better for them and for the community IF they would sell their land at reasonable prices," etc.

Sure, it would, judge—IF!

Why a "Back to the Land" Move Would Fail

On several occasions the position was taken by this paper that a mere restoration of land to landless men would not solve the unemployed problem, nor very much reduce the general poverty of the workingclass, so long as the government of the United States remained in control of the profit-mongering classes, whether they called themselves republicans, Democrats, Bull Moosers, or what not. We insisted that so long as the productive and distributive machinery and equipment of the nation was used for the purpose of **making profits** for private individuals, instead of for the purpose of producing things **for use,** for the whole body of workers, no solution for poverty, war, ignorance, crime, prostitution (mental and physical) could be found.

The Heart of Capitalism Is Machinery

Let the machinery of the nation remain the private property of a certain group of individuals, they will use that machinery to fleece the tiller of the soil of every farthing above a mere subsistence income.

The farmer cannot consume any considerable proportion of his product, if modern methods of production are employed. HE MUST SELL HIS PRODUCT, MOSTLY TO THE MACHINE USERS.

Now the machine users can only buy just enough to barely sustain themselves, and their families; and the machine owners, in turn, can use but a small fraction of the product of farm and factory. So the farmer must sell his products **abroad,** to people who are **machine users,** rather than agriculturists.

But the farmers themselves, under capitalism, cannot deliver the products to the ultimate consumers, whoever these may chance to be. They must depend upon a long line of intermediate profit-mongers, all of whom must fatten on the producing farmers' labor and output, till nothing is left the real producers but a bare subsistance allowance for long hours of irksome and dangerous toil. **The greater the number of families there are engaged in agricultural pursuits, the greater the products,** WITHOUT ANY CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN THE DEMAND FOR THESE PRODUCTS. So down goes the price, by virtue of "over-production," under the law of competition for markets in a strictly limited world of commerce. If the foreign market is closed, the farmer starves in the midst of plenty, as in the case of the cotton growers, in "the sunny south" today. To remove their present suffering, they propose, not a "return to the land," but A REDUCTION OF 50 PER CENT IN THE 1915 COTTON CROP!

That the same principle holds good with reference to all other farm products goes without saying.

HOW AND WHERE THE ROBBERY TAKES PLACE

Examine, reader, the table below.

It is **The Great Revealer!**

Don't say you always "pass up" statistics.

Unless, indeed, you are equally willing to "pass up" the good things of life; unless you are willing to pass up life itself in an ignoble cause,—producing wealth to enrich the other fellow.

If you will read the table below, brother worker, you will have before you data which reveal the real and only cause of wars, of poverty, of crime, ignorance, and shame, as well as all the ugliness and sordidness of our present-day "civilization."

This table gives you, in epitome, the history of capitalism during the past sixty years. But it **will not** show you that at one time "good men" were in political office and at another time bad men were in control of the state or nation. It reveals one long uninterrupted story of monotonous wealth production by the many and wealth appropriation by the few. It shows how wages, on the average, have increased and decreased (as in 1900, compared with 1890) in accordance with the average cost of a working-class standard of living. It shows how steadily grows the divergence between the value of the wage-slave's product and the amount of his wages, the wages varying only with the rise and fall of the cost of producing the average worker's labor power.

The figures given show clearly how the owners of the machinery are getting richer and richer, while the users thereof are becoming relatively poorer and poorer. For example, the difference between the worker's annual wage and the value of his yearly product was, in 1850, but $565; by 1890 it rose to $1,760; and in 1910 the wage-slaves wage (cost of his upkeep) was $518; his product was valued at the factory gate at $3,124; and the difference between the wages paid and the value of the product per worker was $2,606, instead of $565, as in 1850.

Thus it will be seen how the purchasing power of the proletariat (the wage-slaves who have nothing but their labor-power to offer for sale) has grown steadily less and less in proportion to the value of their products; so that inasmuch as the workers are able to purchase a smaller and smaller proportion of the commodities they produce, their output becomes a drug on the market; the factory gates are closed, and we experience an acute industrial breakdown.

On the other hand, the need of foreign markets in which to dispose of the wealth of which the workers are robbed at home, grows greater and greater. Markets must be found if we have to send the "unemployed problem" to war to get them.

Here, then, we have in a nut shell the cause of the European war, and the reason why we, too, are predestined to become involved in a world war for pelf and power—FOR OUR BOSSES!

Now study the figures given below, and ask yourself, candid reader, as to whether or not it requires a bunch of college professors to "investigate the cause of the social unrest."

The Cause of Poverty and War

	1850	1860	1880	1890	1900	1910
Average Wage	$ 247	$ 288	$ 346	$ 444	$ 437	$ 518
Value of Product	812	1438	1965	2204	2450	3125
Difference Between Wage and Product	565	1150	1619	1760	2013	2606
Capital Invested (No. of Millions)	533	1009	2790	6525	9813	18428

The above table is based upon statistics published in the reports of the United States census bureau, presented in the government reports in a form intended rather to **conceal** than **reveal** the robbery which takes place in the wage worker's pay envelope.

WHAT A BATTLE IS LIKE

A wounded British soldier, asked what he could tell about the battle in which he was hit, replied:

"First you 'ears a 'ell of a noise, and then the nurse says, 'Try and drink a little o' this.'"

No comrade is too poor to buy his supplies from those who advertise in HIS paper. We solicit ads. only from the reliable merchants, whose prices are right and whose goods are as represented.

The Prince of Wales has been promoted to be a full lieutenant. That young man must have a friend at court.—Boston Transcript.

TARIFF FRAUD EXPOSED JUDGE GARY WRONG

Consideration of the facts regarding wages and product published in our table prove completely the fallacy of arguments advanced by republicans concerning the tariff and "protection for our industries" bringing prosperity to "our workers" Judge Gary is quoted as saying, in an interview last Tuesday, that the tariff laws that went into effect October 3, 1913, were an important factor in bringing on the present industrial depression. A glance at the table of wages paid during republican rule shows that the wealth-producers got only a bare living from their labor in the manufacturing establishments when the tariff was most satisfactory to the employers. And the difference between the wages paid and the value of the products shows that hard times were inevitable through accumulation of products whose total value was far in excess of the total wages paid; hence they could not be purchased; so the factories had to close, or work on half capacity—tariff or no tariff.

It needs no argument to prove that the same conditions prevail in the agricultural districts, and for the same reasons.

OPEN FORUM

EDITOR'S NOTE—Neither the Socialist party of Snohomish county nor the editor is responsible for any utterances published under this caption, the idea being to make THE OPEN FORUM a permanent department, devoted to the free discussion of timely topics by our readers. No anonymous letters or articles will appear in these columns. Make your articles brief and to the point, avoiding personalities as far as possible.—M. S.

ECONOMIC DETERMINISM AND RE-ACTION

Comrades Sutton and Bostrom have arrived at the point where they think the political union of the working class is sufficient for class action.

Comrade Sutton thinks "economic determinism" is working too hard in the economic unions. That business agents and other dignitaries are too apt to think more of their jobs than the interests of the workers as a whole. That is the reason given by comrade Sutton why we should have only the political union.

If the workers in an industrial union or trade union cannot bring their officials to act for the workers as a whole instead of keeping their own official jobs in mind, how in blazes will the workers in the political union succeed any better when we have some of our members in congress drawing seven thousand per?

Did the comrades ever look behind the political parties of the capitalist class? Do the banker's associations, manufacturer's associations, transportation associations and industrial corporations put any economic strength behind the capitalist parties? Do the capitalist parties express the economic power behind them? How is that economic power determined?

According to the argument of the comrade we should forget that we are working within the environment of capitalism. He would have us dream that we are not connected with industry, job or no job. As industry is the basis for all political parties how does he expect the workers to act intelligently in industry itself? The capitalists make a go of it alright and fool enough of the workers to make it stick. It is very apparent that the workers have something to learn. It is the BEST thing they can do at present as we are large in numbers and small in educating OURSELVES. We let the capitalists do that for us and we are paying dearly for the rot they teach us.

The idea of belittling economic organization is certainly unscientific.

Some of our r-r-r-red comrades seem to be afflicted with the reactionary bacillus. PROLETARIA BILL.

THE HEART OF THE ECONOMIC PROBLEM

The heart of the economic and industrial problem of today lies in the private ownership of the nation's machinery.

Could the users of the nation's railroads, mines, mills and factories own the wealth they produce, the demand for the products of both farm and factory would be so great that there could be no unemployed problem, and no involuntary poverty. A foreign market is necessary only because the workers are robbed at home of the fruits of their toil, through the ownership by the few of the machinery necessary to the many.

Don't destroy or burn this paper when YOU have read it through. It contains valuable propaganda. Mark some article with a blue pencil and pass it to a friend or a stranger whom you meet on the way. Remember that a chance meeting with a Socialist paper has started many a man or woman on the road to Socialism.

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AS TO OUR PLATFORM

Pinehurst, Wash., Jan. 2, 1915.

Editor and Comrade:

With your permission, I will present to you for publication, in the Open Forum, my views upon the import of the Socialist platform, and why it doesn't accomplish the mission of its purport.

I for one do not believe that the average wage worker can understand the true import of our platform in the language in which it is now clothed, and I believe that a simpler explanation of its fundamental principle is necessary in order to meet the understanding of the workers.

Were we more explicit and explanatory of our demands, or rather more demandatory, I believe that it would be rendered more lucid to him and better adapted to his understanding.

Now to simplify the matter: I do not believe that it is necessary to make a thousand and two demands to befuddle the worker, where one demand is all that is necessary, and where the one demand covers the grounds of all the others.

Why speak of the confiscation of property and the remuneration therefor, when the demand for the full product of labor is all that is necessary and answers in full the above questions.

If a is equal to b, b must be equal to a, and if capital can and does confiscate labor, then labor can and should confiscate capital, as the two are on a par and should be made so by reversion.

The demand by labor for the full product of labor, puts everything upon the labor—cost of production, and by making labor the sole value, we confiscate capital and by this confiscation we take over all income property at one operation.

Of course the labor cost of production is to include transportation charges and the cost of transportation (freight and passenger) would include the cost of everything from the mining of the raw material up to the cost of maning and maintaining the transportation facilities. Now this I believe is all that is necessary to demand. Of course the demand for the full product of labor doesn't necessarily confiscate capital, but it takes the profit out of the capitalist's holdings and renders them of no value to him, which practically means the same thing as confiscation.

When Morgan pays to his employes the full product of their labor; when Rockefeller pays to his employes the full product of their labor; when Jim Hill pays to his employes the full product of their labor, there will be nothing in any of these properties for these men, and they will gladly hand them over to the public to get to be hauled and coaled, etc.

It is always the labor put upon a thing that makes it of value, and when labor retains the full value of its labor, it leaves the thing without value and this is the state in which the capitalist and his holdings will be left.

Now let us demand the full product of our toil, and as soon as able carry it out, for the full product is a God-given right and will injure no one except a confiscator, and he should be stopped any way, and I for one am willing to do it—are you?

G. W. DANIELS.

WHAT PRINTER'S INK SAYS

"Printer's Ink," the recognized authority of advertising, says, "After thorough investigation of the subject, a Labor paper is a far better advertising medium than an ordinary newspaper in comparison of circulation; a labor paper, for instance, with a circulation of 2,000 is of more value to a merchant who advertises than an ordinary newspaper with 12,000 circulation."

ADMIRAL DEWEY SAYS

"War is a fearful condition and, though it may be my business to fight when it is necessary, I will do all in my power to prevent war in the first place, and secondly, when it is on, to avoid in every way possible and consistent with success the destruction of lives and property."—Dewey.

Huerta says he will return. Perhaps; but he never can come back.—Washington Post.

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Now Headquarters for the Greatest Attractions in Theatricals
Paramount Pictures
In order to care for the already heavy patronage and for the big crowds that will see the many big attractions during the year of 1915, the management of the Grand and Princess have found it necessary to change the Paramount program from the Grand to the Princess
This year will witness some of the greatest plays that have ever been seen on the stage or screen. Hundreds of brilliant stars will shine for the theatregoers of Everett. Many of the old time favorites will be seen again and the Princess will be the gathering place for those who want and who will be satisfied with nothing but the very best.
Watch the daily papers for the programs and stars as they appear from week to week
PARAMOUNT PICTURES TOP THE WORLD
"An Evening at the Princess is an Evening Well Spent"

GRAND THEATER
"The House of Features"
Now the Home of the Universal Program
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
Jan. 8th and 9th
"A Night of Thrills"
Universal High Point Drama
A Hair Raiser From Beginning to End
MARY FULLER
In the Universal Drama
"VIRTUOSO"
"A FAT GIRL'S ROMANCE"
Universal Comedy
SUNDAY, JANUARY 10th
GRACE CUNARD and FRANCIS FORD
In their latest big offering
"THE CALL OF THE WAVES"
One of the Best Things This Well Known Couple Have Ever Been Seen in.
Jan. 11th and 12th
The Latest Thing in Special Offerings
"The Beautiful Unknown"
DON'T ASK WHAT IT IS—COME AND SEE IT
ADMISSION 5 & 10 CENTS
SEE THE GRAND FIRST

LUTHER BURBANK SAYS

"A day will come when the earth will be transformed, when man shall offer his brother man not bullets nor bayonets, but richer grains, better fruit and fairer flowers."—Luther Burbank.

Somebody seems to have spread a rumor around in Ireland that Emperor William is an Orangeman.—Boston Transcript.

About the peacefullest spot we know of now is Col. Roosevelt's Armageddon.Washington Herald.

Eugene V. Debs, America's Greatest Orator, Will Speak In Everett, Sunday, Jan. 24, at 2:30---Everett Theatre