
Decoy Ducks and Quack Remedies

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Published in *Appeal to Reason* [Girard, KS], whole no. 297 (Aug. 10, 1901), pg. 1.

Dedicated to the Working Class, who erect homes and live in hovels; make clothing and wear rags; mine coal and freeze; mill flour and starve; make shoes and go barefooted; build railways and tramp; own the earth and don't enjoy it; sell their bodies and brag they're free; curse effects, don't see causes; create millionaires, destroy themselves; fight capitalists, vote for them; eat, sleep, slave, don't read or think; love capitalism and hate Socialism.

Are you a union man or a sympathizer with the working class? Are you opposed to sweatshops, convict labor, child labor, coolie labor, scab labor, low wages, and long hours? Are these conditions desired by any class of people, and if so, by whom, and for what reasons? These conditions are not desired by the working class.

They are utterly opposed to these evils, which today are the subjects of special investigation and legislation by every civilized country on the globe. It is an old axiom of criminal law that if you would discover a culprit, look for the party who is benefited by a crime. The clothing manufacturer reaps the profit from sweatshops. The foundation of the convict labor system is profits made by contractors. Coolie labor means big profits to cigar manufacturers. Child labor is cheaper and, therefore, more profitable to the employers. Low wages and long hours mean a harvest of profits to those who buy labor, and a world of misery to those who must sell



their labor to live. It is therefore apparent that those who are benefited by the evils herein referred to are the manufacturers, contractors, and employers of all kinds, and all individuals with similar interests who believe in buying labor as cheaply as possible and selling the products of labor at the highest price that laborers can be forced to pay. The difference between the price at which labor is bought and the price at which its product is sold is called profits; these profits after accumulating are called capital, and the possessor is called a capitalist.

Capitalists are combining to buy labor as cheaply as possible. Laborers are combining to sell their labor for the utmost wages they can obtain. Society is thus divided into two antagonistic economic forces, the capitalist class and the working class. In order to give an example of the economic struggle, let us use a shoe factory to illustrate our point.

Production Increased.

Under the machine method a worker makes a pair of shoes in one hour, and if he works 10 hours a day, his product is 10 pairs of shoes, which would ordinarily retail at \$2 per pair. The average shoe worker is not paid over \$2 per day, or the price of one pair of shoes.

The capitalist shoe manufacturer wipes the sweat off of his brow with a cool \$18, which represents the surplus value which the shoe worker has produced above his wages.

Under the system of hand production a shoe worker could not make more than one pair of shoes a day, and his profit was not more than \$2. The introduction of machinery has increased the productivity of the shoemaker 10 times.

Have the earnings of the shoemaker increased 10 times? Who gets the difference? The owner of the machinery, of course. How many shoe workers can expect to lay aside enough under this system to buy the expensive and complicated machinery necessary to start a shoe factory? And if they cannot elevate themselves industrially, are they not doomed to work constantly for the capitalist manufacturer for wages which provide a bare subsistence, and is not there a system of wage slavery?

The people in the working class combine into trade unions to maintain wages at an agreed point.

Were it not for an understanding of this kind they would compete against each other and he could live the cheapest would set the lever of wages and living for the rest. When the demand for labor is greater than the supply, competition among workers is not so keen. But the natural effect of the class struggle between capitalists and laborers is to make the supply of labor greater than the demand. The reason for this is plain enough. Laurence Gronlund, in his *Cooperative Commonwealth*, quotes statistics based on census reports, showing that the working class receive an average of 50 cents in wages for every dollar's worth that they produce. Of course the wage class cannot buy one dollar's worth of products with 50 cents in wages. The result is an accumulation of surplus products, until finally it is called an overproduction. In order to stop the overproduction, capitalists close down industries, thus throwing labor into idleness. Thus the supply of labor becomes greater than the demand. During these periods of idleness, the capitalist can live unconcernedly on his capital, but the laborers must resort to their savings deposits (if they have any) or by mortgaging, pledging, or selling their homes or personal effects. The supply of labor being greater than the demand, the purchasing power of the laborers is curtailed; the merchants find their business decreasing, and having obligations to meet, go to the small banks to borrow; the small banks go to the large banks, and the latter to the large money lenders on Wall Street, and as this condition accentuates, it becomes a run for money, or panic. The foundation causes of this panic are not the popular ones, "lack of confidence" or "scarcity of money." The panic is the inevitable effect of the inability of labor to buy what it produces. This position is sustained by Chauncey Depew, who stated recently that the workers of the United States produce annually \$2 billion more than they can consume.

Another important factor in making the supply of labor greater than the demand is the introduction of labor-saving machinery. Here is a list of some of the recent devices for saving labor and increasing the profits of the capitalist class who owns the machinery:

- A new electrical riveting machine, inserts 1,200 rivets in 10 hours.
- A needle-making machine, turning out 260 needles a minute.
- A new can-making device, operated by a child. Sheets of tin are fed in at one end. At the other end 64 cans drop out every minute, 38,000 every day. An expert tinner can make

but 500 cans a day. Each child operating one of these machines displaces between 70 and 80 men.

- A recently invented and ingenious mechanical device pastes paper labels on 10,000 cans in 10 hours. The cans are carried on an endless belt, and each one picks up a label as it passes.
- The self-feeding platen press prints 10,000 or more cards an hour, registering to a hair.
- Cigar-making machines turn out neatly wrapped cigars at the rate of 3,000 a day.
- The break-making machine, by which 3 persons can mold 20,000 loaves a day.
- The glass-blowing machine turns out tumblers at 6 cents a hundred, against 50 cents by the old hand process.
- In the cotton industry one man and two boys can do the work formerly requiring 1,000 spinners.
- In weaving, one man does the work of 50.
- In making horseshoes, one man does the work which formerly required the work of 500 men.
- Making nails, one man does the work formerly requiring 1,000 men.
- Steel industry — 3 men with the latest machine turn out 250 tons of steel billets in 10 hours. In 1892 it required 115 men to do the same work in the same time.
- Boiler making — 30 men do the work that but a few years ago required 500 men.

In every branch of industry labor-saving inventions are being introduced. The genius of man is directed in this channel because it is most profitable. Inventors all over the country are studying day and night upon inventions to save labor and increase the profits of the capitalist class. There are changes imminent in production and distribution which are so portentous that the working class cannot be too strongly warned in time of the dangers that are coming.

The introduction of liquified air will dispense with the labor of every miner and fireman in the country. The recent experiments of the Northern Central Railroad in the state of Washington in using the waterfalls of that state to generate electricity for the motive power of its engines, instead of steam, means that at a near future day scab motormen can be transferred from street cars to run locomotives.

Electricity is already being generated by water power at Niagara Falls, and being supplied for municipal and manufacturing purposes to cities, such as Buffalo, Rochester, and Elmira, NY. If these experiments continue to be successful, how long before the Mississippi will be used to generate power for St. Louis or for the whole Mississippi Valley? Do the engineers, firemen, stokers, etc., realize what this means to them?

The Dainage Canal is being used for this purpose by Chicago. From 1880 to 1890 new machinery was introduced in the United States equivalent to the labor-power of 40 million men. Massachusetts has machinery doing as much work as 50 million men. The machinery of the mills of Great Britain is equal to 700 million men, more than all the adult inhabitants of the earth.

Mr. Gladstone stated that by the aid of machinery, the manufacturing power of the world doubles every 7 years. Do the wages of the workingmen double every 7 years, and if not, why not? The working class have not as much to fear from the pauper labor of Europe and Asia as they have from the competition of labor-saving machinery in America. The country contains several million tramps. Fifty years ago there were neither tramps nor millionaires.

In 84 organized trades in the United States, there were only 29 in which the workers are employed 300 days in the year.

Through trade unionism we can increase wages and reduce the daily hours of toil, but we cannot dictate to the capitalist class how many days in the year they must employ us.

“Self preservation is the first law of nature,” and competition is the result of this law.

When Competition Was Young.

In the beginning of society competition took on a very crude form, and the strong arm of individual might was right. The courage and strength of one individual caused him to engage singlehanded two or more opponents. Personal safety is the first condition of the enjoyment of existence. Without it man's life would be miserable. The provisions of nature for securing personal safety are the instincts of self-preservation, resentment, and sympathy; by the last of which men are led to combine to secure their common safety. At an early stage of development men combined for offense and defense, and from this learned that a combination of numbers or organization could secure

greater personal safety for each man than any power he could wield alone by himself. The possession of herds and flocks, of women who did the work, and of rude implements, was the beginning of the property interest, and the private ownership of property is the seed or germ of capitalism. The first capitalist was a man who owned some cattle, a stone hatchet, a bow and arrows, probably a spear, a few dogs, and several women. The possession of this property afforded him a crude sense of security, of economic independence. He had enough to eat and drink without labor on his part. While his women attended to the work, the first capitalist hunted, fought, and loafed. Nowadays, every man and woman wants to be a capitalist, and it was likewise so in the hunting age. It was in those days that the principle originated that "to the victor belongs the spoils."

It was not expressed in such polite language in ancient times, but it was applied then practically as it is today. The instinct of self-preservation begat competition or warfare between men for the possession of the property which was essential to security against want. He who killed or subdued the largest number of his fellow beings by the might of his arm was the most feared and honored, and as it was customary to rob or enslave the victims, he also became the most powerful.

These men became leaders over those whom they subdued, and over whom they exercised the power of life or death. As society progressed from one age to another, the weak became the slaves of the strong, and men were divided into two classes, the slaves and the slaveholders. The leaders always considered themselves superior to their subjects, but as the latter were numerically superior, their combination was a latent danger to the rulers, and as this fear of the popular will was a sympathetic feeling, it naturally led to organization among the ruling or property-holding class. This organization of society to govern people has been in the hands of the slaveholders, lords, and capitalists from the beginning of civilization up to the present time. The chief use that has been made of all governments by the ruling or property-holding class (which we now call the capitalist class) has been to protect themselves in the private ownership and enjoyment of the wealth created by and stolen from the working class. The ancient band, the medieval legion, and the modern army, the means by which peoples and nations have been conquered and enslaved, have also been afterwards used by the conquerors to hold the conquered in subjection. In ancient times the method by which the

working class was fleeced was called slavery; in medieval times it was called serfdom; in modern times it is called wage slavery. But under whatever name the system of robbery exists, the cause and effect are the same. The cause is the private ownership of productive capital. The effect is the appropriation by an idle class of the weal created by a working class. The competition between nations for the private ownership of productive capital and for the profits from the labor of the working class is causing the capitalist class of England to invade the Transvaal, causing the capitalist class of the United States to seize the Philippine Islands, and is now causing the capitalist class of all the great civilized nations to go into a partnership for the dismemberment of China. The competition between individuals for the private ownership of capital and for the profits from the labor of the working class is the actual cause of 99% of all the quarrels, disputes, wrangles, and tumults between men.

Nearly all the laws in existence have been made for the protection of life and property, and as the judges of the courts are the creatures of the capitalist class, they so construe the laws that all of the force of government is used to protect the life and property of the capitalist class. The working class of the United States consists of 88% of the population, but they own only 14% of the wealth, and this consists principally of household effects and personal property. The capitalist class, consisting of 12% of the population, owns 86% of the wealth. In order to keep the working class in subjection, it is of the first importance to make a good showing of force and use it whenever occasion requires; consequently, the capitalist class, for its own protection, has found it necessary to be in complete control of all the machinery of the government, including standing army, militia, police, detectives, sheriffs, deputies, etc. And in order to make the working class completely subservient to force, they must be kept in ignorance; so the capitalist class has used its wealth and power to buy up, influence, or control all the great avenues of intelligence and instruction, and especially the two great political parties, the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. In accordance with a fixed policy, the capitalist class uses its power of disseminating intelligence and morals, to debauch morals and destroy intelligence, in order to create distrust, discord, and disdain among the working class. The purpose of this is to cause the working class to fight each other and prevent them from combining into a great class-conscious political organization, which would naturally have for its object the capture of government, confis-

cation of private ownership of productive capital, and substitution therefor of public ownership and operation.

Beware of Quack Remedies.

I have gone on a strike against capitalist political parties. A capitalist political party is one that is controlled by capitalists; that makes laws and administers government in the interest of the capitalist class. A capitalist political party is one that elects men to office, who use the federal troops, state militia, police, federal judges, sheriffs, possemen, and Pinkertons to protect the capitalist class while they steal 86% of the wealth produced by the working class. A leopard may be recognized by its spots. So with the Republican and Democratic parties. Federal injunctions are issued by Democratic judges and Republican judges. Federal troops are used against the working class by Democratic presidents and Republican presidents. Militia, posse, police, and marshals are used by Democratic and Republican governors, sheriffs, and mayors to protect the capitalist class in possession of the wealth which they have stolen from the working class.

Beware of so-called "independent reform parties," with attractive propositions for fooling the workers. They will offer us municipal ownership, direct legislation, merit system, and anything to get into office, but they won't promise to give up their profit-making system, nor abolish the private ownership of capital or capitalist class rule, both of which are the curse of the working class.

All independent reform parties are now capitalist political schemes for fooling the workers. These independent reform parties are never brought forward by the capitalist class until the Democratic and Republican parties make so much profit out of political power that they both give the snap away; that is, they are both in politics for all the profit there is in it, just as a capitalist is in business for his profits.

When the workers get the green extracted from their eyes, the capitalist class pretends to get very angry at their Republican-Democratic stool pigeons, and with many professions of purity they bring forward their independent reform party decoy duck. If the independent, businessmen's, citizens', civic federation, reform, or whatever you call it party gets into power and carries out every measure on its platform, it will not improve the conditions of the working class. All of these quack administrations have been tried in Glasgow, Bir-

mingham, Detroit, Toledo, and many other places, and in all of these cities the working class are just as poorly off, comparatively, as in Chicago, New York, and Philadelphia, where these virtuous capitalist parties have not yet had their turn.

If the public improves the schools, streets, sewers, and lights by raising heavy taxes on worker and capitalist alike, the capitalist class raises their rents and prices on houses, groceries, dry goods, shoes, etc., to cover increased taxes and something besides.

The working class pay their own taxes and also the taxes of the capitalist class in increased rent and prices. The working class have to move into cheaper and lowlier quarters to meet increased expenses. If the working class seeks to protect itself by demanding increased wages, the capitalists will say: "Instead of asking for more wages, you ought to work for less. Ain't street car fares less? Hasn't the price of gas been cut? You don't have to pay for schoolbooks now, do you? You can live for less. I have to pay bigger taxes for your sake. I must reduce your wages 25%." And thus the net results of a quack reform party is better living and increased income of the capitalist class and poorer living and lower wages for the working class. The trouble with the decoy political party is that it is only in favor abolishing private ownership of a few utilities, leaving the people at the mercy of the private owners of other capital. In order to rescue the people from the clutches of the capitalist class, we must have public ownership of lands, houses, dry goods, shoes, etc., and all other capital. Then the private capitalist will no longer squeeze us with the profit system.

The public will be its own capitalist. It won't squeeze itself. It will just hug itself for joy.

It's the only way out. "A business administration" is the campaign yell of the decoy capitalist party. What does "business" stand for, if not for profits, skinning the people and making all the money you can? After using the city government to obtain privileges by which they can skin the people out of millions, the capitalists cry for "a business administration," so that the city government won't be used to skin them. By a "business administration" they mean one that won't be used for the private profit of the political party in power. They want "a business administration" because it's "business" to buy labor as cheap as possible and work it long hours. The capitalist class wants the profit themselves in the form of good streets, sewers, lights, etc., all of which increase the valuation of the property and interests of the capitalist class. While I am in favor a great municipal im-

provements, the cry of “a business administration” is merely a capitalist class issue, meaningless in results to or relief of the working class.

If the workers are out of jobs, “look at the good streets.”

If their families are in need, “look at our fine poorhouse.”

If they hide their wretchedness, “look at our lighting system.”

If a starving man steals a loaf of bread, “look at our police force.”

If our workers die in want, “look at our potter’s field.”

I am utterly opposed to business administrations. I am in favor of a working class administration, and, therefore, I am a Socialist.

A Few Definitions.

Anarchy. A Socialist is not an anarchist. An anarchist does not believe in any form of government. A Socialist believes in the perfection of government.

Socialism does not mean anarchy. The Encyclopedia Britannica says: “The ethics of Socialism are akin to the ethics of Christianity.” Webster’s Dictionary says: “Socialism is a theory of society that advocates a more precise, orderly, and harmonic arrangement of the social relations of mankind than that which has hitherto prevailed. Look up Socialism in the dictionary.

Divide Up. Socialists do not believe in dividing up equal. They never proposed anything so absurd. The public ownership of water works is an example of Socialism. Does the city divide the water equally among each man, woman, and child? The public library is an example of Socialism. Does the city divide the books equally among the people? Under Socialism we would have a public ownership and private use. That is what you have under public ownership of water works, library, fire department, schools, etc. Read upon on Socialism.

Socialism means the public ownership and operation of all the means of production and distribution. It means, among other things, public ownership of industries controlled by monopolies, trusts, and combines; all railroads, telegraphs, and telephones; all water works, gas and electric plants; all gold, silver, copper, lead, iron, coal, and other mines, and all oil and gas wells.

Socialism means abolition of the private ownership of capital and of wage slavery. Abolition of competition for bread; men against each other, women against men, children against women, and machinery against all. It means abolition of sweatshops, convict labor, child la-

bor, coolie labor, scab labor, blacklisting, government by injunction, regulars, militia, Pinkertons, posses, police, and marshals.

Corrupt Government could not exist under Socialism. The school system, park system, fire department, post office, etc., are examples of public ownership. The St. Louis Transit Company is an example of private ownership. Which is most corrupt?

Despotism could not exist under Socialism. Socialism includes the initiative and referendum, proportional representation, and right of recall of representatives by the voters. Do you know what these things mean? Read up about Switzerland and New Zealand.

Socialism is Coming. Don't say it is far off. It is almost here. The private ownership of capital has already been abolished among the masses. The trusts have attended to that. The masses are now crying for the abolition of the private ownership of capital by the trusts. This will result in social ownership of capital by the public. And that is Socialism. Twelve percent of the people of this country own 86% of the capital. That means that the private ownership of capital has been abolished among 88% of the people.

Hurry It Along. If you believe in Socialism, vote for it. It will never come any other way. Vote for the platform and candidates of the Socialist Party. That is the party which stands uncompromisingly for Socialism. Refuse to vote for the palliatives, the half-way measures of the decoy capitalists political parties. Don't use a hand shovel to remove a big pile of dirt, when you might as well save time and labor by using a steam shovel.

Your Conscience will rebel if you continue to vote against the interests of yourself, your family, and your class, the brotherhood of workers. A vote for a capitalist party is a vote for robbery of the working class. Is this unionism? Vote for the interests of the working class. Be a class-conscious Socialist.

Strikes are unknown among letter carriers, firemen, railway mail service men, police, engineers, postmasters, judges, clerks, janitors, and other public employees. How would you like to work for the public? Strikes, lockouts, and boycotts would never be heard of. Vote for what you want.

No Show. Many men will not vote for the Socialist ticket because they claim it has no show. What show did the colonists have in 1775? They declared their independence in 1776, and sealed it by the victory of Yorktown in 1781. What show did the Republican Party have in 1856? Nevertheless, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclama-

tion in 1862. What show did trade unionism have when it was first projected? The men who vote and fight for a principle because it is a principle are the men whom the world honors and reveres. Will you be one of them?

Throw It Away. Some men are afraid that if they vote the Socialist ticket they will throw their votes away. Consequently, they keep on voting the the Republican and Democratic parties or some reform party. To those weakhearted men I want to say that “you will never get what you want by voting for what you don’t want.” If you vote for what you don’t want, the capitalist political parties will see that you get it, with good measure. If you vote for the Cooperative Commonwealth, your example will be followed by others, and we will get ‘Socialism in Our Time.’”

Edited by Tim Davenport

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