

strain of social production; our old State is trembling to its fall, co-operation is the cry, the workers are growing conscious at last, great armies of them are already organizing to change the ownership of the means of production, others cry for referendum, and recall, again, the growing tendency toward municipal and government ownership manifests the social thought in a crude state. These ideas, as Morgan says of the early efforts of the Greeks, "fail to reach the substance of the question," except, of course, the first stated change of ownership, nevertheless they are the straws which show how the wind blows. We have had communal villages and socialist colonies which have, of course, failed, for very good reasons, just as the legislation of Theseus failed, because it was too soon in the day. We also have, as the Greeks had, that growing army of disinherited and altogether outcast men and women, the unemployed, who constitute "an element of discontent, dangerous to the security of society." We cannot include in this the whole of the working class, for although disinherited and outcast yet so long as they have work they are still content to be robbed, that is, a great many of them.

The human animal is slow to learn, although today the law of social evolution is an open book to be studied and obeyed, although knowledge is as cheap as water, yet the stubborn little beast refuses in his pride of power to obey the dictates of his environment; of course he suffers, and serves him right. Every now and then, there runs through sections of society a spasm, an effort to throw off the outworn superstructure. Just as a snake struggles to cast its skin, so the modern working class (for in this case they are the chosen instrument) strives to break through the threadbare political covering. Whenever these symptoms of distress appear, the ruling class is very naturally alarmed and summon all their forces to suppress them. A funny little fellow called a Prime Minister frowns upon hearing the news and calls together another bunch of jokes called a cabinet. These are wise men of their class and have not knowledge of social evolution enough amongst them to work a coffee stall. They know not that they are themselves its victims; they imagine that because they are the government elected by certain interests, it is for them to stay or retard economic conditions, or to encourage them, as best suits their fancy. And so they will be brutal if necessary, indeed, so ignorant and brutal are they that there is nothing but a manicure set and a silk hat between them and the savage. In the interests of "order" they will call out their hired and gaudily dressed butchers (themselves slaves) and murder the workers wholesale, "We will put a stop to this," they cry.

Too late! Too late! If you could have stopped the development of social production, the game would have been yours; as it is, the superstructure must conform to the base—the laugh is for us. Struggle on, strain to impede the march of events, if you like. Social evolution glides majestically on its way—it brushes you aside, ignores your petty law-making and debating; you are as clay within the grasp of the potter; environment dictates to you, disobey it at your peril. And you workers—yours is the next act, to you is given the task of rending the tattered, stinking, mouldy garment of political society, come tear it off and let us stand forth in the light of day in the splendid attire of Socialism.

A. BUDDEN.

OBSERVATIONS.

A mortality statement just issued by the United States census bureau shows that over half the deaths of printers, lithographers and pressmen are due to tuberculosis of the lungs. The percentage of deaths due to the white plague in the age period from 25 to 34 years, in various pursuits, follows: Printers, lithographers and pressmen, 51.5 per cent; agriculturists, 26.2; servants, 32.3; transportation employees, 31.9; manufacturing and mechanical employees, 30.8; plumbers, 43.2; clergymen, 41; barbers, 40.6; tailors, 37.7; bartenders, 37; shoemakers, 35.5; salesmen, 32.5; laborers, 30.8; blacksmiths, 29.6. As the best authorities on the tuberculosis problem declare that the white plague is a poor man's disease and can be minimized and stamped out completely, it is up to the workers in the foregoing occupations to assert themselves.—News Item.

Surely a greater indictment against the capitalist system of production has never been published. When we realize the fact that these figures were not compiled by the working class but by the capitalists themselves, we can rest assured that they are in no way exaggerated. Let it be noted that these figures deal exclusively with the working class. There are no statistics compiled embracing the capitalist class, for tuberculosis is exclusively a working class disease.

Authorities on the subject under discussion claim that tuberculosis can be stamped out in 20 years if the following rules are lived up to: first, eat

plenty of pure, wholesome food. Second, don't work too hard or too long; three or four hours work a day is quite sufficient. Third, take plenty of exercise out in the pure sunshine. Fourth, sleep in a well-ventilated room, etc. It can thus be readily seen that tuberculosis is caused by lack of proper nourishment, combined with working too hard and too long, and lack of sufficient fresh air. The wonderful cures that take place in sanitariums that treat this disease bear out the above.

That sections of the working class are not properly nourished ought to be patent enough to any casual observer. In the U. S., etc., there are millions of people slowly starving to death. The number of school children who go to school without breakfast runs into the millions. The food that the majority of the working class have to exist on is adulterated. The lack of proper nourishment leaves the system in a weakened condition. The pace at which the worker has to travel and the number of hours he has to work, saps his vitality and leaves him in an exhausted state with no energy left. He is then in a fit state to succumb to disease.

When we come to examine the places where the workers are employed we find that hygienic conditions do not prevail. Take the moulders for example; they are not quoted in the above, but if my memory is correct, 43 per cent. of them die of tuberculosis or throat disease.

Most foundries are very badly ventilated; in fact most of them have no ventilating apparatus at all. The foundries are half the time full of dust and the moulder is most of the time breathing into his lungs a mineral dust called plumbago. When the cast is on, the foundries are full of hot gas fumes and smoke, which the moulders breathe, scorching both throat and lungs.

The pure air the worker is able to get in his "home" is conspicuous by its absence. The houses, or rather shacks, are not as a rule built with any thought to proper ventilation. The rooming houses where the single worker hangs out are no better than the shacks where the married man dwells. New York City alone boasts of 60,000 dark rooms, that is, inside rooms where no ray of sunshine ever enters and the air comes in through a small window opening on to the stairs, and all the bad air leaves by the same route. All other cities have their quota of these rooms.

All these things: lack of proper nourishment, working too hard and too long, working in unsanitary places and living in unsanitary houses, leave the worker in a fit state for bacteria to get in its deadly work. The same applies just as much to other diseases as it does to tuberculosis.

In the latter part of the article the writer must mean that the workers must assert themselves through their trades unions, seeing that it was in the union column of a capitalist paper. How the workers can check tuberculosis through union activity I can't see. On the industrial field the workers have made valiant fights to improve their conditions, yet, we find that the condition of the workers is getting worse, wages are falling fast and tuberculosis is increasing at an alarming rate. The only way the workers can assert themselves and stamp out tuberculosis or anything else is by political action, via the Socialist Party. Tuberculosis, like most other diseases, is a result of class ownership of the means of life and nothing short of the complete abolition of class property will stamp out this grim disease.

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While wending my way along the city streets the other day, I noticed a rather unusual commotion in front of an office with police in charge. An inquiry brought forth the answer that hands (not men) were being engaged to go to work at some place outside the city. The rush of the slaves in their anxiety to get into captivity was so great that the services of the police were necessary to keep them in order, lest, in their eagerness, they should damage some of their master's property.

In the South, at the time of chattel slavery, the slaves embraced every opportunity that presented itself to affect their escape from the bonds of slavery. Their masters hunted them down with bloodhounds and brought them back. They also had an organized band of human bloodhounds to help out the lower animal. The slaves were kept in captivity by force and force was used to bring any back that happened to make a dash for liberty. Today the slave has reversed the order of things and he eagerly hunts his master; he must be very fond of the chains that

Propaganda

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Sunday,

GOOD SPIRIT