for your kindness in permitting me to come here and meet you."

An excellent program of vocal and instrumental music was rendered during the evening. - New York World.

## OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY

To The Editor of The Commoner: These two opposite ownerships separate society, as a whole, into two distinct economic classes: The useful, producing class on the one hand, and the non-producing or useless on the other, to the extent of the profits exacted of the former.

The bounties of nature, such as land, forests and so forth, in their no exchange value, for the reason, labor does not enter their production, therefore any rental price exacted for any part of mother earth is of the nature of profit.

This is the starting point or basis for all forms of private ownership of property for rental, interest, profit, or speculative incomes.

The two ownerships to property cannot exist together at the same time in the same commodity.

Where the use ownership ends the profit ownership begins, or vice versa.

All commodities are social products for the reason that the labor of the workers in the different industries enters into their production, distribution, and conservation.

The value of each single commodity is measured or determined by the average social necessary labor time expended by each worker in helping to produce it.

If the necesary social labor time is reduced one-half, with the aid of

labor-saving machinery in the pro- causes produce opposite effects, other duction of a single commodity, its things being equal. exchange value will be reduced in like proportion.

What is true of one commodity of a particular kind is true of others. Ignorance of economies among the

producing class is the bane of the world.

The great majority of them do not realize that they are the real producers of both the value of the wages they receive and the prefits exacted of them.

Let us assume that the average working day consists nine hours; that the wage of workers in the different industries produce on an natural state have a use value, but average the value of the wages they receive in three hours' time.

> On this assumption they would receive only one-third of the value of the commodities which they have produced, the remaining six hours of their labor would be expended in producing value for their employers for nothing in return as an equivalent in useful productive labor or service.

The first and most important

economic lesson for the producing class to learn is how to retain the full social share of the value of the property they produce, instead of a fractional part of it; why it is that we have a wage working class; why it is that profits are exacted of them; why it is that they are competing with each other for jobs; why it is that their material interests are opposed to the material interests of their employers as a class; why it is that we have a non-producing class in society to the extent of the profits exacted; why it is that they (the producing class) and their families suffer for the lack of the necessary food, clothing, houses, and so forth, that they have produced in abundance, in short, when they fully learn and realize that the primary and principal cause why they are receiving a decreasing share of the value of their products is because of the private ownership of property for profit; then will they realize that their mission is to free themselves from the system of wage slavery, by organizing themselves as a whole into an industrial or co-operative body of workers for the purpose of substituting the use ownership of the means of production and distribution for the private ownership for profit, and thus make it possible for them to retain the full social share of the value of the different commodities that each one helps to produce. Ignorance and superstition among the working class on economies must first be overcome before they can vote intelligently on questions pertaining to the general welfare of society.

To that extent they voluntarily or otherwise help to maintain the profit ownership of property, to that extent they vote and work against their own material interests, whether they realize it or not.

The results or effects that grow out of the system of private ownership of property for profit, such as strife, crime, murder, ostentatious display and debauchery, each for himself, anarchy in production and distribution of property, discord in families, poverty among the useful producing class and their families, prostitution, divorce cases for nonsupport, maintenance of the ablebodied non-producers in society, the concentration of power and wealth in the hands of the few, the adulteration of food, production for profit and not for use, wage slavery, real estate business, evictions for nonpayment of rent, the labor and time expended in helping to defend and protect the speculative ownership of property, and so forth, would all be removed under the complete collective or co-operative ownership for

deprivations of the working class as the result of the profit ownership of

property, and contrast the advantages that would be gained by them To point out the destitution and under the co-operative ownership would be an endless task.

HENRY SCOTT.

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