

**Socialism**

Editor Independent: I enclose \$1 to renew my subscription which I notice by wrapper has expired.

Personally I wish you could see your way to come squarely out for socialism. I am a business man; have made a careful study of economics for twelve years. Am a Presbyterian deacon; so I feel fairly conservative. But some radical change must be made and made soon. Our vast fortunes are corrupting the rich, and are giving our young men false ideas and false ideals.

I was a single-taxer first and I still should rejoice to see it become a law; but the ideal of socialism is a truer and greater ideal. In fact, single-tax but proposes the socialization of land. Well why not then socialize machinery and capital.

It must come ultimately or our civilization will go down in dark chaos as did that of Egypt, Babylon, Greece and Rome. Equality of opportunity, true and essential brotherhood it seems to me is the only possible basis of an enduring civilization.

It is the business of all of us to see to it that no person who wants to work stands idle or is forced to eat the bread of charity.

Monopoly is a big word. It is the cause of much poverty and misery; but how can we abolish it?

The single tax offers a remedy. Socialism offers a remedy.

They are the only ones I am able to find in all the economic study of years.

I incline to the remedy of socialism for many reasons which I can't go into here. The literature of the philosophy is rich and varied. You can do your clients much good by giving it in condensed form in your columns.

C. F. NESBIT.

1801 Phelps Place, Washington D. C.

(The Independent has no hesitancy in admitting that the socialist philosophy has done much to modify and influence modern political thought. It gives due credit to socialism for a clearer view of the forces at work in society. But The Independent can go the whole road with neither socialist nor anarchist. Both extremes of political thought have their uses, but, being extremes, they must always remain ideals unrealized.

Specifically The Independent could not come squarely out for socialism for two reasons: (a) It repudiates as unsound the Marxian theory of "surplus value" and the concept of value upon which that is predicated. (b) History fails to show that the slave ever freed himself; and the effort to build up a political party led and dominated by the "propertyless" class, as The Independent views it, is, in the language of Senator Ingalls, "an iridescent dream."

It is true that the extreme division of labor is having the effect of breaking down the intense individualism which was so noticeable, especially in this country, half a century ago; and to that extent the social pendulum is swinging away from ideal anarchy and toward collectivism. But your Marxian socialist has a bed of Procrustes upon which he demands that every form of human industry be compelled to lie—"the collective ownership of all the means of production and distribution." He forgets that the operation of natural law makes different substances appear to act in contrary ways. If a bag of sand and an equal weight of hydrogen gas be released from a balloon 500 feet above the earth's surface, the two substances go in opposite directions, although the law of gravitation has no exceptions.

Different forms of production vary quite as much as sand and hydrogen gas. The Marxian law of social gravitation is faulty, unscientific, unnatural, because it is assumed that all forms of production are of the same social specific gravity and that, therefore, all will go down together, into collective ownership.—Associate Editor.)

**The Price**

Mr. Bryan's price was a promise of future reorganization. We do not believe Mr. Bryan would sell out for gold, neither would he sell out for any honors the Wall street gang could confer upon him, but that pie crust of a promise, coming to him as it did in his weakened condition, was more than he could bear, and in that fact alone, some future historian of the cause of the people may find a justifiable excuse for his action.—Milton (Ill.) Argus.

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