



# WEALTH AND ITS VALUE.

Various erroneous ideas prevail regarding what wealth is. We read and hear such expressions as "natural wealth," "mineral wealth," "forest wealth," etc. But in the mass of humanity the term wealth carries a suggestion of money. In reality, however, wealth is none of these things.

The sum total of all that is produced by human labor is the wealth of the world. Natural resources cannot be regarded as wealth, for it would be impossible to consume of the natural resources of an undiscovered uninhabited island having any value whatever. It is only when those natural resources are by the hand of Labor worked up into things useful to man, that wealth comes into being.

Two factors, then, enter into the production of wealth. Taking the first commodity that comes to hand, it can be perceived at a glance that it is made by labor out of raw material. Raw material, in the final analysis, are the natural resources, the forests, ores, etc.

Given these raw materials, man, by the exercise of his physical energy, his power to labor, produces wealth. This power to labor is called for short, labor-power. It should not be confused with labor, though this is frequently done. Labor is a condition of labor-power. It is the act of applying labor-power to raw material in order to produce wealth. When labor-power is applied to raw material, labor is performed and wealth is produced. The wealth thus produced is the embodiment of the labor performed. Labor is abstract. Wealth is the concrete expression of it. The strength of their potential value of labor has been performed. The sum total of the world's wealth, therefore, represents the sum total of the labor performed in its production.

### The Value of Wealth.

We say that wealth has value. That it is worth something. But what is it that gives it that value? We have seen that it is composed of raw material and labor. But raw material, we have also seen, is valueless. Therefore it must be labor.

It may be objected that, as natural resources, such as coal-beds, bituminous shale, etc., are not labor, and, therefore, they must have a value. However, natural resources which human labor has entered into the slightest relations cannot be regarded as properly being raw materials. And, furthermore, such natural resources are bought and sold on the market. The sum total of the world's wealth, therefore, represents the sum total of the labor performed in its production.

### Use Value.

The use-value of wealth is its utility to man, that is, the measure of the want that it will fill. Thus the use-value of a sack of flour is the length of time it will keep a man alive. It is only mentioned here because capitalist economists have attempted to show that the use-value of an article had some influence in its price on the ground that a man when starving would be willing to pay more for a loaf of bread than he would if he were full. The fallacy of this argument can easily be seen when it is considered that a loaf will keep a man alive just so long whatever the price he pays for it. Its utility being determined not by the strength of his desire, but by the length of time it will keep him alive. No matter how the price of a commodity varies its use-value remains about the same.

### Exchange Value.

Exchange value is necessarily comparative. It cannot be used except in comparing the relative values of two or more articles. An article by itself can have no exchange value. Thus a loaf of bread cannot be said to have any exchange value until it is compared with which it is exchanged. The exchange value of an article is that with which it is exchanged. This exchange value is something else than a loaf of bread. It being self evident that that there would be no advantage in exchanging loaves for similar loaves.

We find therefore that exchange value comes into play only when it is proposed to exchange two or more dissimilar commodities. The two commodities being thus dissimilar, their concrete components are necessarily also dissimilar. While the one may be made of flour, the other may be of steel, wood or coal. Furthermore, that with which it is exchanged is not the same as the commodity which it is exchanged for. It being self evident that that there would be no advantage in exchanging loaves for similar loaves.

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However, be it noted that the labor contained in exactly similar commodities may vary. For instance, exactly similar shoes may be produced in two different factories, but in the one factory, owing to improved methods and machinery, less labor is involved in the production of a pair of shoes than in the other factory under less efficient methods. While the labor contained in these shoes would be different their exchange value in the open market would be the same. No more could be obtained for the shoes in which more labor is embodied than for the pair in which there is less, because no more labor is actually necessary to the production of shoes than of that quality. This is true in every factory in our examination and lumber limits, are to have the atom that commodities exchange one with another according to the necessary labor involved in the production of each.

Another aspect of exchange value has yet to be considered. The labor involved in the production of a pair of shoes is no longer the labor of one individual, but of many. Primitive man made things for his own use himself. From the raw material in his hand, he laboriously and painstakingly fashioned all the things he required. Not only did he complete each article himself but he made the crude tools wherewith he worked. This was individual production in its purest form. To-day, however, things are different. Individual production has disappeared, social production has taken its place. No individual produces any article in its entirety. It takes a number of hands to make a box of matches. Not only are there the hands of the maker, but of the man who makes the products of many hands but in the factory itself the shop passes through the hands of a large number of operatives each of whom do a little to

it until it is finished. Then it has yet to be transported and handled by the labor of others, again before it reaches the consumer. So that, from the ox to the consumer, there is embodied in each pair of shoes a fraction of the labor of each of many individuals. All these transmutations are a part of the process of production. The production of a commodity ends only where its consumption begins. Its exchange value is therefore incomplete until it reaches the consumer. That labor that is embodied in it is not individual but social labor, the collective labor of a large number of individuals. This completes our definition of exchange value, thus:—The exchange value of a commodity is determined by the socially necessary labor embodied therein.

This socially necessary labor is the cost of production of each commodity. Each commodity being the embodiment of a certain amount of labor, it costs just that much labor to produce it. Commodities, therefore, exchange one with the other at cost. Which brings us face to face with the following problem. If everything is sold at cost and bought at cost; if the price of a commodity is just the amount of labor that went into it, where does profit come in? For buying and selling, be it observed, is in the final analysis, nothing more than the exchange of one commodity for another with money as the medium through which that exchange is made.

The generally accepted idea of profit is that it is made by buying cheap and selling dear. But unless our reasoning up to this point can be proved fallacious, buying cheap and selling dear are out of the question as the relative values of commodities are predetermined by the socially necessary labor involved in their production.

It is true that a certain amount of fluctuation in the price of commodities, above and below their exchange value, actually takes place according to the supply of and demand for them in the market, but these fluctuations are almost negligible as will be seen later, and cancel one another in the average. Moreover they offer no solution of our problem as to the source of profit.

### Surplus Value.

The solution to this mystery is that buying and selling have nothing whatever to do with the making of profit. It is not in the process of exchange, but in the act of production that profit comes in. Profit is acquired, not by paying less for a commodity than it is worth or by selling it for more than it is worth, but simply by not paying for it at all.

The chattel slaves, we have seen produced wealth, which embodied of course to their masters. In this wealth was embodied the labor of the slaves, that was its value. A certain amount of this wealth went to feed, cloth and house the slaves; the surplus accrued to the masters, at no cost to themselves. The sum of this surplus value, would be surplus value.

The modern worker, the wage-slave is in much the same position. The wealth of the world is produced by the workers of the world. Its value is determined by the labor they have put into it. It belongs to their masters, the owners of the means of wealth production, the natural resources, mines, mills, factories, etc. A portion of this wealth goes to feed, clothe and house the workers through the medium of wages. The surplus value, it costs them absolutely nothing. The workers have received all that is coming to them. Having produced all the wealth they have actually paid their own wages. The capitalists have done nothing except own the means of production. The wealth they thus obtain by virtue of their ownership is clear gain. Profit.

# ON THE FIRING LINE.

Dear Comrade: More than a lam, religious bigotry and other similar noxious growths. These needs are particularly noticeable here in Ontario. In making the distinction between the east and west, I am using the rocky mountains as the dividing line.

As far as I have been able to judge from observation the manufacturing concerns throughout this part of Canada are small in comparison with those of the United States. In consequence the social contrasts are not so pronounced. The class lines are not so sharply drawn, so glaringly apparent. The noxious growths above mentioned tend to still further obscure them. But in spite of it all the slaves are waking up. They are opening their eyes to the facts that confront them and their ears to the sound of the coming storm. One thing I have particularly noticed is that they respond only to the revolutionary note. To platitudes and other soft stuff they are indifferent. Touch the revolutionary chord, and they respond with a vigor that is unmistakable.

At Calgary we had a splendid meeting. About 1000 people were present. It was a working class audience and one typical of the financial status of that class in the glorious Christian times. The collection was less than one-half the hall rent alone, to say nothing about other unavoidable expenses.

At Winnipeg, as already stated by one of your correspondents, many could not find seats in the hall. The interest manifested in both places was good. The comrades of Calgary and Winnipeg have evidently already planted much seed and planted it well.

# A HELL FOR THE LIVING.

Sunderland, England.—Here, upon the bleak northeast coast of England, in the heart of the shipbuilding industry, a great tragedy is being enacted, a whole district being in the grip of hunger and dire privation. Thousands of people are literally destitute many of them actually starving.

### How the Famine Came.

The famine area includes the great shipbuilding towns on the rivers Tyne, Wear and Tees. On them last autumn descended an unprecedented slackness. The freight market had, steamers are too numerous, the owners want no new ones, so orders gradually ceased, and soon the clang of the hammer stopped all along. The Tyne from Gateshead and Hebburn to Sunderland, further south at the Hartlepool, and at Stockton and Middlesbrough on the Tees. Many of these towns have experienced the most dreadful industrial stagnation of all recent years, but the hardest hit has been at Sunderland, where work has been at a standstill in practically all the thirteen shipyards, and 10,000 men have been without employment or wages for over six months. It means that a moment's thought to realize what a tremendous "fact" has been concealed. Ten thousand workers men in one town means that a vast mass of poverty is at once created, and six months of such acute starvation, stark and grim. In 10,000 homes in November last the dinner had become so acute that the Sunderland townspeople took the matter in hand, a relief fund was opened, and the major organized district committees to distribute the funds raised. At the town's meeting last night the fund was started. It was mentioned that 20,000 people were in distress through the paralysis of the shipbuilding industry of the town. That was over six months ago, and the stagnation has had an ever increasing force. In the first four months of this year three-fourths of what it was in April alone last year. Whereas in the first four months of 1907 the tonnage launched was 1,700,000, this year it has been only 1,245,000. The yards are empty and idle—one that used to employ 4,000 men regularly now has only 200 at work. The other men live the streets, empty and despairing.

The relief fund went bravely on and over 15,000 has been raised and spent, mostly on 1s. grocery tickets. Every case helped was investigated and no family received more than four tickets in any one week. But at the beginning of May the fund ran so short and subscriptions were so few that it became necessary to stop the relief for adults. There was little more than £500 in hand, and, desperate as the position of the people is, there was nothing to do but cease the supplies. It was decided to spend the remaining money on free breakfasts and free dinners for the children, and over £100 per week is going for this purpose. Some 6,000 school children are being fed every day. Battered and beaten, hopeless too, they may be seen standing outside the free meal centres, where voluntary helpers have ministered to them all through the winter. What a winter it has been for these poor people! You may see the effects of it in the pinched faces, and the thin limbs only half covered by the pitiful rags.

Soon the fund will be exhausted. The great districts where there is no pity in my house, where practically all the furniture has been sold for rent and food, and where the people do not know where their next meal is to come from. They are all staring together—remember, the men have been out of work six months, the utmost help has been worth of groceries once a week and even this ceased a month ago. They cannot help one another as in ordinary times, but just more and starve. In any country but ours, with any people but the brave, patient English, here would be bloodshed, revolt, and revolution.

Now take a typical row of houses. In No. 11 is a driller, out of work six months, and with five children, four of them going to school. The fifth is too young, so misses the free meals. There is not a piece of furniture in the house, except a table and chairs and some wretched bedstead and a bed, but the two boys are drawing room furniture is a pair of cupboards making a bedstead. The rest of the house is empty, the kitchen—all gone for food. The man, a machine worker, used to earn 24s a week, and has had no work for four months.

In No. 3 is a widow with five children. Her husband got the house, except a table and chairs and some wretched bedstead and a bed, but the two boys are drawing room furniture is a pair of cupboards making a bedstead. The rest of the house is empty, the kitchen—all gone for food. The man, a machine worker, used to earn 24s a week, and has had no work for four months.

In No. 4 is a riveter, workless six months, and with six children. His eldest girl earned 3s a week, and the family "lived" on that, but she has now been taken ill. The man is in rags, and so are his children, but they get free school meals. One child is an adopted girl, left an orphan by neighbors, and taken in to save her from the workhouse.

In No. 5 is a laborer, whose two grown-up sons are also workless, and live with him to save rent. There is a married daughter, too, whose house was sold up. Father, mother, and daughter live in three rooms. Three weeks ago one son got a temporary job at 7s a week, and the family are living on that, less 6d a week for rent.

One might go on with details of cases like that. There are many more. A few days ago the relief workers found a family, who nine months ago were prosperous working people. They had to move into a squalid house, then sold the home furniture, and had to live in a squalid tenement in a cellar. The mother was hysterical from want, the infant at her breast was like a skeleton because of lack of Nature's nourishment, and the gaunt father was so weak that he could not work. It is a terrible sight. There is no unemployment in the details of these cases, just the plain, horrible truth. The sight of the poor harks is bad enough, and the knowledge of other unhappy children, too young or too old to go to school and get the meals, is distressing. There are, alas! hundreds of them. But worse than these are the infants. Born in bare homes, their mothers half-starved for months past, there are babes in London and day stinking dead, to look upon, they are so thin. Many of them have no clothes, and are wrapped in mere rags—pieces of blanket—anything and they will bear through life if they survive—the marks of the ordeal of starvation they now endure.

### Horrible Truths.

A Zola might do justice to some of the incidents of Sunderland's six months' famine. So he might to this case, which is taken from the note-book of a helper of the mayor, who got a day stinking dead, to look upon, they are so thin. Many of them have no clothes, and are wrapped in mere rags—pieces of blanket—anything and they will bear through life if they survive—the marks of the ordeal of starvation they now endure.

### Tragedies of Poverty.

For the parents are in heart-rending poverty. In several districts of Sunderland one may go through whole districts where there is no pity in my house, where practically all the furniture has been sold for rent and food, and where the people do not know where their next meal is to come from. They are all staring together—remember, the men have been out of work six months, the utmost help has been worth of groceries once a week and even this ceased a month ago. They cannot help one another as in ordinary times, but just more and starve. In any country but ours, with any people but the brave, patient English, here would be bloodshed, revolt, and revolution.



THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

This Page is Devoted to Reports of Executive Committees, Locals and General Party Matters—Address All Communications to D. G. McKenzie, Sec., Box 836, Vancouver, B. C.

PRICE LIST OF SUPPLIES.

Supplies will be furnished Locals by Executive Committees at the following prices: Charter (with necessary supplies to start Local) \$5.00

Previously acknowledged \$187.50 Alex Lang .50 A. Lerner 1.60 J. Harting (3 mos.) 3.90

LEADS. Care Western Clarion, Box 526, Vancouver, B. C.

LITERATURE.

In reply to enquiries in this respect, the following list is compiled. The thirteen dollars worth of literature in the subjoined list will be forwarded to any address in Canada, on receipt of \$5:

- 25 copies "Socialism, Revolution, and Internationalism," by Deville; each 10c \$2.50 20 copies "Revolution," by Jack London; each, 10c 2.00 25 copies "Wage-Labor and Capital," by Karl Marx, each, 5c 1.25

FOREIGN SOCIALIST PAPERS.

- French—L'Union des Travailleurs, Charleroi, P. 1.00 Hungarian—Elore, 1258 Second Ave., New York, N. Y. 1.00 Italian—La Parola del Socialista, 145 Blue Island Ave., Chicago, Ill. 1.00 Polish—Robotnik, 627 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill. 1.00 Slavonic—Glas Svobode, 699 Loomis St., Chicago, Ill. 1.00 Slovak—Rovnost Ludu, 632 Loomis St., Chicago, Ill. 1.00 Swedish—Svenska Socialisten, Rockford, Ill. 1.00

NANAIMO RIDING FUNDS.

Dear Comrade: At a convention recently held at Nanaimo by the Island Locals, Comrade Hawthorthwaite was nominated to represent the Socialist Party of Canada for the Nanaimo constituency at the impending Dominion election.

FUNDS.

Box 27, Ladysmith, B. C. Dear Comrades: All those who wish to help financially the Socialist propaganda in Ladysmith and district in view of the coming Dominion elections are requested to forward their contributions to me at the above address.

CALGARY CAMPAIGN FUND.

Seeing that the federal election may be thrust upon us in the near future, the members of the Calgary Local No. 4 are anxious to place a candidate in the field, therefore we solicit financial aid to provide the necessary funds incidental for election purposes.

DOMINION ORGANIZING FUND.

Previously acknowledged \$589.80 Archie F. Berry, Field, B. C. 3.00 M. McL., Vancouver, B. C. .50 Total \$584.30

SECRETARIAL.

The Dominion Executive has leided to request Local Calgary to appoint a routing committee for Comrade Kingsley's tour through Alberta.

DOMINION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Regular business meeting, June 30, 1908. Present Comrades Pritchard, (chairman), Peterson, Martilla, Stebbings and the secretary.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING, JUNE 30, 1908.

Minutes of previous meetings read and affirmed. Charters were granted to locals at Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. (Finnish), Moose Jaw, Sask., Canmore, Alta. (Finnish) and Fernie, B. C., Ukrainian.

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RECEIPTS.

Local Eckville, Alta., stamps and supplies \$2.00 Local Coleman, Alta., stamps and supplies 4.00 Local Fredericton, N. B., stamps and supplies 4.80 Local Canmore, Alta., charter, 7.00 Local Moose Jaw, Sask., charter 7.50

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Correspondence dealt with from Local Fernie, Grand Forks, Phoenix, Sandon, Port Moody, Nanaimo and Victoria.

RECEIPTS.

Local Nanaimo, stamps \$10.00 Local Phoenix, stamps 15.00 Local Sandon, stamps and supplies 11.25

VERNON, B. C.

Sr. Dom. Executive, Dear Comrade: The regular weekly business and propaganda meeting of Local Vernon, No. 38 last Friday had the pleasure of Comrade King's presence.

LETHBRIDGE, ALTA.

D. G. McKenzie, Vancouver, B. C. Dear Comrade: I feel I incumbent upon myself to give some idea of the situation in Lethbridge and although I cannot state everything color de rose, there is no need for that.

VERNON, B. C.

The comrades of Yale-Cariboo are getting ready for nominating a candidate for the Dominion election.

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ALBERT, N. B.

D. G. McKenzie, Dear Comrade: "Albert Local, No. 3 of N. B. is still alive, very much so, if our ability to make the "heads" of the community were any criterion.

ALBERT, N. B.

We have not a building on Main street and on this particular evening were looking over the building and measuring for some curtains etc.

ALBERT, N. B.

A large number of those who are deeply interested in Socialism dare not join us on account of the danger of their opportunity for employment being cut off.

ALBERT, N. B.

Why did the "labor" men in Ontario oppose the Socialists during the late election? Was it because the Socialists are opposed to the interests of the workers?

ALBERT, N. B.

Has your local notice in the Socialist Directory. Every local should put one in without delay.

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HERE AND NOW

By Leads. Have you asked that friend of yours who is getting interested to subscribe for the "Western Clarion"?

HERE AND NOW

The greatest game of the season will take place at the ballot box next Dominion election. The odds are 8 to 1 in favor of the workers. Will they win?

HERE AND NOW

Had the workers of Vancouver received "\$30.00 a month" Bowser in the by-election last Fall and elected the "Socialist" candidate, they would have made a long step towards settling for ever this Asiatic immigration question.

HERE AND NOW

The Socialist Party of Canada needs the "Western Clarion," we need it in the worst kind of a way. It is for us to supply these needs.

HERE AND NOW

Why did the "labor" men in Ontario oppose the Socialists during the late election? Was it because the Socialists are opposed to the interests of the workers?

HERE AND NOW

Has your local notice in the Socialist Directory. Every local should put one in without delay. The name of your local and the time and place of meeting is all that is necessary, but you may give the name of the secretary and further information if you wish—but put something in.

HERE AND NOW

You workers of Ontario were woe in not listening to what those Socialists told you. Why the chance are if you had, you might have made it awkward for your masters.

HERE AND NOW

Every member of the Socialist Party of Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific is expected to have a "trusting" purchase an assortment of "Western Clarion" cards. Get your local to order a supply now, or better still, order some for yourself direct.

HERE AND NOW

Fraternal greetings to the class conscious workers of Ontario. Although the Socialists during the freedom of labor, yet the workers of Ontario are still without a single representative in the legislature. Now that labor has given its consent, capitalism cannot be blamed for laying waste to the good and hard upon their slavish backs.

HERE AND NOW

The wage-earners of Ontario and Quebec have recently expressed themselves as being practically unanimous in favor of a continuation of a campaign to have the Socialists elected to the legislature. They will get what they voted for, of course, but it seems too bad that the wiles and innocent children must suffer too.

HERE AND NOW

If labor-power were not a commodity we would not hear such terms as "cheap labor" and "labor market" used. As long as labor-power remains a commodity it must be subject to the laws of the market as well as other commodities. By putting labor in possession of the tools of work with you abolish the commodity nature of labor-power and then such usefulness as "cheap labor" (or otherwise) will be settled. The program of the Socialist Party of Canada will settle the Asiatic problem. Anti-Asiatic league please note.

HERE AND NOW

We also elected the following ward organizers: Ward 1, Comrade Anderson; Ward 2, Comrade McColl; Ward 3, Comrade Carrington; Ward 4, Comrade Harris; Ward 5, Comrade H. Stroud.

HERE AND NOW

Resolved that Comrade Simpson have authority to set up a printing press in the Western Clarion installed in the public library. Ward organizers please note that they will be able to get the papers, etc., to sell at street meetings, off Comrade Woodhouse a 112 Ann St. Yours in revolt. R. WOODHOUSE, Corresponding Secy.

ANARCHY IS INDIVIDUALISM IN DECAY.

Not in despair but with the star of hope shining close in front of it, we are waiting for it to set and set victory.

S. POLSON.

