

WHAT'S SO AND WHAT ISN'T

Copyrighted by JOHN M. WORK

INCENTIVE

No, Socialism will not destroy incentive to do one's best.

Capitalism destroys incentive to do one's best.

Socialism will destroy incentive to do one's worst. For example, it will destroy incentive to kill off the people by food adulteration. It will destroy incentive to overreach one's fellow men, and to pinch and cramp and brutalize them by the myriad means now in use.

I am not going to give you a heart ache and a stomach ache by describing the things which you are compelled to eat day by day and which cause the death of thousands of people and the ill health of many thousands more, but I want to say that you can pass pure food laws until you are blind and you will still continue to eat adulterated food just as long as the food factories are in control of private parties who have every incentive to adulterate the food in order to make money out of it. It is to the interest of the manufacturers to bribe the inspectors. And, even if they do not bribe them, it is a sheer impossibility to have an inspector on hand at every stage of the process. When the adulteration is not made at the stage where the inspector is getting in his work, it can be made at some other stage. There are dozens of opportunities to adulterate, in spite of the most rigid inspection, before the product reaches the consumer.

The groceries you buy are adulterated.

The drugs you buy are adulterated.

The meat you buy is tainted.

The clothes you buy are shoddy.

The shoes you buy are a swindle.

The furniture you buy is poorly constructed.

The house you rent is cheaply built, cold and unhealthy.

It was built to rent, not to live in.

Almost everything you buy is fraudulent.

You will use adulterations, taint and shoddy until capitalism is abolished and Socialism is introduced. And the hearse will continue to drive up and take away the bodies of the victims of food and drug adulteration, until that time.

When the public owns the packing houses, there will be no incentive to can tuberculous steers, nor to sell filth for food. There will be every incentive to make pure food and to keep the factories in a clean, healthful condition.

But I promised not to give you a stomach ache.

Let me take a prosaic illustration of the effects of the vicious incentive to which capitalism gives full swing. I have in mind a house which was spouted with the best tin on the market. In four years the tin was rotten and the job had to be done over again. An expert tinner testifies that there is no good tin made in the United States. You can't buy it at any price. Of course the manufacturers claim that all the tin they make is good. Nevertheless, good tin can not be bought at any price. They don't make it.

Why?

Because it pays better to make poor tin and charge the same price for it than they could get for good tin. Capitalism provides them with a full fledged incentive to make the worst tin they can work off on the people.

The spouting on the houses built by our fathers and grandfathers lasted all the way from twenty-five to a hundred years. I know of one house that was spouted in 1847 and to all appearances the spouting is still just as good as new. It will probably last another half century. But that tin was made in the days before fierce competition drove men to degrade the quality.

It is the same with practically everything else on the market. I have only used tin as an illustration. Practically everything has been cheapened in quality. It is almost impossible to buy a good grade of anything.

A traveling man who sells maple syrup is authority for the statement that there is no pure maple syrup on the market. He says that most of the alleged maple syrup is altogether spurious. There is simply no maple syrup in it at all. And when the real stuff is sold, it is sold in an adulterated form. He says that he has many a time seen spurious maple syrup made in states where they have pure food laws. They make it out of the pith of corn cobs and—but I must keep my promise.

Groceries, drugs, clothing, furniture, almost everything that the common people have to buy, are so degraded in quality that you can't get a good article for love or money.

All this is due to capitalism with its base incentives. It was not so before capitalism began to approach its acute stage because it was not necessary at that time for the people to do such things in order to make a living. But when labor saving machinery began to throw millions of men out of employment, and all the trades and professions as a result became overcrowded with people jostling each other in a mad scramble for a bare existence, it became necessary for men to use every hook and crook in order to eke out a subsistence. They began to adulterate, to deteriorate, to degrade, everything they made or sold. They did it because there is money in it. They are continuing to do it because there is money in it. And they will continue to do it as long as there is money in it. Even in the cases where industries have passed into the hands of trusts—and most of the great industries are now trustified—the adulteration and shoddy continue. It might be thought that they would cease such practices because they are wealthy and therefore not forced to it by absolute necessity. But now that the trick has been learned, and their consciences hardened, they keep it up, and they will continue to keep it up as long as they own the industries.

Socialism will remove every incentive to make adulterated and shoddy goods. It will not be to anybody's financial interest to commit these outrages. They will therefore cease.

How silly to expect them to cease so long as the industries are owned by private parties who can fill their pockets with money that way!

How utterly foolish to expect to remove this evil by appealing to men's honesty! Or by setting other men to watch them!

Take away the power, the necessity, and the incentive, and the evil will disappear.

Capitalism provides abundant incentive to graft, to shirk to drink, to gamble, to debauch to commit crime, to violate the Golden Rule, and to perpetrate all the villainous frauds and deceptions which surround us on every hand.

Socialism will destroy the bad incentives.

It will keep the good incentives and increase them.

Under capitalism the best incentives are impossible of universal application, although some of them do crowd to the surface in spite of discouraging environment.

Since the concentration of capital has progressed to an acute stage, so that it requires enormous capital to conduct a successful business, the average man is condemned by inexorable conditions to work for a small income so long as the present system lasts.

What is his incentive? Is it the prospect of a liberal income beckoning to him from in front?

No, for he has no such prospect under this system.

On the contrary, his incentive is the fear of starvation prodding him in the rear.

Truly, a despicable incentive.

No great thought or act ever proceeded from an incentive so base.

The incentive of the wealthy few is even more base, the incentive to accumulate immense fortunes.

When that low and mean incentive once possesses a man's mind, he is lost to higher impulses so long as it controls him.

In the Socialist commonwealth, the average man will receive several times as large an income, relatively, as he now receives.

So far as the hope of financial reward can operate as an incentive, he will therefore have several times as great an incentive to work well and faithfully as he now has.

He will be released from the fear of starvation. He will have the incentive to work and faithfully because by so doing he can secure all the necessities, comforts and higher privileges of life.

At the same time he will not, to any great degree, be degraded by the base incentive to accumulate money, for no man can accumulate much money when he receives nothing but what he is entitled to. Money is accumulated by investment, manipulation, speculation, and all sorts of grafts, and these will be impossible in the Socialist commonwealth.

The field will therefore be cleared for higher incentives.

Under feudalism, the prevailing incentive among the many was to escape starvation, and the prevailing incentive among the few was to excel in war. The making of money was considered beneath the dignity of a gentleman.

Under capitalism, the prevailing incentive among the many is to escape starvation, and the prevailing incentive among the few is to excel in making money. The incentive to make money is at least better than the incentive to carve the most people with a sword.

Socialism will be another and infinitely greater advance in the matter of incentives.

The desire to excel will continue to be a powerful incentive.

But it will be the desire to excel in something useful.

Under capitalism, the man who excels can only do so by tramping his fellow men under his feet.

In the Socialist commonwealth, the man who excels can only do so by benefiting his fellow men with his superior knowledge or skill.

Socialism will also open wide the door of incentive in invention, in the sciences, and in the fine arts.

Today the inventor scarcely ever receives any substantial reward for the work of his genius. Capital is necessary to develop an invention. So he sells it to a capitalist for a song.

The capitalist receives the reward of the inventor's genius. There are exceptions, and the exceptions prove the rule.

In the Socialist commonwealth, the inventor will not have to struggle with incessant poverty, but will be able to give free rein to his genius.

Socialism may therefore expect an era of marvelous inventions, such as will make the last hundred years appear trifling in comparison.

Those who are attracted toward scientific pursuits will have ample time and opportunity to do their best along these lines.

Today the devotee of the fine arts has to please the rich in order to keep out of the poorhouse. The masses of the people are so steeped in poverty and hard work that their taste for art is as undeveloped as their material ability to gratify such taste if they had it. The few people who have artistic taste usually lack the means to gratify it.

The rich are almost uniformly vulgar.

They love ostentatious display.

They love a work of art for the money it cost, not for its artistic beauty.

It is to their lack of taste that the artist must truckle. No wonder artistic genius is rare. The moment when a mercenary motive creeps into an artist's brain genius spreads her wings and flies away.

No beautiful thing, no great thing, was ever done primarily for money.

Socialism will give the masses an abundant opportunity to develop artistic taste, and artistic genius, too, for that matter. The artist will then have a constituency worthy of the highest genius. He will no longer be dependent upon the vulgar rich.

On the whole, however, the tendency of Socialism will be to make man's highest incentive the desire to do good in the world.

The fact is, that while the prevailing incentives at the present time are the incentive to escape starvation and the incentive to excel in making money, these are by no means the only incentives now existing.

Says John Ruskin: "It is physically impossible for a well-educated, intelligent or brave man to make money the chief object of his thoughts; as physically impossible as it is for him to make his dinner the principal object of them."

What is the incentive of the young man who works like a Trojan on the football or baseball field, without any pecuniary compensation for it?

It is partly love of the sport and partly desire to excel in the game.

What is the incentive of the man who abandons a paying business to run for office, when he could make far more money by attending to business?

It is honor, fame, public approbation.

The fact is that behind the incentive to make money is frequently the incentive of love of approbation. The money is wanted in order to gratify the love of approbation. The money is wanted in order to secure approbation. If approbation can be secured in other ways the money will not be wanted.

Socialism will put men on their merits and give them a fair chance to secure approbation in better ways than making money or spending money.

What is the incentive of the man who works all his life to support his wife and children?

Do they pay him money for doing it?

No, his incentive is love.

Among thousands of men and women the love of family has expanded into love of the whole human race. They do not love their families any less than before. But they also love their fellow men more. Their highest incentive is to be of service to humanity. Socialism will provide conditions where in this incentive will become the highest incentive of a constantly increasing number of people, until, in course of time, it will take in the entire human race.

Socialism will enable every boy and girl to grow up in a normal condition.

That means that people will enjoy superb health and buoyant spirits.

They will no longer be flabby imitations of men, like the flimsy, careworn, overworked, hollow-chested specimens of humanity we see on the streets today.

They will no longer be born tired.

They will have an overmastering desire to exercise themselves.

They will take pleasure in expanding their superabundant vitality.

It has been well said that they will enjoy working and achieving as much as the spirited colt enjoys prancing around the pasture.

Socialism will therefore extend to all the people an incentive which now operates only on a few—the joy of effort, the ecstasy of achieving.

To a large extent this incentive will become operative as soon as Socialism is introduced. But it will become more and more operative as the favorable conditions make the people more and more healthy of body, vigorous of mind and wholesome of morals.

Meantime, Socialism will provide a varied multitude of lesser incentives, including the incentive to secure several times as large an income as the average man is getting now.

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

Letters of Administration have been recently issued as follows: W. B. Cook, estate of David C. Meyers, late of Meyersdale Borough; George H. Keefer, estate of John Berkey, late of Stonycreek Township; Samuel S. Berkey, estate of Harrison M. Brant, late of Brothersvalley Township; Ira W. Gardner, estate of Annie Belle Gardner, late of Jenner Township.

NO TRESPASSING

Persons are hereby notified that hunting or trespassing on my premises will not be permitted.

John Heining,
Garrett, R. D. No. 2

COUNCIL MEETING

Meyersdale Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday evening, November 6, 1917, the following members being present: Dia, Darnley, Lecemby, Deeter and Saylor; absent, Shipley and Staub.

The minutes of the regular meeting held October 2 and the adjourned session held October 16th were read and approved.

Mr. Bradburn appeared before Council in behalf of the Fire Company and stated that they needed about one dozen rubber coats to be used in fighting fires. The financial committee was instructed to get prices on the rubber coats.

Burgess' Report—Fines collected for month of October \$38.50, same paid to Treasurer. On motion of Darnley, seconded by Deeter, the Burgess' report be received and filed. Motion carried.

Police monthly inspection of poles, wire and water mains. A leak in the water line on Centre street, same reported and repaired. Quite a number of lights were reported out during the month of October. Roof on Ford Garage, no spouting and water running over side walk. The secretary was instructed to notify C. W. Truxal to place spouting on the building. On motion of Deeter, seconded by Lecemby, to accept the police report, and the secretary was instructed to deduct amount of light from the Light Company's bill. Motion carried.

Street Committee report—The street committee investigated the W. T. Jones complaint and stated that the tile are too low on that street. Mr. Darnley stated that they investigated Eighth street and found that a heavy truck had been run over the ditch which depressed the brick two or three inches. On motion of Deeter, seconded by Lecemby, the President instructed the street committee to repair the brick ditch and render the Wilmoth Coal Company a bill for same.

The President instructed the street committee to get prices on corrugated pipe to be used for repairing streets and report at the next meeting.

On motion of Saylor, seconded by Lecemby, to notify the Meyersdale, Heat & Power Co., to repair Centre street in front of the Hartley building within three days from date of notice.

Part of Large street was repaired. Stones were placed at the approaches of the Buhl & Gatesman bridge and covered with ashes.

On motion of Darnley, seconded by Deeter, to notify the Electric Light Co. that if poles are not numbered according to the agreement within ten days, the Borough will proceed to do the work and deduct the amount from the Light Company's bill. Motion carried.

Finance Committee report—Mr. Baer reported that he had about \$4,000 taxes collected of the 1916 taxes. Mr. Deeter reported several accounts have been paid. The P. & M. Ry. Co. claim a credit for 1913 car license and \$50. Jas. Cook claims that he does not owe for a sewer connection and claims that has a receipt for all connections. Cyrus Just claims the sewer connection belongs to the property on North street.

On motion of Darnley, seconded by Darnley, that all persons and prisoners that get lodging in the Borough lockup shall register their names. The policemen and constable are to be notified to appear before council at the next meeting. Motion carried.

Mr. Lecemby reported about lease of the shirt factory. He went to see Mr. Poorbaugh about the matter and said that Mr. Spade still has the key in his possession. He also stated that they were still collecting rent for this building. The secretary was instructed to look up copy of lease.

The following bills were read and on motion of Deeter, seconded by Darnley, were ordered paid:

Street Labor \$ 76.75

E. J. Dickey 5.18

Geo. Ickes, Horse and cart 13.83

Geo. Ickes, Dump cart 1.50

Ent. Lime & Ballast Co. 150.00

Mey. Commercial 32.20

Shipley Hdw. Co.	6.97
W. H. Klingaman	22.50
Mey. Planing Mill	17.30
Globe Elec. & Nov. Co.	1.35
Mey. Republican	41.05
R. Reich & Son	1.48
Somerset Herald	5.00
Sav. Fire Brick Co.	12.60
Keystone Garage	6.00
D. W. Weller	7.10
Mrs. Geo. Blake	4.11
B. & O. R. R. Co.	84.16
"	83.35
Gruther Fire Eqmt. Co.	15.36
F. J. Cover & Son	1.10
Baer & Co.	100.00
E. W. Johnson	15.85
Sand Spring Water Co.	306.88
Meyersdale Light, Heat & Power Co.	1,000.00
Citizens Natl. Bank	2,000.00
J. O. Adams	1.65

On motion of Deeter, seconded by Lecemby, Council adjourned.
E. J. Dickey, Sec.

The tax duplicate for 1916 is as follows:

Freeholders	\$8659.10
Poll	293.00
<hr/>	
Tenants	8952.10
Poll	292.57
<hr/>	
Singlemen	9606.67
Poll	76.13
<hr/>	
Total	9793.80
Additional List	71.35
<hr/>	
Total	\$9865.15

FOR SALE—1915 Ford Automobile, electric lights, engine thoroughly overhauled, in first class condition, \$250 takes it for quick buyer. Call Commercial Office.

Stanton's New Buckwheat Flour at HABEL & PHILLIPS

Driving It Home!

Let us drive home to you the fact that no washer-man can wash clothes in as sanitary a manner as that in which the work is done at our laundry. We use much more water, change the water many more times, use purer and more costly soap, and keep all the clothes in constant motion during the entire process.

It is simply a matter of having proper facilities.

Meyersdale Steam Laundry

Joseph L. Trezster
Funeral Director and Embalmer

Meyersdale, Penna.

Residence: 809 North Street
Economy Phone.
Office: 229 Center Street
Both Phones.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS.

FIRE, AUTOMOBILE, COMPENSATION AND PLATE GLASS INSURANCE

W. L. COOK & SON
Meyersdale, Pa.

W. CURTIS TRUXAL,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
SOMERSET, PA.

Prompt attention given to all legal business.

Use Hammond Dairy Feed and you will get more milk and butter, at \$2.70 per bag, at HABEL & PHILLIPS.

Patronize our Advertisers.

The Way To Succeed

is to get in touch with successful men and learn their methods.

We prepare you for and place you in the personal employ of a successful business man. We have good positions open every day. Catalog free.

Cathermans Business School
215 SOUTH CENTER STREET
MEYERSDALE, PA.