

WHAT'S SO AND WHAT ISN'T

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INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE

No, Socialism will not destroy individual initiative. Capitalism has largely destroyed individual initiative.

You want to be your own boss.

You are not your own boss.

Up to the middle of the nineteenth century, and even later, individual initiative was open to the people in general in this country to a large degree.

But it is no longer open to them.

And yet, the man who howls that he wants to be his own boss has not yet awakened to the fact that times have changed.

He does not realize that there has been an industrial revolution and that the masses of the people are now living in a condition of industrial slavery.

He imagines that conditions are just the same as they were in the early days.

He imagines that a young man, or a man of any age, has the same opportunity to get on in the world that he had in the early days.

He forgets that in the early days the land was free. In order to get a farm all a man had to do was to go out and take it. And it did not require a lot of expensive machinery to till it, either. He had to brave the dangers of the frontier, of course, but, if he was willing to do that, the land was as free as air.

He forgets that in the early days the demand for men in all avenues of industry was so great that it could not be supplied.

He forgets that today every trade and every profession is not only overcrowded, but literally jammed.

He forgets that in the early days the wealth of the country was distributed somewhat equitably, and that business and industry were carried on for the most part by individuals working on their own hook.

He forgets that at that time hand work was the chief method of carrying on industry.

He forgets that since that time wealth has for the most part concentrated into the hands of a few; that varied and marvelous machinery has been produced, and that it now requires a great fortune to engage in business in such a manner as to be able to compete.

He forgets that business is now carried on for the most part by great aggregations of wealth, against which a man with only a limited amount of money has no show at all.

He forgets that this industrial revolution has been brought about by the change from simple hand tools to great labor saving machines which make associated effort necessary and inevitable.

He forgets that the small businesses are at best only making a bare living for those engaged in them, and that a great many of them are not even making that, but, on the contrary, are going to the wall.

He forgets that during the past thirty or forty years the great business establishments have crowded millions of small business men out of business and into the ranks of wage workers.

If he will take the trouble to open his eyes and look about him, he will discover that the fact that a few men acquired possession of the means of production and distribution dooms the masses of the people to continue to serve these few just as long as the capitalist system lasts.

The day when a man could be his own boss industrially, in the old sense of the term, has forever passed away.

The labor saving machine compels associated effort.

Capitalism makes this fact harmful.

Socialism will make it beneficial.

The working man, so far as industrial matters are concerned, is governed chiefly by the master class. He is not his own boss.

Even the trust magnate has to be governed largely by the will of other trust magnates. He is not his own boss.

The small merchant, the small manufacturer and the farmer are the abject slaves of

the big capitalists. They are not their own bosses.

Even leaving the big capitalist out of consideration, the small business man, from whom we hear this objection the most frequently, is not his own boss.

In all cities and towns of considerable size the grocer is governed largely by the will of the retail grocers' association. He is not his own boss.

The butcher is governed largely by the will of the retail butchers' association. He is not his own boss.

The saloon keeper is governed largely by the will of the retail liquor dealers' association. He is not his own boss.

The job printer is governed largely by the will of the employing printers' association. He is not his own boss.

The building contractor is governed largely by the will of the builders' association. He is not his own boss.

The clothing merchant is governed largely by the will of the retail clothiers' association. He is not his own boss.

The hardware merchant is governed largely by the will of the retail hardware merchants' association. He is not his own boss.

The druggist is governed largely by the will of the retail druggists' association. He is not his own boss.

The plumber is governed largely by the will of the plumbers' association. He is not his own boss.

And so on.

But that is a very small and insignificant part of the story.

The small business man is the abject slave of the trusts that control his line of business.

If they permit him to make a living at all, it is only a bare living. If he gets "funny," they crowd him out of business.

Frequently, they crowd him out of business when he don't get "funny" at all, simply because he is superfluous, because they don't need him.

How do they crowd him out? Easy.

By declining to grant him dealers' discounts. In other words, by refusing to sell goods to him at wholesale prices. Of course, he can not make anything by buying them at retail prices. So he goes out of business. He is not his own boss.

Even if he is permitted to stay in business he is not his own boss, for the wholesalers or manufacturers can withdraw the dealers' discounts from him at any time they see fit. If they do so, he goes to the wall. He is at their mercy. He is not his own boss.

Manufacturers frequently find it to their financial advantage to put in retail stocks of goods in various places in charge of hired managers. Such managers are not their own bosses.

Branch department stores, in charge of hired managers, have made their appearance in many towns. Such managers are not their own bosses.

There are in the United States many saloons which are owned by the big brewing companies and are in charge of hired managers. Such managers are not their own bosses.

Another favorite method on the part of the big manufacturers is to put in a stock on consignment to a small merchant. The public probably thinks the merchant owns the stock. But as a matter of fact the manufacturer owns it. The merchant merely pays the rent and the insurance, does the business and gets a commission on whatever he sells. He is dependent upon the will and whim of the manufacturer. He is not his own boss.

Even those merchants who own their own stocks are nearly all heavily in debt, either to the banks, or the wholesalers, or both. They are dependent upon the will and whim of their creditors, who can close them out so quick that they won't know what hurt them. They are not their own bosses.

To sum up.

The working man cannot work without the consent of a capitalist. He cannot work without letting a capitalist confiscate the larger portion of his earnings. This is slavery, not liberty. The working man is not his own boss.

The farmer cannot till the

soil without letting the capitalist gouge him out of most of the product of his toil. This is slavery, not liberty. The farmer is not his own boss.

The small business man cannot go into business or stay in it without the consent of the big capitalists. This is slavery, not liberty. The small business man is not his own boss.

The yearner for industrial individual initiative will have to reconcile himself to the fact that the time has forever gone by when a man could, in an industrial sense, be his own boss.

The labor saving machine compels associated effort.

The day of associated industrial effort is here.

The man who objects to it merely kicks against the bricks.

He will have his bruises for his pains.

If he does not clear the track he will be run over.

The wheels of progress cannot be turned back.

He may as well overhaul himself one time as another, tear himself loose from reactionary conservatism, and dump the senseless prejudices out of his mind.

The world has discarded industrial individual initiative in the old sense. Henceforth we will get along without it.

But Socialism will remove the evils that have come with this change. At the present time a few men dominate the whole industrial situation. The rest of us are their slaves.

Socialism will give us all an equal voice in industrial matters.

That will be far better than the old style of individual initiative where we fought the whole world single handed and came pretty near starving to death at it.

But Socialism will give everyone individual initiative in a new sense of the term.

There is the most unbounded range for individual initiative in public affairs.

We can illustrate with a school teacher. The school teacher works for the public. She does not own the school and run it on her own hook. She is not her own boss in the old sense. She has to be guided, in general terms by the collective will. Has she lost her individuality and her power of individual initiative? Not she. She has lost most of the graft propensity. But she has retained all of her individuality and improved upon it. She is always trying to improve herself. She is always trying to discover better methods of accomplishing results. Her heart and soul are in her work. She finds daily use for all of her powers of individual initiative in doing her portion of the collective work.

So in all occupations in the Socialist commonwealth. Each one will in doing his portion of the collective work need to bring his powers of individual initiative into use.

But industry will really become a minor affair in the Socialist commonwealth. It will be attended to first because the material wants must be provided for first.

But the great glory of Socialism is, it will emancipate the people from eternal slavery to the securing of mere food, clothing and shelter.

Socialism will enable the people to employ the larger portion of their time in higher pursuits.

In these higher pursuits individual initiative will have full swing.

And the people will be amazed when they remember that they once prized the old capitalistic individual initiative.

IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH

A Self Conscious Laboring Class Will Make the World Safe for Democracy.

Is it not a strange sight to behold men leaving occupations in which their class is not organized and take the place of organized labor in other occupations where organization forced an advance in wages; but owing to a lack of proper recognition of the union, is out on strike in order to gain that recognition which is necessary to maintain its life?

The men on strike are simply seeking more security for themselves, their families and for labor in general against

those who are living from the exploitation of labor. Organization among any class of laborers has a tendency, not only to force up wages for that particular class but it affects other classes of labor the same way. Those who step in because of the special inducements and bribes held out to them, and take the place of organized men, are injuring their own cause, by preventing proper safeguards from being placed around labor, safeguards for which the men on strike are contending. Do they intend to enforce the interests of those who rob labor of its just share or must we conclude that ignorance is the cause? The cause may lie in the individual person losing sight of every interest for the time being, save his own. Right here there is great danger of losing just what he is seeking.

Today the individual laborer without the power of organization back of him, has about as much chance to make a fair bargain with organized capital as a lamb would have in bargaining with a wolf. Hence his own interest demands a power equal to the occasion. In organization he finds that power. Unorganized labor stands in about the same relation to organized capital as a mob of unorganized individuals would to the German army.

"A kingdom divided against itself will fall." No one is more familiar with the principle contained in this expression than are the exploiters of labor; hence their efforts to divide the forces of labor and to keep them divided. Do you blame them? It means gold. To them this means life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; to labor it means poverty, destitution and misery.

A laboring class conscious of its power and intelligent enough to organize that power can be and probably will be the force which will win the world and make it a safe place for democracy against the united efforts of political kings and rulers.

—(Contributed)

Local and Personal

Miss Myrtle Smiley, entertained the Fortnightly Club, Friday evening. Sewing and refreshments were featured.

James Phillips, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Phillips, who is in the Western Maryland Hospital at Cumberland, underwent an operation of the throat Wednesday morning.

The Women's Bible Class of the M. E. Church held a business-social meeting in the church, Tuesday evening. After refreshments were served, they went to the Red Cross headquarters, where they spent the rest of the evening in sewing.

Russel Baughman and son, William E., of Berlin, were Meyersdale visitors Wednesday.

Miss Edith Tressler, of Johnstown, is visiting relatives here.

Charles Griffith, of Harrisburg, visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Griffith, the former part of this week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Black and daughter Mary were visitors in Somerset Friday.

Miss Sarah Thomas is visiting her brother, Charles Thomas, in Georgia.

Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Baer and son Guyard, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Beal motored to Pittsburgh, Sunday.

Mrs. Simon Bittner and children are visiting relatives and friends in St. Paul.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Reed, Mr. and Mrs. George Blake and son Glen motored to Mountain Lake Park, Md. Sunday.

W. H. Habel returned Tuesday from a business trip to Akron, Ohio.

Mrs. A. C. Kennell and daughter, Ida Elizabeth, of Cumberland, Md., visited Mrs. Kennell's mother, Mrs. Ida Staub, Tuesday.

Mrs. Clarence Rowe and Mrs. Geo. Benford are spending a few days in Casselman.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgel Smith, of Randolph, Pa., were guests of the former's father, A. G. Smith, Sunday.

Mrs. Anna Fike, of Johnstown, who had been visiting

relatives here, went to Mason-town, Pa., Monday.

Mrs. Walter Smith, Mrs. Shannon Smith and son Joseph, of Boswell, Pa., visited at the home of Mrs. George Hibner, Sunday.

Misses Lillian and Maggie Baer spent Sunday at the home of Albert Baer at Vim.

Miss Myra Lichliter, of Elk Lick, spent Monday in town. Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Groff

visited relatives in Cumberland, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Powell and daughter Ruth, of Levels, W. Va., spent Tuesday at the home of C. A. Phillips.

Mrs. Elizabeth Younkun returned home on Sunday from a visit in Boswell and Johnstown.

Mr. and Mrs. James Irwin and little son have returned to Acosta, Pa.,

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JOHNSTOWN

Sells the Champion Cream Saver

THE NEW DE LAVAL

THE worth of a separator depends very largely upon its bowl. A separator bowl must be scientifically designed, properly constructed and perfectly balanced or it will not only lose some cream to begin with, but will soon get out of balance and lose a great deal more cream, besides wearing out the bearings and gears in a short time. That is why the average life of a cheap separator is only two or three years.

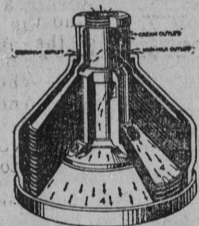
The bowl of the NEW De Laval is self-centering

The new De Laval bowl is so constructed and so balanced upon its detached spindle that it will run true and do perfect work even after the machine has been in use for a long time.

The De Laval bowl has always been noted for its close skimming under all conditions, but the new De Laval patented milk-distributing device, together with the larger discs, makes the new De Laval bowl an even closer skimmer than the old one, and gives considerably greater capacity into the bargain.

The new De Laval bowl has been called by people who ought to know, "the greatest improvement in cream separator construction in the last thirty years."

Come in and see one of the new machines. We'll be glad to explain it to you in all its details, and we know you will be interested in examining the new bowl, the bell speed-indicator, and the many other improvements.



Cross-section of new bowl, showing new method of distributing milk between the discs.



The Smoke of the U.S.A.

That snappy, spirited taste of "Bull" Durham in a cigarette gives you the quick-stepping, head-up-and-chest-out feeling of the live, virile Man in Khaki. He smokes "Bull" Durham for the sparkle that's in it and the crisp, youthful vigor he gets out of it.

GENUINE "BULL" DURHAM SMOKING TOBACCO

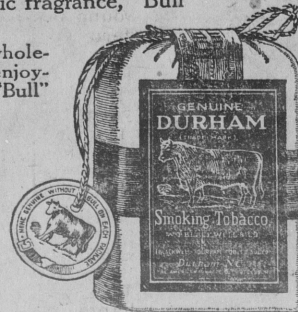
"Roll your own" with "Bull" Durham and you have a distinctive, satisfying smoke that can't be equalled by any other tobacco in the world.

In its perfect mildness, its smooth, rich mellow-sweetness and its aromatic fragrance, "Bull" Durham is unique.

For the last word in wholesome, healthful smoking enjoyment "roll your own" with "Bull" Durham.



Ask for FREE package of "papers" with each 5c pack.



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