

A few lines on Socialism

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1st Year—I.S.C. Sec. A.

Mr. Bertrand Russell in his "Roads to Freedom" says, "Socialism is the communal ownership of land and capital."

Socialism is an international political movement that first began with Karl Marx. But before him there had been Robert Owen in England, Fourier and Saint Simon in France, who had constructed some what fantastic socialistic ideal commonwealths but failed to establish any strong political foundation. It was Marx who first enunciated the conception of "Scientific Socialism", not only as a political science but as study of economic causes in the political sphere. Marx is the formulator of international socialist movement which has now spread all over the world.

Socialism mainly denotes the four criteria :—

- (a) Formation of a "Classless Society."
- (b) Abolition of "Private Property."
- (c) Reliance on the "State".
- (d) New theory of "Labour Value."

The present economic system, under which we live, is known as Capitalism. This system has divided mankind into three parts; (i) Bourgeois (the capitalists), (ii) Pete-Bourgeois (that is the middle class), (iii) and thirdly Proletariats (that is the labourers). To give an analogy, the Zeminder is the Bourgeois, the Nayab is a Pete-Bourgeois and the peasants are Proletariats. Of course, the main divisions are Bourgeois and Proletariats. Under the system of Capitalism, the machineries of production are owned by the Bourgeois, and the Proletariats get their living by selling their labour to the Bourgeois for a wage. The sole object of production is profit, and this profit is wholly consumed by the Bourgeois. So there comes inequality of wealth. It is capitalism which is the potent cause of all troubles. H. G. Wells in his "Shape of Things to Come" forecasts that nationalism and unplanned capitalism will gradually wreck human civilization. Socialism condemns Capitalism. It says that the world's production

will be dominated by public proprietorship. It is also essential to Socialism that every individual shall have equal rights. The Socialists say, "Capitalism is based on the exploitation of labour, and involves the class struggle and when the labourer kicks hard enough against his exploitation, capitalism won't work any longer. It has to beat down the labourers' resistance or perish."

Socialism has been defined as "The communal ownership of land and capital." The object of production should be the promotion of human happiness and felicity. Now, the means of production should be the common property of all without any claim of individual ownership. So Socialism insists that there may be a little difference in our income but it absolutely denies any private right of property. In one of his books Bernard Shaw says, "Thus it is true that Socialism will abolish private property and freedom of contract: indeed it has done so already to a much greater extent than people realize."

Under Socialism the most important step has been in favour of increasing the power of the state. The Socialists believe that the state is meant for their supreme good. Mr. F. A. Walker in his "Political Economy" has powerfully expressed the significance of the word "Socialist" "The Socialist", he says, "Is one, who in general, distrusts the effects of individual initiative and enterprise, who is readily convinced of the necessity or utility of the assumption, by the state, of functions, which have hitherto been left to personal choice and personal aims, and who, in fact, approves large schemes of this character. The extreme Socialist is he who makes the state all in all." So the ownership of land and capital has been offered to the state. This will, evidently, promote the collective interest of the masses more than we could expect from individual enterprises.

In these days of rationalisation of industry consumer's profit eats up the whole thing. Nothing is left to the labourers. Socialism gives a new theory of Labour Value. Socialists hold that production is a social thing and it belongs to the Society as a whole. The salary of the employers will be according to their labours. They say that labour alone gives a man a right to enjoy. So if a man does not work, neither shall he eat. For this reason the Socialists urge that every able man

should work eight hours a day, either manually or mentally. This is the fundamental principle of the modern Labour Value.

In near future, Socialism is bound to replace Capitalism. It has already been well established in Russia and people well realize that it will soon find its footing within every nation. Bernard Shaw says, "The political struggle between Capitalism and Socialism has been going on for a century past, during which Capitalism has been yielding bit by bit to the public indignation, roused by its worst results and accepting instalments of Socialism to palliate them." On the whole, it seems, as Prof. Laski has shown that things will ultimately lead up to a stupendous conflict in which the forces of Capitalism and Socialism will be ranged against one another. Such a clash of forces or revolution will, no doubt, be an extremely tragic affair, for revolution inevitably brings in its train hate, suffering and distress. It would be seen in this view that a peaceful rational agreement among the parties concerned would be the best solution of the matter. But unfortunately reason does not play a very notable part in the heat of such conflict. The Capitalists cannot entertain any thought of a quiet surrender, for that would mean acquiescing in their own erosion. On the other hand, the Socialists, fired with the zeal of their mission will consider no sacrifice too great for the realization of the ideal that animates them. In such circumstances compromise or peaceful settlement does not seem possible.

The Vedas of the Hindus.

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It is a debatable point whether the Aryans were, from time immemorial, inhabitants of India or came from outside India. Scholars have, after strenuous research and investigation, come to the conclusion that the Aryans came from outside India—and 'savages' did hold sway over the land of India before their advent. They have given us so much proof as to the truth of their research that there is nothing to dislodge them from their standpoint.