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Gems of Thought

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Many Minds

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*Because of his all-giving grace,
Kaisers and kings have held their place;
Because he gave ungrudging toil,
The lords have had the world for spoil.
And his reward? A crust to taste,
An unknown grave upon the waste.*

—Edwin Markham, the Poet Laureate of Labor.

Breed Suspicion and Greed

We know that economic conditions determine man's conduct toward man, and that so long as he must fight him for a job, he cannot love his neighbor. Christianity is impossible under capitalism. Under Socialism it will be natural. For a human being loves love, and he loves to love. It is hate that is unnatural. Love is implanted deep in our hearts, and when things are rearranged so that I can help my fellowman best by helping myself, by developing all my skill and strength and character to the full, why, then, I shall love him more than ever; and if we compete it will be as artists do, and all good men, in skill, productiveness and good works.—Eugene V. Debs. ✓

The Man to Watch

Sooner or later you will see some man to whom the idea of wealth as mere wealth does not appeal, whom the methods of amassing that wealth do not interest, and who will not accept money if you offer it to him at a certain price. At first you will be inclined to laugh at this man, and to think that he is not smart in his ideas. I suggest that you watch him closely, for he will presently demonstrate to you that money dominates everybody except the man who does not want money. You may meet the man on your farm, in your village, or in your legislature. But be sure that, whenever or wherever you meet him, as soon as it comes to a direct issue between you, his little finger will be thicker than your loins. You will go in fear of him; he will not go in fear of you. You will do what he wants; he will not do what you want. You will find that you have no weapon in your armory with which you can attack him; no argument with which you can appeal to him. Whatever you gain he will gain more.

I would like you to study that man. I would like you better to be that man, because from the lower point of view it doesn't pay to be obsessed by the desire of wealth for wealth's sake. If more wealth is necessary for you, for purposes not your own, use your left hand to acquire it, but keep your right for your proper work in life. If you employ both arms in that game, you will be in danger of stooping; in danger also of losing your soul.—Kipling.

Both Are Victims of a Rotten Economic System

Many writers for the capitalist press are radicals, who hold themselves in check enough to make their jobs secure, but occasionally drop a remark that should jar the think-box of the most conservative. In commenting on the statement of President Johnson of the Machinists' Union, that labor and the farmers have discovered their joint power, Arthur Brisbane, the noted writer, very truthfully remarks:

"Farmers and labor are still far apart. The farmer wants labor for as little pay as possible and as high prices as possible for farm products. The laborer wants wages as high as possible and the

smallest possible prices for farm products. While they both feel that way, the middleman and his boss, the able financier, will prosper as usual."

The Hated Socialist

No word has been more abused and misunderstood than the word "Socialist". The Socialist is not an anarchist—they are opposed in the practice and theory. The Socialist does not propose to destroy the family, abolish religion or divide up property, nor does he seek to carry out his ideas by riot or bloodshed.

In a single phrase, Socialism means public ownership of the means of production, and working-class control of the government—a chance to work for all who will, and to all workers the full value of their product. The typical Socialist is a rather quiet and thoughtful workingman, serene in time of trouble and self-contained in the day of victory. He realizes that the world will move on very well after he is dead, but remembers that while he lives it is his business to help the world move. He considers himself an ally of eternal laws of nature and is proud to do his little part in the great cause.—American Year Book, Encyclopedia and Atlas.

Our Masters

"The masters of the government of the United States are the combined capitalists and manufacturers of the United States. It is written over every intimate page of records of Congress; it is written all through history of the conferences at the White House."

The above quotation is not from a radical like Berger or Haywood, but from ex-President Woodrow Wilson's book, "The New Freedom," written when the truth was a part of his philosophy.

The Future Belongs to the Radical

A radical is a man who thinks. He is necessarily a rare and peculiar specimen. In his habit of thinking he is unfortunate enough, and this is the cause of his undoing, or, possibly, his doing. The radical thinks and dares to say in the open what he thinks. Some of us think, but we are not radicals. We lack bravery and courage. We think, but we think to ourselves. Our time and generation never knows that we think. We are in secret sympathy with the radical, but we dare not say so. Inwardly we rebel, but outwardly we submit. We go through life like slaves to the prevailing order.

The radical thinks. He is the breaker of our shackles, the restorer of freedom. The radical thinks, and he risks liberty to state his thoughts.

Men are inherently cowards. They are in mortal fear lest a sneer or a jeer be hurled at their expense, which combined with cowardice, makes men conservative. The difference between right and wrong is a difference in numbers. The radical cannot count

enough heads. But wisdom has never come by the counting of heads.

If the radical is the outcast of today, he is the favorite of tomorrow. The radical is in advance of his time; therefore they stone him and call him names. The radical is a man of convictions. He risks all for the race. The radicals are the bravest, the grandest men of their country, of their century. Denounced by thieves, hated by hypocrites, mobbed by cowards, slandered by politicians, these men, in spite of all opposition, in spite of poverty, of want, conquer innumerable obstacles, never faltering for one moment, never dismayed, accepting defeat with a smile born of infinite hope—knowing that they are right—insist and persist, until all workers will become free men, women and children.

—George Ohnstein, in Miami Valley Socialist. ✓

Interferes with Profits

In commenting on the spasmodic attempts at enforcing the so-called Sunday "blue laws", the Miami Valley Socialist, says:

"This is one of those queer anachronisms that appear in an industrial community here and there in the twentieth century like a masquerader wearing the queue and knee-breeches of the eighteenth. The spasm is always soon over, and the town once afflicted jumps back to its Sunday trading and revelry with redoubled ardor. The truth is, capitalism has long ago made the Sunday blue laws economically impossible. Too many important business interests depend on their Sunday trade for profits—theatre syndicates, newspaper companies, base ball magnates, restaurants, ice cream manufacturers, candy manufacturers, the tobacco trust—capitalism has cut the ground from under the religious observance as it has from under patriotism."

Short Sparklers

If a man attacks child-labor or the under-payment of women in industry, and finds himself misunderstood or abused, or perhaps without position and income, his pain is part of that vicarious suffering by which the redemption of humanity is achieved. Without the shedding of blood in some form there has never been cessation of sin."—Rauschenbusch.

Education of the masses is the watchword of the Socialist party. That is the fundamental difference between the Socialist party and the capitalist parties. The latter rely upon miseducation to keep the people in ignorance and bondage and themselves in power.—Debs.

For ages the cross of Christ has stood at the center of Christian theology. But many good men who are loud in their insistence on the cross as the only means of salvation, have apparently never had any experience of the pain of the cross. They do not "bear the marks of the Lord Jesus." There are no scars on them anywhere, Their religion has served to make them respected. All men

like them for their goodness. But their goodness was never so good that it waked up the Devil. They never antagonized profitable sin; so they never got hurt. But in that case their religion is not as specifically Christian as they think it is.—Rauschenbusch.

The vices of civilization are taking the place of the vices of barbarism—and are more to be feared.—Bouck White.

I had not yet discovered that it is the unlearned who are ever the first to seize and comprehend through the heart's logic the newest and most daring truths.—Tom Johnson.

Hear this word, ye kine of Bashan, that are in the mountain of Samaria, which oppress the poor, which crush the needy, which say to their masters, Bring and let us drink. ¶ The Lord God hath sworn by his holiness, that, lo, the days shall come upon you, that he will take you away with hooks and your posterity with fish-hooks.—Amos 4:1-2.

Not incapacity for government, but indifference to it, has ever been the nub of the difficulty.—Bouck White.

A Republican boss or a Democratic boss is equally useful to privilege.—Tom Johnson.

All truth is safe and nothing else is safe; and he who keeps back the truth or withholds it from men, from motives of expediency, is either a coward or a criminal, or both.—Max Muller.

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.—John Ruskin.

*“Better guide well the young than
reclaim them when old,
For the voice of true wisdom is calling;
To rescue the fallen is good, but 'tis best
To prevent these people from falling.
Better close up the source of temptation
and crime
Than deliver from dungeon or galley;
Better put a strong fence 'round the top
of the cliff,
Than an ambulance down in the valley.”*

The ethics of Socialism are identical with the ethics of Christianity.—*Encyclopedia Britannica*.

Socialism is simply applied Christianity; the Golden Rule applied to every-day life.—*Prof. Ely*.

A theory of society that advocates a more precise, orderly and harmonious arrangement of the social relation of mankind than that which has hitherto prevailed.—*Webster*.

The abolition of that individual action on which modern society depends and the substitution of a regulated system of co-operative action.

—*Imperial Dictionary*.

Radical—One who desires to have all the abuses in government rooted out, and more of the spirit of democracy infused into the Constitution.

—Spofford's *Cabinet Encyclopedia*.

Better a crab with a hard-shell past than a jellyfish with a spineless future.

—Ti-ot-og, the *Egyptanese Sage*.

