

# The Struggle of the Ages

By Maurice Malone

NEVER in all human history have the toiling people who have done the work of the world received the product of their toil. The product of the labor of the people has been perpetually filched from them, and they themselves subordinated and cowed in their slavery and penury. The great masses of the people have ever been held in helpless servitude to the powerful and privileged class. The history of "man's inhumanity to man" through economic injustice is one long, terrible tale of cruelty, brutal oppression, and unforgivable outrage upon the bodies and minds and souls of the teeming millions that have populated the nations.

The masses of the people come here by the natural operation of procreation; but the earth and its products, and equipment for labor, these new millions find already in private possession. The resources of the earth are entrenched by law and sanctioned by religion.

But these millions must live, and rather than leap into fire or water, or over the rocks, or perish by hunger or poison, and mastered by the love of life these millions may live only on one condition: by offering their labor for whatever it will bring, as the slaves, serfs, hirelings, or wage-earners of the few who control the earth and the fullness thereof.

Rather than die, they have chosen to live a living death under the domination and at the mercy of those who controlled the only sources by which men can live.

Ancient slavery, this economic and social injustice, is the supreme unrighteousness of the ages of history. The Assyrian kings, back in the dim past, boasted of the horde of human beings that they captured and forced into exhausting labor. The empires of Babylon, Persia and Egypt and the Republic of Greece and Rome were all built upon the bleeding backs of millions and millions of baffled, degraded and terror-stricken children of men.

Alexander the Great on one occasion sold into slavery 30,000 inhabitants of the one city of Thebes at \$16.00 per head. The Roman General, Aemilius Paulus, put up for auction on a battlefield 150,000 human beings. Even Great Caesar took thousands of Gauls to Rome and sold them like beasts of burden to the noble patricians.

A paragraph from the pages of a recent archaeologist gives an account of the almost universal industrial oppression of the working classes:

"Here in Egypt are the tombs of kings, stupendous monuments, not alone of monarchical glory and pride, but of the reckless waste of human lives, deep in sands dug a myriad slaves ignorant of everything save the stern necessity of yielding up every bit of strength in their bodies and every last gleam of intelligence in their minds, to the demands of the King. In the quarries on the roads, and on the walls for scores of years, there toiled these thousands of men, wageless and half fed, overworked and scourged. Sick, dizzy and exhausted, the only hospital they knew was the taskmaster's whip, which stimulated into one last, agonized effort the exhausted muscles of a used-up body or the frenzied movement of a reeling brain." Whether the glory of monarchs demanded the speedy completion of some expression of his selfish pride or a too rapidly growing race must be reduced to manageable proportions without massacre, the whole picture of that useless grinding toil testifies to an ugly, wicked contempt for human life, that is the picture of Babylon, Assyria, Egypt, Greece and Rome. Romaine Patterson said of Babylon, "there was justice, but it belonged to a few and had never penetrated the great dumb laboring population—Babylon was great. She used science and she used art, but she abused humanity. She could calculate a star's eclipse, but not her own. No state has been more guilty of the waste of human life, and when we see her ruins lying like a vast, mysterious autograph scrawled over the desert, her history appears to be full of warning." Of Greece he tells us: "The truth is that behind her splendid facade of art, and literature, and philosophy, and eloquence, we discover an industrial tyranny and work-

shops full of slaves, the gleaming city of Athens was one of the greatest slave markets of the ancient world." Mommsen says that, compared with the sufferings of the Roman slaves, the sum of all negro sufferings is but a drop. *Capitalists of that day speculated on slaves, as many as 10,000 being sold in a day.*

Modern slavery and this record of ancient history finds its modified continuance through medieval serfdom. Down to the French Revolution we find the horrible parallel in the slavish toils of the mill workers of England up to 1825 and over into the chattel slavery of America to 1863, when in the black code of South Carolina death was the penalty for him who dared "to aid any slave in running away or departing from his master's or employer's service." In the memory of men now living it was a crime punishable by imprisonment for a white man to teach a negro to read or write; it was left for the slavery in *Christian Nations to do what pagan slavery never did, prohibit instruction of the slave*, but the sad story does not end there. The present chapters of the long drawn-out affliction of the enslaved working class may now be read in the daily records of twentieth century Capitalism, with its sweating and unemployment and labor wars, exiled from the face of nature and besieged by necessity in the unwholesome and filthy streets and alleys of our great industrial centers.

In daily papers we read of a Senator leaving \$30,000,000 to his family, and a railroad king leaving \$60,000,000, and an oil king worth hundreds of millions, while one half of the *producing classes are propertyless and millions live on the verge of deepest want.* Just the other day Mr. Frick, the steel magnate gave as wedding presents to his son and the bride checks for \$14,000,000. At this very moment, this very day, millions of human brothers and sisters, old and young, not in heathendom, but of our own religion, language and kin, and millions more in all Western Christendom, are eking out the miserable lives of un-owned slaves in the poverty, degradation and Hell of our modern industrial centers. At times hundreds of thousands cannot sell themselves by the day at any price to the masters of the machine and the market; men, women and little children consume their lives away in a bitter struggle merely to exist, while "wealth sits a monster gorged midst starving populations."

Up to this moment the people who have made the bread of the world have never received the bread their hands have made. They have hungered, and hunger today, in the presence of the wealth their own hands have created. Mrs. Shelly, in her famous book, entitled "Frankenstein," published 1817, pictured "Frankenstein" as the most perfect being. Having completed a most marvelous piece of mechanism, all at once, to his surprise, it turned out to be a monster

and a demon—so bad that it destroyed its real purpose. A parallel of this is to be seen in our late war where 55,000,000 of people were engaged in making life-destroying implements, 5,000,000 of lives lost, and \$155,000,000,000 of wealth wasted. Were this same energy and skill used in a constructive way what a blessing it would be to the human race. Now look at the situation: In less than two months after the war, our boys, on coming home, find the Government arsenals on short time and thousands are discharged. Is this fighting for Democracy? Not much! While we are hollering for Democracy for foreign nations and their people, we are threatened with labor troubles galore.

The whole world today faces the tremendous issue of reconstruction. We are confronted with the following state of affairs:

1st.—Munition factories closing down will throw many out of work.

2dn.—Millions of soldiers and sailors, returning home from the war, will render insecure the jobs of those at work.

3rd.—Women will work for less wages than men in order to retain their jobs.

4th.—The loss of war business will compel firms to economize, especially in regard to wages, hours, etc.

5th.—The cost of living will not be lowered to the pre-war standard.

The above are facts, not theories. These facts must be met in a common-sense way. It will be no use passing pious resolutions, because paper resolutions never did solve any problems. Something has got to be done.

In the first place, there has got to be solidarity. We have got to be united, and this is the time for unity, but before we can have unity we must have unity of purpose. We must understand the purpose of our coming together, and upon what basis. There must be co-operation, everybody will admit, but it must be intelligent co-operation.

How can these people meet the high cost of living?

Name	Capital	Income
John D. Rockefeller...	\$500,000,000	\$50,000,000
Andrew Carnegie.....	300,000,000	15,000,000
William Rockefeller....	200,000,000	20,000,000
Estate Marshall Field...	120,000,000	6,000,000
George Barker.....	100,000,000	5,000,000
Henry Phipps.....	100,000,000	5,000,000
Henry Frick.....	100,000,000	5,000,000
William A. Clark.....	80,000,000	4,000,000
Estate J. P. Morgan....	75,000,000	7,500,000
Estate E. H. Harriman..	68,000,000	3,400,000
Estate Russell Sage....	64,000,000	3,200,000
Estate W. K. Vanderbilt	50,000,000	2,500,000
Estate John S. Kennedy.	65,000,000	3,250,000
Estate John J. Astor....	70,000,000	3,500,000
W. W. Astor.....	70,000,000	3,600,000
J. J. Hill.....	70,000,000	3,500,000
Isaac Stephenson.....	74,000,000	3,500,000
Estate Mrs. H. Green..	60,000,000	3,500,000
Jay Gould.....	70,000,000	3,500,000
Cornelius Vanderbilt...	50,000,000	2,500,000
Wm. Weightman.....	50,000,000	2,500,000
Ogden Golet.....	60,000,000	3,000,000
W. M. Moore.....	50,000,000	2,500,000
Arthur C. James.....	50,000,000	2,500,000
Robert Golet.....	60,000,000	3,000,000
Guggenheim .....	50,000,000	2,500,000
Thomas F. Ryan.....	50,000,000	2,500,000
Edward Morris.....	45,000,000	2,500,000
J. O. Armour.....	45,000,000	2,500,000

Socialism is the only remedy for this great evil. What is Socialism? It is the public ownership of all the wealth, the mills, the mines, the factories, the railroads and land. Things that are used in common, must be owned in common, by the people and for the people under democratic management by the people, instead of the present system of private ownership for profits—then humanity will be free from want and the fear of want. Workers of the world unite—then, and not until then, will you be free. Read and study Socialism and think for yourself.

**Spartacus?**  
The aims and objects of the  
Spartacus Group  
will be explained at a  
**Mass Meeting**  
...in...  
**Grand Opera House**  
cor. Washington and Dover Sts.  
at 2 p. m.  
**Sunday, January 12, 1919**  
Prominent New York and Boston Speakers  
—  
ADMISSION FREE  
Auspices Boston Socialist Party