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EDITORIAL

## UN-MONOTONOUS CAPITALISM.

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**M**ORE than once the observation has been made that the Republican and Democratic press, in short, the capitalist press, seems to be written by survivors of the Stone Age, whenever they touch upon economics, the Social Question in particular. The Lowell, Mass., *Morning Citizen* of the 6th instant furnishes the latest instance in point.

The *Morning Citizen* objects to Socialism. In giving the reasons for the faith that is in it, it describes Socialism as it understands the thing. What the *Morning Citizen's* understanding of Socialism is appears from the below inimitable passage:

“We cannot understand how a sane, self-respecting American citizen, relying on himself and working for daily bread for himself and his family, can for a moment espouse the doctrine that the State ought to wash him, dress him, blow the whistle for him to go to work for the State, pays him so much and no more, and tuck him into bed at night. What does he live for under such a regime? What is his ambition? Nothing whatever except to keep his miserable body on earth. He would rise, be fed and go back to sleep; day in and day out, the same dreary round of monotony. The joy of living would be gone. All would be a dead level of mediocrity. Some like this idea. But why should America care for this barren waste of monotony?”

It may be possible for a survivor of the Stone Age to talk more intelligently on modern wireless telegraphy. But the liveliest imagination, and most charitable withal towards the folks of the Stone Age can only with difficulty conceive in their mouths, or even in the mouth of the very dullest of them, such arrant, vapid nonsense, as the Lowell *Morning Citizen* deals out above. It takes many ages before the Stone Age for anyone to imagine that Socialism proposes or would result in the State washing, dressing and tucking the people into bed at night; and it takes many more ages back of that for anyone, by implication, to uphold as an ambition-breeder

a social system that produces the crushing iniquities of the present.

According to the *Morning Citizen* present conditions are delectable,—Socialism would establish “a barren waste of monotony.” In view of the fact, attested by the Census itself, that wages have fallen, despite tremendous increase in wealth; in view of the fact that the Census itself attests that the mortality of the working class has increased, due to the increasing intensity of labor; in view of the fact—to mention only one of the most recent—that a doctor in this city, who advertised for an ear for a rich patron for \$5,000, was immediately overrun from far and wide with applicants in person, by letter and by telegraph giving all manner of pitiful stories of distress, ready to give up not only one but both ears;—in view of all this, it would seem that a really sane man would, even if Socialism indeed offered “a barren waste of monotony,” prefer to be “washed and dressed and tucked into bed” provided he could keep his ears, which the present system of capitalism is un-monotonous enough to put in jeopardy.

The Stone Age was supplanted. And so will the Age of Capitalism. The working class of America will get tired of the un-monotony of producing under wage-slavery for the few capitalist idlers to enjoy; it will get tired of the un-monotony of drudging, of losing life and limb for the capitalist plunderer; it will get tired of the un-monotony of a great variety of privations while its fleecers riot in Goelet-weddings, Seeley-Dinners, and “Little Egypt” sports. It will get tired of the un-monotony of ever new lures to keep it contented. It will get tired of the un-monotony of variegated false arguments to palliate the failures and iniquities of capitalism. It will that day move mightily, like the rushing of many waters, to the “monotonous” Socialist teaching, that for years has preached to them that he who does not own the land on and the tool with which to work is the abject slave of him who does, and that the salvation of the working class and the country is the Socialist Republic, where, the machinery of production being owned by the people, the principle will be monotonously enforced that he who works may live, and he who can and won't shall monotonously starve to his heart's content.

Woe to the Stone Age survivors when that now nearing day shall be upon them—they surely will have to be “tucked into” something!

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
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