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# "DIVIDING UP."

## SOME PLAIN TRUTHS PLAINLY STATED.

No, Socialism does not stand for dividing up.

Capitalism stands for dividing up.

I feel a good deal like apologising for referring to the absurd dividing-up objection. But if you consider it an insult to your intelligence, remember that there are still many people who actually believe that Socialism stands for dividing up.

Capitalism does stand for dividing up.

Capitalism compels the industrious to divide up with the idle.

Suppose you are the average wage-earner.

You work about nine hours a day.

In the first hour or two of your day's work you reproduce by your labor the amount you receive for the entire day.

In another hour or two you reproduce your proportion of the wear and tear, the running expenses, the raw material, and the cost of superintendence.

Well, then, having done this, it is time for you to take up your coat and hat and dinner pail, and go home to your wife and babies.

Do you do it?

No, you don't.

What do you do?

You go ahead and work the rest of the day, and add still more to the world's wealth by your labor.

Who earned that surplus?

You earned it.

Who gets it?

The capitalist gets it?

You divide up with him.

The Socialist Party says that you, who earned it, shall get it.

The reason you do not get it now is

because a few private individuals and corporations are permitted to own the means of production and distribution, and compel you to hand over to them the bulk of the product of your toil in exchange for an opportunity to earn a bare living.

By voting a capitalist ticket you have extended to the capitalists the privilege of exploiting you out of the lion's share of your earnings.

### THE SOCIALISTS' POLICY.

The Socialist Party says that the means of production and distribution shall be publicly and popularly managed, that exploitation shall thereby be banished from the earth, and that the workers shall thereby secure the full product of their toil.

So much for the wage earner.

Now, suppose you are the average farmer.

A capitalist, individual or corporate, either owns the farm you live on or holds a mortgage against it.

Out of your pocket you pay him rent or interest.

You divide up with him.

But that is not all.

No matter whether you are a farmer with a farm free of encumbrance, a farmer with a mortgaged farm, or a farmer with a rented farm, you are compelled to hand over a slice of your product, in the form of profit, to each of the retail stores with which you trade.

You divide up with them.

You are also compelled to hand over a slice of your profit to the grain cleaning company.

Another to the commission agent.

Another to the middlemen speculators.

[OVER]

THE TRUSTS.

Another to the agricultural implement trust.

Another to the binding twine trust.

Another to the barbed wire trust.

Another to the timber trust.

Another to the rubber trust.

Another to the hide and leather trust.

Another to the paper trust.

Another to the coal trust.

Another to the oil trust.

Another to the flour trust.

Another to the woollen trust.

Another to the cotton trust.

Another to the sugar trust.

And others to various other exploiters and boodlers.

You divide up with them.

You have to.

That is, you have to so long as capitalism exists.

But you can abolish capitalism by voting the Socialist ticket.

No, Socialism does not stand for dividing up.

Socialism is the public ownership and the popular management of the means of production and distribution, which are now used to exploit the masses of the people out of the bulk of the product of their honest toil.

Socialism will prevent dividing up.

It will enable the men who produce the wealth to get it and enjoy it.

—Adapted from JOHN M. WORK.

(In "What's So and What Isn't.")

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Every Socialist should join and assist the movement.

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**WHEN READ, PLEASE PASS ON.**

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