

The workers have certainly achieved political and industrial power. They have acquired the right "to soak the rich" by taxation and such devices as a levy on capital, but they have found that this "milchcow" is not inexhaustible. They have passed plans to eradicate slums, but they cannot procure the raw materials for new building construction. They have instituted free health services, but have largely destroyed the friendly personal relationship existing between the family physician and his patients. They have broken down the over-lordship of the money classes and replaced it with a paralysing, exacting and stultifying bureaucracy of controllers and civil servants. And they have sacrificed pride in craftsmanship and hereditary skills for the monotony of uniformity, higher wages and shorter working hours. Like their Capitalist predecessors the workers are learning in the hard school of experience that the materialistic drive for money and worldly comforts does not necessarily bring happiness in life. The dissatisfaction and restlessness to be found everywhere will not disappear until Mankind decides to rid itself of the prevailing disregard for the spiritual values of humanity and to exercise those practical Christian principles which must naturally follow the suppression of individual and national selfishness.



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Materialism

The period in which we live has often been referred to as the era of materialism. There is a good deal of solid truth in that opinion, yet, too often, we blind ourselves to the demoralising effects which this manifestation of human selfishness is having upon our civilisation in all its many facets. General Smuts has, on many occasions, spoken of "the stirring which is going on in the hearts of men and women everywhere. There is," he has said, "an uncertainty, a searching for something which men cannot define." But is it not a fact that Man's troubles are that he cannot see the wood for the trees? He has turned his back on the century old simple tenets of the Christian faith which alone can give contentment where there is restlessness, happiness where there is misery, justice where there is injustice and peace where there is war. The answer to the ills of the world will not be found in ideologies, whether they be of the Capitalist, Socialist, Fascist or Communist variety. These forms of political organisation are insufficient in themselves; they fail to satisfy the human soul. Why? The reason is absurdly simple. It is because each of them has adopted the main faults of the political system they sought to transplant.

At A Discount

Ever since the Industrial Revolution parliaments, governments and public leaders have paid more attention to the rights of property than the rights of men. Such treasured possessions as individual liberty and the sanctity of the home are largely at a discount today in this turbulent society of ours. They have been sacrificed to the god of money. With the invention of the machine during the *laissez faire* days of Georgian and Victorian Capitalism the accumulation of wealth became the predominating aim of the upper classes. It was quickly found that riches brought power with surprising ease. And with this discovery came a frightening and calamitous deterioration in human and spiritual values. The homes, the long established social customs, the moral principles and the environmental habits of millions were ruthlessly uprooted as people were dragooned into the service of this Frankenstein monster of Man's inventive genius—the machine. This revolutionary reorientation of the whole basis of society resulted in the herding together of tens of thousands of families in depressing conditions of terrible squalor and discomfort. Is it to be wondered at that those who were born and who grew up in these slums, which were the product of a soulless materialism, became themselves materialists? They regarded themselves as "the have nots" and they inherited a grim determination to aspire to the position of "the haves." This revolt of the masses against their exploitation by their Capitalist bosses became the motivating and driving force of Socialism. Every other spiritual, moral and human characteristic became subservient to this all-compelling urge.