

TROUBLE-SHOOTING, NOT TROUBLE-SHOUTING

The communistically-minded who want to blame all the ills of life on "capitalism," on "the profit motive," on "exploitation" of the "proletariat" by the "bourgeoisie," appear to feel that the completion of their theoretical system requires the inclusion of their special explanation of business depression and unemployment.

They—and the literary intelligentsia who follow them from a sufficient distance so the reflected red looks only pink—have no use for the view that wages above the marginal productiveness of labor makes it unprofitable to hire the labor and so tends to unemployment; they have no interest in noting that the speculative holding out of use of large areas of good land and natural re-

sources, reduce the available opportunities for employment, except at lower wages than would otherwise be necessary; and they have no interest in understanding the complications of our credit system and how an ill-advised credit policy may—as it most certainly can—turn active business into severe depression. That by removing tariff barriers, maintaining competition in most industries and effectively regulating rates in the public service industries, appropriating to public use the community-produced rental value of land, and controlling our monetary and credit system in a way to stabilize the general price level, we can maintain the essentials of individualism and make it work effectively to the common good, they never admit,—or even seriously inquire.

Such inquiry would involve extended study of the nature and mode of operation of our economic system, and careful analysis of the factors at work in that system. It is easier for communists, socialists and the literary intelligentsia of Marxian leanings to denounce "capitalism," "the profit motive" and "capitalistic exploitation," than to seek to discover the specific causes for each specific economic evil from which we suffer.

It is easier for our "intellectuals" of literary proclivities and "pinkish" inclinations, to regale us with literary allusions and superficially clever bon mots than to set themselves to work getting a real understanding of the complications of our economic orders.

Just as the dissatisfied workman, resentful of his low wages or of a recent layoff, but unfamiliar with cause and effect relations in our economic life, sometimes attributes his unhappy state to "the boss" or "the grasping stockholders," who are no more responsible than he is for depression or for the conditions that bring about low wages, so the literary intelligentsia too readily attributes our collective economic misfortunes to the vague scapegoat "capitalism," with no intelligent comprehension of precisely what it is in "capitalism" that makes the trouble.

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