

a product of Society as it exists. The Society which made its development possible must bear the greater share of the guilt of its errors and shortcomings, which for the most part are due to the instinct of avarice, heartlessness, covetousness and self-seeking which dominate our Society. With truth has it been said that it was a disgrace to Germany that it was only through Marx and Lasalle that its attention was directed to the robbery and oppression of the poor, of the masses of its industrial working population.

Hence it is that the writer would have much preferred not to have been forced to speak of the weaknesses and shortcomings of Socialism. But the great harm these teachings have done, the vast waste of generous human endeavor they have caused, compel him to reveal the truth as it appears to him. All the good intentions of Bebel and Liebknecht, and so many other enthusiastic supporters of Socialism, cannot make good the harm already done and is still doing. Doubtless Socialism was originally inspired by the best intentions and most self-sacrificing altruism. This, however, is no excuse; quite the contrary, it is the most weighty accusation against Socialism. For Socialism has so far failed in its avowed original object, the abolition of poverty, that today many despair of its ever being accomplished. That with all the good-will and good intentions no better result has been attained; that all the self-sacrificing enthusiasm it has undoubtedly aroused has been so uselessly wasted; that so many who have served, struggled and suffered for its cause, have finally been disillusioned and have come to despair of Socialism and of progress; does not all this prove clearly how utterly unreliable must be the theories on which modern Socialism is built?

The interpretation of Socialism given in the following pages puts these theories in such a light that it would never have been written had the author any doubt of its correctness. He fully realizes how bitter it will sound in the ears of many good and honest men; but surely the duty to speak the truth as it appears to us is far more pressing and far more sacred than any consideration for the feelings of others. If the interpretation of Socialism here given is true, then it is high time it found expression. If, on the other hand, it is not true, not in accordance with the well known facts concerning Socialism, it will be quite easy to refute it.

(To be continued)

CLEAR LEGAL ROBBERY.

(For the Review.)

By **GEORGE WALLACE**, Jamaica, N. Y.

One of the noteworthy news items early in April informed the public that the Supreme Court had confirmed the report of condemnation commissioners who awarded the Neponsit Realty Company the sum of \$1,316,458

for property at west end of Rockaway Beach. This narrow strip of sand is to be taken for the City of New York and turned into a public park for the benefit of its citizens.

No transaction has recently occurred which more clearly shows how the industrious people of New York City (or any other part of the country for that matter) are robbed under the forms and sanction of law.

WHEN THIS LAND WAS NOT KNOWN.

Over forty years ago I visited Rockaway Beach. At that time none of this land was in existence—at least it was not visible to the naked eye. Since then the surging waves have washed up the sand, thus making a strip of land which extends from old Rockaway Beach some two or three miles to the west, down in front of Coney Island.

If ever a piece of land was a production of nature it was this strip. It seemed as if the Creator had intentionally piled up that sand at that place to make park or playground for His children. But if that was His purpose the Creator was beaten by the constitution and laws of the State of New York, which He had no hand in framing. These laws permitted private speculators to grab the land and claim ownership in it as soon as it appeared above the level of the sea.

Finally the alleged owners turned it over to the Neponsit Company. Thus by a process of law this Company of speculators got this land away from the people of New York, the real owners, who have to pay the intruders more than a million and a quarter dollars for the privilege of taking possession of the land which the Lord their God gave them. And there is talk in the papers of taking the leading attorney in the transaction away from his business at the next election, and making him a judge of the highest court in the State. And let it be remembered that all of this money is wrested from the workers who earned it.

NOT WORTHY OF NOTICE.

When a few politicians steal a few thousands the pulpit and the press ring with abhorrence and denunciation; this robbery of the people to the amount of \$1,316,458 is scarcely noticed in the press—neither noticed or condemned in the pulpit. In the language of Shakespeare, "Can such things be and overcome us like a summer cloud, without our special wonder?"

HOW THE LAND MIGHT HAVE BEEN SAVED.

Had the tax law got after this piece of land and assessed the Neponsit Company for it at their own valuation—and thus made the speculators pay a fair annual rent into the treasury for the privilege of owning the land—the city could have bought it for a small sum. Of course if such were the law the speculators who grew rich out of this stretch of sand *might* have to give up "business" of that kind and work for a livelihood. Even that would not be an unmitigated evil; in fact, it would be beneficial to the people of the State of New York.