

HOW TO CHECK SOCIALISM.

(For the Review)

By **GEORGE WALLACE.**

We read in ancient scriptures of a great flood concerning which the patriarch Noah had warning. He built an ark for the protection of himself and family when the flood should come.

The people of the land paid no attention to Noah's acts except to ridicule; they made no attempt to build arks for themselves or to move out of the country to a place of safety. A reference to this is found in the New Testament scripture, where it is said that the neighbors were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, and knew not until the flood came and took them all away. Evidently they did not think it was going to be much of a flood.

The narrative is illustrative of human nature in all ages. A majority of people living in our own country act in important matters just as Noah's neighbors acted. For example, they have warnings without number of the coming of the flood of socialism, but they make no intelligent preparation to seek safety. The election returns each year show all intelligent people that the flood is rising, that the advocates of socialism are constantly increasing in number. But the people of today are oblivious to the fact or else incompetent to provide a way of escape. They have become blind to coming events. Like the hunted ostrich with its head in the sand, they seem to think they are free from danger when they cannot see it. From the great financiers such as Morgan, Rockefeller and others down to the small land owners in a country village, they appear to be incapable of preparing to meet the coming deluge.

Yet the deluge can be easily averted. Socialism shows its strength at the ballot box; at the ballot box it can be gotten rid of. The cry for socialism is based on present conditions of injustice which work intolerable evil to a majority of the human family, although most of them have heretofore failed to realize what causes such conditions.

No serious effort is being made by the legislators and rulers of our time to get rid of this injustice. Apparently the god Mammon has blinded their eyes or hardened their hearts. Like Pharaoh of old, they will not understand the conditions until the plagues come or they meet the Red Sea flood of socialism.

All these evils can be cured and socialism averted if we make our laws fit human needs and provide for human rights; if we liberate the people from bondage of land slavery and give each member of the race liberty and equal opportunity in life.

The best writers and thinkers of today—in fact, all thoughtful students of present conditions—point out clearly that the evils of the present spring from land monopoly. Still as a people we cherish this land monopoly—land

slavery—as if it were a precious heritage come to us down the ages. Instead, it is a baleful curse which has come down from pagan times and pagan laws.

Recently this question was brought up squarely before the people of Nassau County, N. Y., in the election of an Assemblyman, and some 700 of them out of many thousands voted for human freedom by supporting a candidate running on a Land Value Tax Party platform. The majority didn't realize that these 700 voted for the only possible escape from the coming tide of socialism. They are the nucleus of a victorious army which will yet put the enemies of humanity to rout, even as Gideon's band of 300 started the fight which freed ancient Israel from slavery to a neighboring nation.

Election returns from all over the country reveal the fact that this socialistic tide is rising rapidly. The workers of the country are so disgusted with present evil conditions that they take up with the socialistic fad rather than do nothing. By tens of thousands they are adding everywhere to the numbers in the Socialist party. Unless the self-assumed directors of modern thought show the people a better way out of their present bondage, they will continue to increase the vote for the proposed Utopia offered by socialism.

These voters are blinded by the socialistic cry against individualism and against competition. They are told that we now live under laws of competition although the statement is not true. There can be no free competition under the rule of land monopoly. Our educators in college and writers in the press are blinded to this great fact, or else they lack the courage to point it out. By doing nothing they build up socialism; by free discussion they could stop its growth. Consent to evil conditions is equivalent to their advocacy. When our great political parties know the conditions and make no effort to better them they build up socialism. When we vote the Republican or Democratic ticket, as things are now, with both parties supporting land monopoly as it now exists with all its resultant evils, we vote to quicken the growth of socialism.

We may laugh at the danger until it is too late. We may keep on marrying and giving in marriage, eating and drinking, until the socialistic flood comes and takes us all away. There are 700 voters in Nassau County who have awakened, realizing the situation; but what are they among so many, except that they have set many to thinking who did not think before. There are interesting, exciting and perilous times ahead of us in this country. The peril arises from intellectual blindness in all classes of human society, ranging from college presidents and leading writers down to the most ignorant among day laborers.

WORD PICTURE OF SOCIALISM.

While a vast majority of the electors voted for socialism in some form—either the advanced form favored by the Socialist party, or the mild form favored by the Republican and Democratic parties—very few of them really know what it means. Advanced socialism thrives on the "present order". Without intelligent consideration we bolster up the present order of things,

and thus we advance toward the condition so much dreaded. Sometimes I wonder if the people of today ever have a real conception of what socialism means. If possible let us get its true picture in our minds.

From the party's national platform we learn that the socialism which made great gains in recent elections, demands that all the means of production—that is, all our factories, mills and workshops, all appliances of trade and tools of labor, all the concrete results of human earnings—be taken possession of by the whole community, the people depending upon the State to see that they are clothed and fed.

When that is brought about individual incentive for labor will be gone and the population must become lazy. All must be compelled to work or starvation must follow. Either idleness and poverty, or else compulsory labor must be our lot under socialism. When we yield ourselves, our mental and physical powers, our best thought and action, to the service of the State, we must work under the State's orders. The people would then become a vast army, drilled and officered, each person a mere cog in one great machine to do the world's work. The individual would be lost in the mass; liberty would take its flight, to be followed by army discipline and its attendant servility.

That is the promised condition under socialism, a condition being hastened by all who favor land monopoly. With each individual working under the State's orders, curious results would follow. Imagine John P. Morgan or John D. Rockefeller working in the blacksmith shop or on the highways, as directed by their commanding officer; imagine our bank presidents and other persons of the wealthy classes toiling in gangs on the public works or elsewhere as directed, and we get a faint picture of socialism. Yet a vast majority of the people voted to hasten that condition when they voted for the Socialist, Republican or Democratic parties in the last election. The Socialists demand such conditions; the other two parties must favor them, else they would not tolerate the present order which feeds the Socialistic propaganda.

THE Socialists of Milwaukee, Wis., are preparing to exempt improvements from taxation almost entirely without changing the law, provided they secure control of the county government.

THE Socialists of California stand unequivocally committed to the taxation of land values exclusive of improvements.

THE California State Federation of Labor has unanimously endorsed the principle of home rule in taxation by cities and counties. It is recognized in the resolutions that the exemption of improvements and personal property from taxation will destroy land monopoly.