

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 11, NO. 2.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1910.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

WORK TO LIVE? OR LIVE TO WORK?

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WELCOME is an objection to Socialism that seems to be cropping up just now. It is the objection which is implied in the question: "Would people work if they could live without work?"

One of two things—either the putters of the question deliberately put themselves in the ludicrous light of a Lord Dundreary, who, having asked a young lady whether her brother liked cheese, and being answered that she had no brother, came back with the question: "But suppose you had a brother, would he like cheese?" Or the putters of the question do not mean to put themselves in any such idiotic light.

Is the case of these objectors to Socialism that of a Lord Dundreary, then they deserve no treatment other than that bestowed upon My Lord by the young lady in the play—to be laughed at roundly:

Is their case not that of a Lord Dundreary—then in some corner of their minds a tallow candle must have gone up, throwing some dim light upon a rather important economic fact. These objectors deserve to have the sputtering light of a tallow candle substituted with a powerful electric illumination.

One of the terms in which the economic revolution of our age may be condensed is this: "It has rendered WORK unnecessary."

Work means to-day arduous toil. Such work was at one time necessary. Such work is now no longer necessary. The revelations of collective labor, which the modern mechanism of production has stimulated, leave no doubt that affluence for all is to-day possible with barely four hours' effort, only one hundred days in the year. Under such circumstances a revolution has taken place of incalculable social significance. WORK, once an economic necessity, can now be substituted by HEALTHY EXERCISE, a permanent physical necessity.

Society may, to-day, be said to consist of two mental classes—

One class thinks that *man lives in order to work*. This class falls into two categories—a category of shirkers and a category of soft heads. The shirkers seek to escape their principle about man's mission in life being to work; the soft-heads acquiesce and bear the fardles. Both categories are unaware of the economic revolution above sketched;

The other class holds that *man works in order to live*. This class is aware of the economic revolution which has rendered possible the repeal of the curse of WORK; it is aware that physical and healthy exercise is necessary for physical well-being; and it knows that healthy physical exercise is all the human effort requisite to-day for civilized existence.

Those who cynically ask: "Would people work if they could live without work?" and who put the question with out being Dundreary idiots, are on the borderland between the mental class that has no conception of the economic revolution which has taken place in the productivity of human effort, and the class that is aware of this revolution. Not yet emancipated from the mental trammels of the former class, these questioners have glimpses of the Promised Land seen by the up-to-date intellects of the latter class.

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Uploaded July 2011

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