



T-Bone Slim

Shall We Sit Out This Dance, Too?

Now while everyone's hat is in the air in jubilation, I suppose it is up to me to tell why I think something worse than chaos will overtake the people: This society of democrats and republicans is based upon the buying power of 45 million odd workers—it is so organized.

Improved machinery has displaced 15 million workers and their buying power—those 15 million are now an additional burden upon those who are in the industries, a matter of 30 million men, women and children.

One-third of the buying power is eliminated and society is made still more top-heavy by the addition 15 million non-producers and their dependants.

When 15 million workers lost their buying power (that is, one-third of them) it meant that one-third of the so-called upper class lost their customary income, or the whole of the upper class lost one-third of their income.

Given that one-third lost their income, they still remain a burden upon the 30 million odd working. (This is the treason perpetrated by the industrial potentates.)

In the meantime the 30 million odd workers that now have jobs have had their pay cut approximately in half, to all intents and purposes leaving the equivalent of 15 million with buying power. (It's not difficult to see who is to be blamed.) Two-thirds of the buying power is not present.

Society still remains practically same size as when 45 million workers had buying power—but two-thirds of their income is not present.

No doubt millions of the upper class shall be weaned of that one-third income and they shall find themselves among the dispossessed, still a burden upon the 30 million workers; if they do not displace them, which is probable. We have now reached the subject, may the Lord give me strength to keep off the grass: The buying power of 30 million half-paid workers does not keep this republican-democracy. There must be and is other source of revenue.

Now it happens the 30 million working in connection with improved and very automatic machinery produce values over and above the wages they get and in those values reside the additional buying power upon which the non-producing class is now leaning. And very naturally, those values are much greater than the wages paid those 30 million workers—else they would be as wholly incapable of supporting 120,000,000 million people (they and their wages included).

In other words, the share of production's value that goes into maintenance of industry, its expansion (which should be no more than the equal of the wages paid) is loosed as buying power upon a trusting country—which places the total reasonable buying power at slightly more than double the buying power of the 30 million half-paid workers. All other buying power, in the values created by those 30 million unorganized scissorbills, and toadying collar stiffs, is pure velvet for the boss and the spending of it is optional with him.

Generally, he, having no brains and not knowing what is good for his racket, throws it away or what is equally imbecilic, pays it out as tribute to bankers (another cut-throat gang) and they promptly ship it to foreign countries.

We now have a condition where 30 million half-paid workers are barely able to support themselves with the buying power they have and an equal amount of buying power to support the 90 million odd and keep starch in their collars.

Me thinks they'll lose out on starch—(except in soap and custard pies with good luck.) Those 90 million are going to get one-third of a living as measured by the half-pay standard of the 30 million workers lest inflation deflates the jobites in the interest of the burly but pale business man, and even then a matter of 100 million shall go on one-third diet. "Death, where is thy sting? Grave, where is thy victory?"