

**AMERICAN PAUPERISM AND
THE ABOLITION OF POVERTY,
WITH A SUPPLEMENT "JESUS
OR MAMMON"**

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American Pauperism and the Abolition of Poverty, with a Supplement "Jesus or Mammon" by
Isador Ladoff & J. Felix

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ISADOR LADOFF & J. FELIX

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AMERICAN PAUPERISM

AND

THE ABOLITION OF POVERTY

BY

ISADOR LADOFF

AUTHOR OF "THE PASSING OF CAPITALISM," ETC.

WITH A SUPPLEMENT

"JESUS OR MAMMON"

BY

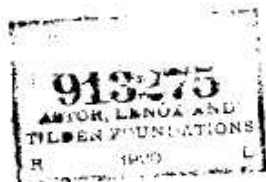
J. FELIX

CHICAGO

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AMERICAN PAUPERISM

AN APPEAL TO THE READER.

You know that we live in an age of great prosperity; that the United States exceeds Great Britain in the totals of her domestic export; that the foreign business of the United States passes beyond two billion dollars; that her profits—that is, the excess of exports over imports—reaches more than four hundred and seventy-six million dollars.

You know, in other words, that the United States is able to provide sufficient food, clothing and shelter, foreign and domestic goods for comfortable and even luxurious living for her people, and sells abroad goods at the rate of a million and a half dollars in cash for every working day.

You know that the United States has ceased to be a nation-debtor and has become a creditor-nation; that the bank clearings have increased immensely, while the number of receiverships steadily decline; that there never was such an expansion in the various manufacturing industries; that never before has so much money been in circulation in the country, either in volume or in per capita distribution; that never before were

the totals of the people's savings in the banks so enormous.

You know that the United States grows about eighty per cent of the entire cotton crop of the world; that it is the greatest producer of wheat among all countries; that we own about one-third of all the swine in the world; that we are the greatest cattle raisers among the nations.

You know that of the food-staples, bread, meat, butter, milk, vegetables and fruits, we are the most extensive producers.

You know that as a clothing producer America is abundantly able to clothe her population without any assistance from foreign nations; that the United States' output of iron and steel products was in 1899 about forty per cent of the world's total; that we are the greatest coal producers, furnishing more than one-third of the world's supply; that the annual supply of our petroleum makes up one-half of the total output of the world.

You know that the United States has the greatest mileage of railroads, the greatest amount of freight-transportation, the most extensive marine-traffic.

You know, in short, that the economic growth and material development of the United States, the growth of wealth of the entire nation, has no precedent in the history of humanity. However, do you know who actually enjoys this marvelous material prosperity? Do you know what price is paid for this prosperity and who foots up the bill?

Do you know that a little less than one-half of the families of the United States are propertyless; that seven-eighths of the families hold no

more than one-eighth of the national wealth, while one per cent of the families hold more than the remaining ninety-nine per cent?

Do you know that the wealthiest ten per cent of American families receive approximately the same income as the remaining ninety per cent?

Do you know that the average family's income from labor cannot be put higher than five hundred dollars in towns and three hundred dollars in the rural districts? As three-fifths live in rural districts, the average should be three hundred eighty dollars annually for all.

Do you know that more than five-sixths of the income of the wealthiest class is received by a hundred twenty-five thousand richest families, while less than one-half of the income of the working classes is received by the poorest 6,500,000; in other words, that one per cent of our families receive nearly one-fifth?

Do you know that in fact the smallest class of wealthy property owners receive from property alone as large an income as half of our people receive from property and labor?

Do you know that the number of officially recognised paupers in the United States is not less than three millions; that the direct and indirect loss in money due to pauperism is conservatively estimated to reach at least one hundred million dollars annually?

Do you know that the State of New York, the richest state in the Union, carries the heaviest burden of pauperism, not merely proportional to its population?

Do you know that the number of inmates in various charitable institutions of the State of New York reaches 300,000; while the total num-

ber of persons relieved annually by these institutions reaches the figure of two and a half millions?

Do you know that one in four of the entire tenement population of the city of New York (about 300,000 or 350,000) are treated free of charge annually by medical charitable institutions?

Do you know that in no city of the United States will the number of children supported at public expense compare in proportion to population with the number of those cared for in New York City?

Do you know that one person in every ten who dies in the City of New York is buried in Potter's Field?

Do you know that the increase of female and child-labor in the United States is quite pronounced in comparison with the increase of adult male labor?

Do you know that child labor increased in a single decade more than two hundred per cent in the South?

Do you know that nearly one-sixth of all the employees in the hard coal mines are children?

Do you know that the increase of child-labor in the iron and steel industry shows 216 per cent?

Do you know that there are about seventeen hundred and fifty thousand children between the ages of ten and fifteen years employed in the mines and factories of the United States?

Do you know that child-labor is employed to a very much greater extent in the North than in the South?

Do you know that children are deformed,