

**THE STRUGGLE FOR BREAD: AN  
IMPARTIAL DISCUSSION OF SOME OF THE  
WRONGS AND RIGHTS OF CAPITAL AND  
LABOR, TOGETHER WITH AN ANALYSIS  
OF INDUSTRIAL DEPRESSIONS AS RELATED  
TO THE PRESENT RAILWAY SYSTEM**

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The struggle for bread: an impartial discussion of some of the wrongs and rights of capital and labor, together with an analysis of industrial depressions as related to the present railway system by Leigh H. Irvine

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**LEIGH H. IRVINE**

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AN IMPARTIAL DISCUSSION

OF

SOME OF THE WRONGS AND RIGHTS OF CAPITAL AND LABOR,

TOGETHER WITH

An Analysis of Industrial Depressions as Related to the  
Present Railway System.

ALSO,

A GLANCE AT CO-OPERATIVE PROFIT-SHARING, AN ANALYSIS OF HENRY GEORGE'S LAND FALLACIES, WITH THOUGHTS ON SOCIALISM AND THE FUTURE OF LABOR, CONTAINING NOTES AND TABLES ON THE SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

—  
BY LEIGH H. IRVINE,  
AUTHOR OF "THE IRON HIGHWAY" AND "LABOR PROBLEMS."

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## P R E F A C E .

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THE facts and figures presented to the reader in this little volume belong to everybody. It would be as foolish, therefore, for me to call a great part of the book original, as for the compiler of an arithmetic to call the multiplication table his own invention.

I have simply stated somewhat-known truths in a popular way, for I do not pretend to be a specialist in the field of economics and social science. I believe that workingmen in overalls should know just such things as are here prepared for their information. The business man as well as the careful student will find, in the notes and throughout the text, many statistics which are invaluable in the study of the so-called labor problem. The form of the book makes it specially convenient for persons who want a manual of reference in public speaking. I cannot close without again emphasizing the importance of the notes. The student should not omit to read them. Sincerely,  
LEIGH H. IRVINE.





## CHAPTER I.

### BARONS AND BAREFEET.

#### INTRODUCTION.

ARE THE EVILS IMAGINARY?—THE PAST—INCREASED COST OF LIVING—IS THERE WORK FOR ALL?—INDUSTRIAL DEPRESSIONS DEFINED—HARD TIMES IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1837, 1847, 1857, 1867, 1873, TO 1878, AND 1882 TO 1887—1,000,000 IDLE PEOPLE IN 1885—AT THE THRESHOLD OF THE PROBLEM.

THE American Republic stands alone in one respect in the world's history. Nowhere has the right of free discussion of public questions been carried to the extent which it has among us. Here we are free to peaceably express our views at all times on men and measures, subject always to the law against libel and slander. From the country debating school to the workingmen's union and the political meeting, there may be found every grade of opinion. It is in the spirit of serious inquiry that these pages are written. I have no wish to abuse that liberty

which extends to me the right to discuss public questions, but my whole desire is to present the truth in so far as it lies in my power so to do.

At the threshold it may be asked what are the social and economic questions that demand solution? Do the strikes and lockouts, the riots, mobs, and industrial depressions indicate such deep-rooted discontent as presages a bloody strife between capital and labor? Is it necessary to attack the foundations of our Government to reach industrial peace and safety, or have we under the present system such resources and remedies as will reach the evil?

These are some of the problems demanding solution. It is necessary to survey the signs of the times. At the outset, it will not do to make rash assumptions on either side, or to charge all of our evils to the foreigners in crowded centers who have often encouraged discontent and strikes. It would be unsafe to say that the masses of the people are steadily going down,

that the entire poor population is drifting to ruin. So it would be equal folly to deny the growth of trusts and other evils of monopoly, for the people's complaints against them can no longer be pushed aside with insolence and answered with a laugh.\* There is on the other hand a

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\* In the catalogue of modern evils not the least harmful is the growth of Nationalism and other forms of Socialism, whose inevitable result would be the overthrow of individuality, and the despotism of government so admirably portrayed by Herbert Spencer. These creeds appeal to the ignorant masses on the one side and to theoretical enthusiasts on the other. In an age when the wrongs of monopoly are numerous, and when the rights of individuals are often curtailed by corrupt combinations of the money-power, the seeds of Socialism readily take root.

The rapid growth of this country and the enormous aggregation of colossal fortunes have overthrown old methods. The present is an era so different from the provincial period in which our ancestors lived, that the oft-heard comparison of "old times" and "old wages" with the present can no longer be maintained. The catalogue of expenditures is enlarged on every side, while the production of wealth and its distribution are wholly unlike anything in the past.

I believe that the coolest thinkers admit that there are important social and economic questions now de-