

**WHAT IS SOCIALISM: AN
EXPLANATION AND CRITICISM
OF
THE DOCTRINES AND PROPOSALS
OF "SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM"**

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What is socialism: an explanation and criticism of the doctrines and proposals of "scientific socialism" by James Edward Le Rossignol

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JAMES EDWARD LE ROSSIGNOL

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BY

JAMES EDWARD LE ROSSIGNOL

**Dean of the College of Business Administration, University of
Nebraska, Author of "State Socialism
in New Zealand," Etc.**

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TO
MY SISTER
ANNIE ELIZABETH LE ROSSIGNOL

PREFACE

The daring and dreadful experiments of the Russian Bolsheviks have called attention in a striking way to the fact that they, as professed followers of Karl Marx, are zealous adherents of "scientific" socialism, though not of the later, more evolutionary type. The revolution of November 7, 1917, was not a spontaneous uprising of the working class, but an insurrection carefully planned and executed by a group of conspirators who had long awaited an opportunity of putting their theories to the test on a gigantic scale.

Moreover, the leading socialists throughout the world, though for the most part evolutionists and anti-Bolshevist, are Marxists of one kind or another, and are watching, waiting and working for the social revolution. As their gospel makes a strong appeal to millions of people, it is a question of more than academic interest whether the Marxian theories are really scientific, or whether they are only sophistries masquerading in scientific garb.

Fortunately, the Marxian system arranges itself in a series of propositions which proceed in

logical order like the theorems of Euclid, and the writer has taken advantage of that to examine them one by one, and as closely related parts of a single whole. A considerable part of an earlier work, "Orthodox Socialism," now out of print, has been included in the present volume, though altogether revised and rewritten.

The writer desires to thank several of his friends and colleagues, especially Professors F. M. Fling, Guernsey Jones, Donald McFayden, G. O. Virtue, J. E. Kirshman, P. W. Ivey, T. T. Bullock, Mr. Leo Pasvolsky, Mr. J. A. Cejnar and Mr. Maurice Smith, for helpful criticism and suggestions.

J. E. LE ROSSIGNOL.

Lincoln, Nebraska,
August 25, 1921.

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