

THE LOGIC OF SOCIALISM

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The Logic of Socialism by August Claessens

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OF SOCIALISM**

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Harvard University
Department of Social Ethics

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BY
AUGUST CLAESSENS



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FOREWORD

THIS booklet was written in response to the many requests made by my students and sympathetic listeners attending my classes and lectures. It contains a series of articles illustrating certain phases of our economic and social system and its glaring contradictions.

In no sense should these articles be considered an addition to the multitudinous well written and scholarly works on Socialism. Rather do I hope my attempt herein to simplify the truths of the Socialist philosophy and program will in some degree meet the need of reaching the average mind.

In dedicating this little work to my comrade and wife, Hilda G. Claessens, I merely give expression to the fact that without her painstaking help my efforts both in speech and in writing would have fallen far short of the success attained.

AUGUST CLAESSENS.

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LOGIC

"Logic teaches us to reason well," writes Prof. W. S. Jevons. To reason well is to reason carefully, and to reason carefully is to reason scientifically. One of the serious obstacles to the acceleration of social progress is the neglect on the part of most people to exercise the brains they were born with. Whether it possesses great or limited capacity the average mind is capable of immense improvement through constant and careful use.

The first rule in proper thinking is to obtain the facts. After carefully ascertaining whether the facts in the case are truly facts, one should pick them to pieces in painstaking analysis and learn their relationship to other facts. A careful analysis of the facts in a problem leads one to understand its origin and causes. And a knowledge of the causes of a problem generally suggests the way of its solution. But first and foremost get the facts and then draw your own conclusions.

Books, articles and lectures should never be permitted to do the thinking for you. They should only furnish the facts and guide you to proper conclusions. Train your head to behave as your stomach behaves. What wonderful sense a stomach displays! No human stomach will retain food that some other fellow has digested. It would immediately vomit such a fare out of its territory with speed and dispatch. Our brains are less discriminating and tasteful in absorbing their food. The average man's mind has as little sense of selection as a garbage can.

The plague of our age is not illiteracy but the literacy of the masses. It enables their lazy minds to obtain with little effort the pre-digested knowledge and conclusions of our writers, editors and speakers. This is evidently the fact Buckle had in mind when he complained that the invention of the printing press and the increasing ability to read brought with it a greater general ignorance.