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EDITORIAL

## A COUPLE OF POST'S "POINTS" PUNCTURED.

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**I**T is difficult to criticize a man who advertizes his convictions in order to boom his wares and put profits into his pockets. It is instinctively felt that such convictions are ignoble and unworthy of notice, and that any criticism that may be made of them will only add to the wealth of the man entertaining them: one naturally objects to being the ladder upon which moral monstrosities and mountebanks climb to fortune. But it would be difficult to touch upon any of the affairs of capitalist society, were this view to prevail. So closely are profit and conviction cause and effect in all the affairs that concern "our" capitalists, that one cannot criticize the convictions of the latter without advertising the capitalists in a manner favorable to their interests. That the criticism may be of a condemnatory character is seldom an objection to the capitalists. So much is their prestige and success bound up in their notoriety (misnamed "renown", "distinction", etc., etc.), that they are not troubled with such fine scruples, provided the desired pecuniary results are attained. With these apologetic and introductory observations, we will now proceed to dissect a couple of "points" made against Socialism by that eminent advertiser of cereal convictions and foods, C.W. Post, in an address recently delivered before the National Manufacturers' Association.

"Point" one consists in asserting "the Socialist myth that 'physical labor created wealth' is exploded."

Of course, Mr. Post does not back up his alleged quotation by giving the name of the Socialist work from which it is purported to be taken. Mr. Post may deceive himself in palming off the creations of his imagination for quoted fact, but no intelligent person will be so taken in.

Socialism says that Labor, applied to land, produces all wealth. And when it

says Labor, it means modern co-operative and social labor. This comprises all degrees of MENTAL and MANUAL labor. Socialism realizes that to-day the production of wealth is performed by mammoth corporations and trusts, that are impossible of direction and operation by one man, or set of men, but depend for their success upon millions of hired executive, technical, clerical and mechanical workers of various degrees of skill and ability. So realizing, Socialism contends that the wealth so produced belongs to the millions engaged in producing it, and not to the few capitalists who have acquired control of the agencies of wealth production by the robbery of these millions of workers through the profit and wages system of Capitalism. Is there anything mythical about that? If there is, then truth is mythical, and so are morality and justice!

"Point" two is that "physical labor does not create; it can only execute. Mind is the only creator and it uses physical or material tools to carry out and express in material its creations."

This is amusing. It recalls those meta-physicians who contend that the mind is independent of the body; whereas both are interdependent. Is there such a thing as physical labor without mind in the physical laborer's body? Can a man drive a pick into the ground without the directing force of his mind, with its storehouses of experience and "knack"? Can physical labor "execute" a house, while it leaves its brains at home and depends solely on the creative mind external to it? Have not some of the greatest constructive and inventive geniuses sprung from the lowest ranks of physical labor? There can be no labor without the co-ordination of brawn and brain in the same body, and in the division of labor. They must be co-operative. Why should not then the results of their labor and the ownership of the means of labor produced by them, be likewise?

This derision of physical labor, one of the most essential factors in civilization, to the glorification of the great mental labor of the capitalist (who hires all of it he needs, according to the laws of supply and demand), is a vain attempt to divide labor and thereby maintain the capitalist ownership of the wealth stolen from Labor. But it won't help the capitalists. The workers are beginning to see the fallacy of such meta-physics. Post's use of his convictions as advertising matter will be found more profitable in the long run.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.

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