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In view of the fact that some confusion arose in the class regard-
the meaning of the word "productive laborer", it would be advisable to
quote briefly from the unpublished 6th Chapter of Marx's Capital (Archives
II (VII), p.127):

"Just as the direct aim and peculiar product of capitalist
production is surplus value and only he who applies his capacity of
labor is a productive worker who produces directly surplus value; conse-
quently, it is only that labor which is utilized in the process of
production for the augmentation of the value of capital."

So anxious is Marx to give the word, productive labor, the type of
connotation which, in a capitalist society, would tie it up, with value
production, that he goes so far as to say (p.147, Archives):

"The capita-
ist, as representative of capital, finding itself in the process of aug-
mentation of its value--of the productive capital--executes a productive
function which consists precisely in order to direct and exploit product-
ive labor. In contradistinction to other co-participants in the use of
surplus value who do not find themselves in such a direct and active
relation to their production, that class is a productive class per se.
ence."

No one in this class has to be propagandized on the fact
that the capitalist, any more than the pope or the poet laureate, is
a worker, much less a productive one, but lives off the surplus value
extracted from the workers he exploits. All the more significant there-
fore is the above use of "productive class" in stressing value production.
As Marx explains in Vol. III of Capital, p.455, the capitalist's "wages"
is equal to the surplus value he gets from his productive laborers:

"Compared to the money-capitalist the industrial capitalist
is a laborer, but a laboring capitalist, an exploiter of the labor of
others. The wages which he uses and pockets for this labor amount
exactly to the appropriated quantity of another's labor and depend
directly upon the rate of exploitation of this labor, so far as he takes
the trouble to assume the necessary burdens of exploitation. They do
depend upon the degree of his exertions in carrying on this exploitation."

It would therefore be apropos to look into Vol. III, Ch. V
"The Expenses of Circulation" in order to know which laborers create
value and which do not, and for this reason the following is
of this chapter follows:

1. The Time and Purchase of Sale

p.148: Conversion of a commodity costs time and labor power
not for the purpose of creating values, but in order to accomplish
the conversion of value from one form to another/The mutual attempt
to appropriate an extra share of this value, changes nothing fundamental.
This work, increased by the evil designs on either side, does not create
value any more than the work done in a civil process increases the value
of the object of contention. If the expenses of commodities are not
capitalists, but direct producers, the time required for buying and
selling is so much less of labor time, and for this reason such transac-
tions were deferred in ancient and medieval times to holiday.

(Note phrase: "loss of labor time")

p.149: For the capitalist who has others working for him, selling and buying become primary functions....But still neither the sale nor the purchase create any values. An illusion is here created by the function of merchant's capital....If a function, which is unproductive in itself, although a necessary link in reprod., is transformed by a division of labor from an incidental occupation of many into an exclusive function of a few, the character of this function is not changed thereby. One merchant, as an agent promoting the transformation of commodities by assuming the role of a mere buyer and seller, may abbreviate by his operations the time of sale & purchase for many producers. To that extent he may be regarded as a machine which reduces expenditure of energy or helps to set free some time of production.

(Note particularly expression: "machine which helps to set free some time of production.")

2/Bookkeeping

p.152, footnote: but production and bookkeeping for production remain as much two different things, as a cargo of a ship and the way-bill. the person of the bookkeeper, a part of the labor-power of the community is withdrawn from production and the cost of his function is not reproduced by his own labor, but by a deduction from the communal product.

(What is extremely important in the above is "The cost of his function is not reproduced by his own labor, but by a deduction from the communal product." Because Marx sticks so close to the production process, and the whole of Volume I concerns itself with the strict process of production, it seemed possible to be able to avoid unnecessary (unnecessary to Vol.I that is) discussion of non-productive labor and simply keep in mind that when he talks of productive labor, we are all the time in the process of production, of capitalist production, which means value production.)

3.Money

Commodities performing the function of money do not enter either into production or into individual consumption. They represent social labor time in which it may serve as a mere machine in circulation.

p.154: Expenses of circulation which are due to a mere change of form in circulation, ideally speaking, do not enter into the value of the commodities....Not so the expenses of circulation which we shall consider now. They may arise from the process of production which are continued only in circulation, the productive character of which is merely concealed by the form of the circulation....In other words, expenses which increase the price of a commodity without adding anything to its value, which therefore are dead expenses so far as society is concerned, may be a source of profit for the individual capitalist. On the other hand, in so far as the addition to the price of commodities merely distributes the expenses of circulation equally, the unproductive character of this expenditure is not changed.

Value of commodities in this case is maintained (increased) because the use-value, i.e. the product itself is subjected to operations which permit of additional labor influencing that use-value (whereas bookkeeping, buying & selling do not influence the use-value).

III. Expenses of Storage

Likewise with transportation. Aggregates of products do not increase through being transported. But the use-value of things is realized only in their consumption & their consumption may render a displacement necessary. Transport thus completes the process of production.

exists only where the means of labor and the external conditions of labour belong to private individuals. But according as these private individuals are laborer or not laborers, private property has a different character....

"That which is now to be expropriated is no longer the labourer working for himself, but the capitalist exploiting many laborers. This expropriation is accomplished by the action of the immanent laws of capitalist production itself, by the centralization of capital. One capitalist always kills many. Hand in hand with this centralization, or this expropriation of many capitalists by few, develops, on an ever extending scale, the cooperative form of the labor-process, the conscious technical application of science, the methodical cultivation of the soil, the transformation of the instruments of labor into instruments of labor only usable in common, the economizing of all means of production by their use as the means of production of combined, socialized labor, the entanglement of all peoples in the net of the world-market, and this, the international character of the capitalistic regime. Along with the constantly diminishing number of magnates of capital, who usurp and monopolize all advantages of this process of transformation, grows the mass of misery, oppression, slavery, degradation, exploitation; but with this too grows the revolt of the working-class, a class always increasing in numbers, and disciplined, united, organized by the very mechanism of ~~that~~ the process of capitalist production itself. The monopoly of capital becomes a fetter upon the mode of production, which has sprung up and flourished along with, and under it. Centralization of the means of production and socialization of labor at least reach a point where they become incompatible with their capitalist integument. This integument is burst asunder. The knell of capitalist private property sounds. The expropriators are expropriated."

Marx's final chapter, The Modern Theory of Colonization, in which he brings us back to the capitalist society in which we still live, reveals how all economic categories are really social categories. Hence, as Marxists we speak not of things, such as machines, but of relations of production. Marx uses the story of E.G. Wakefield to show how this capitalist has discovered in the colonies the truth as to the conditions of capitalist production: (p. 339)

"First of all Wakefield discovered that in the Colonies property in money, means of subsistence, machines and other means of production, does not stamp a man as a capitalist if there be wanting the correlative-- the wage-workers, the other man who is compelled to sell himself of his own free will. He discovered that capital is not a thing, but a social relation between persons, established by the instrumentality of things."