tables of income distributions for those countries read almost identically like those of the U. S. At the top end of the scale we find one or two percent reporting some ten percent of the total income, with the inverse relationship prevailing at the bottom end. A progressively scaled income tax supposedly rectifies this imbalance somewhat, but since "income tax presupposes the different social classes, hence capitalist society" (Marx: the Gotha Program), anything of a socialist nature in a progressively-scaled income tax is nothing more than an illusion.

In the years following the depression, the demand for workers has remained high, especially for skilled, educated workers. Even so, unemployment has never been eliminated among the unskilled laborers. And now, increasing competition in the world markets is definitely intensifying the unemployment problem.

There are severe housing shortages in all four Scandinavian countries. Did someone say that at least there are no slums? Official estimates of the number of buildings unfit for habitation run from five to ten percent. All this, of course, does not inhibit these governments from setting aside one-third of their budgets for defense.

The atmosphere generated by the multitude of laws, regulations, and licenses is nearly stifling. A restless youth sees nothing but a life of wage-slavery ahead of it and keep delinquency rates on the rise. The alcohol problem has to be "solved" by taxing beverages out of reach (so now the poor working man isn't even able to drown his frustrations at the corner tavern). Suicide rates are among the highest in the world.

No, there is no workers' paradise in Scandinavia; there are no lengthy immigration lists. The workers work hard — they receive pitifully little in return.

IN CONCLUSION

We should once more call attention to the important factors that must be borne in mind in attempting to understand both past and future economic developments in the Scandinavian countries:

(1). There was a delayed development of capitalism; capital has always been scarce. In present times their proximity to Russia still discourages investment. (2). They lack mineral wealth, and are heavily dependent on foreign trade. (3). Their great insecurity among the world of nations has generated something of a feeling of solidarity, at least on the national level, among these peoples.

What do the Scandinavian workers have to look forward to? Seemingly very little else but still greater insecurity, still harder work, and still fewer rewards. Their only hope, as is the case with all the workers of the world, is to turn to socialism — genuine socialism — to demand a system of society in which everyone will have access to whatsoever they need. When they have done that, the incredible absurdities of capitalism will themselves take their place at the side of fairy tales and folklore.

R. M. R.

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THE SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY

The dean of American radical political parties, the Socialist Labor Party, was organized in 1876, although in its early years its attitudes and policies were quite different from those developed at the turn of the century. It was, originally, a pure and simple political party advocating social reform in the manner of the European Social Democratic Parties.

From 1892, in which year Daniel De Leon was elected Editor of **The People,** the Party began to evolve an anti-reform position and a new attitude toward labor union organization and its relationship to the socialist movement. By 1905 the Socialist Labor Party had become a dualistic organization, proclaiming that the workers throughout industry must organize into a "revolutionary socialist industrial union," on the one hand, and the political Socialist Labor Party on the other. Although the attitude was always expressed that the organizations are inseparable and that if either were missing, the movement would become lop-sided — "like a duck trying to fly with one wing," the earlier emphasis by De Leon was on the industrial arm, the means by which the victorious socialist working class would be enabled, according to him, to back up its victory at the polls.

In fact, so much more emphasis did De Leon place on the industrial union that in 1905, at the first convention of the **Industrial Workers of the World** at which he was a delegate, the published **Proceedings** quotes him as follows:

"The situation in America...establishes the fact that the 'taking and holding' of the things that labor needs to be free can never depend upon a political party. (Applause). If anything is clear in the American situation it is this: That if any individual is elected to office upon a revolutionary ballot, that individual is a suspicious character. (Applause). Whoever is returned elected to office on a program of labor emancipation; whoever is allowed to be filtered through by the political election inspectors of the capitalist class — that man is a carefully selected tool, a traitor of the working people, selected by the capitalist class. (Applause). (New York Labor News Company, p. 226).

Since the New York Labor News Company is owned by the Socialist Labor Party we take it that the foregoing is stated correctly. It would be interesting, indeed, to know if any of the Socialist Labor Party candidates for elective office in the intervening years have ever repudiated their beloved leader on this point.

THE "FLASH OF GENIUS"

As expressed in its **Socialist Study Course:**

"With a flash of genius De Leon perceived in the Chicago gathering (I.W.W. Convention) the real foundation of the parliament of labor, the Socialist INDUSTRIAL Government of the future. Two days after the adjournment of that convention, in his Minneapolis speech on the Preamble of the I.W.W. ("Socialist Reconstruction of Society") he pronounced his complete theory of Industrial Union Government — the industrial vote taking the place of the political vote and *where the executive board of the Industrial Union sits, there sits the government of the nation.*" (p. 19). (emphasis theirs).

And no doubt anticipating a possible immediate objection, the paragraph concludes:

"That the I.W.W. went to seed, unable through internal dry rot to fulfill the mission it so well started has, of course, no effect on the soundness of the theory."

In the fifty seven odd years that followed the announcement of this "startling" discovery, neither Daniel De Leon nor the Party spokesmen who followed him have been able to see the glaring contradictions of their theory. The organization of workers into industrial unions — notwithstanding the label "socialist" — does not unite them but continues to divide them. Furthermore, any type of union under capitalism MUST organize all who