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EDITORIAL

“SOCIAL SERVICE” AND THE FAMILY.

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IT is not all gold that glitters. Nor do those who appear to serve society render social service. Tinsel abounds, and the devil often clothes himself in the garb of religion and preaches sacrifice to further his own ends. These observations are provoked by a recent publication issued by an organization in this country called “Social Service.” This society, formed of capitalists and headed by a clergyman, declares its aim to be to combat selfishness by cultivating a desire to serve society. Its real purpose is the insidious development of capitalist paternalism. This is evidenced by its sale of information furthering the spread of the so-called “workers’ betterment” schemes that increase the economic control of the employer, while, at the same time, increasing the usefulness and the dependence of the employe. The recent publication referred to offers abundant evidence on this head. It is the press sheet of the May number of *Social Service*, the official magazine of the society. The following is clipped therefrom:

“THE NURSERY OF A RUSSIAN FACTORY.”

“Interesting and complete is the study of working people in a great Russian factory told in May *Social Service* by Vladimir F. Gnesin, a Russian electrical engineer. He tells how the great mills were founded in 1722 by Peter the Great, and how they have grown larger and larger from that time until now, when 14,000 people are employed. Among the great number of interesting things which the writer tells us concerning efforts made for the benefits of working people in this factory, he says, regarding the Nursery:

“When the parents go to work they are compelled to leave the care of their children to nurses, chiefly old women or little girls. Such care consequently causes many cases of sickness among children. In consideration of this and in order to provide for the proper care of the children of the peasant parents, the company has established a nursery where every child brought in is washed, clothed in clean clothes and fed. This establishment, besides being a direct force for good, has also the

advantage that it establishes among the mothers proper principles for caring for their children. It must be added that these mothers who have nursing infants are at any time allowed to go from their work to nurse their children, which undoubtedly is a great factor in the preservation of the health of the children.”

The *Communist Manifesto* vigorously, because truthfully, proclaims that:

“The bourgeoisie has stripped of its halo every occupation hitherto honored and looked up to with reverent awe. It has converted the physician, the lawyer, the priest, the poet, the man of science, into its paid wage laborers.

“The bourgeoisie has torn from the family its sentimental veil, and has reduced the family relation to a mere money relation.”

Social Service, in its advocacy of capitalist paternalism, under the guise of promoting the welfare of all, has made this plain once more. At the same time *Social Service* has exposed its real aim.

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

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