

American Capitalists Live in Luxury

By GEORGE PADMORE.

There has never been a president of the United States who has been so fond of boasting about the prosperity which the capitalists enjoy as Mr. Coolidge. This gentleman, who owes his position as chief executive of the most powerful and richest nation in the world to the servile way in which he serves the interests of the American bourgeoisie, can well prate about the great wealth which the owning class of America controls.

There is no doubt about it. America is the banker of the world, due largely to the last war when the workers fought and the exploiters remained at home and fattened on war-time production. A partial examination of this idle chatter of the president reveals the fact that when Coolidge talks about prosperity he means the prosperity of the bankers, industrial capitalists and corrupt politicians. True, there is prosperity in America for the Mellons, Rockefellers, Fords, Schwabs, Hoovers, Al Smiths, Raskobs, du Ponts, etc., etc. But there is not even the full dinner pail for the workers, poor farmers and the oppressed Negro race. Whatever little these groups once enjoyed is today a thing of the past.

In this age of trust, monopoly, syndicates and cartels, the middle class of America is fast disappearing into the ranks of the proletariat,

Coolidge "Prosperity" Applies Only to the Exploiting Class; How Other Half Lives

which grows bigger and bigger under the oppressive weight of big business. Marx was truly right when he said: "In proportion as the bourgeoisie is developed, in the same proportion is developed the proletariat, the class of modern workers who live only so long as they find work, and who only find work as long as their work increases capital."

How Capitalists Live.

In order to illustrate how utterly false and bankrupt this swan song of Coolidge prosperity, as far as the workers are concerned, we publish a partial list of the report of the Park Avenue Association which should be compared by American workers who are today confronted with one of the most acute economic depressions in the history of the nation.

"The most characteristic example of American luxury may be found in the record of expenditures on Park Avenue, New York City, as estimated and officially stated by H. Gordon Duval, late president of the Park Avenue Association, published in the New York Times and World, Jan. 28 of last year.

"The 4,000 families who live on this avenue between 34th St. and 96th St. spend a total of \$280,000,000 or \$70,000 per family during the year. They spend for women's clothing \$50,000,000 a year, or \$192,000 a day; for liquor, according to the reporter, \$15,000,000. They spend \$26,922 a day for yachts, \$11,538 a day for flowers. A father spends \$25,000 for a single debutante daughter. The women and girls in this section on average each spend yearly \$6,250 for clothing, \$2,000 for furs, \$500 each in beauty shops, \$900 for hats. The paltry five millions that these four thousand families give to "charity" is only one-tenth of what the women spend on clothing alone. And a large proportion of these people are professing Christians."

"The following is a partial list of their yearly expenditures:

Women's wear.....	\$50,000,000
Rent	18,000,000
Furs	16,000,000
Traveling	15,000,000
Art Galleries	15,000,000
Restaurants	10,000,000
Automobiles	10,000,000

Millinery	7,000,000
Yachts	7,000,000
Amusements	5,000,000
Beauty Shops	4,000,000
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Total for 4,000 families	\$280,000,000

"The Other Half."

On the other hand, there are over five millions of able bodied men and women walking the streets of "prosperous" America—the paradise of the capitalist class—the hell-hole of the workers, who are willing to work, but are unable to get employment. Thousands of working class families merely live above the starvation margin. Women and children are driven into industry. Homes are broken up; family life disintegrated.

It is estimated that there are over 25,000 fatal accidents in industry yearly, not including more than 2,000,000 daily disability. Of the 28 million children between the ages of 5 and 18 in America today only 16 millions are regularly at school, while 12,000,000 are compelled to go to work to help the family income. There are more than 8 million persons over 10 years of age who can neither read nor write and it is estimated among conservative educators that only one child out of every 60 gets a chance to attend high school or college, and this opportunity, when it presents itself is either for

organize the masses for the struggle which will end when the workers and poor farmers of this country overthrow the robber system and set up a Workers' and Farmers' Government.

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I C. PENNY, the department store magnate, is for Hoover. Penny is a democrat. Now, what we would like to know is: who is Robert Dollar going to support? This does not look like an election campaign, but a tit for tat game.

Tom O'Flaherty

the sons of the rich or petty-bourgeoisie.

In the face of these facts, it is no wonder that the class struggle is growing sharper and sharper daily. Hundreds of thousands of coal miners have recently been betrayed by the fake leadership of men like John L. Lewis, Bill Green and Matthew Woll. Over 30,000 textile workers are putting up a heroic struggle against their bosses and in the face of police terrorism, to avoid a ten per cent cut in their starvation wages; bread lines begin to increase as the winter season approaches; and starvation and grim poverty stalks the land from coast to coast. This is the lot of the American workers, the producers of wealth and plenty for the capitalist parasites.

Truly, what America needs is a revolution.