Woman and the Social Problem.

By "EZNUK."

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When read please pass on.
Woman
And the Social Problem.

By "Femin," of the B.D.V.

SOME American writer has said, "Women are the great half army of Socialism." The Vanguard gathering and its membership contend that statement. Woman's natural sympathy for human suffering, her great concern in the well-being and the future of the children is a power that must add strength to the Socialist movement the world over.

Here in Australia we will share by possessing equal political voice with men. To direct this new form of democracy into the channels of social justice is an object well worthy of the best efforts of Socialists, who from the inception of the women's movement have fought in their behalf recognizing that her emancipation, as
that all of who labor is possible only by the realization of economic freedom without which political equality is but a dream. Women's participation so much for strength is lived, and it is the cause of her social and mental enslavement. And so with all labor. The lost, the instrument of and machinery of production and exchange is the factor by the use of which men we can satisfy our needs and wants under the present state of civilization. While there is the monopoly of a small section, the remainder of the community must pay tribute to them, and are practically the slaves of the monopolists. Once men and women learn this truth, which is brought home to us clearer yearly yet, as wealth is being concentrated into fewer and fewer hands, our social as well as our political freedom will be endangered. As all who are thoughtful of the future for the children, all who seek to secure for them a chance for the free development of their lives, must join hands
with those who are working to bring about social justice. In Scotland alone in large for us and the children.

The problem we have in fact to be

ordained给他 first by a few questions from a

ed on social questions. Referring to

involves upheaval, the war be

tween capital and labor, the strike,

locks, and suit disputes that are rages throughout the United States, causing widespread misery and disad

vantage, he says:—"It is done for necessity in its own interest to consider the cures of titleholders name of affluence, and to find and apply the remedy."

"What is this war about?" he asks.

"If you had been alive 150 years ago and some prophet had told you that in the year 1900 one man could by means of machinery do the work of thirteen—working an average for all trades and industries—what would you have said? Would you not have ex-claimed, 'Why, does people will only-
have in work on-thirteen as much as they do now, and with one or two hours' work a day they will have all the sitting imaginable. Well, in day one man and six men in fifteen could in 1590. The wealth of the world has increased enormously. In this country, especially, it is increasing so fast and so rapidly.

There has been nothing-made wealth gone! Look around you and see! One per cent of the families in this country earn more than half of the wealth. There are several hundred-thousand ironworkers in New York City alone. Forty years ago there were but a few in the country. There are no tramps in these days, and very little talk of the unemployed. Now we have a rapidly-growing army of paupers.

It seems as if some time ago which accelerated the progress of industry in a startling way. In it they modernized their ideas. There were 600 machines, and each machine made a complete work by itself in five
It begins at the stake, making the rope in the stake. At the back is another stake, where thread is again taken in. Then it is cut, tied, and tied down, and connected another. There was already near the machine during the operation. In fact, when I came into the room, which contained 100 similar machines, I was no one at all. Finally, in the station, I saw the head of a small boy, and then another. There were two boys in the room, and each worked 20 machines. All they had was to take out and draw, and then insert thread when the spools were exhausted, and insert any linen in the machine. In this factory we have 10,000 spools (of cotton) and 5000 (of worsted) per week. At the end of 5000 people, one man. In most factories as the wheel is discharged at the age of 30 or so. What shall we do with the man?

"Meanwhile, what shall we do with our 10,000 broken pairs of socks every..."
Lay, with no workmen to wear them, or—what amounts to the same thing—with no money to buy them.

As a further illustration of how the present system of production for profit instead of for use is affecting men and women alike, let me quote the following excerpt from the daily press:

"In Jersey City the American Cigar Trust opened their fourth factory last week after closing down a smaller concern. In answer to the notice 'Girls Wanted,' 400 men and boys flocked to the entrance of the works. On the other side of the crowd were 500 girls. The men shouted and clamored for work, shouting that they could do anything the girls could do and would do it just as cheap. They were told that the girls were wanted, but they continued to blockade the place and above the girls sat the manager who telephoned to police headquarters and had them driven away. It is the intention of the Trust to employ 3000 girls in their new works. The work is of light charac-
ter, and only one man to each 100 girls will be employed. The Trust will manufacture at cheaper grade cigars by means of machines, and expects to have them perfected to handle the better grades as well.

Although here in Australia industrial conditions have as yet not reached an acute state as here depicted, the beginning is surely with us. Financial kings have already assumed control of our natural resources and some of our primary industries. The question of what shall we do with our boys and girls is of serious importance to fathers and mothers.

The results of this planless system of competition, and the private ownership of land and the means of production, made itself felt with us in '93, and another “depression” is already making itself felt.

Do not women suffer even more than men in these periodical “cries”? Think of the stress and anxiety of a mother when the breadwinner has been cut out of work for weeks and months.
ink of her care and sorrows, when
her little ones feeling for ways of
upper food, and the little buds, that
in ten years of careful manage-
ment and saving to acquire, policy
ary, as article by article is sold
keep the vast wall of hunger from
a door. Are these social problems
in no concern to womes? Is
a consideration of these questions
made of the "woman's sphere,"
Arch politicians and others are so
fit to grate about?

And what is to be the lot of the
poor girls who, perhaps fatherless
of mothers, have to depend on
their door for a living, and are
nough ''slackness of trade'' cost to
in stress?

Marriage is yearly decreasing
ing to the uncertainty of finding
and the dread of poverty with all
available resources. It is the prod-
remedies that force men and womes
in competition with each other to
raise employment, without which
they cannot live. Labor-saving in
cventions are succeeding both. The
mass of the people are becoming
poorer, whilst the few manipulations
of the machinery of labor are alien-
ing millions upon millions.
Will it help either men or women,
to fight amongst themselves for the
moral basis left to them, or would it be
wiser and better for them and the
children to unite in the cause of social
progress, and by enlisting social
justice, make a fever and noble life
possible to all?

How is it possible to do this? It is
clear it must be done by our united
efforts. Therefore we must learn
to understand the drift of social
events, and then by our united votes
we will be able to demand from the
legislature of the nation a solution of
the social problem. The chances of
individual escape from this degrading
struggle for a livelihood are for
diminishing going to the same
condition of the means of
into the hands of a few

The intimate of men and women, employed and unemployed, the man behind the pick and pan, the tellers in the bank, the book, and the factory are age, and their salvation in the system of the insane of living, the hand and the instruments of production. The progress of the age, made possible only through the work of all, will then become a blessing to mankind.