

Socialism Restated: by Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Webb

Economics.

The object of these lectures is to explain what Socialism Means, and to describe the principal changes brought about by thirty years' experiment and discussion

The Lectures will be given at King's Hall, King Street, Covent Garden, on Tuesdays at 8.30 p.m., beginning on October 28th, 1913. They will be presided over by six representative Socialists, namely, Mons. Jaures, Leader of the Socialist Parliamentary Party of France; Mr. Bernard Shaw; Mons. Emile Vandervelde, Leader of the Belgian Socialist Party; the Rev. R. J. Campbell; Dr. Frank, Member of the Social Democratic Party in the German Reichstag; and Mr. Granville Barker. MM. Jaures and Vandervelde will speak in French, and Dr. Frank in English.

I.

Tuesday, October 28th, at 8.30 p.m.

Chairman: MR. BERNARD SHAW.

Lecturer: MR. SIDNEY WEBB.

Economics.

Socialism means "the Wealth of Nations," in the strictest sense; that is, an intelligent application of our productive powers to the maintenance of life of the whole people—at present our productive powers are quite otherwise applied, with disastrous results—The Socialist Indictment of the Capitalist System now verified by experience and authoritatively accepted—No defender of the Status Quo can "dodge the Law of Rent"—Successive revisions of Socialist Theory—The Right to the Full Produce of Labour ("The Self-Governing Workshop")—The Marxian Exposition of Surplus Value, and its dynamic effect—How far did this ignore the desires of the Consumer?—Practical Applications of Collectivism in State and Municipal Ownership—How far does this (and with it the Co-operative Movement) ignore the needs and impair the freedom of the Producer?—The validity in Syndicalism and its exaggerations—The Policy of the National Minimum—The Appropriation of the Surplus (or "Rent") to common purposes—The intelligent application of the nation's production to the nation's needs demands a "Balance of Interests"—The necessary Co-partnership between the People organised as Producers and the People organised as Citizens and Consumers—The treatment of Property—Not abolition but transformation—The gradual shiftings of jurisdiction—Changes of theory with regard to Compensation—How this takes practical shape.

II.

Tuesday, November 4th, at 8.30 p.m.

Chairman : DR. FRANK, Member of the Social Democratic Party in the German Reichstag.

Lecturer : MRS. SIDNEY WEBB.

Equality.

Socialism means all the Equality that is Practicable—Disastrous results of Inequality—The consciousness of equality essential to the willing co-operation of Free Men—Equality does not imply identity or uniformity—Differences in consumption of infant, child, nursing mother, invalid, various kinds of producers and professionals—Methods of equalisation—Equality of money incomes (“The most important part of individual freedom is the control of production given by individual purchasing power”—Bernard Shaw)—Rival method of Communism (“To each according to his needs”)—An intermediate method : individual choice among commodities and services deliberately priced above or below cost—Practical experience of each of the three methods : (a) equality of salaries within each grade of Army, Navy, and Civil Service ; equality of salaries of missionaries, and of Wesleyan Methodist Ministers ; (b) adoption of Communism in roads, bridges, elementary schools, and infectious disease hospitals ; (c) the underpriced service of secondary education ; overpriced services in Scandinavian liquor selling, municipal gas and tramway profits, etc.—Special allowances for special functions—How far are we to be guided by (I) personal tastes, (II) scientifically ascertained requirements for the fulfilment of function—Probable combination of all methods in obtaining the consciousness of equality that is an essential of good manners—“Manners maketh man.”

III.

Tuesday, November 11th, at 8.30 p.m.

Chairman: **MONS. JAURES**, Leader of the Socialist
Parliamentary Party of France.

Lecturer: **MR. SIDNEY WEBB**.

Politics.

Socialism means Democracy: that is, the diffusion among the whole people of Participation in Power and Consciousness of Consent—The world's experience of Political Democracy—Socialism extends it from merely Police Government to the Control of Industry—How are we to secure the "Balance of Interests?"—Organisation by Associations of Consumers (State and Municipal Ownership, and the Co-operative Store and Wholesale)—Organisation by Producers in Vocational Associations (Trade Unionism)—Adjustment of Conditions by negotiation between these two organisations of the same people—Relation of Central and Local Government—The Problem of areas and how we may solve it—Spheres of Compulsory and Voluntary Co-operation—Evils of Bureaucracy and how we may avoid them—Fourfold function of the "Official": a skilled executant (teacher or doctor), the agent for the manual working producers (Trade Union secretary, miner's checkweighman), the agent for the consumers (Municipal tramway manager), or a scientific adviser (chemist or mining expert)—Control of Officials by Elected Representatives—Control of Representatives by Citizens—The Place of Direct Legislation (Referendum, Initiative, and Recall)—How are we to combine Knowledge and Popular Control, the fulfilment of the Consumer's Desires and Freedom for the Producer—The Probable Outline (according to the wisdom of to-day) of the State of To-morrow.

IV.

Tuesday, November 18th, at 8.30 p.m.

Chairman: MR. GRANVILLE BARKER.

Lecturer: MRS. SIDNEY WEBB.

Woman.

Socialism means the Emancipation of Women, economic, social, and political—Present state of "Arrested Development"—Result of making Woman's livelihood dependent on particular personal relationship—Eastern Zenana and the Western Household—The mercenary marriage, disorderly idleness of the female—"jeunesse dorée," disparagement of motherhood, decline in the birthrate, dark shadow of "social evil"—The million "surplus women" in United Kingdom—Increase of independent woman wage earners—rapid development of independent women brainworkers (typist, stenographer, cashier, teacher, nurse, public official, doctor, etc.)—Transformation of modern government from police to national housekeeping compels enlistment of women in public service—Need for women as electors, officials, representatives, legislators, commissioners, jury members and judges—"To each human being, its own voluntary specialisation in social service"—Socialist view of relative social values of child-rearing mother and gun-carrying soldier—Progress of Political Emancipation throughout the World, and its results—Economic subjection still remains—How can we secure to the woman the economic independence that we demand for the workman—Adolescent and the unmarried adult—Married woman in charge of household—The Mother—In the Socialist State Marriage will include an equal partnership in social service.

V.

Tuesday, November 25th, at 8.30 p.m.

Chairman: MONS. EMILE VANDERVELDE, Leader of
the Belgian Socialist Party.

Lecturer: MR. SIDNEY WEBB.

WOMAN

Empire. Socialism means the
and political—Present state of “Arrested Development”—Result
Socialism means an organised Internationalism, rooted in
Autonomous Nationalities; with a Collective Guardianship of
the Non-Adult Races—Explanation of the unswerving “inter-
nationalism” of Socialism—Our real community of interest with
other peoples vastly transcends the points of difference—The
“Great Illusion” of Aggression—The development of International
Conventions, Arbitration, and Police—The “United States of the
World”—Socialism is also the stubborn upholder of Nationalism
and of national defence against aggression—Local Autonomy as
the basis of Freedom—But “particularism” fetters self-develop-
ment—The Socialist conception of Empire is not domination but
a Democratic federal hierarchy, based on Local Self-Government
—The Eight Great Powers of the World—Their responsibility for
the whole earth—Putumayo only the latest instance of the Bank-
ruptcy of Individualism with regard to the weak—The need for
a Collective Guardianship of the Non-Adult Races—The Socialist
View of the British Empire—Not a “heritage” of the Anglo-
Saxon race—Something more than a “Britannic Alliance”—
There is an “Imperialism” which is a national duty, to be
discharged with integrity—The fundamental axioms of Colonial
Policy—The Socialist Policy with regard to India

VI.

Tuesday, December 2nd, at 8.30 p.m.

Chairman: REV. R. J. CAMPBELL.

Lecturer: MRS. SIDNEY WEBB.

Science and Religion.

Socialism means application of the scientific method to industrial and political organisation—Philosopher's objection: events cannot be foreseen with sufficient precision to permit social science—Objection of revolutionary; popular upheavals without science will lead to social reconstruction—Practical administration based on prevision: post office, railway companies, Factory Act; successful administration of organ of Syndicalism, Trade, or Industrial Union—Use of scientific method implied in all human co-operation—Limits to prevision; advent of genius: unforeseeable facts of physical universe—Scientific method does not provide Ideal or Purpose, but only process by which the Ideal may be achieved—In asking for a Purpose of Life, face to face with admitted "bankruptcy of science."

Socialism implies choice of Ideal for the Life of Humanity—Socialist selects as spring of action Motive of Social Service (or Love)—Aims at world in which this motive will be dominant—The Socialist Ideal is rooted in mysticism—Alienation of Continental Socialism from Religion due to fateful embrace by the Church of Capitalism and Political Autocracy, and sanction of Motive of Pecuniary Self-Interest—Experience shows that the Motive of Love is strengthened and extended by contemplation, meditation, and prayer, which is religion—The Church of the People in the Socialist State.

Tuesday, December 2nd, at 8.30 p.m.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

At the close of each lecture, answers will be given by the lecturer to any questions on the subject put from the audience, either handed up in writing or asked orally.

There will be a Book Stall in the Entrance Hall, at which a large collection of books and pamphlets, dealing with most of the subjects referred to by the lecturers, and including both propagandist and scientific works, will be on sale from one penny upwards.

ADMISSION.

Admission will be by ticket, for the course or for each lecture separately, to be obtained of W. Stephen Sanders, Fabian Society, 3, Clements Inn, Strand, London. As *the accommodation is limited, preference will be given to applicants for tickets for the whole course.* Applicants for single tickets will therefore be reserved until October 22nd, when the remaining seats will be allotted according to priority of application.

PRICE OF TICKETS.

Numbered and reserved stalls, one guinea for the course of six, or five shillings for a single lecture. Back and gallery seats (numbered), half a guinea for the course of six, or two shillings and sixpence for a single lecture. There will be a few unnumbered seats, price five shillings for the course, or (without guarantee of a seat) one shilling for any one lecture.

The whole of the receipts, after paying for the hall, printing and postage, will be devoted to the educational and research work of the Fabian Society, particulars of which may be obtained from the Secretary, 3, Clements Inn, Strand, London, W.C.