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EDITORIAL

THE REAL UTOPIANS.

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ARCHBISHOP Ireland, in an interview at St. Paul, Minn., calculated to safeguard modern institutions, said of the present time, "It is a day of Utopias." This is a true statement, but to none does it apply so forcibly as to the Irelands and their scheme of preventing social evolution in the interests of private ownership. It is the crassest Utopia to believe that, evolution having developed a social form of production and distribution, it can be arrested and prevented from continuing to its logical conclusion—social ownership—on the mere preachments of a reactionary pulpit and press for the benefit of a plutocratic capitalist class. Society, ever reflecting the material conditions which form its basis, is groping out blindly in this direction, with increasing clearness of perception; and no factor is pushing it on with such irresistible force as is private ownership. In the preservation of this institution, production and distribution is buttressed with ever larger capital, first on a national, later on an international scale. To the Japanese national promotion of industry is added the Standard Oil plea for national protection; all for the purpose of making capital not only co-extensive with national but also international needs and competition. This increase in the bulk of capital employed in industry and commerce, will mean an increase in the confiscation of middle class property, such as is now witnessed in Utah, and in the exploitation of labor, as in the case of the South African coolies; all of which will find expression in an ever more voluminous and stronger demand for the overthrow of private ownership. In the face of such obvious tendencies, who but Utopians of the Ireland-capitalist type would waste effort trying to turn back the tide of evolution and preserve the status quo? The real Utopians are not the opponents of the present

system but those who defend it for capitalism.

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