

## MATERIALIST'S COLUMN

REPLY TO REV. MR. PHELPS

By Olin J. Ross

In The Journal of February 26th Mr. Phelps, among other things, alleges that Huxley says that it is impossible to prove that any organ, however rudimentary, is useless, and then proceeds to cut a few triumphant monkey shins, as it were. As Huxley spent most of his life on the other side from this "hypothesis of direct creation," it can be easily seen that he was not trying to show that there were no such things as rudimentary organs. Practically all modern scientists, I believe, claim that there are such organs, not only in man, but in animals. They say this in spite of Mr. Phelps. If the reader will notice closely, admitting for the sake of the argument that Huxley did say what is attributed to him by Mr. Phelps, he will see that Prof. Huxley did not say that there were no rudimentary organs. He admitted that there were such things, but would not say that they were of no use, which is an entirely different matter. What has puzzled scientists is not that there are such things, but how did they come to exist and what part do they now play, if any, in animal organisms. The only explanation so far given that is satisfactory to a mind not loaded to the guards with credulity and superstition is the one that evolution gives. Direct or special creation does not bother itself about an explanation, but relies, as it were, on the blind faith of its dupes, if Mr. Phelps will pardon the word "dupes," for I do not want to be impolite to him.

If men and animals were made by a supreme, infinite intelligence, called "God," why did it fit them out with a lot of parts and functions which even the finite mind can say is useless, or nearly so. As to this alleged impossibility to prove uselessness, it must not be forgotten that there was undoubtedly a time when every one of these rudimentary organs was developed because it or they were useful. After the mode of life was changed, no matter by what cause, these organs could not be used as much as they had been, and as the old life passed away, they would become more and more useless. They, in the newer life, would not only not be used, but actually would be in the way. When man originally got into a colder climate and got to wearing clothes, what use would there be for a tail? It would not only not be used, but would be in the way. So, as to other organs. Nature could not get rid of them suddenly, and so no doubt had to take them into account and build them "in" or around them. The bullet from the would be assassin of Theodore Roosevelt, shows somewhat how nature has to take care of useless things. It is dangerous to remove it, and so nature had to build around it. It is now playing its part in the life of our Ex-President, but it is just about as useful to him as are some of the organs that were a necessity to some former mode of life. To cut the bullet out of Mr. Roosevelt now would be dangerous, just as it is often times dangerous to cut out these useless rudimentary organs, though, naturally, neither is necessary to the life of the individual.

That these rudimentary organs are not necessary is shown by the fact that when they are taken out many people return to health. In fact, often it is the only way to save their lives. If they were necessary it would not be safe to take them out in any case. The fact that many men and women have gotten along without them, and have been restored to health, after health had been destroyed by them, shows that it was unnecessary for the supposition called God, to put them there in the later mode of life. Some of these things seem to be about as useful as a fifth wheel to a wagon.

Then Mr. Phelps triumphantly proceeds, and claims that if there is "natural selection" it produced faith in God, a knowledge of right and wrong, conscience, the religious nature, etc. Well, perhaps natural selection had something to do with producing these things, but education had more. One of Mr. Phelps' shortcomings, I think, is that he does not analyze. He never splits a statement up and looks at it in that form, as it were. Take our faith in or knowledge of God. How do we get such faith or knowledge? How do we get our conscience, our conception of right and wrong? Why, by education, largely if not wholly. As to God, there are said by travelers to be people in the arctic regions who have never heard of such a thing as God, and there are said to be tribes in the Amazon country that have never heard of either. Humboldt, as I recall it, discovered the Amazon people. This shows that this so-called knowledge of God, faith in him, etc., in fact this whole "shootin'-match" on Mr. Phelps and our good Christian friends, is acquired, else there

would be no man on the globe without such knowledge, or faith. How comes it that, as Jesus is said to be a god, the only son of the true God, there are hundreds of millions of people on the earth at this very hour who have never heard of either Jesus or his reputed father, or even of the Holy Ghost? If conscience was not largely a matter of education, education in some form, either by observation or by direct instruction, there would not be any difference between African cannibals and Mr. Phelps. If faith in God and immortality and if our so-called religious nature were natural and not acquired by some kind of an education they would be equally common to all men, just as hunger and thirst, the aetual passion, the sense of touch and smell are natural and common to all men. The fact that the church is sending missionaries to Africa shows that faith and knowledge of God, etc. are not natural, though natural selection may somewhat affect their development. This Phelps species of natural selection grows out of the desire, among all of us, to be well thought of in the community. Through this desire, a Jew will prefer to mate with a Jew, a Catholic with a Catholic and a Protestant with a Protestant. If there is an honor attached to any particular religious belief, when it comes to mating, it will follow that the man or woman will prefer the one that is possessed of this belief, though it is as likely to happen as not that the tendency will be downward as upward, for the possession of these religious charms does not necessarily go into the development of the mind or body, hence, I say that these religious notions are developed, rather by education than natural selection. This religious education, and this so-called selection referred to by Mr. Phelps, blighted the minds of Europe for Centuries. It was only as the mind was freed from this boasted religious education, in part at least, that civilization crept out of the darkness of the middle ages, ages when religion was in the saddle and ruled with an iron hand. Where you find religion most strongly entrenched—that is, where this faith in God and immortality business most abounds—there you will find even now the least intolerance, the most persecution for opinion's sake and the most ignorance. I could name you some countries, Bro. Phelps, and, yet, if I remember correctly you have hunted us infidels for staying here where religion does not hold the whip hand like it does in some other countries. If religion is such a good thing, I might ask you Bro. Phelps, why do you not go where it holds the whip hand? The truth is, after all, that this religious business is founded on ignorance, just as the old belief in witchcraft and ghosts was based on ignorance. All these beliefs are made out of the same kind of stuff.

Mr. Phelps comes back again to the wing of a bird, and soars away on it into the land of dreams and phantasies. He asks, "What kept it (the wing) developing for millions of years while it was in a useless stage? To me at least, when he turns and asks the question, it seems that he is seeking through wool. In fact, by asking the question he answers himself, for undoubtedly it was the use that made the development, and it has been the want of use that caused them in other cases to shrivel up. Some birds have no wings worth speaking of, while others have magnificent wings, wings that can fly far up into the blazing sun. If wings were all alike, why are there differences now? If they were different at the start, does it not show that in some places and at some time good wings were not necessary. If it happened that a bird with good flying wings got into one of these places, it is not hard to see, even through wool, that they would not be used as much as they had been and that the disuse would sooner or later destroy the strength of the wings. In the long lapse of time wings would become weaker and weaker, just as in the reverse case they would become stronger and stronger. This is certainly a better explanation than the one that Mr. Phelps undoubtedly had in mind—that is, that at some time an intelligence about which we know nothing, a mere supposed intelligence, made a world of wings differently. By way of illustration I would ask why the domestic chicken cannot fly like the prairie chicken and the tame duck like the wild duck? The reason is that the mode of life has changed for the domestic chicken and the tame duck, a change that makes it unnecessary to fly much in order to live.

But again Mr. Phelps has recourse to his wing, which seems to serve as a sort of rabbit's foot, or mascot to him, and asks, "But what kept the wing developing all this time, seeing it was of no benefit to the bird?" Then again he says that the wing would have to be fully developed before it could be used. I can answer both the question and the statement by asking why would a tame duck's wing have to be fully developed be-

## SOCIALIST'S COLUMN

Edited by E. W. Ross

How To Relieve The Unemployed  
By Carl D. Thompson

It is estimated that there are from 100,000 to 150,000 working people unemployed at the present moment in Chicago alone. There are probably 300,000 or more unemployed in the state of Illinois. There are probably not less than 4,000,000 unemployed in the United States.

It is a social and personal tragedy. It is a tremendous human and social waste. Such a problem, growing more and more acute each year, is a menace to society. How shall it be met? How can we relieve the unemployed?

First of all—society must find all the jobs there are for so many of the unemployed as can take them. And that means a vast improvement over our system of employment bureaus. Private bureaus are utterly inadequate. Often they are but one more means of squeezing the last penny out of the already crushed and despairing workman—a curse where help is needed.

Even municipal and state employment bureaus are often quite inadequate. What we need is a unified system of federal employment bureaus, properly coordinated with municipal and state bureaus into one system covering the whole city, state and nation. In this way we shall finally reduce unemployment to the lowest possible minimum.

But secondly—after every job has found its man and every man has found his job, there still remains a vast army of the unemployed. Under capitalism there are never enough jobs for all the men. There is always in every nation a vast reserve army of the unemployed.

Hence the necessity of "making" work for the unemployed—of creating jobs. The city should, at periods of depression and unemployment, run all possible public works, so as to absorb the unemployed. More streets should be cleaned, repaired and paved; more public school buildings should be erected; whatever public buildings are needed should be hurried forward. There are streets to be laid out, improvements to be made; the city should extend its water works, gas plants, electric light and power plants. It should acquire and extend street car lines and other public utilities. And the city should buy tracts of land, lay out additions and begin the building of houses for the people, to be rented at cost. All these things, properly pushed, would give work to the unemployed and at the same time make needed and valuable improvements in the city life.

To enable the cities to carry out such public works, the federal government should loan money to the municipalities, counties and states, at some very low rate of interest, to be secured by local bonds and to be repaid in equal installments over a period of, say, twenty years. This would enable every city, county and state to take care of its own unemployed. It would relieve a world of distress. And at the same time it would add to the common wealth.

But the problem of the unemployed can not be finally disposed of until the capitalist system is destroyed. Unemployment of a large proportion of the workers is an essential, inevitable and unescapable feature of capitalism. Capitalism, nowhere and at no time, employs all the workers steadily. It does not and it can not.

It can not, for the simple reason that under capitalism the workers are exploited. This exploitation reduces their purchasing power. Hence a surplus accumulates which can not be disposed of at a profit, because the workers have nothing with which to buy. Hence, overproduction. Hence, the stoppage of production; more men thrown out of work, and the further aggravation of unemployment.

And so on—capitalism runs its vicious circles and leaves in its trail

fore it could be used? A tame duck can use its wing some, but it would take years of use before it was strong enough to take the flights the wild duck takes. Mr. Phelps seems to think that the tame duck could not use its wings at all until they were strong enough to take wild ducks' kind of flights.

No, Mr. Phelps, when you attack evolution you are up against a great mass of facts that cannot be explained, but by that theory. Your God supposition would not explain a single one of them. When science has been unable to unlock the mystery that surrounds some phenomena, you and all true religionists jump to your feet and exclaim with great joy, "Ha, ha, we told you so. You can't tell how it was done and this proves that it was done according to the God theory," which has explained nothing.

Columbus, Ohio, March 10th.

the human wreckage and social waste of its millions of unemployed.

Socialism eliminates the profit system. The resources of nature and the public utilities are all in the hands of the government. Public credit backed by public wealth are also at its command. With these in hand all industries may be set in motion and kept in motion. No profit will be needed or sought any more than they are today in the postal department or the public schools. Production will then proceed on the basis of the needs of the people and not on the basis of private profit or exploitation.

Being no exploitation there will be no so-called "overproduction." The workers will be able to buy out the market what their labor puts into the market. Production and consumption will be balanced. There will be no clogging of the machinery of industry by the surplus stolen from labor and therefore no periodical stoppage of production. And therefore no periods of acute unemployment.

Socialism solves the problem of the unemployed.

### Call For Action Red Week

There has never been a time within the memory of man when Socialism was more badly needed than it is today.

As a result of the reign of capitalism, half the world is at war. Death, disease and destitution cover the face of Europe. The vilest human passions are unleashed.

In our own country several million men are unemployed. The cost of living is rising. The greed for profits on the part of the American capitalists is prolonging the European horror and is bringing us close to the abyss of war. The capitalist class and the capitalist newspapers are working diligently for an increase in the army and navy. Two of our comrades, Fred Holt and Pat Quinlan, are in jail because of their faithfulness to the cause of labor.

The first week in May is RED WEEK—the week set apart by the National Committee for special activity in behalf of Socialism. Let us make this week memorable in the annals of the party by virtue of the results achieved.

Capitalism is ravishing and destroying; let us EDUCATE and BUILD.

### What Socialism Is In Sixteen Words

Collective ownership and democratic management of things collectively used and private ownership of things privately used.

A man cannot be a Christian unless he is convinced that human rights come before property rights; and he cannot qualify himself for the Christian Ministry unless he is resolved to persuade other men to help put them there. I got that far a good many years ago, but my present belief that the Socialist program is the only way to put human rights ahead of property rights came later.—Bishop Spaulding, in the Social Preparation, January 1918.

Castle Rock, Wash.,

Editor Silverton Journal,

In reply to A. T. Heist, when he asks, "how can any one call himself consistent and believe in a god?" I would say that I believe that anyone can know there is a God if he will go alone, kneel and with a sincere and honest heart, pray something like this: "O, God forgive my sins and reveal Thyself to me, and I will serve Thee as long as I live with Thy divine help."

God knows the thought and intent of the heart, and only through him are we saved; and when you pass from this earth and you meet your God, what will be your record, seeing you have denied him while here on earth? What is there that could form by chance and work in harmony as do all of the planets and this beautiful earth, with its wealth of minerals and everything that man can use? Nothing but an all-wise being, and everything he made was good, but man has defiled it and brought sorrow and sin here. M. A. SEARLS.

SILVERTON TIME TABLE	
Arrive from Portland	8.25 A.M.
" " "	11.05 A.M.
" " "	4.15 P.M.
" " "	8.20 P.M.
" " Salem	10.59 A.M.
" " "	5.00 P.M.
Arrive from Albany via Lebanon	9.15 A.M.
Depart for Portland	7.30 A.M.
" " "	9.15 A.M.
" " "	2.00 P.M.
" " "	5.00 P.M.
" " Salem	8.25 A.M.
" " "	1.00 P.M.

## Our Objects and our Plan of Campaign for a Free Press

We have been browbeaten, maligned, assaulted, boycotted, denied our rights in Court, imprisoned and robbed of the privilege of editing our paper while in jail, all for trying to make the world better by publishing the truth. This only makes us stronger in the fight! But, as we have been robbed through boycott of the where-with-all to continue our work, we are forced to change our plans, and this advertisement is to let the lovers of liberty, justice and truth know that they are hereby given the privilege to help in our Campaign. Are you in favor of our continuing in this work? Here are our objects:

In order to make the world better for our having lived, and with malice toward none and charity for all, we wish to make public:

1. The doings of individuals who are posing as good citizens, but who are continually committing crime secretly.
2. The grafting schemes and self protecting sycophancy of our public officials.
3. The hypocritical and absurd pretensions and confidence games of all humbug religious fakers.
4. The effort to destroy our public schools, our other American institutions of civil and religious liberties, free thought, free speech and free press, by the foreign power known as the Roman Hierarchy, and its treasonable efforts to destroy the American government and prevent our progress in perfecting "a more perfect union."
5. The cause of poverty and crime and the remedy by the destruction of political trickery and false hero worship and how to establish universal knowledge of the true principles of government on the basis of equality and opportunity and the inalienable right of every citizen to an equal chance to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
6. The awful effects of the use of stimulants and narcotics on the human race and the best methods of emancipation from their destructive slavery.
7. The principles of the universal (genuine Catholic) religion of righteousness, and a true, progressive and modern Protestant faith of destroying ancient errors, which have held us in bondage; and that the salvation of our race depends on the solid rock of "the brotherhood of man."

We have faith that there are enough thinking people in the United States to save our work from the destroyer's hands, and we are using this space, formerly occupied by advertising which made it possible to publish our paper, to call on all who are interested to join us in the work. Do you believe in a free press? Do you believe in our objects? If so, help us establish

### A Fund for Defensive and Aggressive Warfare

Do all you can and get others to help! Send us facts that should be published! That we are alive and willing to work is our opportunity. Do not wait!

Previously acknowledged	\$204.65
Friend from our Childhood Home (Durand)	1.00
James Gilbert	2.50
Harney Friend	.50
Mrs. Addie L. Foster	1.00
Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Mott	5.00
W. H. Morrison	2.50
George Barron, Wapato, Wash.	.50
John L. A. Hawthorne	.25

## THE CASCADE REAL ESTATE CO.

Silverton, Ore., Journal Bldg., has the following property for Sale:

Seven-room House and Lot in Geiser Addition on installment plan.

Four-room House and Lot, 70x210, on Mill Street. Good location, only \$1750. \$200 cash, good investment.

Do you want a man to work?

Lady, how would you like to buy a dandy little business in Silverton. We have it for sale. Write to Cascade Real Estate Company, Silverton, Oregon.

Fine lot between Portland and Oregon City on car line for sale for \$800, \$50 down, \$15 per month. This is a large lot 50x138 1/2 feet. It will increase in value.

Buy a lot in Geiser's Addition—best buy in Silverton—must sell and you get the advantage of the forced sale. You can pay for this lot and the CASCADE REAL ESTATE CO. will build you a bungalow—pay for it in lead of paying rent to the other fellow.

Do you believe in dreams? Your dream of a home will come true if you will let the CASCADE REAL ESTATE COMPANY tell you how to buy a home on the installment plan.

FORTY LOTS for sale in South Salem—high and dry, fine location, cheap and on easy terms.

Fine Large Lots in Salem, slightly location, low price, small payment down and small monthly payments.

FOR SALE—A nice large lot, 50x120, in the Capital City. Fruits of every kind, on Oregon Electric Line, 2 blocks from school, near church. Good bargain at \$250.

\$1500 buys seven acres, one mile from Silverton, all in cultivation. Hard macadam road, small house. A bargain, if taken soon.

See Cascade Real Estate Co.

Now we have it. Lot at one half price to the person who will build a \$1500 house on it, good location on South Water Street. Also other lots in this part of Silverton with the understanding that houses built must be of \$1000 value or over.

Business Chance: A saw mill that will cut 700 rail road ties in a day, 250,000 feet of logs cut, 50,000 feet in the pond; all you have to do is to fire up and go ahead. Price only \$1100, half cash, chance to buy 500,000 feet near the mill.

Grants Pass property, lot 150x200, 5-room house, big barn, city water, lights, etc., only \$1500. Terms.

\$2000 buys a nice little farm near Amsville, of 15 acres, all cleared. Fruit, berries, house and barn; all fenced. This is a bargain. Will exchange for farm property near Silverton.

A 54-acre farm, 12 acres hops, fruit trees, berries, garden, grain land, fine house, water, barn and macadam road, fine water, plenty of pasture. Call in and get full particulars.

\$2,500 buys one of the finest homes you ever saw. There are eight lots, lots of fruit, ten room house, etc., etc., paved streets, city water—one of the best places in a town that has a future, Scotts Mills, Ore.

FOR SALE—1500 lb. Draft Horse.

Buy a dandy home in Oak Grove, Oregon. Four-room house, 22 fruit trees, lawn, on car line, good garden, close to church, school and depot. \$200 down, balance \$20 per month. Price \$1800. Beautiful location.

8 1-3 acres right in the city with one of the best houses you ever saw, fine barn, chicken houses, all kinds of fruits, grapes, berries, walnuts, etc., cement sidewalk, paved streets, electric lights, sewer, city water. Can be subdivided. Close in. A dandy bargain at \$7600. Half down. Long time on balance.

Dandy building lot in Davenport Addition on very easy terms. Will take a good cow or a horse or both, a little cash, and \$5.00 per month for balance.

\$1200—Three acres in Southern California, water for irrigation. 3-room house. \$300 cash, balance to quit purchase at 7 per cent.