

# AFTER THIS..WHAT?

BY M. F. FINCKE

## Our Managing Editor Blames Capitalism for the Plight of the College Graduate

The bitter cry of the college graduate that a fair opportunity in industry and commerce is denied is certainly justified. In all respects, academic, intellectual, and personal, he may have an excellent record, but there is no certainty, or even probability, that he will obtain a job or even retain it after securement. This country, so long heralded as a land of golden opportunity, evidently considers this class of its social make-up non-existent.

The annual recruitment of graduates is upward of 125,000. Of this number, how many will be engaged in their chosen professions, the things which they have devoted four years of their lives to? If so engaged, will they receive the just fruits of their efforts? Are they now expending their efforts on something which they will later find to be an illusion. Will they ever be able to discharge their duties to society so as to benefit humanity and yet realize their desires for self-expression?

Many technically trained men with high-grade professional knowledge and of proved accomplishments are among the ranks of the unemployed. Many professions are represented, the teaching profession heading the list with somewhat over 12,000. Engineers constitute the next highest group with nearly three thousand unemployed, being for the most part electrical, mechanical, and civil engineers. Graduates from business schools are in about equal numbers. Groups which further swell the unemployment rolls include architects, agriculturalists, bankers, chemists, educational administrators, journalists, social workers, salesmen, laboratory technicians, and many others too numerous to mention. This survey demonstrates the fact that college trained individuals are certainly not in demand.

College students are, for the most part, optimists. Why? Simply because they have been sheltered from the brutalities of life by their over-indulgent parents and have never experienced nor observed the greed, deception, corruption, and lack of ethics which permeate and encompass our entire political and industrial system. Many do not realize that they are acting the part of the trained monkey dancing to the tune of the capitalistic organ grinder, and that this college education, as prescribed, is nothing more than a four year training process designed to feed more material into the industrial melting pot finally to be thrown out as sludge. Does the average student realize these things? No, but when he does, the disillusionment will be complete and terrifying.

Life, it has been said, should be self-expression and each individual is entitled, as a natural right, to the career that best suits him. If this is a natural

right, and natural rights emanate from the fundamental desires of human beings, then it has been maliciously maltreated by those who hold the political as well as the industrial purse strings. It is true that the individual can never realize the fullest expression of his own personality simply because occupations must be adjusted to the needs and demands of society. But under the present economic system, who or what determines the needs and demands of society? The needs and demands of society are regulated by prices, wages, and hours of labor, and these in turn are regulated by the men who control and manipulate the industrial and capitalistic organization. Our desires are fulfilled only in so far as it pleases these moguls of high finance, who, by insidious devices, dedicate their employees to profit motives. College graduates as well as laborers are merely pawns on the capitalistic chess-board of competitive anarchy.

Although the engineer, the chemist, the bacteriologist, the agriculturalist, and the technician constitute the backbone of production, these trained professional workers have not received and will not receive their just portion of the fruits of production. The construction of the railroads, the building of bridges and skyscrapers, the improvement of food products, the aggrandizement of the chemical industry, and the development of new agricultural methods are all accomplishments of this neglected group. Few possess evidence of material wealth.

Notwithstanding the fact that college graduates are ground out in appalling numbers, quality in the training of technicians as well as quantity is emphasized. The country is furnished with an aristocracy based not on wealth or caste, but on the disearnable merits of the mind. No country has ever developed a finer material for scientific and constructive citizenship. No country has ever ignored such valuable material with such scornful contempt. And people wonder why youth is insurgent! This insurgency of youth emanated from the demand that the capacities of youth be dedicated to purposes and principles worthy of this and future generations. The old ideal of personal success is being subordinated to the new ideal of social responsibility and service. These ideals, however, are often shattered upon making contact with the industrial world because of the incompatibility with the doctrines propounded and disseminated by our capitalistic ringmasters.

Yes, there are many who will be disillusioned and many who will not find jobs. But do not let that discourage you—the government is still maintaining the relief rolls.