

SOLUTION OF THE SOCIAL PROBLEM

WRITINGS ON FREE CREDIT 1848-1849

(*Représentant du Peuple*, May 19, 1848)

ECONOMIC REFORM. — NOTICE.

Economic reform is everything; political reform, nothing. Let our readers take note of our words:

Politics, of whatever sort it may be, can only lead to monarchy. In the sphere of political ideas, everything converges, everything concludes in the restoration of royal power, on pain of inconsistency and hypocrisy. It is the monarchy that inspires the National Assembly, the executive commission, the ministers and all the newspapers; it was politics that inspired, unbeknownst to them, the Montagnards who were miserably defeated on May 15. We have said it many times, — and this is what has earned us the distrust of the ultra-democrats, who despite their political radicalism, have never been anything other than semi-socialists, — monarchy is the fatal, inevitable end of politics. We have to escape from politics if we want to be republicans.

While the National Assembly will waste time composing a political constitution from bits and scraps; while the new workers' commission will take up the abandoned idea of national workshops; while official philanthropy exhausts, without fruit, its last resources for the workers on strike, we will cast in iron, with a single concept, the economic constitution, and we will proceed, without delay, to the complete reform of society.

The organization of credit forms the first part of the economic constitution. We gave a specimen of this yesterday in our draft statutes for the Bank of Exchange.

The industrial-agricultural organization, and consequently, the reform of the State, will form the second part of this same constitution: we will immediately deduce it from the principles laid down in the first part.

The implementation will follow, as soon as we have collected a sufficient number of members.

We therefore ask our readers, and all our friends from Paris and the departments, to immediately form committees for the organization of credit, circulation and work, and to collect support from citizens everywhere.

Registrations must indicate the name, profession, domicile and, insofar as possible, the number of people making up the family and employed in the workshop of each member.

The lists will be published, gradually, in the *Représentant du Peuple*. They will determine the procedure to follow for the next work.

We are also asking citizens for any comments they may have to make to us on the various parts of the economic constitution. The letters must reach us postage free, at the offices of the *Représentant du Peuple*, 8 Rue J.-J. Rousseau,. All will be analyzed, and responded to, either separately or collectively.