

# Subordination of Capital

What Was Intended by the Early Promoters of  
Cooperation?

“Capital is the handmaid of Civilization. . .  
[t]here are few so poor or miserable in civilized  
society as they would be in a savage society.  
They may die early of insufficient food and  
through an unhealthy dwelling in a civilized  
town, but they would die earlier and suffer more  
as savages. . . .[C]ivilization gives the poor,  
who are wise, a better chance than the starvation

age” *Holyoake, George Jacob 1908. The History of Co-  
operation. The Evil Days Before Cooperation Began, Pg. 13,<sup>1</sup>  
London: T. Fisher Unwin.*

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“...[A] man, being one of the chief instruments in creating wealth, he ought to get a reasonable share of it. This he may obtain, not by taking it from those who have amassed it, which can only be done by bloodshed, and waste, and by setting a precedent which will expose him to similar attacks in his turn. One remedy is by employing the remedy of Co-operation to save capital and entering into industrial partnerships to earn it” *Holyoake, George Jacob 1908. The History of Co-operation. The Evil Days Before Cooperation Began, Pg. 2 14, London: T. Fisher Unwin.*

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“ . . Capitalists hired labour, paid its market price, and took all profits. Co-operative labour proposes to hire capital, pay it its market price, and itself take all the profit. It is more reasonable and better for society and progress that men should own capital than that capital should own men.” *Holyoake, George Jacob 1908. The History of Co-operation. Nature of Co-operative Principle, Pg. 311, London: T. Fisher Unwin.*

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“. The store must be fed with capital . . . [I]f a store have not sufficient capital for its business, it has the ghostly look of a disembodied thing.”

*Holyoake, George Jacob 1908. The History of Co-operation. Distribution – Co-operative Store, Pg. 321, London: T. Fisher Unwin.*