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Jean Vasseur, *[Definition and Role of the State]*⁴¹

1. The state is or should be only the strict executor of the laws enacted and recognized by citizens.
2. The efforts of nations should aim at state ownership of the means of transport and circulation, in order to abolish the powerful monopoly of large companies which, by subjecting the working class to their arbitrary laws, attack both human dignity and individual liberty. By this means, both the collective interest and the individual interest will be given satisfaction.
3. We express the hope that citizens appointed by universal suffrage will judge the guilty; that the citizen-judges will have a thorough knowledge of the culprit; and that they will investigate the main factors that led the man into crime and error.

We also demand that no culprit should be tried outside his own country, so that it is possible to examine the main reasons that diverted him from his duties. For all too often society as a whole is the only guilty party. Lack of education leads to extreme poverty, extreme poverty leads to brutalization, brutalization leads to crime, crime to prison, and prison to an abasement that is worse than death.

⁴¹ This text is a resolution presented, during the discussion on the reports set out in note 10, by the committee on the State. Its rapporteur was Jean Vasseur [1838–68], factory worker and correspondent for the GC on the International Committee of Marseille. It may be found in PI, I: 233.