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Official Organ of the Toronto District Labor Council. Published Weekly in the Interests of the Working Masses.

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INDUSTRIAL EUROPE SEEN THROUGH AMERICAN EYES

The German Workman an Extensively Governed Person—His Wages and Way of Living.

By JUDGE GREENELL
Copyrighted, 1901, by Judge Greenell.

Colonia, Germany, August 5.—I am not an industrialist, but an agriculturalist. I confess I am unable to decide from my own observation. Indeed, in the main, my time has been spent in the country, for there I found most that interested me. But I have not neglected the cities entirely. Conditions in the towns do not vary from each other, and when one or two have been seen it is not difficult to predicate the situation elsewhere.

In this connection let me quote from two lectures delivered by two professors in Freiburg, talking to the same students and representing two entirely dissimilar schools of economics. Said Prof. v. Schulze-Gaevernitz:

"Germany is becoming an industrial nation. The future of Germany lies in its factories. Its increasing population yearly of 300,000 more births than deaths indicates that we must go outside the boundaries of our own soil for food. The three great world powers are Russia, Great Britain and the United States. Germany and France are also industrial nations, but in minor degree. Germany may send her sons abroad or she can keep them at home by developing her industries. The most important work today in Prussia is for the government to shift the power from the landlord class to the working class. Then the workers will support the army and navy for the sake of holding colonies and finding a market."

Prof. Gaevertz is a free trader. He wants free imports of food and raw material in order that manufacturers may successfully compete with England in the markets of the world. He considers the German workman equal to the English artisan, and looks forward to the time when, under equal industrial conditions, Germany can manufacture and sell as cheaply as does England.

Prof. Fuchs, also of the University of Freiburg, talks differently. Not long ago he said:

"It is by no means settled that Germany has got to become an industrial nation. Half of her population is still engaged in agriculture. We must, through the operation of a protective tariff, conserve the interests of those who cultivate the soil, by keeping out of the country the products of all competing nations."

This is the position of official Germany—the land-holding class, though at the same time the Kaiser is anxious to increase the strength of army and navy. It is not an easy task to legislate for both the landholder and the manufacturing interests, and there is great danger that, strong and centralized as the government is, it will eventually fail.

Living in Germany.

Industrial conditions in Germany do not vary very much from industrial conditions in France. In a recent letter I told how "Jean Mait" a brother worker in England's "John Hanch," lived. The German prototype might be called "Johann Faust," as a closed hand is a fist, or "faust."

Johann arises at five o'clock in the morning or thereabouts, and gets to work at six or seven; but before he goes he takes a bite of bread and drinks a cup of coffee. At 8:30 he sends the apprentice out for a piece of limburger cheese, 25 cents, a hunk of bread, 5 cents, and a bottle of beer, 4 cents. The breakfast eaten, he works from 9 to 12 and then goes home to dinner. Or, if a municipal kitchen is handy, he goes there.

The one I ate at provided soup, boiled beef, potatoes, bread and sauerkraut for five cents if you help yourself, or six cents if your artistic tendencies are sufficiently developed to demand a waiter. Johann begins work again at 1, but as he knows off for a bit of cheese and a bottle of beer. This takes 15 minutes; then work is continued until six, when the home supper may consist of noodles, fried potatoes, beans, say, warmed over from dinner, and coffee and bread.

In the evening Johann plies for his favorite inn or beer garden, where he makes a glass or two of beer last him the whole evening while discussing the political and industrial situation.

Governmental Supervision.

The German workman is a much governed man. No one can engage the laborer which follows him from the cradle to the grave. If a man is in

INDUSTRIAL REFORM

(By a Workingman).

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CIVIC LIBERTY.

We can scarcely realize what a life of hardship our fathers and mothers went out into the country, and who a treat it was to go on the streets and see the toilers and their families.

CIVIC HOLIDAY.

Last Civic Holiday I took a car and went out into the country, and who a treat it was to go on the streets and see the toilers and their families.

HARVEST FIELDS.

I stood and watched them pulling down the golden grain, and I thought of the great changes that had taken place since the harvest fields since I could remember.

THE SICKLE.

I could not remember the time when they cut the grain with the sickle.

THE SCYTHE.

Then when I grew up to husbandry and used to go along with the women that were gathering in the grain behind the man that was sowing the seeds.

THE REAPER.

But when I saw the first reaper cutting lower the grain I thought I was wonderful.

THE SELF-HINDER.

But when I saw the man driving the horses in the self-hinder and it took up and and another man came along and stroked the grain, I could not help thinking what rapid strides we had made in the mechanical world when it only takes two men and two or three horses to cut a field of grain.

OLD FASHIONED.

Yet we are still that old-fashioned even old-fashioned and that today they can cut it by the automatic elevator all in one day.

CO-OPERATION.

This is the reform that men have resorted to for co-operating with the forces of nature and I supposed that man should be able to do it when they agree to cooperate with each other.

INDUSTRIAL FREEDOM.

I noticed last Civic Holiday that civic freedom was not what it should be, and because we do not enjoy industrial freedom.

THE TOILER.

But the toiler still hangs on to the old methods of competition, but when labor surely the lesson of co-operating their strength will be some surprise in store for co-operative wealth as we know it today.

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A SON OF TOIL.

When I listened to a son of toil last Sunday preaching the gospel of the brotherhood of man in the house of God, I wondered, if this was "the boy preacher" that would teach men how to apply the principles of Christianity to our industrial affairs.

BEFORE LONG.

I cannot help thinking that before long most will raise up a son of toil to preach the brotherhood of man on the platform and in the pulpit, and in the office to preach the same gospel in the home.

RAISED UP.

God raised up out of the midst of the toilers a mighty army of religious and civic reformers, and we believe the day is fast approaching when out of the ranks of the toilers will rise up a son of toil to preach the same gospel in the home.

THE TOILER.

I met a toiler who was taking his children to school, but he had to go to the school to get the children.

CAN I BE.

In order to get to the park he had to go to the school to get the children.

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