

by endeavouring to sidetrack us into a demand for a republic instead of a monarchy. The history of Rome is somewhat disheartening on this point. Again, does the history of the United States of America suggest any special advantages in a republican constitution? Are the Trades Unions strong there? Is there a political Labour Party within sight of office? History can show many cases of genuine democratic movements which have been craftily turned into the backwater which ends in a plutocratic republic.

What is the main gist of the plot of history? It is the story of how one governing class after another—now feudal lords, now manufacturers, Whig aristocrats or bankers—have managed to trick the people into becoming their passive subjects. It is—as it were—the story of how a great and well-organized gang of rulers of all sorts and sizes have robbed the people of their rights for century after century. Surely there must be a great advantage in studying in detail the methods by which this social robbery has been committed? And that study is history. Surely it will put us on our guard.

But there is another equally important side of history. It is also the story of the gradual growth of those delicate social bonds which are the chief strength of civilized society. In despite of the robbers of mankind, all the time there have been slowly developing those organs of government which alone make civilisation possible. Government is not in itself a pleasant or a desirable thing; but it is inevitable if we desire to be anything but savages. History is the story of a vast number of experiments in this great business of governing. There have been many wise rulers in history as well as still more stupid and dishonest ones. We can learn what we should do today by noting the results of the attempts of the past.

The story of social development in the past is almost the only indication we can see of what must be the next step in the future. For the lesson of history is that there is no break in its healthy development. Even this newest of political experiments, a Labour Government at Westminster, cannot do more than take the next steps in the history of the world. It may take these steps more quickly than its predecessors—and, still more, they may be steps in the right direction, instead of a stupid or malicious method of going backwards, or walking in a circle.

If Labour intends to govern, if it desires to govern well, one of its first duties will be to read as much of history as possible. Every Labour Club should make an attempt to get together a little library of historical literature.—There are plenty of good books in the market. The difficulty is to get them read: For a few pounds it would be possible to possess a shelf of volumes that might turn the tables on the enemy in political debates. For the opponents of Labour do very little historical reading, it would seem. Perhaps they are wise. It would be too like reading the story of their own crimes. Imagine a manufacturer reading the story of the Industrial Revolution. He would henceforth go about in terror of being arrested by the police as an accomplice of thieves and murderers.

Perhaps one day the editor may find space for an article which will suggest the most useful historical library for a Labour Club.

(Socialist Review)

THE CLAIMS OF "NORDIC" RACE SUPERIORITY.

(Continued from page 5)

evolution of Western civilization. The very first step of the "Nordic" from the primitive condition of the Stone Age to the higher era of bronze was impossible without southern help, because tin, a prerequisite for the bronze alloy, was lacking in the Scandinavian peninsula. Whether this or other causes delayed their development, the fact remains that the northern peoples continued in the savage state for thousands of years and it is precisely the races which our hysterical anthropologist regards as debased and inferior, which he would exclude from formative America, which have laid the foundations for whatever civilization the world now possesses and which, in numerous instances, have reached such

cultural heights as we are still unable to attain, for all the aid of precedent and example.

The truth is that the origins of culture are wholly Mongolian, Semitic and Mediterranean. As Dr. Robert H. Lowie points out in his excellent book, "Culture and Ethnology":

Our economic life, based as it is on the agricultural employment of certain cereals with the aid of certain domesticated animals, is derived from Asia; so is the technologically invaluable wheel. The domestication of the horse certainly originated in Inner Asia; modern astronomy rests on that of the Babylonians, Hindus and Egyptians; the invention of glass is an Egyptian contribution; spectacles come from India; paper, to mention only one other significant element of our civilization, was borrowed from China. * * * It is worth noting that momentous ideas may be conceived by what we are used to regard as inferior races. Thus the Maya of Central America conceived the notion of the zero figure, which remained unknown to Europeans until they borrowed it from India; and eminent ethnologists suggest that the discovery of iron technique is due to the negroes.

It is a matter of common knowledge that literature and art, religion and ethics, as well as other esthetic spiritual and material expressions of humanity reached their apogee among the Greeks, Jews and Romans, inheritors of this earlier culture, at a time when the northern barbarian was slowly evolving from a state of savagery. There is an intriguing coincidence in the fact that the "Nordic" apologist is thus attacking the nations to whose racial progenitors he owes an irredeemable debt and that the parvenu among civilized peoples is seeking to establish his superiority to the Spaniard and Greek, Jew and Italian, Mongolian and Arab. Without the inventions of India, China and Egypt, inventions which the Jews, Greeks and Romans passed on in an improved state, industry and agriculture, astronomy and mathematics, music and art might still be in a primitive condition.

A Problem of Eugenics.

A discussion by the partisans of the "Nordic" theory, of the comparative merits of the various cultural contributions made by this or that race, or of the greatness of its heroes, or of its physical fitness, invariably ends with the "Nordic" on the debit side of the ledger, but this proves nothing because it is trivial and irrelevant. It simply indicates the existing confusion as to what constitutes the individuality of a race. It is a demonstrated fact that the masses of every race are mentally on a par with the masses of every other race. After testing primitive intelligence and comparing it with that of all types of white men, Professor Woodworth found no appreciable difference in the average of any of them except that the Igorote and the Negrito of the Philippines and the pigmies of the Congo were somewhat deficient. "This crumb," he writes, "is about all the testing psychologist has yet to offer on the question of racial differences in intelligence." Furthermore, each race contains every grade of intellectual capacity, ranging from the imbecile to the genius. The proportion of idiots and geniuses is regulated almost entirely by the social, economic and political conditions in which each generation of the race happens to be living. Thus the perpetuation of any race as a whole means the perpetuation of many types—the undesirables, the inferior and the dead level, as well as the gifted and the genius types. Hence, not only every homogeneous nation, but every nation which, like the United States, has become a vast racial melting pot, faces a problem in eugenics, viz., the problem of improving its stock.

In teeming Europe and Asia there is only one solution, the elimination of the inferior types of all races. But our own vast and sparsely settled country need not take up the surgeon's scalpel until it has tried therapeutics. It can wait to see the wondrous effects of its climate and soil, its principles of liberty and its democratic institutions. Unless all we know of the development of civilization is false, these basic gifts that America offers her immigrant will bring about the fullest expression and the finest flowering

of his racial and individual qualities. If these qualities are not the vices and virtues of a single strain, but rather the characteristics of a cross-section of mankind in which the gifts of each will supplement and enrich the rest, our country, like a great orchestra, will play such harmonies as no single instrument can produce. And that will mean not the passing but the making of a great race; that will be the concrete manifestation of the ideals and the mission of America.

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