

# THE TOILER

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## INDUSTRIAL EUROPE SEEN THROUGH AMERICAN EYES

### Why the Masses are Poor and the Classes are Rich—American Superiority—Competition and Dumping—Final Conclusion.

Liverpool, Eng., Sept. 2.—On the eve of my return to the United States, I have been reading a story of English life I read many years ago. Among the incidents of the romance the one that most impressed me was the fact that agricultural laborers were then called, on which were impressed characters indicating to whom the soil belonged.

In my journey through England and Scotland, and on the continent, the past four months, I have seen failed to find plenty of men and women working just as disinterested, right and honest, as the English. There is this difference, however, the farm laborer of long ago was placed around the neck of the soil by the master, whose wealth was the soil; whereas the laborer of today is on his own land, and his own soil, and his own profit. To test of these modern laborers of ownership would be like inviting the end of the world, is the system of the great majority of European countries, where the soil is often in city slums or country hotels, and a subject of no other system of industry or government than those which a few self-chosen favorites the privilege of living in palaces without work.

Accounting for Differences.

There is no other way for accounting for the physical difference between the masses and the classes. The environments of the masses have tended to produce mentally and physically stunted aggregations of servile common people, the environments of the classes have tended to produce arrogant, and proud, and mental and physical superiority. And in each case the average European citizen considers that the inferiority of the masses and the superiority of the classes are of divine origin, and therefore not to be questioned. Thus does superstition hold us in a vice the theories of the wage-working classes of Europe.

There is no economic reason why old world wage workers cannot hold their own with wage workers of America, excepting the fact that they carry greater artificial burdens and thus are not permitted to reap a full reward for their exertion as do their brothers on the other side of the Atlantic. Certain English artificers have the skill and experience to enable them successfully to compete with all the rest of the world in turning out manufactured goods, but the handicraft of that dump country, controlling legislation, have added petty such as fiscal burdens, national and local, on the shoulders of enterprise and industry, and have made it almost impossible for any competitor from their own class.

The point I wish to emphasize is this: While the common people of England have made great strides in acquiring, by conventional means, some of the industrial rights, not much more can be obtained by peaceful and legal methods, because injustice has been entrenched by law, that there are no legal ways to dump the classes off the present "cash-bags" backs. This criticism applies still more forcibly to conditions on the continent. Think of the working people of such a great city as Paris allowing their officials to charge local tariffs on the very food they need, in order that taxes may be returned on the property of the rich; and of permitting a monopoly of his street car and omnibus services. Think of the people of France and Germany submitting to the enormous taxes that are needed to support great standing armies and navies, and to support the glory of what of whom?

More Machinery in the United States.

One must be exceedingly cautious making comparisons between the machinery in the United States and Europe. I have seen factories here that are equipped with about everything on the market. Perhaps it is true, too, that there are more kinds of special machines in the United States than in Europe, but if European manufacturers continue to invest in machinery during the next decade as they have recently, an equilibrium is bound to be established. Though British conservatism in the counting room, as well as in the works, has made the introduction of new machines slow, competition is compelling their use, so that no country can for any great length of time claim a monopoly in this respect.

The average English artisan is not now striking against us. This is the fact. He may surely claim to be bringing our factories into the position of daily toil, but he seems to me to be doing this by really increasing the amount of work to be done in the factory. He may surely claim to be making a friend. Here, as in the United States, the laborer has been able to obtain for the members of his organization some of the benefits following in the immediate wake of the machine. He does this by demanding a reduction in the hours of labor, with probably a half-penny or so increase in the pay per hour. For the sake of peace the employer generally consents to this; it is seldom a freedom offering. "Labor saving" machines have never yet of themselves reduced the hours of labor of a single wage worker, but the well organized and well officered trade union has, by taking advantage of just such opportunities as the introduction of machinery affords.

Competition With the United States.

The manufacturers of the United States are not going to send the manufacturing of Europe to the dustbin of history. It is not this year that they will always be some thing that "is done better in Europe" than in America. We shall dominate those lines of manufacture where our raw material is best adapted to production. I doubt if the manufacture of the best grades of woolen fabrics can be created from England, or of silk from France. Perhaps atmospheric conditions have much to do with this. There are lines of steel production that will be next to impossible to shake out of England's grip. Our tariff can be placed high enough to keep some things out of the United States, compelling the American people to put up with inferior articles at monopoly prices, but this is a different proposition in winning markets by merit. The United States cannot out over a twentieth of the inhabitants of the world, and while the twentieth is a pretty big tail for the world's industrial dog, yet it isn't going to wag the dog.

The peculiarities of each nation exist to about everything the people consume. If we produce, with an average knowledge of the demands of trade, will always be able to command, at remunerative prices, the major part of the home market. Just to show something changed in our letter will not open new avenues of trade; the desire of the people must be changed before the cheaper and better article will be preferred. Price is not everything.

The "dumping" process consists of any length of time control say by the United States, "dumping" consists of raw material such as steel and iron, at advantage over companies paying higher over competitors paying the market price.

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America's Superiority.

The United States is a better country for wage workers than the British Isles or Europe, because of the great quantities of cheap, fertile land open to each, a few newspapers, which have a moral effect; good educational facilities for the common people; comparative honesty; a part of which is done by the handicraft; freedom from governmental employment over the majority of sales of 10% and absolute internal free trade between American states; tariff duties distributed over a wide area; having every variety of soil and climate; Republic of industry, with such opportunities as the working people of the United States cannot find in Europe.

With Germany gave a bounty for her best sugar manufacturers, they "bought" their surplus stock on hand at less than cost. This gave a heavy advantage in controlling the sugar market in the continent.

As-Optimistic View.

One needs a wide horizon and an optimistic temperament to have much hope of the common people ever being able to change present inopportune conditions in the social and economic world. Yet when one's perspective is correct it is not difficult to see the progress that has been made in the past. Thus one can confidently predict more in the future. Europe is not so densely crowded that it cannot support its teeming people. There are here, millions of acres of land put to such comparatively unproductive uses as game preserves and palace parks; and no country is making the very best use of all the land given over to agriculture. Not until these defects are remedied can it be said that population pressure upon subsistence.

In the fulfurling of this which doesn't mean this year of this decade, if it does, even this century—industrial freedom will be attained. The slums of the cities will disappear with the abolishing of monopolies, and especially the monopoly of the soil, for then opportunity for employment will equal the desire of the people for work, and the wages of the laborer will be the full fruit of his toil. Then both production and consumption will be immeasurably increased, and also human happiness.

This time is coming. It is not so distant as you suppose. Kings and potentates may tremble, and holders of special privileges may wince over the outcome, but the common people will lose nothing, but their superstitious mad collars, the badges of their present servitude.

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**TORONTO M. P.'S CONDEMNED**  
Legislative Committee's Report Takes the Side of W. F. Maclean in His Fight for Two-Cent Fares.

Your Legislative Committee met on the Tuesday evening of Monday, August 29th, and organized for business. Present: J. P. Gardner, M. P., Chairman; A. Hill, J. W. Hanson, H. Edgington and J. H. Hicks, J. P. Gardner was elected chairman, J. H. Hicks secretary and H. Edgington assistant secretary, and it was agreed that we meet on the first and third Fridays of every month, omitting to-morrow.

The subject dealt with by your committee were:

1. Orphan emigration.
2. Delegation of powers to the railway and the railway of taxation as it affects the inhabitant.
3. A communication from the H. T. S. which ran as follows: "Moved and seconded that the H. T. S. appeal to the H. C. C. to request the Ontario Government to request the Ontario Government, protesting against the application and unfair treatment of their wholly 'employed' Association of Toronto in preventing the sale of business supplies to those contractors who are paying the wages demanded by the Builders' Laborers' Union. The proposition to be introduced should contain the request that the laborers of this city pledge themselves to agitate that the protective tariff be not in force, and that all purchasers of timber should be required to buy from those who they will sell to all others in the open market." Amendment moved and carried that the motion be passed on to the Legislative Committee.
4. The action of the three Toronto M.P.'s in failing to support Mr. Maclean's threefold proposition in the Legislative Parliament, asking for a reduction in railway fares, also in obliging the House merely to merely Bill Telephone Company as the only telephone company that is allowed to make connections and do business in the railway stations of Canada; also asking that all express companies and their charges be placed under the jurisdiction of the Railway Commissioners. The same as follows:

After a careful consideration of the facts your committee makes the following recommendations:

1. That the letter of Delegation should be adopted by this Council on the understanding that he pays for the printing of the same. We believe the letter to be a powerful instrument of the in-judiciousness to maintain labor by the present system of railway and express companies, and that its publication will benefit the cause of labor.
2. The communication from the H. T. S. and a difficult question to handle. We have all agreed up to the remedy suggested for the refusal of the lumber dealers to sell timber to contractors who pay the wages demanded by the trade unions, and we recommend that a threefold appeal be made to the Ontario Government and give the undeniable evidence of this country, and ask the Government that in the future sale of all timber should be made to the lowest bidder, who may be the contractor, and that the Government should hold that the fact that the contractors employ and

manufacturers of this Dominion are not highly organized and their large and small financial interests so completely at the mercy of those who control the money market, that our employers in the building trades are unable to give us the wages we ask for, even when they are willing to do so. The problem before us is how we to reach these high magnates of Canadian manufacturing. The business and sole purpose of trade unionism is to make things more happy and comfortable for the manual laborer. Even the old established and popular National Policy is no friend of trade unionism unless it works for the betterment of the laborer. When we remember that the great majority of the nation, perhaps 80 per cent, get their living, directly or indirectly, through labor, it is easy to see that in seeking the prosperity of the manual laborer trade unionism are seeking the prosperity of the nation. Let us also remember that when we buy for our own families, we buy for other things that we have in our homes, from 30 to 50 cents for every dollar we spend goes in taxes to protect the manufacture of goods, and these high taxes are levied upon those who are seeking to keep our wages down by restraint of trade and cartage. A great many of the textile and other factories of Canada would be badly crippled if it were not for the protective tariff, which is levied on the high tariff, the burden of which falls on us. The article of the lower classes and our parents last year in seeking to bring to any request for adjustment, even from the Legislature, London, and some worthy of Russian Czar the of some citizens of a British Commonwealth. Therefore, your committee, while strongly maintaining the right of protection and free trade, yet emphatically affirm that the Canadian brand of a protective tariff does every encouragement to the laborer, using every means for the purpose to find our labor market more cheerful.

If it were our employers into a state of panic, while thinking the progress of government ownership by our legislative bodies, yet claim a one-like duplication over the employees, we affirm that even the National Policy in our favor at this price, and your committee recommends that the request of the H. T. S. be considered with, and that a deputation from this Council will walk upon the Toronto Board of Trade, pointing out these facts to them and warning them that unless the manufacturing association change their policy the power of the labor vote will be greatly reduced, and their profits will be greatly reduced.

As regards the action of the three Toronto M.P.'s, your committee, believing that this Council looks upon government ownership as one of the most important of modern reforms in the interests of labor, and that the action of Mr. Maclean seeking to strengthen government control over corporations operating public utilities, recommends that a letter be sent to our three M.P.'s for Toronto expressing our deep regret that they failed to give their hearty support and vote to the three motions introduced by Mr. Maclean, M.P., for New York.

All of which is hereby certified.

J. H. Hicks, Secretary.  
John P. Gardner, Chairman.

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