

ADVANCE OF JAPAN

Frank G. Carpenter, the noted correspondent, writing from Japan after making an investigation of the industrial development there, makes some statements that are of great interest to American workmen. Within a few years Japan has thrown off her medieval garb and entered the arena of modern industrial competition and modern civilization. Says Mr. Carpenter:

Only a short time ago everything in Japan was made by hands in the houses. There were no large establishments and practically no factories. Today there is still an enormous house industry, but there are, all told, over 10,000 factories and they employ altogether about 600,000 workmen. There are thousands of men who labor in the mines, and millions in the industries of every kind which go on in the homes of the people. As to the factories, I have already written of the shipyards and cotton mills. In the spinning factories the women are now receiving about 22 cents a day and children as low as 6 cents, while men get, on the average, about 34 cents. Cotton weavers receive about the same and silk weavers a cent or two more.

This wretched wage scale prevails proportionately in all other Japanese industries as will be seen by the following extract from the same letter:

Japanese mechanics are about as good workmen as you will find anywhere. Every common carpenter is a cabinet maker, and many of the stone cutters would pass as sculptors. . . . Here in Japan the master carpenter receives 65 cents a day, and the best men under him 40 and 50 cents. This is for nine or ten hours' work. These carpenters are fully the equal of any we have at home. . . . Bricklayers, equal to those who receive as much as \$5 a day, from 28 to 41 cents, blacksmiths 28 cents, for nine hours work here, and this is ten per cent more than they got in 1906. Brickmasons and plumbers 35, and that without helpers. . . . Our printers will be interested in what the compositors receive. There are now dailies in all the towns of any size. . . . The day's work begins at 8 a. m. and ends at 5 p. m. The wage scale is from 30 to 60 cents, the average being about 45 cents. Coal miners get from 28 to 41 cents, blacksmiths 28 cents and machinists almost a dollar.

It will thus be seen that the modern wage system is now established in Japan and that the modern industry is rapidly developing in that empire. During the next few years the factory system will be established in every department of industrial activity and millions of Japanese wage slaves will be producing commodities for the world's market, based upon the lowest wage scale in the world.

What is true of Japan is likewise true of China, which has ten times Japan's population. In these days of swift changes the capitalist mode of production and modern industry in all its forms will soon be in full operation throughout the Japanese and Chinese empires and the teeming millions of these so-called "heathen" countries will come into direct competition with the workers of the United States and other nations. The result of such competition can be readily foreseen. The products of America will be driven from the market unless produced on the same cheap level. The lowest prices control the world's market and the product of Japan and China will in the next few years flood the world.

What then will become of boasted protection of the American tariff from any less restrictive foreign immigration?

These are questions for American workers to consider seriously. They will soon be in competition with the great masses of Asiatic laborers and their standard of living must inevitably fall to the same level.

Capitalism is international and its trusts, syndicates and combines will have their work done and their commodities produced for the market where the lowest wage scales prevail and where the working class is most nearly enslaved.

Intelligent wage workers will see in this spread of modern industry over the nations of the far east the forerunner of the international solidarity of the working class. There is absolutely no hope of better conditions for labor under the capitalist system and the sooner the workers of all countries realize this and unite in the international Socialist movement to abolish the capitalist system and establish industrial democracy in which the workers shall be the people, the sooner will they and their children escape the poverty, insecurity and misery entailed upon them by the present system.—The Appeal.

The Incentive of Gain

A sympathetic study of the history of art, science and invention would show that it is a history of devotees. That competitive spirit has not made it, except in so far as competition among leaders of business had led them to watch for the best things, and get it at the lowest price. The commercial motive never produced a single great work of art, discovery in science, or epoch-making invention. It may do a great deal of the minor work by decorative artists, postmasters and inventors of "gimmicks" or improvements. The nature of genius is to love truth in some or all of its forms and sources. The same mind absorbed in such a pursuit is brought back to consideration of the mighty dollar only by sordid necessity. If the individual were the social unit one might reason that genius is its own reward, and envy the joys rather than pity the needs of the truth chaser. But the dependents of the man or woman who pursues some thread of truth for love of it or for humanity's sake experience the needs without the joys.

Competition has made for the survival of the fittest in organic evolution. Co-operation should achieve the survival of the fittest in ethics. Competition makes weak-hearted athletes, bankers that die suddenly at their desks and politicians that end their own lives. Co-operation? Well, we shall know what it can produce when it has become a science and a universal practice, stimulating and moderating, directing and securing the industries of the world.—Ellen E. Kenyon Warner, in New York Times.

The Jury's Independence

The Wolverhampton "Express and Star" prints the following report of a case heard by Mr. Justice Ridley.

The girl Mayer, found not guilty of the alleged attempted murder of Harry Gwilt by shooting, was again put on trial for assault, before a fresh jury.

At the conclusion of the evidence the Judge turned to the jury and said: "On these facts, gentlemen, I ask you to find a verdict of guilty."

Mr. Bosanquet: But the jury are entitled to find the rider.

The Judge: Please don't interfere any more, Mr. Bosanquet, or you and I will quarrel. I do not think the jury have any option in this case.

Foreman of the Jury: You say we have no option, my lord?

The Judge: Follow my direction. It is your duty, and do your duty.

The foreman said the jury had not agreed on their verdict.

The Judge: I have directed you to give a verdict. It is the law and your duty to find the prisoner guilty. Will you be good enough to do so? I am waiting for your verdict.

The Foreman: We find the girl guilty under great provocation.

The Judge: You may say that if you like. If you had known what I intended to do perhaps you would not have hesitated so long. I am not accustomed to be so treated by juries.

The Judge then bound the girl over to be of good behaviour, and she was discharged.—Clarion.

"Socialism, Positive and Negative"

BY ROBERT RIVES LA MONTE

This is a volume of brilliant essays that will serve as a stimulus to clear thinking. The one entitled "The Nihilism of Socialism" may shock the sentimental convert to Socialism from the "upper" classes, but it will do him good, and it will delight the thinking wage worker. Cloth, 50 cents.

Indian cotton mills pay their employees from one to three dollars a month. No wonder there are hard times in the Lancashire cotton district. And there is going to be harder times still. India will play to the English workers the same role that Mexico is playing to the American workers.

Plato says: "Society arises from men's economic wants: the division of labor and exchange and he attempts to generalize regarding the succession of changes in political life as due to economic facts?"

The Bishop of London asks how a stum child can believe in the goodness of God. He can't. The God of the Christians becomes his devil.

In strict justice everything should belong to all. Iniquity alone has created private property.—St. CLEMENT

The rich are robber's, better all things in common.—St. CHRYSOSTOM.

HYMN TO CAPITAL

Specially adopted for a choir of capitalist voices.

Oh, Lord of all the earth, to Thee, Again we offer prayer and praise, Long may thy rule continued be, At least, throughout thy servants days. Good markets we would ask of Thee, Large profits, lord we also wish, And that our slaves submissive be, In short, we're out for loaves and fish; Grant us thy blessings, Lord, and then We ask, confound the Labor men.

We wish all thy desires fulfilled, To Thee we light our votive fires, To Thee we goodly temples build, With sounding organs, towering spires And men of fluent speech we hire, That they may serve Thee all their days,

And many a sweetly singing choir, To carol their melodious lays. To Thee we take cigars and wine, Our worship it is wholly Thine.

Oh, Lord, in these Thy latter days, Rebellious men against Thee rise, Who to Thee offer prayer nor praise, Nor fear of Thee before their eyes.

They constantly blaspheme Thy name, At home, in workshop, street and hall; We pray thee put these men to shame, For this especially we call, Put forth thy mighty arm, our God, And smite them with Thy golden rod.

These men, oh Lord, be men of strength;

We cannot bend them to our will, These men, would go to any length, To work Thy chosen people ill.

They constant all our powers brave, They do not seem to care a cuss, We pray Thee to Thy servants save, Who are Thy people, Lord, but us? The greatest boon we ask is this,—

Oh Lord, confound these Socialists.

Their Party, Lord, is getting strong, Their numbers ever larger grow, And if we don't look out, ere long, They'll make of us a holy show.

We put it up to you, oh Lord, We're at our wits end what to do, And so we cry with one accord,—

It's up to You, it's up to You; Oh, Capital, our God most High, To Thee, and only Thee, we cry.

—WILFRID GRIEBLE.

THE CAUSES OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

The workers make for the owners of land and capital more wealth than these owners can spend or consume or invest abroad. Employers are compelled, therefore, to stop the machinery at times because there is no way of getting rid of goods. The rich export an enormous amount and invest it in foreign countries. But they cannot spend all the wealth the workers could produce if they all worked full time. Hence unemployment.

Under Socialism industry would be organized to produce the goods needed by the people, and this wealth would be divided fairly so as to enable the producers to consume or use the wealth themselves.

THE DISADVANTAGES OF INVENTIONS

A new labor-saving device often throws thousands of people out of work, and it is no one's business to find them other employment. The capitalist, the inventor, and the consumer may gain in lower prices, but the unemployed hands suffer intensely, and may be permanently degraded in character and position.

Under socialism these people would be provided for, because it would be to the interest of the state to keep every person fit and healthy. A fit man can produce more wealth than an unfit.

Plato says: "There is such a gulf between wealth and virtue, that when weighed, as it were in the balance one of the two always fall and the other rises?"

The collective energy of the people is more economical and more beneficial than private initiative of the few who are out for big dividends.

There must be democracy in industry before wage slavery can cease.

THE RIGHT TO LIVE

Socialism means the right to live. Neither free traders nor tariff reformers admit that right. Free traders and tariff reformers assert that no man or woman has a right to live unless he or she can obtain the permission of a landowner or capitalist employer.

Under Socialism the right to live never would be questioned, and the duty of working for a living would be obligatory on every sound individual.

Picture of Bernard Shaw

This is Mr. Jackson's portrait of Bernard Shaw, from British Labour Leader:

"His sandy hair, which is parted in the middle and brushed well back from a square forehead, and his beard, which is longer than of yore, are toned down with grey. He is of the average height and easy in carriage; his head, which is remarkably square between the brows, with a crown which depends towards the neck in a line unusually free from curve, is set well back, and his ears have a forward tilt. His eyebrows are at the mephisto-angle, and he has steady blue eyes. It is the head of a fighter who prefers a frontal attack. At the same time, there is, in his general appearance, a hint of one who would strike comfortable attitudes and lounge had he the desire to do so; there is again something about his immobile yet alert head in strange contrast with his curiously mobile and expressive arms and hands. This is well brought out on the platform in moments of oratorical heat, when with head thrown back, hair and brows seeming to bristle, and eyes sparkling to match his peculiar eloquence, he stands quite still, but moves his hands and arms in a kind of gesticulating punctuation. Not, however, the swinging notes of exclamation which are the gesticulating stock-in-trade of the politician with the roaring oratorical manner, but movements of hand and wrist and even elbow, which add the commas, semi-colons, full-stops, and interrogatory notes to his irresistibly spoken sentences."

The Curse of Classes

The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles.

Freedman and slave, patrician and plebeian, lord and serf, guildmaster and journeyman—in a word oppressor and oppressed—stood in constant opposition to one another and carried on an uninterrupted—now hidden, now open—fight that each time ended either in revolutionary reconstruction of society at large or in the common ruin of the contending classes.

In the earlier epochs of history we find almost everywhere a complicated arrangement of society into various orders, a manifold gradation of social rank. In ancient Rome we have patricians, knights, plebeians, slaves; in the middle ages feudal lords, vassals, guildmasters, journeymen, apprentices, serfs; in almost all of these, again, subordinate gradations.

The modern bourgeois society that has sprouted from the ruins of feudal society has not done away with class antagonisms. It has but established new classes, new conditions of oppression, new forms of struggles in place of the old ones.—DR. KARL MARX.

A Propaganda Stunt

Locals which have organized speakers, classes or economic study clubs, and even those which have not, would do well to appoint a committee to secure the addresses of the secretaries of all the debating clubs, literary societies, bible classes, temperance leagues and similar organizations with the view of offering to debate labor questions with them or to supply them with speakers. Just as soon as the fall sets in, and literary clubs start on their winter work, they should be written to the above effect. This would result in good training for our young speakers and considerable propaganda among intelligent young men and women.

THE PROBLEM OF SOCIALISM

Sense and Humanity in all the affairs of life. The present system is a system of chaos and cruelty. Given a country and a people, the problem to-day is how to keep power and property in the hands of the few and to prevent the masses from obtaining power and property.

Under Socialism the problem would be, given a country and a people, how to organize the activities of the whole people so as to produce the highest welfare of all.

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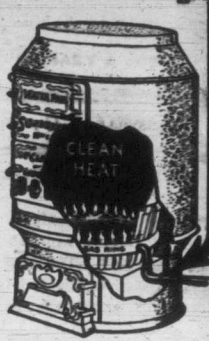
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Another "Sunshine" Feature

This is an entirely new idea, and will especially interest people who reside in natural gas districts. The gas ring takes the place of the lower Sunshine fire-pot, thus making it possible to burn gas in your furnace without inconvenience. Such is not possible in a furnace where the ordinary gas log is inserted; for, should the gas give out, a coal or wood fire could not be started until the gas pipes were disconnected.

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The Gas Ring



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LIVE PROPAGANDA PAPER

"THE ANCIENT LOWLY."

Those who have read "The World Revolution" by Untermyer, and wish to follow further the history of the organization of the workers from the earliest known period up to the period of the adoption of Christianity by Constantine, will do well to read and study "The Ancient Lowly" by C. Osborne Ward. In two volumes at \$2.00 per volume. Either volume for 25 yearly subs to Cotton's up to the end of this month.

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