

WHERE IS "THE STRAIGHT ISSUE?"

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or of one Morgan of the House of Morgan of New York and where else not, or, ask of one Morgan of the S. P. of C. of a category called "interest" in the rubric of capital. Then we have the say-so of the mother of Marx. "It would have been much better" she would sigh, she was of a Rotterdam Jewish family, "it would have been much better if poor Karl had made a lot of capital instead of writing a lot about capital." How come! My mind, such as it is, goes back over the ground of history again to the 5th century, but I am hanged if I can find when the bourgeoisie made up its mind on the single plank of all or nothing and called the straight issue with feudalism. And neither can "R". And there is no new dispensation in history, even reading and writing does not come by nature yet, but by practice, picked up on the way, as any teacher or hopeful pupil will tell him. "Nathless modern Dogberry's. See how Marx looks at history again:

Address of the General Council to Abraham Lincoln

On September 28, 1864, in St. Martin's Hall in London, there took place that famous meeting of workmen which gave birth to the International Workingmen's Association, an organization which powerfully stimulated and promoted the labor movement of all countries in the sixties. This meeting appointed a provisional central committee for the management of the affairs of the new organization, which came later to be called the General Council, and which was composed of representatives of different nationalities.

Even before the foundation of the International Workingmen's Association, it was above all others the men who became the members of the General Council who had worked for the cause of the American North in their circles, and who had encouraged and inspired the English working class in their heroic stand against the manufacturers and the Government.

On November 27, 1864, Karl Marx, the leading spirit of the General Council, wrote thus about the elements composing this committee to his friend Joseph Weydemeyer, then in the United States:

"The English members are mostly chiefs of the local trades unions, hence the real labor kings of London, the same people who gave Garibaldi such a rousing welcome, and who by their monster meeting in St. James' Hall (Bright in the chair) prevented Palmerston from declaring war against the United States when he was on the point of doing it."

Previous to the organization of the International Workingmen's Association Marx also had thrown his influence to the leaders of the English workmen in favor of the Union cause.

The General Council of the International continued the agitation in this direction which its members had previously begun.

In the beginning of November, 1864, Lincoln was elected for the second time to the Presidency of the United States. Under the direct influence and upon the suggestion of the General Council of the International Workingmen's Association, the workmen of London arranged a new series of meetings to protest against the anti-Union attitude of the manufacturers and the Government of their country. It was Marx who furnished the initiative for this renewal of agitation.

In one of the following meetings of the General Council, one of its members, Dick, made a motion, which was seconded by G. Howell, to draft an address to the American people congratulating them upon their struggles and sacrifices in behalf of the principles of freedom and upon their re-election of Lincoln to the Presidency of the United States. A committee was appointed to formulate this address, and this committee submitted its draft, the author of which was Marx, to the General Council at its meeting on November 29th. The draft was accepted, and a resolution was adopted to forward it by a committee to Charles Francis Adams, the American Minister at London, for transmission to his Government. The following is the text of the address:

To Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America

"Sir:—We congratulate the American people on your re-election by a large majority. If resistance to the Slave Power was the watchword of your first election, the triumphal war-cry of your re-election is Death to Slavery."

"From the commencement of the titanic American strife the workmen of Europe felt instinctively that the Star Spangled Banner carried the destiny of their class. The contest for the territories which opened the dire struggle, was it not to decide whether the virgin soil of immense tracts should be added to the favor of the immigrant or be pro-

*F. Mehring, Neue Deutsche zur Biographie von K. Marx und F. Engels, Neue Zeit, 1906-07, Vol. II, p. 224.

*According to letters to the author by Friedrich Lessner, of London, at the time a member of the General Council of the International Workingmen's Association.

stituted by the tramp of the slave-driver?

"When an oligarchy of 300,000 slaveholders dared to inscribe for the first time in the annals of the world 'Slavery' on the banner of armed revolt, when on the very spots where hardly a century ago the ideas of one great Democratic Republic had first sprung up, whence the first declaration of the Rights of Man was issued, and the first impulse given to the European Revolution of the eighteenth century, when on those very spots counter-revolution, with systematic thoroughness, gloried in re-enslaving 'the ideas entertained at the time of the formation of the old constitution' and maintained 'slavery to be a beneficial institution,' indeed; the only solution of the great problem of the 'relation of capital to labor,' and cynically proclaimed property in man 'the cornerstone of the new edifice,'—then the working classes of Europe understood at once, even before the fanatic partisanship of the upper classes, for the Confederate gentry had given its dismal warning, that the slaveholders' rebellion was to sound the tocsin for a general holy war of property against labor, and that for the men of labor, with their hopes for the future, even their past conquests were at stake in that tremendous conflict on the other side of the Atlantic. Everywhere they bore therefore patiently the hardships imposed upon them by the cotton crisis, opposed enthusiastically the pro-slavery intervention,—opportunities of their betters—and from most parts of Europe contributed their quota of blood to the good of the cause.

"While the workmen, the true political power of the North, allowed slavery to defile their own republic, while before the Negro, mastered and sold without his concurrence, they boasted it the highest prerogative of the white-skinned laborer to sell himself and choose his own master, they were unable to attain the true freedom of labor, or to support their European brethren in their struggle for emancipation; but this barrier to progress has been swept off by the red sea of civil war.

"The workmen of Europe felt sure that, as the American War of Independence initiated a new era of ascendancy for the middle class, so the American Anti-slavery War will do for the working classes. They consider it an earnest sign of the epoch to come that it fell to the lot of Abraham Lincoln, the single-minded son of the working class, to lead his country through the matchless struggle for the rescue of the enchained race and the reconstruction of a social world.

"Signed on behalf of the International Workingmen's Association, the Central Council:

"Longmaid, Worley, Whitlock, Blackmore, Hartwell, Pidgeon, Laveratt, Weston, Dell, Nicolls, Shaw, Lake, Baskley, Osborn, Howell, Carter, Wheeler, Starnaby, Morgan, Grossmith, Dick, Denoual, Jourdain, Morisset, Leroux, Boudage, Bosquet, Talandier, Dupont, L. Wolf, Aldrovandi, Lama, Solustri, Nusper, Eccarius, Wolf, Lessner, Pfander, Lochner, Taub, Ballifer, Rypercynski, Hansen, Schautzenbeck, Smales, Cornelius, Peterson, Otto, Bagnagatti, Setocri, George Odgers, President of the Council; P. V. Lubez, Corresponding Secretary for France; Karl Marx, Corresponding Secretary for Germany; C. P. Fontana, Corresponding Secretary for Italy; J. E. Holtorp, Corresponding Secretary for Poland; H. F. Jung, Corresponding Secretary for Switzerland; William Cremer, Hon. General Secretary, 18 Greek Street, Soho, London W."

I take the following from "The Eastern Question," a reprint of letters to the "New York Tribune" between 1853 and 1856 dealing with the events leading up to and during the Crimean war in which England, France and Turkey combined to fight Russia. In a letter dated April 12th, 1853 Marx is discussing the menace of feudal Russia to the democracy of Western Europe and the danger to the revolution:

"Russia is decidedly a conquering nation, and was so for a century, until the great movement of 1789 called into potent activity an antagonist of formidable nature. We mean, the European Revolution, the explosive force of democratic ideas and man's native thirst for freedom. Since that epoch there have been in reality but two powers on the continent of Europe—Russia and Absolutism, the Revolution and Democracy. For the moment the Revolution seems to be suppressed, but it lives and is feared as deeply as ever. Witness the terror of the reaction at the news of the late rising at Milan. But let Russia get possession of Turkey, and her strength is increased nearly half, and she becomes superior to all the rest of Europe put together. Such an event would be an unspeakable calamity to the revolutionary cause. The maintenance of Turkish independence, or, in case of a possible dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, the arrest of the Russian scheme of annexation, is a matter of the highest moment. In this instance the interests of the revolutionary Democracy and of England go hand in hand. Neither can permit the Czar to make Constantinople one of his capitals, and we shall find that when driven to the wall, the only will resist him as determinedly as the other."

See how Marx sees it—the revolution, rough, shock-headed, spawn of history, sprawling untidily

Beekley, London, Jan. 7, 1925

abroad over the frontiers drawn by tidy, fastidious minds. To whom the struggle for preservation is a futility, unless the question of capitalist property right is first settled in the mind; who "leave reforms to the ruling class," because "the revolution is still in the class-room stage"; who would devote socialist activity to destroying the laboriously built up political institutions of the working class! Are they Marxists(?)

ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCES.

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significance of the term "environment."

We may rest assured that the enviroing fence that surrounds the field of our understanding is bristling with threatening weapons that are mightier than the sword. We must fight such by counter-propaganda. When a sufficient majority of the inhabitants of the industrially-developed nations are willing to do so, we may justifiably say that the day of the Industrial Confederation of the World, is at hand.

Correspondence

EBB AND FLOW.

Editor Clarion:

I herewith hand you \$1.00 renewal of my subscription to the Clarion.

Things in general are anything but rosy on the prairie. The crop failure has claimed many victims and the affected bunch are still clamoring for relief by the winding path. It is tiresome and discouraging waiting on the seed of class consciousness taking root. When we look back on the trail that mankind has travelled, and observe the struggles with conditions and the span of time that elapsed between one epoch and another, confidence of the inevitable overcomes our mental aberrations at times.

The outlook on the economic field all over the world is moving beyond our anticipations. The rapid industrialization of China, the intricate financial position of the monica power with their inability to collect, is fast developing into a catastrophe. I was afraid of the oil plunderers sweeping the globe with the broom of pillage by poison gas and reeked lava but the engineless, sailless boat invention, in the near future, may extinguish the flames of the oil thirsty fends of capitalism. The ebb and flow of the tide, with its many variations in undulations, furnish us with the illustrations of the movement of human society. War to maintain our present social system we all detest; laying bare our breast to stop the bullets of our own class is the result of ignorance. I hope the expected struggle will baffle the engineers and instead of the dark and dismal death dealing engines invented to destroy will revert to the purpose of supplying human needs. This might be the variation in our dark horizon.

Kindly give my best regards to Comrade Harrington and his wife. I hope Mrs. Harrington a speedy recovery from her illness.

Best wishes to all comrades not forgetting yourself.

Yours fraternally,

Delburne, Alta.
Dec. 8, 1924.

George Paton.

"He goes hence frowning; but it honors us
That we have given him cause."

—Cymbeline, (Act 2, Scene 5)

Editor, Clarion:

Please find enclosed one dollar, my renewal for Western Clarion, and while I have the pen in hand I may as well state a few of my ideas, whether they meet with your approval or not. Idea No. 1: It is high time for Communists to start to spread their propaganda among the juveniles because the bourgeoisie are continually doping the children's minds with patriotism and religion, and trusting to get the youngsters so stupefied that they never will know anything. I think the best way to go about that job would be to enlist the aid of as many school teachers as possible. Idea No. 2: Spread the propaganda among the farmers. The farmer has the long winter evenings, in which to study; he is usually of a better calibre mentally than the average wage slave. Treat him to the hard stuff, and I think he can be trusted to grasp the situation. Idea No. 3: Show what a lot of beasts the military people are. The bourgeoisie are continually trying to get the people to worship the soldier heroes. These are all the suggestions I have to offer at present, excepting to request that you don't let people like "C" and "Geordie" try to fool the comrades as it is a large subject we have to deal with and it doesn't help to have some people trying to confuse earnest students. Yours for Communism,
Nov. 24, 1924. Chas. Wooding
Georgetown, Ont.