

## The Capitalist Method of Production

(Continuation of "Commodities and Capital" in Last Issue.)

IN the course of the Middle Ages, the handicrafts developed steadily. There was a great increase in the division of labor—e.g., weaving divided into woollen weaving, linen weaving, etc. There was also increase in skill and improvement in tools. Simultaneously there came about a development of trade, especially as a result of improved means of transportation by water.

Four hundred years ago the handicrafts were at their height. This was an eventful time in the history of commerce. The waterway of India came into use and America was discovered, with its endless supplies of gold and silver. A flood of wealth inundated Europe, wealth which the European adventurers had scooped up by means of barter, deceit and robbery. The lion's share of this wealth fell to the tradesmen able to fit out ships with bold, unscrupulous crews.

At the same time there came into being the modern state, the centralized official and military State, at first an absolute monarchy. This State met the demands of the rising capitalist class and depended on it for support. The modern State, the State of developed commodity production, draws its power, not from personal service, but from its financial income. The monarchs had, therefore, every reason to protect and favor the capitalists who brought money into the country. In return the capitalists lent money to the monarchs, made debtors of them and put them in the position of dependents. This enabled them once more to force the political and military power into their service. The State was obliged to improve means of communication, take over colonies, and carry on war in the interest of capital.

Our text books on economics tell us that the beginning of capital is to be found in thrift. But we have learned that its origin was an altogether different one. Colonial policies were the chief sources of wealth open to capitalist nations; i.e., capital was drawn from the plundering of foreign lands, from piracy, smuggling, slave-trading and war. Even down to the nineteenth century, (and later,) history shows us plenty of examples of this "thrift." And "thrifty" tradespeople found in the State itself a powerful ally in this sort of "saving."

But newly discovered lands and commercial routes did more than bring wealth to the merchants; they opened up a new market for the seagoing nations of Europe, especially England. Handicraft was unable to satisfy the rapidly increasing demands of this market. These demands were on a large scale; production had to proceed on a large scale. That is, the market demanded a form of production which could and would adapt itself to the demand; in other words, a form absolutely in command of the merchants.

The merchants naturally found it to their interest to satisfy the demand of this new market, and they had the money to purchase the necessary means, raw materials, tools, factories and labor. But where was this last to come from? So long as a man owns tools of his own and can produce with them, he will not sell himself to another. Fortunately for the merchant, rural laborers were being driven from the soil. The landlords wanted their share of the new prosperity, therefore, they enlarged their scale of production and demanded a larger proportion of the product. So agricultural laborers were forced to the doors of the factories.

Thus the foundations of capitalist industry were laid by means of expropriation, by means of a revolution as bloody as any in history.

The separation of great masses of workers from the means of production, their transformation into propertyless proletarians, was a condition necessary to capitalist production. Economic development made the change inevitable. But the rising classes were not content to sit by and watch the course of events; they resorted to violence to accelerate the change. It was through violence of the most brutal, repulsive kind that capitalist society was ushered in.

Next Issue: "The Death-Struggle of Small Production."

### BLOCKADING IT

Is the blockade, the bullet, terrorism and misrepresentation succeeding? Read the following from a special correspondent of the London "Common Sense."

The growth in Scandinavia of Bolshevism, or of radical forms of Socialism which differ from Bolshevism only in name, ought to be a useful object-lesson to those politicians of Western Europe who, with their eyes fixed only on Russia, represent Bolshevism as a disease which can be cured homoeopathically by the hunger blockade and the terror of a White counter-revolution. Sweden, Norway and Denmark are today the most prosperous countries in Europe. True, their price-levels (particularly in Norway and Sweden) are higher than England's; but their wage-levels also have risen much higher, and though they, too, have currency inflation, they acquired real wealth while the belligerents were spending; and they escaped with comparatively small additions to their public debts. Further, their Governments are more democratic than those of the European Great Powers and of America, and they can achieve further democratization any day by parliamentary means. Sweden last winter, democratized her First (Upper) Chamber and gave women the vote: Norway is about to put through electoral redistribution (entirely in the interest of her Socialists;) and Denmark is embarking upon a reform of the Constitution of June, 1915, which in its day was considered the most pro-

### NATIONALIZATION "HORROR" IN RUSSIA

Probably no bit of anti-Bolshevik propaganda has been worked so hard, or has been more effective, than the alleged nationalization of women under Soviet rule.

The belief is dealt with at length by Professor W. T. Goode, in the "Manchester Guardian," and his plain narrative gives the fantastic notion what at any rate ought to be its death-blow.

"The position of women under Bolshevism," he says, "has not deteriorated, it has improved."

The best disproof of the nationalization story was the visible condition of women. "Home life goes on in the country, among the peasants, as before. In towns, family life continues, and one saw constantly whole families, taking the air on the boulevards, in the zoological gardens, and on Sunday in the children's theatres.

In the great factories at Serpukhof, and at the immense waterworks of Moscow, the greatest possible care is taken for improving the conditions under which the workmen live, just in order that they may lead family life. I went into their houses and into the flats provided and saw for myself.

"Marriage is a civil function, but no hindrance is placed in the way of a further religious ceremony, should the parties desire it. But the hardest blow is dealt against the 'free-love' belief by the following fact—there is, to all appearance, no open prostitution in Moscow."

As for the children, Professor Goode says, "To my thinking, there is no country in the world where more care, money, and thought are bestowed on the children by the Government than in Russia today."

To other popular misconceptions about Soviet Russia, Mr. Goode gives short shrift. As for instance:—

The story: "The Jews are Bolsheviks and the Bolsheviks Jews;" the reality: "At Moscow, of the 18 Commissaries of the People only one, Trotsky, is of Jewish blood."

The story: "That the Church is persecuted in Russia;" the reality: "I did not see a single damaged church."

The story: "That the Bolsheviks employ hordes of Chinese;" the reality: that "Chinese have been freely recruited, but their number is declining. . . . In Moscow I saw none, and Lenin goes about the town unattended."

pressive in the world.

Nevertheless, Syndicalism and Left-Socialism, both of them practically Bolshevism, have been, and it seems still are, steadily growing. In essentials the movements in all three countries are similar, but the measure of power and the reputation of the leaders differ materially in the three countries; in Denmark, the Bolsheviks are a vigorous and disturbing but numerically insignificant rump; in Sweden, though a minority, they have men of great ability and they powerfully influence policy; in Norway they have command of, and in fact are, the official Socialist party.

### ONE MAN WHO IS NOT A HYPOCRITE

On hearing of von Tirpitz's dismissal, I perpetrated the following letter, which a newspaper contrived to print in one of its editions. I can't say why, but it didn't appear any more nor was it copied by any other paper!

Dear Old Tirps,

We are both in the same boat! What a time we've been colleagues, old boy! However, we did you in the eye over the battle cruisers, and I know you've said you'll never forgive me for it when bang went the Blucher and von Spee and all his host!

Cheer up, old chap! Say "Resurgam!" You're the one German sailor who understands war! Kill your enemy without being killed yourself. I don't blame you for the submarine business. I'd have done the same myself, only our idiots in England wouldn't believe it when I told 'em.

Well! So long!—Yours till hell freezes, Fisher.—Times, October 17, 1919.

The wicked old "Economic Determinist" also perpetrated the following piece of materialistic reasoning at the close of a letter to the Times, advocating a system of tunnels and steamers to link the world.

"N. B.—Facility of communication begets community of interests, which is the only treaty that is not a scrap of paper. But that is not all. Can you imagine civil war between Middlesex and Hertfordshire, or the State of New Jersey fighting the State of Pennsylvania?" — Yours, Fisher.

### ANNIVERSARY OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

Friday evening, Nov. 7, Vancouver Local No. 1, commemorated the second anniversary of the establishing of the Soviet Republic in Russia by the working class of that country. The celebration commenced with a banquet, at the conclusion of which an address was given. The rest of the evening was spent in song and dancing. Some one hundred and sixty were present, the size of the hall putting a limit to the number of the tickets issued.

### WHERE CHILDREN ARE FIRST

By the latest Soviet Government's order, wherever there is food shortage, the local provisioning organizations are to feed all children under 14 years old free of charge, and send the accounts on to the Central Commissariat. At least the Soviets will not have the sin of starving children laid to their charge.—Labor Leader, (London.)

### SOUTH AFRICAN LABOR

The Labor and Socialist movement of Durban organized a Peace demonstration independent of the official celebrations. A huge gathering unanimously adopted a resolution pledging those present to strive for the removal of the conflicting economic interests out of which wars arise.