

America and Her Influence

WHEN Christopher Columbus made his famous voyage across the Atlantic and humped into the Continent now known as America, none foresaw the titanic effects that were doomed to follow such a discovery.

The journey which was originally intended to find a sea route to India, was made with the purpose of opening up a trade route to that country in lieu of the overland route that had existed prior to the War of the Crusades—but which had long since passed under the control of the Saracens.

The tremendous size of the new continent and its vast natural resources offered such favorable inducements that it speedily became one of the chief markets of the world and also one of the chief causes in giving an impulse to the industry and commerce of Europe, especially England. Separated from Europe by water, it also gave a like impulse to navigation, and the position of Britain as well as the fact that it was an Island very favorably blessed with many natural harbors, proved to be of tremendous importance to that country in the struggle for a share in the trade that was carried on with the new country, America. The buccaneering exploits of Drake, Raleigh, Froisher, et al., and the glorious page in English history known as the defeat of the Spanish Armada had their origin in this same discovery.

The economic life of England was given a tremendous impetus, and with constantly rapid changes in the technique of the country taking place in order to meet the increased demand for manufactured goods, we had its necessary product, social and political changes.

The manufacturers and merchants of England began to accumulate vast stores of wealth. Their interests conflicted on an ever expanding scale with those of the ruling feudal class. A show-down became inevitable, and the Revolution under Cromwell was the result. A new historical epoch had been started; the epoch of capitalism.

The various classes that had existed under the feudal regime, but which were already slowly breaking up, began to rapidly disappear, until, today there are but the two classes, wage slaves and capitalists.

Along with this social change in England and Europe there has proceeded a somewhat more rapid change in America. From a virgin country she has risen to a position of pre-eminence in that social system which she was one of the main factors in giving birth to. Like England and France she has had her bourgeois revolution. She, like them, has had her philosophers of pure reason, and the "Rights of Man." And like all countries under the iron-heel of capitalism she has developed into a staunch champion of individual democracy. In fact it would seem that America's mission today is to now function as the main prop of the reactionary forces of modern society in preventing any further revolutions that are by the very nature of things doomed to make their appearance. At one time a factor in causing revolutions and historical change, she has developed into a potent force prohibiting political change. And this is perfectly as it should be.

Her tremendous size and vast natural resources have been the cause of developing within her geographical confines the richest and most ruthless set of plutocrats that modern history can boast of. Her politicians have proven themselves geniuses in their adaptation to the ethics of their system. And the motto of "get while the getting is good" is of universal application among them while in office.

The colossal wealth centralized in such few hands has bred a most ruthless despotic temperament in the minds of its owners. And were Nietzsche alive and sojourning in this land of the free, it is safe to say that he would be the lion of modern literature.

But all is not honey that tastes sweet. The home market of America is utterly unable to absorb the commodities produced therein. Foreign markets are needed, and America must sally forth into lands afar and seek customers. She must crawl out of her nationalistic shell and become more cosmopolitan. God's country has become too small to harbor its god. Mammon, golden, glittering mammon, hoarded in the vaults of its owners and worshippers, craves to fulfil its function in the world of commodities. It forces its owners to seek avenues for its active expression as capital.

Home industries have been expanded to their limit. Gigantic machinery has been introduced in these industries in order to produce more wealth with less labor. Still the golden glittering mass stored as a hoard cannot find full expression.

America's financial magnates have been driven abroad to seek an outlet for the profitable use of this mass of precious metal. But in their searching abroad care has been taken to see that it will only be used in those industries which are of sufficient size to warrant further development at this stage of the capitalist system.

The territory now under control of the Soviets of Russia, with its probable greater natural resources than even the U. S. A., along with its close contact with the fine technical machine of Germany offers golden prospects for such an investment.

The gigantic industries of the Ruhr and the closely connected and highly efficient German railroads are the fish that Morgan and Co. seek to land. This can well be understood, when such are brought into relation with the backward condition of Russia. Russia's demand for machinery and other products of steel can be supplied much more efficiently by the huge combine now in process of formation in the disputed area of the Ruhr. These commodities must be carried over the railroads, and here again is a golden chance to add an increment to the aforementioned golden mass. Thus for the privilege of putting Germany once again on a gold basis; the pound of flesh must be paid. But unlike ancient Shylock's, it must contain both blood and bone. Also Iron.

Should such an harmonious program reach fruition, it means that a large number of former wage-slaves of the German government now transfer their profitable activities to Mr. Morgan and his cohorts, and for their benefit. It also means ructions in the future political life of the Germans.

In any case, it means that our beloved country becomes more entangled in the hated foreign alliances, and due to these growing economic interests we must be obliged to take a corresponding interest in the political affair of those countries.

So it would seem that on the supposition of an impending proletarian revolution in Germany (as is claimed by a few "reputable" authorities) the action of America on such a situation must be taken into serious consideration.

The country whose discovery was one of the main factors in developing the power and class necessary to overthrow the reaction and feudal ruling class of the previous epoch, now seems destined to be the power to uphold that which, due to technical progress, has itself become reactionary. Changing conditions, changing ideas, and a simplification of the classes of society, the product of the time process, have completely altered America's stand from that taken in the days of 1776.

Then the revolutionary element of this country were those destined to become the ruling masters of a new era. They were the forefathers of those that now act in so reactionary a manner. Then they struggled for a complete political expression of their

economic interests. This could only be accomplished by overthrowing those that stood in their way.

Today, the revolutionary element are that class of wage-slaves that their system has created. Capitalists and wage slaves standing irreconcilably opposed to each other. 'Tis this fact which has forced America into a reversal of the position she championed in 1776 and 1789. But it is extremely doubtful if sufficient workers of America are conscious of it. And there is the danger to the "impending revolution in Germany," and also the pressing need for a larger activity in the realms of propaganda.

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THE FARMER'S FORUM

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same time they can explain that Wheat Pools and Cattle Pools will not solve the problems of those who toil, even if they may ameliorate the suffering and wait for a time, by gaining a few cents, by eliminating middle men, etc.

We must recognize the fact that a wheat pool is a huge co-operative selling trust. Eventually it is going to take the place of the Grain Ring which is composed of many companies and concerns. Already the Alberta government is empowered to give the Wheat Pool (\$1,000,000) one million dollars to buy company elevators. An average grain elevator cost \$14,000 when built (new); presuming there will be a 15 per cent or more depreciation, a million dollars will buy quite a number of the line elevators in Alberta. Over 35,000,000 bushels have been handled by the Alberta Pool to date. In the event of the collapse of Capitalism and a Socialist state taking control, we can see there would be an advantage to the working class in dealing and if necessary taking over a huge concern such as the Wheat Pool is likely to develop into rather than have to deal with a disorganized group of companies who would more than likely, offer resistance, and would likely practice sabotage on the food supply of society, which could not happen so easily in dealing with a central body like the Pool. Let us hope, in such a contingency, when the working class will take control, the farmers will not lag far behind; they will know their function in society, at least the majority of them will be class conscious by then.

If the theory is correct that the farmers receive a price below value for their commodities because of the low composition of their Capital and their ill organized methods, then it may be argued that the Wheat Pool and their various co-operative efforts which will entail, we presume, a higher composition of Capital, must necessarily bring about a state of affairs where the price of wheat will raise to, at least, around value. It would appear, however, that such is the case, as the Wheat Pool has announced a price for Pool wheat which will be considerably above what has been paid by the line elevators.

I do not think it is part of the aim of the Wheat Pool to fix prices. Even if they had that aim in view, after the idea of wheat control during the war, conditions under normalcy are different, as there appears to be a glut in the world wheat market.

The Wheat Pool would have to assume an international character, and control the world's wheat supply, before such an idea as price fixing could be entertained under normal conditions of Capitalism. If the price of wheat were to raise to value there are still vast areas of the earth where wheat could be profitably grown, and new capital is always available in abundance to exploit the virgin soil of new countries yet untouched. The possibilities of making the implements of wheat production larger and more proficient have also to be considered.

We may, well look upon gigantic farmer's co-operative trusts as the last phase of Capitalism, ere it fulfills its historic mission, when society will take upon itself the task to produce for use instead of for profit.

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