

The Aims of Labor.

(By Right Hon. Arthur Henderson,

SOLIDARITY.

The organised workers have displayed a wonderful spirit of loyalty and remarkable fortitude, courage, and determination throughout the period of the war, but from now onwards the need for practical and effective solidarity will become more and more increasingly evident and insistent. The tremendous sacrifices of the present are a blood-offering for the security of the future, and a grave responsibility will rest upon the representatives of the several nations concerned if, from any unworthy motive they fail to arrange such a peace settlement as will afford the peoples of the world a reasonable prospect of security, freedom and progress. If such a peace is not realised, it will mean that the most vital object of our participation in the present greivous and devastating conflict has not been attained, and that the military failure of Germany has not proved to be a victory for the Allied Cause.

Co-operation Between People's

It is imperative that the workers of the world should realise that they are too intimately concerned in the proper adjustment of all the great issues to allow them to be settled in any other than a just honorable way. Moreover, immense problems of political, social, and material reconstruction will present themselves for solution immediately peace is declared. These problems will not be confined to any one nation, but will, be international in character scope and effect; and if they are to be solved successfully joint action and close co-operation between all people's will be essential.

The defeat of aggressive Militarism and Autocracy will not dispose of all the great difficulties confronting Democracy; it will only mean, in the event of an honorable and lasting peace, that the peoples will be free to concentrate all their energies, their creative and constructive genius, on the consideration and solution of these common difficulties. Democracy has in its hands the necessary power to arrange the future destiny of the world. If the democratic forces are to be successful, it is of essential importance that they shall combine with singleness of aim firm determination, and complete unity under the banner of Freedom, Peace and Progress.

Society of Nations.

There is ample evidence that the workers of this country have not yet formed a just appreciation of the vital importance of all the forces of democracy uniting with one will and common purpose to secure in the peace settlement and the subsequent national and international reconstruction the essential conditions of "a new heaven and a new earth". It is time they intend that the new Society of Nations shall be built on the solid rocks of justice, honor and humanity, instead of being rebuilt on the shifting sands of oppression, conquest and international jealousy. They intend that brute force and all other barriers to "Peace on Earth, Goodwill among men" shall be done away with and that the conclusion of

this terrible struggle shall inaugurate a new era in which moral force shall hold complete and unquestioned sway. And it must be obvious that anything short of this would mean that the present golden opportunity had been missed and would give a new lease of life to the forces of reaction and militarism throughout the whole world. The only power that can save the present and future generations from a repetition of the present ruthless struggle, is a united Democracy.

Organise With Unity.

But if full advantage is to be taken of this opportunity to ensure that the destiny of the world shall be at the complete disposal of the people themselves, it will require of a Democracy all the best qualities of real statesmanship. It is not sufficient that the nations shall have a clear vision of the new world which they desire to dwell in; they must organise with unity and strength of purpose and use their power to lay the foundations true and firm and afterwards to complete the whole edifice on right and noble lines.

Peoples International.

A real People's international, which shall give concrete and practical expression to the spiritual aspirations, social ideals and moral passion of humanity, must be founded on an unshakable faith of the nations in the spirit of democracy, and the recognition by all peoples not only of their national rights and privileges but of their international obligations and responsibilities. Freedom at home and domination abroad are incompatible with the ideals of democracy. If the German people are sincere in their professions of faith in democracy and the principles of equality among all nations, large and small, strong and weak, they must begin to establish in their own country a constitutional system of democratic government. It is not a matter that needs to be postponed for consideration after the war. Russia, the latest addition to the league of Democracies, did not neglect to strive for internal freedom during the progress of hostilities, and if the peoples of the world are to be responsible for arranging the terms of a democratic and stable peace the German nation will need to establish popular control over its own national affairs. And until this is done it will be impossible to build a completely successful and effectual People's International.

"A Solid Foundation".

In the past Democracy has been far too ready and content to contract-out the vitally important work of national and International construction, with the inevitable result that the jerry-built structure erected was too frail to stand when the storm clouds of war burst over Europe with such terrible effect in 1914. There must be an end of this policy. The peoples must shoulder their own responsibilities, and must see to it that the new world edifice which is to be built on the ruins of the old shall be capable of resisting all international storms that may threaten

humanity in the future.

If Democracy is to co-operate effectively and successfully in international affairs, it is altogether essential that the democratic forces shall be united and solid at home. It may safely be said that hitherto too much prominence has been given to differences of opinion regarding tactics and methods, to the incalculable advantage of the reactionary and opposing forces. Surely past experiences must have proved beyond all shadow of a doubt the necessity of all sections of the movement inspired by the same high ideals combining to enforce their common will. We cannot afford to fritter away our strength by internal wrangling on issues which after all, are not of vital importance and are only secondary to the main aims we have in view.

United We Stand Divided We Fall.

Whatever may have been the causes of past differences of opinion and however acute may have been the disagreements regarding the causes of the war and the methods employed to bring it to a successful conclusion, there can be no substantial difference among the various sections of the great democratic army regarding the kind of peace which will make the world safe for democracy, or as to the need of a comprehensive and effective policy of reconstruction. Of this we may be assured, the future will only be democracy's if democracy concentrates all its powers into one channel and seeks to enforce its will by united action. Concentration of its strength can only be achieved by complete unity of purpose and action. What is most urgently required is breadth of vision to focus in broad outline the great aims of democracy, and courage, power, and tenacity to strive to attain those ideals. There is little divergence among the various so far as aims and objects are concerned; but if we are to attain a reasonable measure of co-operation, there will have to be a greater disposition on all sides to seek accommodation re the methods by which our aims and ideals may be achieved. "United we stand, divided we fall" is a significant phrase, and the various forces of reaction have long since learnt to give it full recognition and to stand together in face of the common enemy of democracy. Self preservation has compelled them to work in unison, but only the lack of cohesion and co-operation on the part of the democratic forces has enabled them to stand together so long and to exert so great an influence on the destiny of the people.

(To be continued)

Capitalism dies hard. But there is one satisfaction—it will be a long time dead.

Life insurance under Socialism will be the kind that you won't have to die to get.

Approach Socialism through the road of prejudice and you land in the swamp of ignorance.

When a workingman has a wooden leg he finds it hard to get along, but he seems to get along all right with a wooden head.

Socialism is what a real Christian would like to practice but cannot under present conditions.



GENESIS AND EVOLUTION OF SLAVERY.

By Charles Kingsley.

During the few too brief years in which many of us workers went to school we became a little bit familiar with history. We learned something of the History of Great Britain and something of the early settlement and subsequent organization of the Federal Government of Canada. The impression left with us by these early studies was that — "The History of a Country is the History of its Great Men." Basking in the immortal glory of kings and generals we felt the first yearnings of that hero-worship which in later years was destined to make us good citizens in the sense of entertaining orthodox feelings of reverence and humility in the presence of our "betters" and causing us eagerly to acquiesce in the wise decree of providence in placing masters and rulers over us.

The writing of a History is, naturally, a task for the wisest of men. It is a matter which requires not only a vast knowledge of facts but also a mind discerning in method of arranging such facts that their true significance may be disclosed. This is the essential function of History, — the correct statement and the correct interpretation of facts in connection with the life of a nation.

We are well aware that there has been something lacking in the majority of histories hitherto published. This lack has arisen from the position taken by the average historian. These writers have assumed that the fortunes of duly anointed royalties is the one important theme not to be overlooked, the fortunes of the common people being worthy only of incidental mention. So it happens that the average person knows that Henry VIII of England had several matrimonial adventures and perhaps also that he had a difference of opinion with the Pope, but of the conditions affecting the lives of the poor of that time there is not such general knowledge.

Whether this characteristic of histories, particularly of our public school texts, has been consciously effected or not it has served an admirable purpose from the viewpoint of those whose interests are exercised in ruling and reaping the earth. That is to say, in our tender years we have been properly started out in reverential and obsequious training.

As a valuable addition to Socialist literature we now have Comrade Kingsley's "Genesis and Evolution of Slavery". We have prefaced our remarks by a reference to History because this little work is mainly historical, — History from the view point that concerns you and me and all workers whatsoever. Beginning with the early exploitation of the laboring masses by an owning and ruling class Comrade Kingsley traces the development of Society through various forms down to the present shewing in his powerful and inimitable style that our boasted freedom so much heard of, is more apparent than real; that Business for Profit on which our modern commercialism rests is only

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