

The Birth of Iris

BY F. W. MOORE.

THERE is a story told of a certain doctor in the Far North who is said to have prescribed treatment for influenza to relieve pain incidental to a broken rib, and every time we think of it we are reminded of the current history of our own times in which we read of the analogous case of the international politico-economic physician (and surgeon, if necessary) Dr. Leagonations, who is treating Madame Capital for general debility when in reality her case is one for specialists in the maternity hospital.

A new social order struggles for birth while the doctor interprets the agonized cries of the mother as insistent demands for more markets merely, or as peevish wailings for fresh supplies of oil and iron.

To those who have followed the trend of events in recent years there is no mystery any more than there was to Tennyson when he gave such delightful expression to a great truth that is obvious to almost everybody, except learned diplomats of course:

"Ev'n now we hear with inward strife
A motion toiling in the gloom
The spirit of the years to come
Yearning to mix himself with life
A slow-develop'd strength awaits
Completion in a painful school
Phantoms of other forms of rule
New majesties of mighty states."

"Phantoms of other forms of rule" is a most suggestive expression. The very decrepitude of Madame, makes one think of the "witching hour of night" of a dying age "when churchyards groaned, and graves gave up their dead." Her physical development has reached such gigantic proportions that her vital organs—her industrial institutions and markets, have become semi-paralysed, choked with the metaphorical adipose tissue incidental to the power of producing too much for a limited market. Her entire constitution suffers severely as a consequence of continual attempts to infringe the laws of economic determinism, and considering the condition she is in, her troubles are highly complex indeed. No longer is it possible for her system to receive adequate nourishment. It avails little that her appetite, unlike that of other beings, which diminishes with advancing age, becomes ever more insatiable in accordance with the requirements of her constantly increasing mechanical power. She is slowly dying of unsatisfied hunger for markets. Dr. Leagonations therefore spends the greater part of his time planning ways and means to obtain these wherever they may be found. We are unable to foretell how soon or in what manner the old lady will "shuffle off this mortal coil," but we do know that her end is not far distant, as periods of evolution are usually reckoned. It is therefore incumbent on us to supplement the work of the doctor, by broadcasting a diagnosis of Madame's infirmity, since the possibility of the successful issue of the great event, would be of intense interest to the whole human race if it only knew that on its attitude depends the safe arrival of the lusty infant that will have been born of ages of development, an infant that will, no doubt, surpass in comeliness all its predecessors just as in preceding ages at junctures of a similar nature, each succeeding child of Madame Economic Circumstance, of whom Madame Capital was the last, surpassed all her predecessors.

Miss Barbarism, for instance, was far more elegant than Miss Savagery, just as in later years Miss Feudalism carried off all the honours when compared with Miss Barbarism: and now we look forward with pleasurable anticipation to the time when Iris Industrial government will far outlive the beauty and virtue of her dear old mother Mrs. Capital.

Is it not therefore an arrant shame to trust the fortunes of our prospective baby to the tender mercies of so uncongenial a doctor? Surely it would be an act of charity if the women of the world lent him some assistance. Who would be better able to sense intuitively the real nature of Madame's troubles?

les? Who would be better fitted to aid her in her distress in which she needs other medicines to supplement those mentioned? A clue to the nature of the panacea required can be had in the known fact that the political atmosphere was changed completely as each of the interesting ladies mentioned above made her entrance on the world's stage. The social infant whose appearance we anticipate and who, we trust, will soon spread its radiance on a fortunate world can, in its requirements, be no exception to the general rule. It too, must have an environing atmosphere suitable to its condition—an atmosphere prevailed by widespread knowledge of economic truths relating to the facts to which the infant owes its existence, and in which alone the ship of state can be successfully navigated.

In ordinary school-education these facts are not considered, while in our maturer years there is little time to look them up. How indeed could there be, since existence is maintained by an incessant struggle that in a word of highly developed machinery, is the last extreme in quintessential folly?

Let the following momentous truth be heralded across the universe and pervade the atmosphere in which our beautiful Iris must some day live:—that the inhabitants of this world are divided by circumstances into two main classes, the exploiters and the exploited. Let it be further known that the exploited who receive only from the world's produce sufficient to maintain themselves and their families according to the current standard of living, can by no means buy back, the huge bulk of the surplus commodities that must be disposed of if Madame Capital's metaphorical life-blood be allowed to circulate. Hence arises, in every country where machinery is highly developed, the necessity for a foreign market. To this might be added the statement that since the continual increase in the world's power of production calls for an increasing but impossible expansion in a world-market of well defined limits, we are driven to the conclusion that the lack of correspondence between our industrial institutions and their environment, is a sure premonition of their approaching dissolution, and that the time must come when the congestion will be so serious that the smooth running of the wheels of industry must necessarily become impossible.

Surely then it is the duty of all honest men and women to make an enquiry into the truth or falsity of these statements which have been proclaimed by the Socialist parties of the world for some years. If they find that they are true, they owe it to honour and honesty, to themselves and to the world at large, to spread the knowledge of the results of their investigations as extensively as their means of doing so will permit.

In this way they can prepare for the great day when the aggravated congestion of the markets of the world will bring within measurable distance the materialization of the dreams of the world's great poets and thinkers—the birthday of the baby Iris involving also the coming of Tennyson's "Parliament of Man" whose factors would be the "United States of the World" in which would be regulated by members of an industrial parliament, the production and distribution of commodities in the interests of all mankind.

Let us fondly hope that the nurses and physicians—those groups of men and women who disdain "even by silence to sanction lies" will be able to prevent the surgeon—the legions of barbaric militarism that have been captivated by the subtle propaganda of the designing reactionary, creating a state of anarchy embodied in the death under operation of both mother and child. How regrettable that would be it is impossible to conjecture. The evil effects on humanity of the death of Iris might be felt for ages. It therefore behoves every true man and woman to be up and doing: to hold aloft the light of economic determinism and to remember that:—

"We live in deeds, not years—in thoughts, not breaths.
In feelings, not in figures on a dial,
We should count time by heart-throbs. He most lives
Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best."

THE CLAIMS OF NORDIC RACE SUPERIORITY.

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of skin, hair and language is exploited to the utmost; and the man in the street mumbles shibboleths and discovers ancestors in Walhalla. Yet contradictions and exaggerations abound on every page of these pseudo-scientific treatises and absurdity vies with absurdity. Mr. Stoddard writes: "Our glorious civilization is the work of 'Nordics,' sole possessors of the desirable mental qualities, who have taken their faith from Palestine, their laws of beauty from Greece and their civil laws from Rome." Mr. Grant says: "Europe was Germany and Germany was Europe until the Thirty Years' War. . . . When by universal suffrage the transfer of power was completed from a 'Nordic' aristocracy to lower classes of predominantly Alpine and Mediterranean extraction, the decline of France in international power set in." A report of some eugenic commission states: "Admit inferior races, to dig subways and to labor as farmers, but sterilize them that they shall not act as seeds for future crops." And again Mr. Grant: "One of the greatest difficulties in classifying man is his perverse predisposition to misname." A chorus of voices, indeed, a veritable cloud of witnesses, declare that though Christianity is essentially the religion of Mediterranean slaves, Christ was a "Nordic." I have yet to read a book, however, which can avoid the confession that the great beginnings and the large achievements of European culture were made by the Alpine and Mediterranean stocks.

(To be concluded.)

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PLATFORM

Socialist Party of Canada

We, the Socialist Party of Canada affirm our allegiance to, and support of the principles and programme of the revolutionary working class.

Labor, applied to natural resources, produces all wealth. The present economic system is based upon capitalist ownership of the means of production, consequently, all the products of labor belong to the capitalist class. The capitalist is, therefore, master; the worker a slave.

So long as the capitalist class remains in possession of the reins of government all the powers of the State will be used to protect and defend its property rights in the means of wealth production and its control of the product of labor.

The capitalist system gives to the capitalist an ever-swelling stream of profits, and to the worker, an ever-increasing measure of misery and degradation.

The interest of the working class lies in setting itself free from capitalist exploitation by the abolition of the wage system, under which this exploitation, at the point of production, is cloaked. To accomplish this necessitates the transformation of capitalist property in the means of wealth production into socially controlled economic forces.

The irrepressible conflict of interest between the capitalist and the worker necessarily expresses itself as a struggle for political supremacy. This is the Class Struggle.

Therefore we call upon all workers to organize under the banner of the Socialist Party of Canada, with the object of conquering the political powers for the purpose of setting up and enforcing the economic programme of the working class, as follows:

- 1—The transformation, as rapidly as possible, of capitalist property in the means of wealth production (natural resources, factories, mills, railroads, etc.) into collective means of production.
- 2—The organization and management of industry by the working class.
- 3—The establishment, as speedily as possible, of production for use instead of production for profit.