

SUCCESS—AND CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS

In spite of the experiences through which men have passed during the Great War, the gigantic proportions of which had the effect of calling forth a veritable deluge of moral lessons from those specially employed for that purpose, we find the refining influences of our great purification have not changed very much the commercial atmosphere in which we live. Commercial success is yet the goal of man's ambition.

Anyone who likes to take the trouble can glance through our popular magazines and newspapers and find all sorts of offers, the acceptance of which with the necessary cash will place them on the highway to "success." One thing you will notice is insisted upon. You must "get out of the rut," "cease to carry a dinner-pail," "get out of the habit of punching a clock"—in other words, lift yourself out of the ranks of the wage earners—become a superintendent, a manager, president or "master of men." In order to reach your higher plane you must develop personality, become a forceful speaker, and by giving your "mind" a particular system of exercise, the world is at your feet to do with it what you will. "The mind" has become the wonder of the age—only look around and see some of its latest products—jazz music, "insipid" journalism, investigations into the H. C. of L. and economics, Christian Science (?), ad nauseum. Now, it is not contended that these exhibitions of the "mind" of the present generation are the sole legacy we have received from the much vaunted "discovery" of the part the "mind" plays in our life. These examples are simply what we find "dished up" daily for popular consumption. The diligent and laborious studies and experiments of the real searchers after truth have no look in amongst this flood of worthless piffle. The people don't want to know the truth about anything in particular except getting on, i.e., making money, being "a success." The standard of success is wealth—"a successful business man" the living example, par excellence. Of course one can be successful in other lines, but that only makes you "interesting" unless the commercial successes also recognize your outstanding abilities and you become allied with the "aristocracy of brains." The association of money and brains is still a peculiar expression of the workers, and the expression is often conveyed to one that "money can do anything almost."

It may be noted in passing that one of the chief reasons for the admiration of the workers outside of Russia for Lenine and Trotsky is that they have been able to demonstrate that they are able to handle the agents of "successful" imperialist business nations in such a manner that the "wonders" of wealth do not look so big as they did in 1914. If some of these admirers would take the trouble to study some of the writings of these two men instead of the usual and malicious and often lying reports, they would discover how it comes that they have proved such useful "servants" to the working-class of Russia. (Both Lenine and Trotsky hold important executive positions with the Soviet Government, and the word "servants" is used here for the special benefit of those who do not understand what a Proletarian Dictatorship signifies.)

The outstanding personalities, or at least the well known individuals who are credited with being the "shining lights" in commerce and industry are not the ones who go beyond the shallowest attempts to explain their success. They are usually very silent when questioned, or deliver themselves of such hazy generalizations as to "not watching the clock," "having a definite goal in life," "character is the basis of success," "industry," "perseverance," etc., etc. However, if you cannot find any opening along these lines you can get comfort in the fact that probably you may have been born "under a lucky star," and so confound all these rules of guidance. Is it any wonder that under the influence of all these mysterious messages from an unseen power that the "people" should be continually hoping for some speedy release from the galling position of wage-slavery. Under the present system it is despicable. Your "friends," who do not want your money but only your "labor-power" lament over the fact that your earning power is becoming so great that they do not now how they are going to pay you. Those who work with their brain in industry envy the fortunate manual workers—and they both, the manual and mental workers envy the

great "brains" of those who have evolved the triumphant philosophy of "I should worry;" "Pack up your troubles;" and "Smile, Smile, Smile."

The measure of "success" from a class conscious point of view is another question. The success of a "class" becomes a predominant idea—a social idea in contrast to the individualistic idea—the idea of personal success. One of the outstanding features of the commercial idea of "success" is derived through the competitive system, wherein the individual appeared as the living demonstration of his superior methods. The development of gigantic industry has in actual fact destroyed this "superior" individual, but the illusion remains, and whilst some person has to be the nominal head of any business, the process by which he arrives there is by no means always a question of knowledge or ability: the tradition of the position remains, and the occupant becomes the heir to the glories of the past. A dying "class" lives on the past and for this reason keeps alive as long as possible the ideas that are useful to them. When the capitalists were a rising class they ridiculed the traditions of feudalism. The working class—the present rising class—ridicule the outworn traditions of their masters, i.e., the class conscious workers do. Those who are not class conscious still sing "Smile, Smile, Smile," especially when they hear the system creaking under their "wage demands." Their masters join in the refrain too, though, in fact, they taught that little song to their heroes, the majority of whom were workers. The interests of the capitalists as a "class" are to develop business on a basis of "profit," and in order to do this the wages system is necessary. To be a "success," therefore, under the capitalist system, you must be prepared to maintain the interest of the predominant class. No "system" of success undermines that idea.

The measure of success from the point of view of the class-conscious workers becomes a matter of their class interests. The wages system is not to their interest. The solution of the problem is the measure of the success of the working-class, and the development of the "mind" of the worker is an important element in the problem. Their minds have to function on a basis differing from capitalist education—the problems of "producing for profit" are to be substituted by the problems of "producing for use," an intelligent definite objective of their own. The practical solution by themselves as a class—not how much to "one," but how much to everyone—that is the class-conscious measure of **SUCCESS**.

H. W.

Literature Price List

- Communist Manifesto. Single copies, 10c; 25 copies, \$2.00.
 Wage-Labor and Capital. Single copies, 10c; 25 copies, \$2.00.
 The Present Economic System. (Prof. W. A. Bonger). Single copies, 10c; 25 copies, \$1.50.
 Capitalist Production. (First Nine and 32nd Chapters, "Capital," Vol. I. Marx). Paper, single copies, 50c; cloth, single copies, \$1.00; cloth, 10 copies, 75c each.
 Socialism, Utopian and Scientific. Single copies, 15c; 25 copies, \$3.25.
 Slave of the Farm. Single copies, 10c; 25 copies, \$1.50.
 Manifesto, S. P. of C., single copy, 10 cents; 25 copies, \$1.50.
 Red Europe. (F. Anstey, M.P.). Single copies, 50c. Ten copies or more 30c each.
 The Story of the Evolution of Life. (T. F. Palmer). Single copies, 10c.
 Evolution of Man. (Prof. Bolsche). Single copies, 20c; 25 copies, \$3.75.
 The Nature and Uses of Sabotage (Prof. T. Veblen). Single copies 5 cents, 25 copies \$1.
 Red Heart of Russia. (Bessie Beattie). Per copy, \$2.00.
 Ten Days that Shook the World. (John Reed). Per copy, \$2.00.
 The Criminal Court Judge, and The Odd Trick (E. B. Bax). Single copies, 5 cents; per 25 copies, 75c.

CLARION MAINTENANCE FUND

- A. Fraser, 50 cents; G. R. Ronald, 50 cents; W. Erwin, \$1.50; A. Kellard, \$2.00; T. Richardson, \$2.00; James Mather, Dick Burge and D. Kinninum, each \$1.00.

Total 29th March to 12th April inclusive, \$9.50.

ECONOMIC CAUSES OF WAR

(Continued from Page 1)

difficulty was brought about because the Mexican Government's new Constitution decreed that no foreign trust or syndicate was to be allowed to own and work concessions unless they made a special covenant to regard themselves as Mexican citizens insofar as the said property was concerned, and not to invoke the protection of their own governments for the protection of this property, under the penalty of forfeiting the said property to the Mexican nation. This statute, however, has since been modified through outside pressure.

The Liberal papers of 1911 and 1912, like "The Nation," "Daily Chronicle," and some of the Conservative reviews, attacked Sir Edward Grey's foreign policy, and in fact said it would lead to a great European war. "The Round Table," a quarterly review of the politics of the British Empire, of September, 1912, in an article "Australia on Anglo-German Relations," says: "The attitude of England towards Germany in such a position is not altogether creditable; England has treated herself well in the matter of territory, yet if it is announced that Germany has acquired territory in the South Pacific or in South Africa or the West Coast of Africa, a howl arises from the jingo party that Germany is acquiring a strategic point which will command a British colony or trade route. It is idle for such arguments to be used against the progress of an expanding nation. The real reason, of course, is that the British colonies are practically undefended, her trade routes unprotected, and to save herself the responsibility of their protection she seems to be striving to hem Germany up in the North Sea. . . . But to try and avoid these problems of defence by bottling Germany up in the North Sea is folly. It is like putting a dam against a rising tide. . . . The German danger is from a Germany concentrated in Europe, Germany dispersed throughout the world is not a dangerous foe. . . . The very alliance which Britain joins for her own protection is an alliance which Germany for her own protection must smash. There is an irreconcilable conflict here which must go on piling armament on armament till the crash comes." This note was written in 1912, and yet Lord Rosebery said it would be fifty years after the war before we would know its causes. In "The English Review," November, 1917, page 462, Major Stephens says, "My carefully calculated anticipation proved true to a day, as did, three years before this monstrous war, my prophecy that the first shot in the Armageddon would sound on August Bank Holiday, 1914." The Major declares he made this prophecy in the London Evening Times, November 11th, 1911. Poor "Henry Dubbs" was told this war was sprung on us unexpectedly, and yet Britain declared war on Germany and Lord Haldane, speaking in London, March, 1915, reported "Glasgow Herald" the 22nd, said, "The enemy was dealing in the first place with a British army, the commander of which, to my personal intimate knowledge, had been studying the possibilities of a campaign like this for five years or more." Frederick Banbury, M. P., City of London, finance representative in the "Weekly Dispatch," said July 16th, 1916, "So seriously did I regard the prospects of war that months before it broke out I considered it prudent to sell some German securities that I held in my possession." It seems he must have been "in the know" before the Sarajevo murder.

PETER T. LECKIE.

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