

THE LABOUR PROBLEM.

THE CHIEF FACTOR IN THE STUDY OF SOCIAL REFORM.

The following articles are from The Covenant People, the journal of the British Israel Association of England. The first part of this article appeared in the January issue, it was answered in the February issue. And to cite the arguments in full, which has so much interest for English speaking people, we publish both articles:

It must be evident to the most casual observer that the labour problem is being gradually forced to the front; indeed, now that Home Rule is shelved, it is becoming the question of the day. Trade Congresses, meetings of the Labour Electoral Association, Independent Labour Party, Christian Socialists, Fabian Societies, &c., are of frequent occurrence, and are attracting a vast amount of attention, especially in busy centres of industry like Lancashire and Yorkshire. According to the Manchester Evening News, "the tide of emigration is now setting back from America to Europe," unmistakably. Statistics show that in the last six months the arrivals of immigrants have only equalled sixty-six per cent. of the departures for Europe. Mr. Carlisle, the Secretary of the Treasury, has already appointed a special committee to investigate the cause of the exodus. The inquiry will not be confined to the United States alone, but Europe will be visited, and many of the returned emigrants will be asked why they left America. All this simply means that these islands of ours will have to maintain an ever-increasing population, and when we come to consider that there are at present 700,000 persons out of employment, we are forced to conclude that we are entering upon an acute state of affairs. No wonder, then, that men are trying to formulate schemes to enable the powers that be to grapple with the labour problem which has such a grave outlook. Mr. E. H. Kerwin, chairman of the Mile End Board of Guardians, speaking of the social problem section of the Grindewald Conference, said:-

"Each year in the East End of London the distress was becoming keener, by reason of the fact that work became scarcer. If statistics were taken as to the condition of the poor at the present time, it would be found that there were 10,000 more persons receiving parish relief than there were twenty years ago. There were nearly 67,000 men, women and children in our London workhouses to-day, and over 41,000 more must be added to this number who were in receipt of outdoor relief. There was an increase of 4,000 since Christmas last. His own opinion was, that the remedy was an Imperial one. Everyone admitted that it was a big question, but it was becoming bigger every year."

Lord Salisbury, with his usual foresight, openly advocates the cheapening of the land as a means of relieving the overstocked labour market, and he has evidently put his finger on the plague spot, because resolutions passed by the above-mentioned bodies are in keeping with this, one of his latest utterances.

It is a well-known fact that thousands of acres of land in England have recently gone out of cultivation simply because agriculture did not pay, the result being that those who used to be engaged to till the land have flocked into the towns in order to find work and bread; these have so crowded the labour market, that where one man is wanted there are scores of applicants for the job.

The question may be asked: What has the labour problem to do with Israel? Much, every way! The prosperity of the country does and must interest every British-Israelite. It is the duty of British-Israelites to examine dispassionately the newer ideas which are, as it were, regenerating the country, for we are undoubtedly threatened with a social revolution. If the advice of Lord Salisbury be acted upon trouble may be avoided, and much suffering and probably bloodshed prevented. As Dr. Wild said two years ago, "The so-called Mayday celebrations in Europe are exhibitions that make crowned heads, capitalists and constitutionalists tremble in the balance."

Speaking of Manchester and district alone, the men who favoured Mayday demonstrations, say four years ago, did not number more than fifty; now they can be numbered by thousands, showing that the "gospel of discontent" has been preached with good effect, whilst the propaganda, by means of tracts and leaflets has also been most

actively carried on. All this means that probably in a short time these people will dominate at the polls if they are not legislated for in a special manner. Speaking at Liverpool, on September 5, 1894, the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain said: "It is a deplorable fact that one out of two of you, if you live to sixty-five, will be obliged, owing to the failure of your faculties, to come to the poor law for relief. I say that this is a state of things which deserves attention." Now if the tide of emigration is to cease, it is evident that this sad state of things will be increased.

Then, again, we are becoming more and more dependent upon foreign produce to feed our ever-increasing population. Fifty years ago Britain fed over six millions of her people on home grown wheat, and a little more than a million on foreign wheat. At the present time we feed about twelve millions on home grown wheat, and twenty-four millions on foreign grown wheat. This shows clearly what an immense service our navy is to us in securing a safe passage over the seas for the enormous quantity of foreign produce which we require. It is estimated that there is at least £144,000,000 worth of British property always on the sea. We pay £30,000,000 a year to foreign countries for our daily produce alone. Why cannot this money be kept at home?

During the last fifty years this country, under the inspiration of Adam Smith and the lead of Cobden and Peel has almost altered its economical policy. The result of that change, and all the contributory causes to our present financial condition, are now open to investigation. That investigation may show the weakness as well as the strength of what goes by the name of Free Trade. It may disprove some of Cobden's fond anticipations. It may demonstrate that in its practical working Free Trade has benefited the manufacturing and commercial classes more than the agricultural and industrial. If so, it will be the function of economists to ascertain the causes of its partial action, and suggest to statesmen such modifications or additions as will secure a more even distribution of the fruits of labour. And while they are employed in cautiously studying the completely new sets of facts presented by fifty years of national business, it is open to non-experts to do the same.

At the present time, it is political economists who are receiving most notice from certain quarters. And the reason is not far to seek. It is the economist's function to investigate the nature of wealth and the laws of its production and distribution. In doing this he must endeavour to look all round every element or factor of the problem. As wealth is the universal object of human desire, he must seek to understand all those causes which permanently contribute to the prosperity or adversity of a nation, and reveal the fallacy of such economical reasoning as suggests remedies for the ills of the body politic that would be worse than the disease. He is a scientist dealing with facts; he is a philosopher reasoning from those facts, but he is not a philanthropist in the sense of being one who meets temporary distress by temporary relief. His object is not to show how a number of men out of work may be preserved from starving, but how an individual and a community can help themselves to a position of permanent well-being—for the grand truth of political economy is that the nation is "a body of many members," and that the healthful condition of the whole depends on the sound condition of each part.

It is a fact, a singular fact, that British-Israelites, as a rule, examine only one side or set of statistics—i.e., what appears to show national prosperity. Now, what is national prosperity or the well-being of a nation? It is simply this—when each one gets the equivalent of his labour. When that obtains, then there is national prosperity; otherwise not. For the prosperity of a country can never be determined simply by the amount of wealth in the country. The distribution of wealth is what tells. Take the distribution of the actual earnings. The following figures are given on the authority of Giffen, Levi, and Mulholland:-

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Rows include: Gross annual earnings (£1,350,000,000), Amount paid in rent (220,000,000), interest (270,000,000), Salaries of middle classes and profits of employers &c (360,000,000), Wages of working classes (500,000,000).

Seven-eighths of the people of this country belong to the working classes, these receive (as their share of £1,350,000,000) the sum of £500,000,000. The remainder (i.e., one-eighth) receive as their share £850,000,000.

Speaking in round numbers, the average per head, per year, are as follows:-

Table with 2 columns: Social Class and Amount. Rows include: Middle and upper classes (£184), Working classes (16).

Is a healthy existence secured for society by this arrangement? Hardly. Then again look at the cost of human life this arrangement entails.

"At present the average age at death among the nobility, gentry and professional classes in England and Wales is 55 years; but among the artisan classes of Lambeth it only amounts to 29 years; and whilst the infantile death rate among the well-to-do classes is such that only eight children die in the first year of life out of 100 born, as many as 90 per cent. succumb at that age among the children of the poor in some districts of our large cities. The only real cause of this enormous difference in the position of the rich and the poor with respect to their chances of existence lies in the fact that at the bottom of society wages are so low that food and other requisites of health are obtained with too great difficulty." (Dr. C. R. Drysdale, "Report on Industrial Remuneration Conference," p. 130.)

In London alone there are at least 40,000 children who are driven to school every morning without breakfast, and with but scanty prospect of dinner. If this happens in the richest city in the world, the proportion in the other large centres must be greater.

Here we have a serious state of affairs and I take it to be the duty of all British-Israelites to enquire into these things and use their influence to bring about a much-needed change. In the meantime will someone suggest a remedy?

F. S. GANDY. Manchester, Sept., 1894.

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I notice in the January number an article on the above question by Mr. Gandy, who states that the income of the nation is £1,350,000,000, which is distributed as follows:-

Table with 2 columns: Category and Amount. Rows include: Rents (£220,000,000), Interest (270,000,000), Salaries of the middle classes and profits of employers, &c (360,000,000), Wages paid to the working classes (500,000,000), Total (£1,350,000,000).

The above figures are ten years old and incorrect for the present time. 1891-92 the income was £1,500,000,000, and estimated to be distributed as follows:-

Table with 2 columns: Category and Amount. Rows include: Wages to working classes (£600,000,000), Wages to middle classes, such as army, navy, railway managers, civil service, bank managers, Royal family, &c (100,000,000), Rents, land, and property (200,000,000), Interest on industrial pursuits (100,000,000), Interest on investments abroad (100,000,000), Paid for raw material, wool, cotton, wood, food, etc. (300,000,000), Profit on the whole turnover (100,000,000), Total (£1,500,000,000).

It is not, as Mr. Gandy says, that the wealthy get £184 to the working classes £16 out of the national income. There are really only three items which could be reduced to aid the income of the working classes, i.e., rents, interest, and profits.

Already, rents have gone down 20 per cent, interest never was lower, and profits are not great to encourage men to speculate in business, hence, taking it all round, the working classes have maintained through the period of depression their own former incomes, and, since 1885, have had an advance of 7 to 12 per cent.

JOSEPH HALL. Beeston Hill, Leeds, Jan. 3rd, 1895.

NEW ZEALAND DAIRY INTERESTS.

According to the New Zealand Government's report for the year ending March 31, 1894, just published, the dairy interest of the colony is making gigantic strides, cheese and butter factories being established in large numbers. There were 178 factories and creameries on May 1, and it was expected that the number would be increased by 30 during the autumn. It is estimated that the factories and creameries already established turn out annually 9,167,500 lbs. of cheese and 6,722,303 lbs. of butter. There was nothing but private dairying in the colony up to a comparatively recent period, and it is since the introduction of the factory system that the industry has developed to such an astonishing extent. The New Zealand Customs returns show the exports of butter to have been only 3,939 cwt., in 1883, but in 1893 there was 58,174 cwt., valued at £254,846. The export of cheese in the former year was 2,519 cwt., but in the latter 48,198 cwt., valued at £99,623. Great as has been this advance, the Chief Dairy Instructor of the colony hopes for immense future developments when certain difficulties have been fairly grappled with. These consist in proper storage at the ports of shipment and in the steamers, and the present want of skilled operators in the factories.

PAGES OF BRITISH HISTORY.

Historical Battles—Noteworthy Events in the Story of the Creation of the British Empire.

The "Helder," 1799.

The time was at hand when Holland was to be invaded by an Anglo-Russian army. The British ministry resolved to fit out an expedition to restore the old form of government and to renew the old alliance and diminish the power of France, while restoring the Prince of Orange then in exile.

As 30,000 men were required for this service, an application was made to the Court of St. Petersburg; and the luckless Emperor Paul, "in consequence of the friendship and the ties of intimate alliance," as well as "their common and sincere co-operation in the present war against the French," on receiving a subsidy from Britain, agreed to supply 17,583 men, six ships of the line, five frigates, and two transports.

Britain began to mass her troops upon the coast of Kent, and it was determined that there should be two separate expeditions; one under Sir Ralph Abercrombie, and the other under the Duke of York, whose rank as field marshal and dignity as prince of the blood were calculated to confer honour on an enterprise which was to be joined by such of the Dutch refugees as intended taking the field. The Prince of Orange at the same time issued an address to his "dear countrymen," announcing that the moment for their deliverance was at hand.

Southampton was the rendezvous. The first division of the British army embarked on the 13th of August, on board of 140 transports, and sailed from Ramsgate, Margate, and the adjacent ports, under the convoy of Vice-Admiral Mitchell, who was to join the fleet under Lord Duncan, then cruising in the North Sea.

The weather proved very tempestuous, and it was not until the 22nd that the army reached the Texel Roads. Preparations for a landing were made, but it came on to blow so hard on shore that the fleet again put to sea, the gale continuing with unabated fury for two days. Thus it was not until the 26th that the fleet came finally to anchor; and the disembarkation began near the Helder Point, at the north-east extremity of the low flat peninsula, where a strong fortress defends the entrance and road of Mars Diep.

The boats and launches of the fleet conveyed the troops ashore, aided by bands of Deal boatmen and Sea Fencibles. The reserve composed of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and 55th, commanded by Colonel Macdonald, of the latter, were the first that sprung on land.

Such was the ardour of the troops, that many men leaped into the sea and made for the shore, carrying their muskets and pouches above their heads; but several lives were lost during the disembarkation—the 92nd Highlanders alone had one sergeant and fifteen privates drowned.

The troops had scarcely formed and begun to penetrate into the flat sandy country, when they found themselves in action with a considerable body of Dutch and French, horse, foot and artillery, under the command of General Daendels, an officer of experience and intrepidity, a determined enemy to the House of Orange, who had assembled them near Callanstorff, and had only deterred from opposing the landing by the mole in which Admiral Mitchell had moored the bomb-vessels and gun-brigs to scour the whole beach. All our officers wore orange cockades in their caps.

A warm but very irregular action ensued at five o'clock in the morning, and lasted till three in the afternoon. The British troops took post on a ridge of sand-hills that stretched along the coast from north to south. Three Daendels made vigorous efforts to dislodge their right. There a front of one battalion alone could be shown; but the narrowness of the position was, on the whole, perhaps favourable to troops as yet destitute of cavalry and artillery, as the former had not yet left Britain, and the latter were still on board the fleet. The enemy, instead of being able to make any impression, were compelled to fall back and adopt another position, six miles distant in their rear.

They left 500 dead upon the field, and more than 1,000 wounded. Among the former it was at first alleged there lay the brave General Daendels. Our loss was small, and did not exceed 100 killed and 400 wounded. Among the officers who suffered were Colonel

Smollett, of the Guards, and Colonel Hay, commanding the engineers, whose leg had been shattered by a ball, and who died while it was being amputated. Sir Ralph Abercrombie, with his old staff, was under fire during the hottest of the action.

"The seamen, under the orders of Admiral Mitchell, landed all the baggage and stores of the army," says an officer in his letter to a London paper, "and dragged up the field-pieces, rolling forward the casks of ammunition for the use of the troops with amazing dispatch. Parties of them likewise followed the different detachments, and were extremely useful in carrying off to the boats the wounded men. The moment a soldier dropped, some of these noble fellows were ready to take him up; and he was conveyed on board the hospitalship immediately, where the best care was ready for him."

The defeat of Daendels enabled Sir Ralph Abercrombie to prepare for attacking the Helder, then occupied by 3,000 men, and the brigades of Major-Generals Moore and Burrard were detailed for that purpose; but about eight o'clock on the preceding evening the ships which had been anchored in Mars Diep got under weigh, when the garrison spiked their guns, took to their boats, and evacuated the fortress, which was immediately occupied by the 2nd battalion of the Royal Scots and the Gordon Highlanders, who found in it a numerous train of field and siege artillery.

During these operations Admiral Mitchell was not inactive, as he found means to open a direct communication with the Dutch fleet, and obtained possession of nine men-of-war and three Indiamen anchored in the Nieuwe Diep carrying 356 guns. Having shipped pilots at the Helder, he got under weigh with his squadron, consisting of nine ships of the line and five frigates, for the purpose of reducing to obedience the Dutch fleet, which he was determined to follow to the walls of Amsterdam, unless they surrendered to the British flag, or yielded to their lawful prince.

Accordingly, at five in the morning orders were issued to clear away for action; the ports were opened, the guns shotted and run out, and, notwithstanding that two ships and a frigate ran on shore, he passed the Helder Point and Mars Diep, and continued along the Texel in the channel that leads to Vlieter, the Dutch being then anchored at the Red Buoy.

The admiral now sent Captain Rennie, of the Victor, with a summons to the Dutch admiral and in about an hour after, on the 30th of August, his fleet, which had mutinied in consequence of this manifesto of the Prince of Orange was surrendered by Rear-Admiral Storey, who observed at the same time "that he acknowledged no other than the Batavian people and their representatives for his sovereign," but "that the traitors whom he commanded had refused to fight." Thus the whole fleet, without firing a shot, hoisted the colours of the Prince of Orange, which were also flying from the steeple of the Helder; while the Union Jack floated triumphantly in the Texel, in sight of the place where the brave Van Tromp received his death-wound in 1653.

(To be continued.)

ONLY THE GENERAL'S COW.

Some years ago the commanding officer of a military station, desiring the grass around the quarters to be protected while it was growing, gave strict orders to the sentries that no one except the cow should be allowed to step over it.

The next day the general's wife called upon some ladies, and wishing to make a short cut, walked across the grass from one path to another.

"No one to pass here, madam," said the sentry.

"The lady drew herself up.

"Do you know who I am?" she demanded of the sentry.

"No, madam," replied the impassive soldier, "I do not know who you are; but I know that you are not the general's cow, and nobody else is permitted to walk on this grass."—Harper's "Young People."

The Duke of Argyll declares that as a child he positively hated books; to-day he is one of the most well-read men of the time.

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