

ANDREW CARNEGIE-- FIEND OR ANGE^L?

By CYRIL V. BRIGGS

ANGEL

Much drivel and nonsense has appeared in both the white and colored press about the late Andrew Carnegie, and his example has been held up to the world as one worthy of adulation and emulation.

But before worshipping Carnegie and emulating his example let us see who Andrew Carnegie was and what we would be emulating.

Carnegie accumulated his vast wealth by the inhuman and grinding exploitation of other men and of weak women and young children. He accumulated his hundreds of millions by denying to others an equitable share in the wealth *their* labor produced and by forcing his employes to work at starvation wages and long hours, using scabs to replace them when they organized to resist his financial oppression and having them shot down by state militias when they dared to resist his efforts to lock them out and starve them and their families.

The case of Homestead in 1892 is but one of a series of like incidents in the life of the "great" steel king and "philanthropist." Thousands of workers, who, by their toil had made it possible for Carnegie to exist in luxury and idleness, had struck for better wages and improved working conditions. Andrew Carnegie, "angel" and "philanthropist," according to the minion press, answered them with strike-breakers and private detectives and, finally (these failing) by the bayonets and rifles of state militia, sent ostensibly to preserve "law and order" but in reality to preserve Carnegie's clutch upon the throats of the workers.

And this is the man—with his hands red with the blood of the workers—whose example is held up to the world by the capitalist and the colored slave press as worthy of praise and emulation. His "great charities" are used to prove his worth. His greater thefts are forgotten

and ignored. The minion press also forgets that what was given back to the people in the form of non-edible libraries, etc., was only a small part of what was stolen. Had the workers been given their just deserts in the first place, Carnegie's grand accumulation of wealth would have been impossible and his philanthropy and charity unnecessary. As it is, doling out to a man pittances out of the wealth of which you have robbed him is much like adding insult to injury.

We would suggest to our readers that after reading the panegyrics of the slave press upon Carnegie they turn, first, to the life of Christ and find whether the accumulation of huge fortunes upon the unrequited toil of his fellow-men was one of the features of that noble life, and, second, that they read Karl Marx's work on "Value, Price and Profit." That brilliant work in unanswerable logic shows that *labor-power applied to the natural resource is all wealth*; that labor receives only enough of the wealth it creates to live and reproduce its kind for further capitalist exploitation. The surplus is profit. About four-fifths of the wealth produced by labor is never received by the workers. It goes to swell already swollen fortunes, to the dishonest and inhuman owners of which the worker is asked to bow down and worship.

OUR JEAN d'ARC.

The American Defense Fund for the relief of the 17-year-old girl who, during the riots in Washington, is accused of killing a policeman who invaded her home, but who is believed to be innocent, is growing. Are you a race man or woman? Subscribe today. One man, D. W. Lee, walked all the way from Woods Run, owing to the strike, to contribute.

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