

FRANCE

James makes, in the Petit Republicain, the proposition that the admission of a delegate to the coming Congress of the Socialist groups in France be conditioned by his adherence to the following three clauses:

- 1. International union of working-men.
2. Socialization of capitalist property.
3. Compromise of public powers.

Lafargue, in Le Socialiste, contends that these clauses are utterly insufficient as a test of admission to a Congress of the revolutionary proletariat.

He takes up the clauses one by one and shows their futility.

This clause will hardly offend the conscience of the radical bourgeois who has a lingering recollection of the "fraternity of nations" of the revolutionary bourgeois of 1789. He may well believe the clause to be a dying wish of that historic phalanx.

Why shall he offer objections when he sees the bourgeoisie striving at an international understanding for the purpose of regulating their economic and political relations? It is only a few years since the paper mill owners sold their first congress in Brussels and appointed a permanent commission to study the ways and means for the regulation of the production of paper in Europe.

The French Nationalists and Anti-Socialists have come to an international understanding for carrying on the campaign against the Jews.

The Catholics have international arrangements for the purpose of organizing pilgrimages of knaves to Rome and they are under the orders of the Pope who modifies in the interior affairs of all nations.

It will be difficult to find even in a radical club a bourgeois who would not favor an international union of workingmen for the purpose, for instance, of organizing co-operations of consumers.

With still less scruple may the member of a radical club sign with both hands this clause, notwithstanding its terribly Socialistic sound. All it needs is a mental reservation made with the word "nach" - buy-up - to give to it a capitalist turn - a signification of a thing that is usually resisted.

The State has socialized by buying up the railways, and the City of Paris is about to socialize by buying up the gas companies. Socialization by the way of buying up is a most profitable operation for the owners and speculators.

The buying up of the railways by the State took place under the Ministry of Freycinet. The opportunists were coming into power and as a sop.

Gambetta threw half-a-million to the financiers. Companies, ruined by their administrators, with material nearly unfit for use and with badly built lines, were bought up for fabulous prices. I have denounced, at one time, in the second "Egalite," the scandalous profits that this socialization had brought to the speculators who had accumulated the depreciated shares of the companies.

When, after the amnesty, I returned to France, I entered employment with an insurance company that was paying fictitious dividends. It ended its career by failure. The director, a warm advocate of Socialization of Insurance Companies, defaulted. Much agitation was carried on, at that time, in the financial and ministerial circles to nationalize insurance. For the State buying up the company with all its watered stock and fictitious dividends, would have saved it from ruin and enriched its directors.

ITEMS FROM THE BATTLEFIELD

SIR REDVERS BULLER is to have supreme command of the army of conquest in South Africa. He was to have his "glory" bestowed on him in the Sudan, but Kitchener, a subordinate, who was sent ahead to clear the way and make it easy for the "hero," saw a chance to be hero himself. He completed the butchery with swiftness and dispatch and received the reward of a peerage. Now Sir Redvers, the "pep" of the expedition, is given the opportunity to win a peerage by doing the slaughtering for Cecil Rhodes and the syndicate of South Africa. Common soldiers will stop their bullets and clear the way, but like Shafter and Samson at home, Sir Redvers will be near enough to claim the "glory."

SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD AND DIAMOND SHARES advanced on the English Exchange as soon as news of fighting was confirmed. English capitalists know what they are after. They propose to get it and the slaughter of thousands of common soldiers does not trouble them. What is a general strike for if not to steal property for the rich? A correspondent in the New York Times says:

"The war ended, there will come a deluge of business in South Africa. This is the real issue of the war. The rush of Englishmen and of European capital to the Transvaal is sure to be enormous. British administration would, I should say, double the value of every industrial undertaking in the Transvaal and be especially beneficial to the railroads leading to that nervously rich region."

A few months ago we heard the same rosy predictions concerning "our new colonies," the Philippines and West India. The purposes of capitalism are the same in both cases. If England and the United States were Social Republics there would be less opposition to "benevolent assimilation."

AND NOW ARBITRATION of the capitalist variety has passed upon the Venezuela boundary line. Capitalism wins. The Hon. Benjamin Harrison of U. S. A. argued for Venezuela and lost the case. It appears that the gold fields in dispute (covering about 60,000 acres) belong (?) to a syndicate of American and British capitalists, and they will feel safer under British protection. Next!

CORRUPTION, SCANDAL, ROBBERY are now reported from the Philippines. The Springfield Republican has investigated and published charges made by Rev. Peter MacQueen, and by N. E. Guyot, who was an auditor of public accounts at Manila. We should not be surprised. It is natural for capitalists to steal. They take particular pleasure in robbing their own government and especially the common soldiers.

Such a mass of falsification, duplicating of names on pay rolls, overcharging for merchandise, etc., Mr. Guyot says, he never before saw or dreamed of. It is the English firms that profit most by American occupation of the Philippines. The great English firm of Warner, Barnes & Co. seems to be the favorite of General Otis and Colonel Brainerd and Pope. The Commission supplies purchases at Manila are paid at rates from 100 to 200 per cent above the regular Manila prices. Mr. Guyot says that he recorded one bill for fancy groceries which on checking it with the prices of the same goods in any store in Manila figured out a total of \$5,000.00.

The article, which contained fifty more than a page of the Literary Digest, giving names, dates and directions for verification at Washington from official files, goes on to tell of high priced wines, groceries, and delicacies purchased for hospitals, but which never reached the hospitals, of hundreds of tons of fresh beef, lying in the harbor, the property of the government, being condemned, sold to the English firm mentioned at refuse prices and again resold to the government at advanced prices. All this without ever taking it from the refrigerator. Flour was purchased at such frightful prices that Mr. Guyot protested at entering the bills. He was silenced, but the bills are at Washington - unless tampered with. "Four ounces per day was taken from each soldier's fresh beef ration. Inferior rice was substituted. A big profit was made by selling the beef to foreign firms and paying double for the rice. The men protested and detested the rice. Their protests did not interfere with the business."

Manila merchants say that American are greater thieves than Spaniards. Formerly they only had to buy one official "New they 'fix' every man from collector to office boy." The smuggling of opium and the restriction of foreign goods is another source of profit. They are curbing the Philippines with chains as capitalist England curbs China.

BASE OF SOCIALISM

The distinction between Utopian and scientific Socialism has been made as often as to sometimes grow tiresome. Especially since Engels wrote his masterly analysis of that subject it is a common line of argument to show how the latter developed from the former of the type of Socialism. But as long as the English type remains the argument holds good.

The essence of Utopianism is that its followers seek to change the world by changing people's ideas. Their idea of the universe and of social arrangements is that men can change everything that he will and that he will make any change that is reasonable and right. Therefore they hold that if any state of society can be shown to be a better one than the present and a majority of the people can be shown the superiority they will set to work and adopt the better one.

Up till the time of Marx and Engels this was the universal view of society. But they declared that the social organization was a direct outgrowth of the economic relations and that the former could be changed only by altering the latter. That is, they maintained that the manner in which the production and distribution of the food, clothing, houses and all the other things that went to satisfy the wants of men was carried on determined what kind of laws, customs and social arrangements they would have. They showed that if a body of men lived by fishing and hunting they would have altogether different social organization from a body of herdsmen, and that the herdsmen would have a much different state, moral and religious, from the feudal barons, and those latter in turn would be but little like the corresponding institutions in the age of machinery, corporations and monopoly.

It was also proved that each stage of production with its corresponding social and political arrangement grew naturally out of the preceding one, and that the capitalistic stage could not succeed the hunting stage the late could at once because the man without having first passed through childhood, boyhood and youth. Finally it was shown that each form of society made some class a ruling class and that this ruling class modeled all social institutions in their interests. These institutions were changed only when there arose another class more powerful than the rulers, whose interests demanded such a change. As soon as this law was discovered and explained it became evident that whoever would seek to change the social organization must do so by appealing to the class to whose interest it was that the change be made. The possibility, desirability and means of securing such a change was no longer one of painting beautiful pictures and telling alluring stories regarding the promised change.

It became a question of the marshaling of scientifically collected facts to show that the proposed change was the logical outcome of the existing conditions and that a class existed within the society which it was desired to change who were of dominant economic importance and whose interests lay in the direction of the sought-for change. In other words, it was no longer Utopianism but Science with which the social agitator had to deal.

How does this apply to Socialism? For thousands of years the effort had been made to secure the stage of society which Socialism declares to be the coming one, by descriptions of its beauty and desirability. But all this had had absolutely no result. Here and there some brilliant thinker would gather around him a little coterie of adherents who would listen with great respect to his sayings and repeat them with great reverence, but when the leader was gone his "Socialism" was gone with him and the world moved on as before. But with the coming of Marx and Engels the movement took another tack. Not that this was owing to their personal efforts alone. Such a supposition would contradict the very philosophy for which they stood. But they were the mouthpiece through which the spirit of their time spoke. They pointed out the laws we have been discussing - showed that modern capitalism tended irresistibly toward the Socialist ideal, and finally and most important of all, demonstrated that in the working class was to be found a social class, occupying a dominant position in the economic world, in that they were not only the essential feature of production, but that they were suffering immensely under the present system by the introduction of Socialism. More than this, they showed that the laboring class were destined by the process of economic development to be forced into a commanding position in society and that all that was necessary to secure the social change pre-supposed by Socialism was to make the laboring class conscious of their interests, destiny, opportunity and power.

One would think that this position was so overwhelmingly logical that to know it would be to accept it. But if this were true it would deprive the whole philosophy. At first this may sound like a ridiculous paradox. But if looked at a little closer it will be seen to be a scientific fact. Like every other position, theory, or social scheme, it cannot proceed upon the idealistic plane. It will only appeal to those whose interests agree with the ends it points out. Here and there will be found exceptions, but no great mass of men ever live in obedience to their self-interest. The same is true of the present society. Therefore the only CLASS to which appeal is the laborer. They should be taught to be conscious of their common interests, of their solidarity, their common political domination should be increased upon them and they should be urged to set to work with instruments. In a word they should be made "CLASS-CONSCIOUS."

But suppose we had Marx and Engels to tell us that the only way to change the social organization was to make the laboring class conscious of their interests, destiny, opportunity and power. This would be a scientific fact. Like every other position, theory, or social scheme, it cannot proceed upon the idealistic plane. It will only appeal to those whose interests agree with the ends it points out. Here and there will be found exceptions, but no great mass of men ever live in obedience to their self-interest. The same is true of the present society. Therefore the only CLASS to which appeal is the laborer. They should be taught to be conscious of their common interests, of their solidarity, their common political domination should be increased upon them and they should be urged to set to work with instruments. In a word they should be made "CLASS-CONSCIOUS."

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When once a person is on the incline of false assertion and misrepresentation, it is a difficult matter to halt before the depth of degradation is reached. This is apparent from the statement issued by the De Leonistic State Committee of Christianians, the secretary of which wrote the statement, reported to half truths in the manner of his adept master, knowing how impossible it would be to follow the web and point out its fallacies. It is charged that the Board of Appeals in general and Bandlow in particular, who always wants to be "fair," had conspired against the S. L. P. The secretary of the State Committee, when he penned his lines, knew he was uttering a deliberate falsehood.

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It was also proved that each stage of production with its corresponding social and political arrangement grew naturally out of the preceding one, and that the capitalistic stage could not succeed the hunting stage the late could at once because the man without having first passed through childhood, boyhood and youth. Finally it was shown that each form of society made some class a ruling class and that this ruling class modeled all social institutions in their interests. These institutions were changed only when there arose another class more powerful than the rulers, whose interests demanded such a change. As soon as this law was discovered and explained it became evident that whoever would seek to change the social organization must do so by appealing to the class to whose interest it was that the change be made.

When once a person is on the incline of false assertion and misrepresentation, it is a difficult matter to halt before the depth of degradation is reached. This is apparent from the statement issued by the De Leonistic State Committee of Christianians, the secretary of which wrote the statement, reported to half truths in the manner of his adept master, knowing how impossible it would be to follow the web and point out its fallacies. It is charged that the Board of Appeals in general and Bandlow in particular, who always wants to be "fair," had conspired against the S. L. P. The secretary of the State Committee, when he penned his lines, knew he was uttering a deliberate falsehood.

The members of the N. B. of A., with the exception of Comrade Ibsen, appeared before the City Central Committee as requested, and gave all the information asked for. The minutes and correspondence of the Board were at hand, and nothing was withheld that could cast any light upon the methods employed by the Board in arriving at its decision. It was understood that a special meeting of the Section of Cleveland was to be held, where only members in good standing should be admitted, in which the report of the Central Committee was to be disposed of. This meeting was called for July 30, 1906. The meeting of the Central Committee, in which the investigation was made, occurred on JULY 8, 1906, prior to the time when the transport took place in the Party, caused by the seeping of the N. B. of A. and the decision of the German-English conference they were related to. Naturally the merchants take a different view of the matter, and charges of differential rates, private rebates, and preferential rates to Europe, made up the main part of the charge in the war against railway rates of a few years back. In the Blue-book on Trade of the British Empire and Foreign Competition, compiled for Mr. Chamberlain in 1897, particulars are given showing how British trade to China and Australia was displaced by foreign manufacturers, who received a virtual monopoly in the shape of preferential rates. Thus, the freight of cotton goods in conference steamers was, from New York to Shanghai, 26c. to 28c. 6d. per ton, and from Liverpool to Shanghai 67c. 6d. The Manchester Ship Canal cost \$13,000,000, but the rates prevent cargo from being the shipping goods from Manchester to Java is via Hull to Amsterdam, and transshipping there. Merchants must submit under pain of losing all their monthly rebates at 15 per cent if they ship at once otherwise than by the ship steamer. At the annual meeting of the Association of Chamber of Commerce in 1898 and 1899 the preferential rates given to foreign goods by British shippers were fully demonstrated, and the Government was called upon by resolution to withdraw subsidies from shippers and merchants, and to allow free competition to British shippers.

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