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PECULIAR JAPANESE METHODS

Their Unionism Has a Different Purpose Than the English Type

That Japan is rapidly taking on the garb of civilization, is made apparent in many different ways, especially since the outbreak of the recent war with Russia. As shown by these island people have a peculiar way of adapting themselves to the requirements of a capitalist regime, the following by Michael Shearn, in the Chicago Sunday Japan, that country of surprises and seeming contradictions, is interesting reading. Unions have been formed almost every trade and craft and practically every shop. But with the usual contrary view of the unioning, the unions are forming not to fight for shorter hours and higher wages, not for "sympathy" but for "grift," but to strike better machinery, better methods of training in work, and for better wages.

It has become a custom, with every manufacturing establishment, to put aside a percentage of its earnings each year for its employees. This is done instead of raising wages. If wages were raised, they argue, the workers would not spend their money wisely. They would have more to eat, and they would not need it. They would have more luxuries, which would had for them. They would drink more, smoke more, and in many ways waste their money. The employer thinks it best not to raise his workingman with more money, but to put it aside for him.

For example, a death occurs in the family of a workman. He cannot pay the necessary expenses. Very well. He sends to the employer. The employer pays the money. This is done instead of raising wages. In stress of old age, money is granted to the worker. Hence this system, which is found in every work-shop, is the general satisfaction of the workers. It is not the best system. It is not the system I would wish to see in place of the present one. Christianity is a disturbing factor.

The most dangerous disturbing element that we have in Japan today are socialism and what we call Christianity. In no other case is it so real or in the same form. Socialism, which is gaining rapidly, is merely a form of agitation that has in England, or even in America, and the influence which we put down as Christian are the influences which are toward restlessness, which make the working people feel that they are not happy, which emphasize the importance of the individual, leaving him to place his own personal preference before that of the state.

Trade Union in Every Shop. Mr. Suzuki explains that shortness of years ago any form of trade union was unknown in Japan. Today there is some form of union existing in almost every shop. The important trades are organized, and there is a general affiliation between the various factories of trade.

England is in a state of revolution! Constitutional government has ceased; we are in the hands of an oligarchic autocracy. A conspiracy of landlords and company promoters, disguised as politicians, swindled the British public into returning them to power to wipe up Chamberlain's shamefulness in South Africa, which is the cause of the present miseries in connection with industrial occupation. These miseries have, under the lease of alliance thus granted them for the purpose of stealing public money in order to bribe their rich and privileged parasites, their own relatives and friends. They had no mandate from the nation to give parliamentary sanction to the financing of the Brewers' Pull-to-hold Trust, or to entow sectarian forms of religious speculation. The nation, finding itself deceived—it is so easy to

deceive the credulous British public, "a people made to be cheated," as a German defender of English hotel keepers once told a detective—has declared, in every election that the Tory Nation-Chamberlain government exists on false pretences, and ought to be swept out of existence. The Prime minister, by accident and family influence, ignores the nation and when his conduct is impugned in the House of Commons, insolently defies public opinion, and in the person himself, who are the authors of the revolutionary stage which has arrived. The vote for the landlords and capitalists; they have their just punishment—Justice.

With the greatest concern, the Kaiser and his government are following the lead of the British, and especially in Russia and Poland. Should the rising of the people of Poland against Russian oppression be successful, it is sure to have a strong effect in the provinces of Prussia and Austria, where dissatisfaction with existing rule is equally strong.

In view of the fact that an uprising of the German Polish provinces, strong forces of troops from other parts of the empire have been gathered, and that the presence of these troops may tend to keep the provinces at least for a time, the danger of an uprising which would always be shelving of blood is clear. The many cases of insubordination in the German army, and the increasing number of men belonging in Germany, are a source of much anxiety to the military authorities, and has resulted in increased penalties for insubordination.

WHAT SOCIALISM WILL DO AND WHAT IT WILL NOT DO

Socialism will not do away with private property, even in the means of production. It questions only the abuse of property, the monopoly for the supplying of our common necessities, and the prevention of individual accumulation. It does not do away with the social value of each man's labor. What ever a man gets for the value of his services to the community, so long as it is the community that supplies his needs. Socialism would hold the means of production as the common property of the people, but make private property of the product, equitably divided, limiting the rights of property only so far as necessary to secure the system. Socialism would not do away with the right of property which on sufficient consideration it offers to stand in the way of the public good. And, as to the means of production, Socialism is able to make an order of society demands a full consideration of all means by which the individual may have a chance of bettering himself, and that the greatest benefit to that large portion of society which at present enjoys the least share of its direct benefits.

Another common objection is patently untrue. It is based on a misconception of the conception of government as an autocracy, an irresponsible power outside of ourselves, a singular idea of authority, to which we are bound in a democracy. It is through the state that men unite to give strength to their common aims, and the government is merely the administrative machinery of the state. The people can systematically manage their affairs. That alone is paternalism, which is done for us. In which the people have no voice. For example, to give that the people cannot manage the railroads, and to leave it to a board or a Vanderbilt to have some of the best of the people's money. The people have nothing to say. They let the bills and submit, like the small farmers, to the whims of the large ones may follow. But were the people to take hold of things, and run them themselves, as the socialists propose, that would be no paternalism, but a national-union action for the protection of our common interests.

It is frequently urged, and with some show of reason, that the enlargement of the sphere of the state would only give greater scope to the corruption which is now such a marked feature of the administrative system. Such an argument indicates the failure to trace the evil to its source, or to appreciate how wholly corrupt the present system is. Corruption arises from an opposition of private to public interests. So long as there is the possibility of individuals furthering their own private interests at the expense of the public, so long will there be legislative corruption. Self-interest is confessedly the basis of our competitive system. It is necessary, accordingly, with institutions have not been developed proportionately to the needs that have arisen. We are behind Australia in our treatment of the banking question, behind Austria in banking,

INDIA.

Dread of another mutiny is being felt by all Europeans in India, in a very serious state, and the authorities are making heroic efforts to prevent the spread of unrest and the mutinous spirit. It is said that their efforts is spreading like an infection from province to province.

The cause of this condition is the war between Russia and Japan. That an Asiatic race has an eye upon the natives think. The spirit of dissatisfaction and trouble now in the air is far more active than it was two years before the mutiny.

What makes the situation more dangerous is the ability of the "Baboo" to spread their tidings of revolution to every end of the Indian empire with rapidity and ease. The problem of how news traveled to the remotest end of India in the days of the British has only been partly solved. Since then Lord Ripon has dignified Indian native opinion and the "Baboo" can make himself as easily heard as his master.

Lord Kitchener's statement that the Indian army is practically worthless has been widely circulated among the ignorant natives. Lord Curzon's rhetorical methods have set every class against him personally, and the personality of a ruler has an effect on India which is in the nature of the situation has been brought directly to the attention of the King, and it is known that he has had a number of consultations with prominent Anglo-Indians now in England on a number.

It is a fact that in Central India hundreds of Athans are loafing and idling about the country. This is considered to be an ominous sign for the Athans do not wander so far south with any peaceful purpose as they have heretofore. They are peached the Mohammedan, and are as much the object of native fear nowadays as the Christians. Their action has an ugly look and there is a private belief that the blood will not rest until a storm.

The thing ought to be aimed at by all men, that the interest of each individually, and each collectively, should be the same, for if each should grasp at his individual interest, all human society would be destroyed. The railroad lobby, for example, is merely an object of which self-interest is the direct cause. To get the interest of the public all they can do is to get the railroad lobby to do as they remain the property of individuals. And the ease with which the aggressive self-interest of a few individuals can be so long as they do not touch the interests of the public, and there would be no railroad interest, as opposed to that of the public, and no railroad lobby, any more than there would be no post-office interest, as opposed to that of the public, and no post-office lobby, any more than there would be no interest in the public affairs, such as there is today would cease, for incentive and opportunity alike would no longer exist.

Another argument against extending the sphere of the State is that it would result in governmental mismanagement. This is a very common objection. The State today has two distinct functions—the governmental or executive, a relic of autocracy, and the administrative, the only true function in a democracy. Mr. Herbert Spencer, whose notion of freedom, it would seem, does not extend beyond the individual, the capitalist class, could do away with the administrative function; a step by which they alone would benefit. On the other hand, he would retain the "public" or executive function, with an eye probably to the continued subjugation of the workers. Truly, an ideal freedom—for the capitalist! Socialism would change, with governmental mismanagement, the administrative function only, and is openly hostile to the executive. And so far as the capitalist class is concerned, the administrative organization is concerned, they are but the reflex of our tyrannical commercial system, and can be readily remedied at any time.

A CAPITALIST PAPER ALARMED

Physical Degeneracy Decries Value of Labor-Power

The Ottawa Valley Journal of June 23, 1905, devotes a column of its editorial page to lamenting over the physical degeneracy in England. It says the actual conditions prevailing are discouraging and painful. It then endeavors to console its readers by quoting from what it calls high scientific authority, which says degeneracy, or any other form of induced physical inferiority, is not transmitted to the offspring. What really happens is that the degeneracy, bringing up the children in unhealthy surroundings, and doing no kind of justice to them in the matter of diet, clothing, etc., stamps their physical weakness upon another generation.

The child when born is, in nine cases out of ten, a healthy candidate for life, and it will flourish in the early years of its life, particularly if it is brought up in a healthy and happy atmosphere. According to this theory a five months old babe should weigh double what it did at birth, and at the end of a year three times as much, and so on.

The Journal says the government should appropriate money to rescue the children even if it means a drain on the degenerate adults, and deems it worth to think that in the presence of such problems, the privileged classes of the leading nations should be prosecuted with extravagant pleasures and social rivalry. The editor asks if it is wholly beyond hope that some day a new enthusiasm for national health and purity of living may take possession of human society?

It is not the mission of the capitalist press to expose the saying "the truth will out," and these editors who are in keen competition with each other, first, to hold their breath, and second, to see who can be the loudest, and third, to exploit it, and occasionally hurt it out, although perhaps in a more or less muddled way when they want to impress upon the public some scheme which will be of benefit to them. At the same time each editor is engaged in tooting his own horn by outcries for national health and purity, and it is necessary to the success. The careful observer can readily find filtering through the columns of the capitalist press, such admissions of physical degeneracy in the leading nations as that made by the paper above referred to.

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Camden, N. C., July 19, 1905.

The Socialists of Oakland, California, are justly leading the "atomium" life. For the last few weeks their speakers have been arrested every time they have attempted to address an audience on the streets, the various speakers, who have addressed such meetings to be unconstitutional, detrimental to the public health, or something of that kind. The various speakers, who have addressed such meetings to be unconstitutional, detrimental to the public health, or something of that kind, are being arrested every time they attempt to address a meeting. These speakers are stirring up a splendidly effective agitation in which the Socialists are joyously taking part by furnishing substitute speakers to take the place of those arrested. About twelve speakers have been arrested up-to-date, and still the good work goes on. The speakers are continuing to carry the message to the higher courts for the purpose of having the ordinance under which the officers are arrested, knocked out. They should, however, be careful not to do anything that might give the police interference in the way of arresting speakers, the attention of hundreds of persons is called to the program who would otherwise have been uninterested. The officials are to be commended in the artful manner which they thus adopt in order to help the good work. An American should receive every encouragement.

