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The Leaven is Working

The hopes of those who expect the lion and the lamb to lie down peacefully together are bound to be withered. Even in America—the despair of some revolutionists who proclaim the impossibility of American workers ever awakening to the fact of their exploitation, the red menace—discontent, hunger, impossible living conditions is stalking forth upon his rounds.

The switchmen's "unauthorized", "illegal" and "headless revolution" brings one up with a quick jerk of realization of the fact that all the elements of real working class uprisings are with us and liable to break out at any moment. And calling the insurgents names as the capitalist press is doing will not alter the conditions that underlie this latest revolt, nor will they have a soothing effect upon the minds of the strikers.

Five years of world-wide destruction of life, property, wealth of all descriptions has rendered the capitalist machine of government and production incapable of working to the satisfaction of the world's workers. It is breaking down, incapable of feeding, housing and clothing the inhabitants. All the world's in turmoil, nowhere is there a sign of coming peace and a basis upon which human life may continue its existence—nowhere but in Socialist Russia, which is solving the problems of production by first eliminating the exploiters of the masses.

The switchmen's strike contains in it all the elemental characteristics of a revolution. At the bottom lie insufficient incomes to enable the workers to live. They have tried all "legal" methods to increase their wages. Failure has resulted. The machinery which they have heretofore functioned through—the craft unions, now prove utterly incapable of securing to the members a livelihood. The weapon which has heretofore been used in a redress of grievances utterly fails in the hour of crisis. The wise ones among the rank and file seeing its uselessness discard it. And here develops another characteristic of revolutions—the rank and file seize authority. Along with the former weapon is also discarded the conservative officials of the union. Power and authority are seized by the rank and file. They take their destiny into their own hands. All authority save their own is cast away. The stage is now reached where the fight is on between the revolutionists and conservatives for power.

A further development along lines followed by revolutions is apparent. The union officials, feeling their power slipping from them, go over to their historic enemy—in this case call upon their exploiters and the capitalist State for assistance in putting down the revolt. The union heads deserve the brand of Cain for this traitorous act to Labor. Nothing could illumine more brightly than this infamous act the suppliant and renegade character of old line, conservative trade unionism. For years the A. F. of L. brand of unionism has been disintegrating. The loss of the steel and coal strikes have filled the workers with discontent and have convinced them of the futility of craft unionism. More than one rebellion has broken out against the union officials who are straining every nerve to keep the rank and file in leash. The rank and file are demanding a new deal and a clean deck.

To what extent the switchmen's strike will spread cannot be determined at this time. It has already paralyzed industry in many cities and adherents are walking out in increasing numbers. Meanwhile, the "regular" officials are crying frantically for "loyalty" on the part of the membership and seeking an alliance with the capitalist State and the railroad owners to assist them in breaking this revolt of the masses against an impossible economic condition and an outgrown form of labor unionism.

Whatever be the results from a material standpoint, it will have a tremendous educational effect upon labor. America seems on the verge of that condition which begins with spasmodic bubblings of discontent and ends—in victory of the workers.

In Orderly Sequence

We are afforded a glance at a late development of the class struggle in the local landscape. Behold a picked group of Cleveland city police at target practice with machine guns! A new thing indeed. Rows of railroad ties stood on end, trees, answer for targets. A veteran of the World Massacre is in charge. The suburban atmosphere is charged with all the smells and noise of battle tho no blood flows—as yet.

Such a phenomena raises numerous questions in the mind of the curious. Indeed, since the war to end war was fought and won with such overwhelming success and suffering humanity cries for peace and a beating of swords into plowshares—it is a curious thing to see a police squad training in the use of the latest murder devices. Are 18 inch clubs and automatics insufficient to keep order in a Christian nation which has just concluded a victorious war for Democracy and Righteousness?

The answer is furnished by the police themselves. After one such demonstration of the arts of war, a question from a spectator as to "What's the grand idea," the answer was given, "We expect a lot of trouble on May Day!"

Such an act of self delusion can be precipitated by only one thing—fear of a just retribution. Machine guns follow in logical sequence the course that has been followed by the capitalist dictatorship in its treatment of Cleveland workers. Time was when worker-citizens of Cleveland legally elected two councilmen and a member of the school board to represent them in the governing of the city. Soon after, they were unseated at the behest of the profiteers and political poltroons who infest the city hall and the Chamber of Commerce.

Having ruled out of office the representatives of the workers, steps were immediately taken to see that no more were allowed to enter the sacred precincts of the governing body of the bourgeoisie State. Having nullified the workers' franchise it was arranged to disfranchise them completely. The political party of the workers was set upon by as conscienceless a crew of pirates as ever cut a throat or throttled justice. After eighteen months of unremitting terrorism, raids, searches, unlawful seizures, persecutions, arrests, spying, insults, destruction of thousands of dollars worth of property, we find the task about complete. The workers of Cleveland ARE disfranchised insofar as using their ballot in the interest of their own class. They can neither write, speak nor vote as free men, but must comport themselves at all times and places in conform-

EDITORIAL & PARTY NEWS PAGE

Proletarian Science History

— By W. E. REYNOLDS. —

An economic interpretation of history especially arranged for use as a text-book for study classes, or for home study. Copyright 1920. By W. E. R.

OUTLINE CHART FOR AGE OF LOWER SAVAGERY.

Economic Interpretation.	
Beginning	Unknown except through Geological, Archeological and Biogenetic research.
Tools and Weapons	Sticks and stones.
Transportation	None, except natural locomotion.
Subsistence	Fruits, nuts, raw fish and shell-fish, edible roots, bark, worms, grasshoppers, locusts and other insects.
Shelter	Natural shelter only, such as trees, ledges, caves, etc.
Clothing	None.
Environment	Tropical and Semi-Tropical climate. Tree life. Changes caused by geologic phenomena. Natural environment only.
Organization	No conscious organization. No family life. Gregarious herds.
Arts and Institutions	Sun and ghost dances. Germs of nature worship.
Duration	An immense period of time, variously estimated. Probably millions of years.

CHAPTER FOUR.

A Scientific Interpretation of Historical Epochs.

SAVAGERY.

The epoch of Savagery is divided into three ages, Lower, Middle and Upper.

Lower age: This dates from unknown antiquity.

The first men had no history—except as animals have history, and left no history except such as may be read from the record of the rocks, whereina we find the bones of early man and the animals he had eaten or by whom he had been eaten. Prior to the advent of modern science, but little could be known of this remote age. Today, thanks to the development of the sciences of biology, geology and archaeology, the story of the past is slowly but successfully being retraced.*

Haeckel** says that "The ontogeny of the individual recapitulates the phylogeny of the race."

The term ontogeny means the development of the individual from inception to death. Phylogeny means the development of the race from protozoa to man.

The Law of Biogenesis teaches us that in its development from the parental cell to maturity, each individual passes through all the stages through which its race has passed in its evolution from the primordial protozoa to the present time.

A typical illustration of this law is to be found in the destructiveness of children. A stick in the hands of a small child, instantly becomes a club wielded for destructive purposes, as many a household pet can testify. A stone to a small boy is merely an excellent something to throw regardless whether the object aimed at is a window, a bird, a dog, a cat or a playmate. The reason for these activities is to be found in the fact that sticks and stones were man's first tools.*

In the lower age of savagery the chief desires of man were to satisfy hunger, keep warm, and out-wit the other animals.

A study of the skulls of men of this age shows that in thought and action they were brute-like.**

The tools of lower savagery were sticks and stones; the shelter, trees and caves, (natural shelter only as man had not yet learned to build). No clothing was worn. Mankind at this period was just a gregarious horde of human animals living on worms, locusts,*** grasshoppers, fish, shellfish, fruits, nuts and succulent roots.

Man in the age of lower savagery, had few words, little communication of ideas, and these mostly by sounds, signs and gestures. He was almost entirely at the mercy of the hostile forces of nature.

Savagery may be defined as that period of human history dating from the time man first assumed an upright posture to the time of the development of the arts of agriculture and pottery-making. It marked the beginning of man's conscious mastery of the hostile forces of his environment.

Man's first great achievement was the development of his ability to stand erect, which gave him the free use of his front feet to use tools and carry burdens. It is maintained by some scientists* that the ability to stand erect and to use tools brought him in more intimate contact with a variety of objects, thus necessitating the coining of words to distinguish one from another, hence the development of articulate speech is synchronous with the development of tools.

ty with the will of the capitalist class—expressed by rules laid down by the police and the Loyal American League, who are the agents of the bourgeoisie.

Reaching the present stage, what is the next step which must logically be taken if the workers are to be kept in submission? Since force has proved to be the magic wand to render subject the slaves of capital, why not accentuate its use and influence? And, since discontent is even more rife today, than previously among the slaves—the machine gun suggests itself.

... 'Tis true, we anticipate to immediate use of it. Considering present circumstances we can't imagine any use for machine guns, nor even a "hilly" on May Day. The daily press informs us that May 1st will be celebrated as American Day. Being such, we presume that the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution and the various Amendments will be read and considered deeply and prayerfully by every straight thinking dweller of Cleveland. We recommend that they do so. Especially do we recommend that each inhabitant "learn by heart" the first Amendment and take it as a rule of his political and civil life.

Should these suggestions be followed in the administration of city affairs and ALL its inhabitants adhere strictly thereto, we are positive that the bitter mouths of machine guns would be closed with rust. That would mean the peaceful passing of the capitalist dictatorship—but history teaches that no ruling class ever passes from power except thru a sea of blood of its own making.

The elemental forms of language may be traced to the animal world. The warning cry of the cock upon sight of a hawk may be distinguished by any one from the call he uses to notify his harem of the discovery of another fat worm. The purr of a cat is readily distinguished from its nocturnal lovesong.

The language of animals may be said to be vocalized expression of mental reactions to definite facts in its environment that may affect the individual for weal or woe. Human language differs from the language of other animals in this; it has evolved definite sounds for definite things, while animal language has certain sounds for various emotions. A dog howls, whines or barks according to his mood.

Human language began in the lower age of savagery, evolving from sign and gesture language, and marks the second great achievement of man. Without language as a vehicle of expression no high order of thought is possible. No high order of language is possible without a high order of social development. The vocabulary of all savage tribes is very limited.

Thought is a mental reaction to experience. Man can not articulate that which he has not experienced, hence it follows that the greater the social experience the more ample the individual vocabulary. The vocabulary of this early age was limited for the reason that the racial experience was limited.

Man in lower savagery had no conscious social organization. During this age the faint beginning of a primitive marriage system developed out of promiscuity. Rudimentary forms of religion also developed in the form of Sun dances and kindred nerve-reactions.

Primitive religions rose from the nerve-reaction which primitive man experienced at the coming of the dawn. To tree-dwelling man the night was a time of terror. Large poisonous reptiles glided noiselessly through the trees and monstrous carnivora prowled along the ground. To escape being crushed by the one often meant being crushed by the other enemy. It was thus that the night was a time of continuous nerve tension which was suddenly released at the coming of the light, manifesting itself by shouting and dancing, for now the enemies were visible and could be the more easily eluded. Modern religions still describe evil as darkness and good as light.

This age of human history closes with the discovery of the utility of fire.

* "The Men of the Old Stone Age" by Henry Fairfield Osborne. See also, "The Stone Age in North America," by Warren K. Moorehead. (2 vol., 1910).

** "Riddle of the Universe."

*** The reader is referred to an excellent work on the Biogenetic Law by Professor J. Howard Moore, entitled, "The Law of Biogenesis."

**** Huxley's "Man's Place in Nature."

***** "His meat was locusts and wild honey."—Bible.

***** Professor Garner in "Researches on African Apes."

QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER FOUR.

1. What is meant by the term savagery?
2. What is meant by the lower age of savagery?
3. Name the duration of lower age of savagery.
4. What sciences teach us of the history of early man?
5. What is meant by the terms, archeology, geology, biology? antogeny? phylogeny?
6. Who was Haeckel?
7. What is the Law of Biogenesis?
8. Show by illustration, other than the text, your concept of the biogenetic law.
9. What were man's first tools?
10. What was the chief desire of primitive man?
11. Name the foods of primitive man.
12. What were the primitive styles in clothes?
13. How did primitive man communicate his ideas?
14. What was man's first achievement? Second?
15. What is thought?
16. What influence upon the expression of thought may be traced to the use of tools?
17. Have animals any form of language?
18. Give illustrations, other than the text, of animal language.
19. What causes language to grow?
20. Explain the social organization of lower savagery.

(Continued next week)

The Lesson of Albany

Walter B. Dillon.

There is much food for thought for all Communists in not only the result of the investigation that took place at Albany, N. Y., but the actual testimony and statements made by the defendant Socialists. In fact, we as Communist workers are far more interested in the attitude adopted by the defense at Albany than we need be in the result of the whole farce.

At this point, however, in view of the fact that this is a presidential year, we must look the matter fairly in the face from a purely political angle also. We are vitally interested in the outcome of this legislative tangle, through such a ticket exercise our first, as showing the limits to which Capital is prepared to go to dominate the state, and second, as demonstrating conclusively the duplicity, depravity and utter worthlessness of such "leaders" of Socialism as Hillquit, Stedman, et al.

There are very few of us, perhaps, who needed the developments at Albany to prove the Indus Iscariot nature of the Socialist Party to the workers as the party is represented by such men as Hillquit, Stedman, Waldman and many others of their ilk. But to thousands of good and loyal Socialists who chose to remain with the old party rather than split away, such a lesson was absolutely essential to demonstrate the close affinity of such so-called Socialists to the Kerenskys, Scheidemanns, Noskes, Eberts and Thomases of Europe. Let us hope that the lesson was not lost on our honest comrades of the Socialist Party.

From a purely political angle, however, we are much more interested. It is a fact that the men who were ex-

pelled from the legislature at Albany were elected to office by the votes of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of those who at the time were members or sympathisers with the Socialist Party, but who are now Communists or Communist Labor in affiliation or sympathy. Where are we going to stand when the acid test is put up to the electorate of these assembly districts again? That is what we must decide.

From all indications we are not going to be allowed to place a Communist Labor ticket in the field and through such a ticket exercise our right of franchise. If not, should we vote for the Socialists whom we know will be about as valuable to the working class and as powerful in their interests as Ebert in Germany or Kerensky in Russia? For myself, I most respectfully decline to waste my time voting for puppets of the bourgeoisie, but I am not sure that such is the attitude of all of us. Neither am I sure that to leave the fight open between the cohorts of Capital on the one hand and of middle class reformism as represented by the Socialists on the other hand, would be conducive to the best interests of the workers. In the long run, of course, the reaction will set in and we will logically take our places at the helm, but we should not stand aside and let the Socialists be crushed if by saving their skins we can prevent a great deal of suffering by the entire working class.

It is certain that in the event that the Socialist Party is wiped off the slate as well as ourselves, there will

(Continued on page 4.)