

The Toiler

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CLEVELAND, OHIO, FRIDAY, APRIL 23rd 1920.

Crashing on to Ruin

Capitalism is running a race with Destruction. Here as elsewhere. All informed observers agree that unless Europe can be placed in a position to feed itself and quickly at that, the downfall of the present system and the rise of Sovietism is inevitable. The world war disrupted the industrial machinery of production to such an extent that revolutionary uprisings of the masses of suffering peoples have resulted almost universally.

A general world revolution is what capitalism faces. That is what it is attempting to keep down. And the tale which all travelers from Europe bring is—more credit, more food, more clothing, more of all things which human beings need and crave for a decent existence for Europe—or Sovietism, Socialism, Bolshevism will inevitably arise. Revolutions rise from unsatisfied hunger, even dense capitalism realizes this—now. It is bending every effort to stave off the inevitable collapse.

The elements which have brought about the present condition of Europe are active in American industry and social life. Millions of workers, organized workers, are unable to live upon their incomes. Capitalism in the one country of the world which actively participated in the recent holocaust with practically no economic loss, finds itself unable to guarantee its workers enough of the necessities of life to make living bearable.

Within the past six months nationwide strikes in three basic industries have occurred. Thousands of lesser strikers have taken place. Hundreds are occurring every day in the year. Spontaneity, always an active element in times of unrest is seen in all of them. The workers, without apparent reason to a casual observer: strike, disrupt the industrial processes to a tremendous degree. Labor is restive. An insignificant group of workers walk off the job, a workman is jailed, and as a result, a whole industry of a city or even a state is knocked out of commission for a day or a week.

Continuance of the capitalist system of production demands an unceasing flow of products for out of the products must come the profits of capital. A discontented, striking, sabotaging working class is not only a non producer of surplus value, profits but is a positive element of danger to the system of production. It may at a propitious moment decide to dispose of the owners of industry and operate it for their own benefit. Unless capitalism can guarantee the workers enough of the necessities of life to keep them contentedly at work, the danger is accentuated to a degree that increases in proportion to the discontent.

American capitalism, it seems has evolved to the point where it can make no such guarantees. It is because of this fact that we witness the perpetual industrial strife and the ever growing discontent of the workers. Capitalism is crashing on to its ruin here as elsewhere. Its day is done.

A Spring-time Fad

The overall wearing fad has lately struck the country—or at least it has in the newspapers whose enterprise keeps them on the alert for bunk of this sort. If you took them seriously you'd believe that our poor millionaires and politicians were all going to clothe themselves in the "purple of the poor." (That's our own.) Ostensibly, the overall is coming into its own as a means of reducing the cost of living of those who can afford to live well. The papers have been filled with pictures of politicians, judges, bankers and a lot of that riff raff posed in their new blues. The idea seems to have a sudden appeal to persons of quality who never heretofore had a desire to be photographed in the garb of a useful citizen.

Now, we know something about overalls. We were born in them so to speak. At least we grew up in them and have worn out as many pairs as any one of similar age and carelessness, we wager. And we know that no one wears them for appearances, comfort or for the satisfaction of any aesthetic taste. And so when we view their sudden putting on by members of the bourgeois we just smile and say, "wait six weeks." The fad will pass—and it will pass without having reduced to a half penny the high cost of clothing.

Methinks the bourgeois might do well to get used to the scratchy things tho, the sooner the better perhaps. Since the big turnover in Russia it looks like overalls were going to be in great demand and it might come suddenly, so if the bourgeois have a few pairs in the attic or the basement when the demand is heavy they will be in luck. We would even suggest that they retain the fad until that time as it will save them a great deal of embarrassment when the order comes to mobilize for useful production. It would be the first time that we know of that a fad became a useful habit.

By all means keep them on—you might be taken for a useful producer.

DEPEND THEM NOW—WHILE DEFENSE WILL HELP!

Lotta Burke, Charles Baker and Marguerite Prevey have been indicted for opposing the Dictatorship of Capitalism. They have done their best for the workers in the Class War between Capital and Labor. Capital has indicted them and will attempt to put them in jail where their usefulness to the workers will cease.

They must be defended. You can help defend them by helping to pay the costs of their fight for freedom. We ask you to help NOW when defense is needed and your dollars will help most.

Send your dollars now.

THE BURKE, BAKER AND PREVEY DEFENSE.

Enclosed find \$..... for the defense of these comrades.

Name

Address

City State

Send all Funds to The Toiler 3207 Clark Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.

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 MIDDLE SAVAGERY.

- BeginningDiscovery of utility of fire.
- Tools and Weapons ...Fashioned stone tools. Bone fish-hooks. Primitive spears, etc.
- TransportationNatural locomotion. Water, rafts, drift logs, etc.
- SubsistenceCooked flesh of fish and small animals in addition to previous diet.
- ShelterCaves, rude huts, etc.
- ClothingPrimitive reed, bark and skin loin protection.
- EnvironmentTropical, semi-tropical and temperate climate. Habitation: forest, sea shore and banks of streams. Migration caused by changes in food supply, geological and other causes.
- OrganizationPrimitive gens and tribe. Evolution of the group marriage.
- Arts and Institutions...Very primitive.
- DurationLess than lower savagery.

SAVAGERY.

Middle Age.

The second age of human history is known as the age of middle savagery and dates from the discovery of the utility of fire.

We know practically nothing of the circumstances under which man discovered the utility of fire. We can only speculate upon the probable circumstances. It is highly probable that the utility of fire was discovered and lost and discovered again by various tribes of primitive man before its utility became generally known.

While we may never know just HOW the use of fire originated, we CAN know that all the advancement of later civilization rests upon the unrecorded strivings of primitive man through the uncounted ages of the past.

Curiosity was the probable cause of primitive man's discovery of the utility of fire. (Curiosity is a marked characteristic of all primitives, and the supposition is, that in examining the smoldering embers left from a forest fire the discovery was made.

Whatever the method first used, fire from lava or volcanoes, fire set while playing with pieces of transparent quartz, fire by friction, fire by spontaneous combustion, fire from a lightning stroke, we know now that man is the only animal which can build a fire and keep it burning.

All of the methods by which fire may be produced may be summed up under three heads, electrical, chemical and tactile.*)

All animals except man dread fire. Without fire, man was the prey of all the predatory animals of the night. The camp-fire was man's first real home, his first refuge of safety from the teeth of the dark. The love of fire is an instinct which has come down the ages to us from the period of middle savagery. This instinct had its origin in the safety and comfort which the fire afforded.

An instinct is a race memory—things we do because our ancestors HAD to do them in order to survive.

The lure of the camp-fire entices all who are human, but it has an especial lure for children who biogenetically are passing thru that stage of their development which corresponds with middle savagery in our phylogenetic history.**)

Fire gave man an enormous advantage in the struggle for existence. It gave him protection from beasts of prey and in addition it enabled him to increase his food supply. Cooked food was added to his daily menu. Fire also enabled man to widen his range of travel.

Early migrations were doubtlessly due to several causes. Fire, by making a fish diet palatable, enabled him to travel along the shores and steams. Forest or prairie fires by destroying the available food supply would force man to migrate in search of other sources of food. Fecundity would also force migration.***) The fiction of man's existence at the beginning of the fire age, number of individuals becoming greater than the food supply of the territory, not yet having learned artificial means of production, migration was the only other alternative.****)

Migration caused primitives of various groups to meet, and by the law of imitation, to copy the language and methods of each other. This is the basis of primitive education.

The primitives who were adaptable and learned the utility of fire had an enormous advantage over their non-fire-using brothers. An opportunity for an undisturbed rest and sleep at night thus conserving energy for the acquisition of food during the daylight hours made a stronger race and made the fire-users the dominant race.

Knowledge of the utility of fire is a SOCIAL HERITAGE, and is inseparably interwoven with every phase of human progress. No civilization is possible without fire. No metals, no engines, no electrical devices, no telegraphs or telephones, no mills, mines or factories are possible without a knowledge of the uses of fire.

If one individual throughout the ages had collected one cent from each individual who benefited from a knowledge of the utility of fire (as we today, through patents, set aside a sum for great inventors) that individual would today be the economic master of the world.

During the age of middle savagery the primitive sun dance took on a religious character, out of which some authors*) claim the decorative idea evolved. Primitive clothing was a development of this idea.

It was during the age of middle savagery that the rudiments of most of our institutions took form. Primi-

five groups developed into gentes and tribes, the group marriage taking on definite character. This age ended with the discovery of pottery making. Its duration in years was much less than that of lower savagery.

*) Tyndall in his book, "Heat a Mole of Motion" has an excellent discussion on the probable methods by which fire was first produced. The student is also referred to C. W. Garrett's "Fire, from Holocaust to Beneficence."

**) Professor J. Howard Moore's little book, "The Law of Biogenesis," is a veritable mine of information concerning the instincts of savagery which may be observed in growing children. In addition to naming and explaining such instincts as the love of fire, the love of water, the fear of the dark, the gang instinct, the combative instinct, the throwing instinct etc., he also traces the workings of the biogenetic law in the mental world as well.

***) Jack London's "Before Adam" is a splendid description in prose of the material external origin of ideas. Ideas do not spring ready made out of the ether but are the result of adaptability to the impressions caused by changes in his environment. All of the ideas which men have, or had, had their origin in material environment. Thus out of a cave, and having experienced its comfort, the IDEA of building an artificial cave or shelter would naturally be forced into the savage brain.

****) Herbert Spencer's, "Education."

QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER V.

1. What is meant by the middle age of savagery?
2. What great discovery marks this age?
3. What is known of the circumstances of the discovery of fire?
4. What distinguishes man from the rest of the animal kingdom with respect to fire?
5. Of what advantage was fire in the struggle for existence?
6. What does the biogenetic law teach us from child life?
7. What is meant by an instinct?
8. Explain the law of adaptability with reference to fire.
9. In what manner did the use of fire make for a stronger race?
10. What human characteristic probably led man to discover the utility of fire?
11. Name the three methods by which fire may be produced. Explain.
12. What is migration?
13. How was it caused?
14. How does fecundity influence migration?
15. Name the social effects of migration.
16. Explain the origin of ideas.
17. What is a social heritage?
18. What was a sun dance?
19. Name the institutions which took form during this age.
20. What was the probable origin of the idea of clothing?

SPARKS.

A. S. of Christopher Hill, says he is on the job for defense of comrades Prevey, Baker and Burke.

Comrades of Mollo Hill, are asking for Prevey dates. Many Ohio locals are arranging for meeting for her.

Akron held a good Prevey defense meeting Sunday, April 11th.

Comrade L. W. of Weston, W. Va. has promised a very substantial sum for the Prevey, Baker, Burke defense. He has collected it from among fellow workers.

One Hundred Strangling America leaflets go to comrade Morgan of Moline. Have you distributed a hundred yet? Better order now.

Among many orders for leaflets Nos. 1, and 2, is that of Local Cincinnati for 500 Soviet Labor Laws.

Local Portsmouth orders 200 each of these leaflets. Also calls for a Prevey date.

L. A. C. of Akron casually remits for 11 subscriptions. He sure has gotten the boosting habit.

Comrade Gregory sends us 6 subs. from Cincinnati and tells us how he helps to keep up the work. Accepting pamphlets for premiums, he distributes these among the workers. This leads to more subs. and they in turn mean more distribution of pamphlets. Thus the education of the workers continues. Good scheme.

Remember—with over \$7.50 worth of subscriptions sent us we will give \$1.50 worth of literature—your choice. Can you do better?

Comrade Thomas of Akron falls in line with a bunch of 6 subscriptions. All of which proves that it can be done—doesn't it?

Another resper of six comrade A. W. W. of Musillon. And again we say it's proof that it can be done. Better get a subscription blank, comrade and do it too.

We note a handful of cards from comrade Blank among the weeks sub. receipts. This is not something new. We comment upon it because it happens so often—that's all.

And here are four cards from J. B. A. of Look 4 Pa. He's another who has the sub. getting habit.

Two subscriptions and \$1.00 for the cartoon fund is received from comrade Traggess of Akron. One little boost deserves another apparently.

Comrade Reed of Providence R. I. remits for two subs. Just a proof that we are stretching out into new territory.

Comrade usually feel grateful if we keep their names on the list for a week or two after the expiration of their subscriptions. But they take a chance by not renewing at once. When you get a renewal slip better renew at once and be sure of getting all issues.

Comrade Scott of Lawndale, remits for two new ones. There's a lot of satisfaction in getting even one sub. for The Toiler. Better grab off all the little pleasures there are running around here, comrades. Getting subs. for The Toiler is one that's available to all.

But when one grabs off a bunch of half a dozen we imagine that the booster feels so good that it keeps him awake nights. However that may be, comrade Hilkins of Toledo does that. At last reports he was exceptionally happy.

Another hundred copies of Soviet Labor Laws go to comrade Blodgett of So Bend. Just shows how they are going. Are any going to you?

A big order of pamphlets goes to comrade Howell of Mineral Wells Texas. That's a long way but it proves how far away The Toiler reaches. Comrade Howell is busy in the work of literature distribution.

A comrade from Tacoma Wash. writes: I send every copy of The Toiler to "Freiheit", Berlin, Germany". Suppose the conservatives of Germany would denounce him as an "American bolshevik attempting to undermine our country and institutions".

Four is the number of subscriptions sent us last week by comrade Cole of Jackson Mich.

Comrade Meads remits for 4 subs from various parts of the U. S.

Seven at a clip is what comrade Lennox of Sidney sends us. As a premium he asks for Lenin the Man.

Comrade Jenkins of Weirton, W. Va. remits for two subscriptions and leaflets.

Comrade Litten of Flushing takes the prize this week for the number of subs sent in. His list totals fifteen. That ought to make others feel that life still holds some hope, eh?

Free Books and Pamphlets

Beginning April 1st the subscription price of The Toiler advances to \$1.50 per year, 6 months 75c. The advancing costs of publication will no longer permit us to publish at the old rate of \$1.00 per year.

In this connection we wish to urge every Toiler booster to strive the harder for subscriptions. The field is unlimited and at the new rate which is not at all high comparatively, there should be no slackening up in the number of subscriptions received. On the contrary, there should now be a greater effort on the part of Toiler readers to help its circulation grow. No weekly periodical gives its readers a higher grade publication than The Toiler and with the hearty support of its readers it will continue to become a better paper.

Our offer of \$1.50 worth of literature with every purchase of \$5.00 worth of subscription cards has enabled many comrades to obtain good books and pamphlets free. We will continue this offer with only one change. Instead of receiving \$1.50 worth of literature for \$5.00 worth of cards we will now give the same amount of literature free with every \$7.50 worth of subscription cards.

COMMUNIST SATURDAY - MAY 1st. Work for Communism!