THE PROLETARIAN
WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!
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The Proletarian.

We are pleased to announce our new publication, "The Proletarian." This paper, though small in size, in its very spirit shall be a fearless one, not hesitating to fight with the Romanov Empire. The publication of this paper is to mean a great deal for the public, as, at present, the Japanese question is receiving so much attention.

Our paper has two missions. The English columns will express always the voice of Japanese workers, whose true sentiments are often misrepresented by yellow journalists, and its columns will be devoted to propaganda of our principles among lines of "industrial unionism," through which only can the be accomplished our aim. It is our duty, a powerful weapon in warfare against the capitalist class, but will be the fundamental structure of the existing new society that stands on "industrial syndicalism." We are proud we are independent of "material influence." This work is not called for "business." We are all wage earners who have to struggle every day for existence. By our own sciences and energy this work will be carried on and pushed.

News from East and West.

The Japanese workers' union (Nippon Re-kodo-sha) was organized and on August 30th, 1908. Officers T. Takenchi, K. Komurohi and S. Iwasa took active part to establish the body. It has headquarters at Tokyo, Cali, holding the membership cards in the office. It numbers 4,300 members, according to a recent estimate.

The official publication, "The Labor," is being currently issued semi-monthly, circulations 3,500 copies.

Although this organization is established the lines of nationality at the present time, as the prevailing conditions of California warrant, but when the time arrives (it should come soon) it will be a powerful factor of the American labor movement in forming itself into an "industrial union." T. Takenchi recently conducted two successful meetings at Selma and Armona, Calif. He expects to go to Stockton and Sacramento this month, stopping at a few places on the way.

K. Tetsuka is making a tour of the eastern part of the country agitation among Japanese. He has stopped in Boston, Philadelphia, Pitsburg, Rochester, Washington, Hartford and several other principal cities of the east. He delivered several hundred lectures and papers among workers. In his latest report he says: "As I go, so will it be reaped soon." He will be in New York City soon.

The case of Consulate T. Takenchi, the editor of "The Labor" who was held for trial since last December on the charge of "conspiring to murder," was dismissed by the court at San Francisco on April 24th.

When he visited San Francisco on his tour of agitation a capitalist newspaper reporter assaulted him suddenly and wounded him in twenty-two places. Unfortunately, or fortunately, the police arrested himself in the excitement by his own knife, instead of his assailant. As a result of the incident, Takenchi was arrested and kept in jail for a few days, but later was released on bond.


News from Tokyo.

"The Conquest of India," translated by D. Kotsuka, was condemned by the Japanese authorities in four languages as published in Tokyo. Among the other translations, "Appeal to Young," "Communist Manifesto," met the same fate.

The socialist movement in Japan which was once in such activity is now suspended for a little while. The Government carried out successfully their tactics of suppression of the revolutionary movement by the method of the "black list." Any one whose name was once found on the list is practically thrown into starvation—wherever he goes he can secure no position in public or private. This work is done systematically by officials through their connection with local police. In a small country like Japan it is very effective; besides, these severe measures of repression are continued.

Our twenty-three comrades, including four sisters, are serving their sentences of "two years with heavy confinement" in various prisons (most of them are to be released by September, 1910).

No workers' party there.
No protest meeting there.
No more movement in Japan?
Then under goes Black tide
A stone can hardly dam!

Tokyo, Japan, May 10.—The negotiations failed to reach an agreement between the express workers in Nippon province, 180 miles north of Tokyo, and their employer, on demands of workers for better conditions. Five thousand employees walked out on May 3rd. A part of the transportation of that provine tied up.

A socialist paper, "Law and Authority," was prohibited further publication at Tokyo on April 30th.

Over 2000 Russians and Chinese engaged in fighting at Harbin, Manchuria, on May 1st.

Later in the day the city was controlled by Japanese authority. Thirty arrests were made. The wounded and the dead counted numberless.
Japanese Question
By T. Takahashi

JAPANESE QUESTION
I speak of this matter from the standpoint of Japanese or the representative of a particular nationality, but as a proletarian of the world and one who believes in international unity of the working class. Yet I shall remain as one among “Jap-bashers” on whom the heated discussion is taking place.

Although it is growing rarer nowadays to discuss “Japanese exclusion,” still it is very important that the question be solved. Such uncertainty should be taken away in order to realize the international brotherhood of the proletariat.

The Japanese question is not a recent problem confronting American workers. Since 1884, following the Chinese exclusion, it has been amassing its force in the current year by year.

To hear of racists' outrages time after time does not make one so serious. Recently, the action of the California legislature that was a point to prohibit Japanese from holding land and property aroused public sentiment in both countries to such extent that the rumor has spread on the streets and in the papers about a coming fight between Japan and America in the near future.

What can this be? We must not omit to mention our American socialist comrades who have insisted upon exclusion of Japanese. I cannot pass it by without expressing my observations and views which have for their sole aim the benefiting of the labor movement of America.

Let me take up, first, the principal reasons given for the exclusion theory:

1. Japanese workers are cheaper than American workers, and in consequence destroy the wage scale of American workers.
2. Japanese eat as often as buses while American workers are on strike.
3. Japanese send money home which they earn here.
4. Japanese are a part of the yellow race, with different religion and customs. They cannot be assimilated with Americans.

The above are the principal statements made against Japanese workers. Whosoever the anti-Japanese sentiment is aroused without a single exception, these statements are presented. We will discuss this matter frankly and boldly, thus making the thing clear and distinct.

Now, the first statement, that Japanese workers are cheaper, is absolutely contradicted by the facts. Japanese work on railroads, in mines, and factories in the southern states. They get average good wages compared with white workers, of whom a majority are so-called “mulatto” laborers, while Japs are “just handed green hens.”

As far as my experience goes, I can demonstrate clearly many instances against this charge.

As to the second question, “Do Japs steal while white workers are involved in the strike?” I shall not deny the fact that they have acted shamefully in a few cases, but it must be understood that they remained faithful on numerous occasions.

For instance, when that great Pacific coast “Railroader’s Union” strike happened in 1907, in spite of the great effort made by capitalists to get scales from the Japanese in order to break the strike, they interceded.

“Keep all from the board” — these words passed among Japanese through the medium of press and leaflets, even employment agencies kept themselves from recruiting their “interest.”

This objection shows, especially the weak point of the anti-Japanese movement.


The “bowed” power of union (A. F. of L.) compelled Japanese workers to accept less wages than the union scale, while the Japanese workers have the same capacity at work, because in the sense that unions (A. F. of L.) is supreme.

After all, in spite of discussion, the scale, unless workers come together in one instead of divided enemy unions, or out of the hands of petty nationalistic sentiment, will not cease to exist.

The American Federation of Labor blames the Japanese as scabs, and at the same time they act as scabs against Japanese.

Japanese are so good when they scale but should not be called upon by the group of another nationality. For instance, Japanese in Seattle, Washington, are alarmed over the fall of wages and security of jobs at present, through the invasion of Greek workers into their sphere.

I feel that it is ridiculous to reply to the third statement. I am unfortunate to have to show my statistics how much money is sent home annually by Japanese, but, having considered the population and their occupations, it is a very easy matter to figure it out.

Exports of American Currency: How flimsy those arguments are. Do they not see the cruel exploitation of American capitalists in the Far East?

Those patriots should sleep soundly when they hear that the American capitalists are truly making silver and gold out of the blood of the yellow races.

They should have before such capitalists as Rockefeller, who has many oil schoos in Japan and China, and the American Tobacco Trust, which has lately cleaned out the Japanese from the markets of Manchuria and China.

Japs send money out their wives and children should come to stay, earning thus a few cents extra in works of such hard work, while American capitalists spend millions for luxury in the results.

I wonder why certain people are not blamed for such unpatriotic action in “exporting of American currency.”

The fourth attack made on the Japanese is from scanty knowledge of Japan or misunderstanding as to the Japanese.

Notwithstanding Japan has a different religion and customs, so long as religion and morality develop with capitalism in modern Japan, I see Buddhist morality fading away in the schools of old Japan. Even Christians, whose history in an early period of Japan’s history blazed its nobility and humanity, are chief advocates of the vile class.

O wonderf ul specter, Capitalism! It crushed all traditions and customs, religions and morals.

A peaceful savage native of Turanians was not excepted from invasion by the specter.

Only forty years have passed since the country opened for foreign trade. The people of Japan in that time had two great wars, one with China (1894-95), and lately with Russia (1904-05), and suffered under this specter-capitalism, in other words, poverty and depression.

Especially, Japanese in this country are most pitiable, not only suffering from economic oppression, but also from the racial persecution which hangs over them.

They can’t be citizens of America; their political rights are denied. They can’t join the union or any other legal organization. Even marriage is not recognized in certain parts.

And the noble concludes in the final words: “They can’t be good citizens; they can’t assimilate with Americans and should be excluded.”

I find no words to make further argument.

In concluding these arguments I see that any and all theories of exclusion are standing on the ground of futility and powerlessness.
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Japanese Question (continued)

Especially, I denounce the attitude of some American socialists. They claim to be internationalists, and, on the contrary, they are in favor of exclusion of a particular nationality.

What does it mean? Nothing but to prevent the awakening of the Japanese worker and to divide the forces of the working class. By this nothing is exposed but their own weak point, showing the same capitalist theories and falsities here.

That they incline so deeply in politics, which is a monumental diversion of the capitalist system of society, is responsible for how they come to be so degraded from the principles of socialism!

As a matter of fact, Japanese immigrants are reducing numbers by the strict enforcement of immigration law.

The official records of Washington, D. C., show a reduction in numbers of about 1,330 from June, 1906, to January, 1908.

If any one by this record congratulates himself upon the success of the efforts of the anti-Jap movement, it will be a great mistake. If any one thinks it has solved the problem of race, it will be a great mistake.

I say no! It is only mental phenomenon.

Reviews of the social process predict the coming of more Japanese to this continent, notwithstanding efforts of exclusion.

The overpopulation of Japan inevitably compelled her to take up the policy of immigration to other lands. The population has reached over 40,000,000.

The average increase of each year is about 4,000. Then, in a few years, Japan, the land which is slightly larger than California, will realize Malthusian perils.

The last assembly of the Diet passed a bill conferring the new boat line to South America, assisted by government expense. What does it indicate? That is to say, the same problem on the Japanese question very soon. However, the trouble may be settled in the western states by governmental negotiations. We can no longer escape facing this problem up for unless the proper method is rectified.

I maintain here, from a socialistic viewpoint, that to solve this problem permanently, there is only one way—industrial union. Organize Japanese workers into a union that is, organized industrially.

Bring them into the American labor movement. This would give them strong impetus to awaken to see the errors of this society, and act directly against the evils which they are suffering today. Put them in the line of march toward emancipation, shoulder to shoulder. There shall be no cause no creed till we shall possess what we are exploited of.

I sincerely appeal to American comrades to exercise their intelligence sufficiently on this matter, if they think this problem significantly, for the course of our principle.

Our Japanese workers in this country are rapidly organizing, but along racial lines. They stand at the psychological moment. Whether they shall take the road of liberty and emancipation, or the road which leads them to servile patriotism and national pride depends entirely on your attitude shown for this instance.

Do not be short-sighted, but consider the future—not for a healthy, but for the interest of the whole working class of the world.

Do you remember, 1904, at Amsterdam, while capitalism of Russia and Japan were fighting in Manchuria like battles, the workers of both countries had an opportunity to express their true heart to each other through the hands of delegates from both countries. Our French and German workers interchanged cordial messages, when the Kaiser and Clemens made among each other on the Monrovia affair.

Cast off your political hypocrisy for humanity’s sake. Then you will come to one conclusion that you have to shed blood with Japanese workers in our coming revolution.

My Country

By Kichi Kaseko

My country is not where beautiful Fuji stands;
It is not where you find the Geisha girl pretty;
My country is not where I was born;
It is not where my old memories remain.
My country is where humanity is uplifted;
It is where men and women enjoy their rights;
My country is where Manzins live;
It is where Bakumetsu would preach.

Let kings be proud of their sacred blood;
Let nobles insist on their privileges inherited;
Let patriots die for their country’s sake;
But my country is far from such trifles.

Any one who desires to be volunteer in securing subscriptions for this paper will receive a bundle of 20 copies free of charge. 6 cents postage, 6 cents in postal stamp should accompany application.
REMEMBER: This paper will have one page of Japanese in the next issue. Any one who will try to spread the idea of "Industrial Unionism" among Japanese workers with whom you are in contact in your locality, should send his order now for a bundle of 25 copies or more.

COMRADES.

Over the parting oceans, Over the dividing lands, We call to you, our Brothers: We stretch to you our hands. Enough of the wars of Empire: Enough of the ins & Outs. Eye into eye, our fellowmen, And let a New Pact be made. The lore of the Ages tell us: All Wisdom's voices call:— "Human, Ye stand together: And, each against all, Ye fall!" Enough of the burdens and bonds: Nay no life lives alone. Hear men of the furthest nation:— We are made of one Flesh & Bone. Away with the Fear that parts us: Away with our threatening might: Shoot Good Speed to us calling, Men of all Earth Unite! Hope be with us forever, And Strength, as the Sun above, The power of our hands be Courage, The pulse of our hearts be love.

W. F. Bannard.

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Strike in Hawaii.

"Restoration is our Religion" was their slogan, once they determined, dauntless spirit has been shown. The Japanese workers in Hawaii are desperately struggling in fighting against their employers. It was not a short period, that discontented among the workers on sugar plantations in the isles.

At last a sound of trumpet, calling the time of battle, that the future of the Japanese working class depends upon whether they shall take the step to shatter the chain of bondage or shall be thrown into more slavery conditions.

The Japanese "higher wages" Association was organized and "Nippon Ji" a workers paper was the head of the movement. On May 16th 1906 Japanese abandoned all work by the first call to strike, then the number involved in the strike reached over 8000.

While the strike was orderly conducted, the employers tried many tricks to crush the strike. On May 17th a band of 600 strike breakers under police protection, mainly consisting of Portuguese and Chilian was sent to the Seil against the strikers. It was reported at the time that a disturbance occurred and one life was killed, but not assured by later reports. The strikers did not allow any discouragement while the strike has been in progress for over a month and involving more locals.

The employers were getting impatient, financially, and strikes measures were applied in order to break up the strike.

On June 11th a number of policemen armed, without previous search war, ran out through any process of the law, entered the office of the association, and seized several documents.

Makino, Negoro, and Sagi, alleged leaders of the strikers were arrested, following which during that day 16 more arrests were made.

This might be the signal of the discontinuation of this affair, but reports say there are still thousands of workers, who do not go back to work. They are gathering around the court house, anxiously awaiting the outcome of the decision, and whenever the prisoners come in sight their spirits are soaring.

District Judge W. F. Whittemore held 14 of the prisoners for trial on charges of conspiring to riot, and 3 for conspiracy to murder.

During the strike, Senich Eyno, Japanese consul general, showed his good understanding of his post, "a copiousing snig", by preventing the strikers' progress every way and making his official advantages.

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