

THE PROLETARIAN

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

No. 1

CHICAGO, JUNE 15, 1909

35 Cents a Year

The Proletarian.

We are rejoiced to announce our new publication, "The Proletarian." The paper, though small in size, in its very spirit shall be a fearless one, not hesitating to fight with the Roman 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 it will be largely an advocate of the class-conscious workers of the world. In Japanese, its columns will be devoted to propaganda of our principles along lines of "industrial unionism," through which only can be accomplished our aim. It is not only a powerful weapon in warfare against the capitalist class, but will be the fundamental structure of the coming new society that stands on "industrial syndicalism."

We are proud that we are independent of "material influence." This work is not carried for "business." We are all wage earners who have to struggle every day for existence. By our consciousness and energy this work will be carried on and pushed.

News from East and West.

The Japanese workers' union (Nippon Ro-do-sha domei) was organized on August 20th, 1908. Comrades T. Takeuchi, K. Konarida and S. Iwasa took active part to establish the body. It has headquarters at Fresno, Calif., holding the membership cards in the office. It numbers 4,000 members, according to a recent estimate.

The official publication, "The Labor," is being currently issued semi-monthly, circulating 5,000 copies.

Although this organization is established along 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. Takeuchi 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 agitating among Japanese. He has stopped in Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Detroit, Washington, Hartford and several other principal cities of the east. He scattered several hundred leaflets and papers among workers. In his latest report he says: "As I saw, so will it be reaped soon." He will be in New York City soon.

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

When he visited San Francisco on his tour of agitation a capitalistic newspaper reporter assailed him suddenly and wounded him in twenty-four places. Unfortunately, or fortunately, the poor patriot hurt himself in the excitement by his own knife, instead of his assailant. As a result of the incident, Takeuchi was arrested and kept in the jail a few days, but later was released on bond.

The Industrial Worker, a weekly published by I. W. W. locals, Spokane, Wash., contains a Japanese translation of the I. W. W. preamble in its brilliant May-day edition. No doubt it has done some work among Japs on the coast.

News from Tokyo

"The Conquest of Bread," translated by D. Kotoku, was confiscated by the authorities as soon as published at Tokyo. Among the other translations,

"Appeal to Young," "Communist Manifest," 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 locals. In a small country like Japan it is very effective; besides this, 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' paper 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 negotiation failed to reach an agreement between the express workers in Nagano 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 province tied up.

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

Over 2,000 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.

THE PROLETARIAN

A Monthly Advocate of Japanese
Workers in part of International

Labor Movement

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Japanese Question

By T. Takahashi

I speak of this neither from the standpoint of Japanese nor as 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 coolies" on whom the heated discussion is taking place.

Although it is growing rather monotonous to discuss "Japanese exclusion," still it is very important that this question should 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 workmen.

Since 1884, following the Chinese exclusion, it has been emphasizing its fierce character year by year.

To hear of racial outrages time after time does not make one so curious.

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 been 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 socialists 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 work cheaper than American workers, and in consequence destroy the wage scale of American workers.

2. Japanese act often as scabs while American workers are on strike.

3. Japanese send money home which they earn here.

4. Japanese are part of the yellow race, with different religion and customs. They cannot be desirable citizens of America. They cannot be assimilated with Americans.

The above are the principal statements made against Japanese workers. Whenever the anti-Japanese sentiment is aroused, without a single exception those statements are presented.

We will discuss this matter frankly and widely, thus making the thing clear and distinct.

Now, the first statement, that Japanese work cheap, is absolutely contradicted by the facts.

Japanese work on railroads, in mines and fruits fields in the western states. They get average good wages compared with white workers, of whom a majority are so-called "skilled" laborers, while Japs are "just landed green hands."

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

As to the second question, "Do Japs scab while white workers are involved in the strike?" I shall not deny the fact that they have acted shamefully in a few cases, but also it must be mentioned that they remained faithful on numberless occasions.

For instance, when that great Pacific coast "Sailors' Union" strike happened in 1907, in spite of the great effort made by capitalists to get scabs from the Japanese in order to break the strike, they utterly failed.

"Keep all from the boats"—these words passed among Japanese through the medium of press and leaflet, even employment agencies kept themselves from realizing their "interest."

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

Are not A. F. of L. men scabbing actually upon Japanese workers?

A protest of union (A. F. of L.) men brought all Japanese workers out of work in certain places and in certain cases.

The "boasted" power of union (A. F. of L.) compelled Japanese workers to accept less wages than the "union scale," while the Japanese worker has the same capacity at work, because in the sense that union (A. F. of L.) is supreme.

After all, in spite of discussion, the scab, unless workers come together in one instead of divided craft unions, or on the basis 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 to be blamed when they scab, but should not be scabbed upon by the group of another nationality. For instance, Japanese in Seattle, Washington, are alarmed over the fall of wages and scarcity of jobs at present, through the invasion of Greek workers into their circle.

I feel that it is ridiculous to reply to the third statement. I am unfortunately not able to show by 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 easily making silver and gold out of the blood of the yellow race.

They should bow before such capitalists as Rockefeller, who has many oil stocks in Japan and China, and the American Tobacco Trust, which has nearly stamped out the Japanese force from the markets of Manchuria and China.

Japs send money, lest their wives and children should come to starve, saving thus a few cents extra in weeks of such hard work, while American capitalists spend millions for luxury in the resorts of Europe.

I wonder why certain peoples 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 Japanese have 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 ashes of old Japan. Even Christians, whose infancy in an early period of Japan's history flashed its nobleness and humanity, now are the chief advocates of the ruling class.

O wonderful specter, Capitalism! It crushed all traditions and customs, religions and moralities.

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 (1904-5), and suffered under this specter—capitalism; in other words, poverty and destitution.

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 public 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 fallacy and powerlessness.

THE PROLETARIAN

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 capitalistic theories and fallacies here.

That they indulge so deeply in politics, which is a monumental delusion 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 in numbers by the strict enforcement of immigration law.

The official records of Washington, D. C., show a reduction in numbers of about 1,300 from June, 1908, to January, 1909.

If any one by this record congratulates himself upon the success of the effort 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 momental phenomena!

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 46,000,000. The average increase of each year is about 45,000. Thus, in a very few years, Japan, the land which is slightly larger than California, will realize Malthusian perils.

The last assembly of the Diet passed a bill endorsing the new boat line to South America, assisted by governmental expense. What does it indicate? That "we shall have 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 again unless the proper method is resorted to.

I maintain, here, from a socialistic viewpoint, that to solve this problem permanently there is only one way—industrial unionism. 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 any evils which they are suffering today. Put them in the line of march toward emancipation, shoulder to shoulder. There shall be no races nor creeds till we shall possess what we are exploited of.

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

Our Japanese workers in this country are rapidly organizing, but along nationality lines. They stand at the psychological moment. Whether they shall take the road of liberty and emancipation, or the road which leads them to narrow 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 locality, but for the interest of the whole working class of the world.

Do you remember, 1904, at Amsterdam, while capitalists of Russia and Japan were fighting in Manchuria like beasts, 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 Clemenceau antagonized each other on the Morocco affair.

Cast off your political hypocrisy for humanity's sake. Then you will come to one conclusion that you have to shake hands with Japanese workers in our coming revolution!

My Country

By Kiichi Kaneko

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 Mazzinis might live;

It is where Bakunins could 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.

My country is where no one man can rule;

No throne, no title, no indolent nobles.
It is where man stands as man, simple and pure,

As the blue skies that stretch wide and free.

Let nations talk of their flags;

Let nations think themselves as "God-Chosen"

For their own and each other's sake;
But my country can never be there.

In the geography of human progress

No one nation stands isolated;

All people are striving for one goal,
And there too, my country I find.

The Proletarian Sustaining

Fund

K. Tetsuka	-	-	-	\$15.00
T. Takahashi	-	-	-	5.00
Account of 1908	-	-	-	20.50
K. Tetsuka, N. Y.	-	-	-	1.00
S. K. Nagata, Boston	-	-	-	1.00
K. Myderco, Chicago	-	-	-	1.50
S. Tatsuno, Chicago	-	-	-	1.50
T. Takahashi, Chicago	-	-	-	4.00
Total				\$29.00

A scab is a traitor to his race and an enemy to himself.

Important Conference will be called.

Steps are being taken by a few to have a conference of Japanese workers in this city for the purpose of forming an organization. The conference will consider seriously the future of the Japanese working class in this country. So far as they are under strict immigration laws and public defiance, so far as they run as a nationality and are kept in limited lines of trade, they can never push themselves for better conditions and they are actually, almost by the season, thrown into the ranks of the jobless, etc.

The above will be the program. The date and the place will be set later on.

Any one who desires to be volunteer in securing subscribers for this paper will receive a bundle of 25 copies free of charge, except postage, 6 cents in postal stamps should accompany application.

REMEMBER! This paper will have one page of Japanese in the next issue. Any one who would try to spread the idee 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,
O'er the dividing lands,
We call to you, our Brothers;
We stretch to you comrade Hands.
Enough of the wars of Empire:
Enough of the lusts of Trade,
Eye into eye, our Fellows,
And let a New Pact be made.
The lore of the Ages tell it:
All Wisdom's voices call,—
"Humans, Ye stand together;
And, each against each, Ye fall!"
Enough of the bounds and borders:
Nay no life lives alone.
Hear men of the farthest nation:—
We are made of one Flesh and Bone.
Away with the Fear that parts us;
Away with our threatening might;
Shout 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. Banard.

The Propaganda League of Industrial Workers of the World

hold Lecture Meeting at local
headquarters
302 Wells Street, Chicago
Every Sunday at 8 P. M.
All invited. Discussion following.

Japanese, Attention!

READ

"Ro-Do" (The Labor)

A Semi-Monthly
The official publication of Japanese
Workers Union.

HEADQUARTERS
921 F Street, Fresno, Cal.
Yearly Subscription, \$1.00

Strike in Hawai.

"Resistance is our Religion" was their slogan, once they determined, dauntless spirit has been shown.

Our Japanese fellow workers in Hawai are desperately struggling in fighting against their employers.

It was not a short period, that discontent continued among the workers on sugar plantations in the Islands.

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 they shall be thrown into more slavery conditions.

The Japanese "higher wages" Association was organized and "Nippon Jiji" a workers paper was the head of the movement.

On May 10th 5000 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 Chinamen was sent to the field against the strikers. It was reported at the time that a disturbance occurred and one Jap was killed, but not assured by later

reports. The strikers did not show any discouragement while the strike has been in progress for over a month and involving more localities.

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

On June 11th a number of policemen armed, (without previous search warrant nor through any process of the law), entered the office of the association, and seized several documents.

Makino, Negoro, and Saga, alleged leaders of the strikers were arrested, following which during that day 14 more arrests were made.

This might be the signal of the discontinuation of this affair, but reports say that 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, vent their spirit in cheers.

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

During the strike, Senichi Uyeno, Japanese consul general, showed his good understanding of his post, "a capitalists dog", by preventing the strikers' progress every way and taking his official advantages.

The Progressive Woman

A Champion of Woman's Emancipation

Edited by Josephine Conger-Kaneko

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ONE UNION! ONE LABEL! ONE ENEMY!

YOU SHOULD TAKE

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A Revolutionary Weekly for Workers

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