

I. W. W. HALL  
88 N. 4th, PORTLAND

# THE PROLETARIAN

No. 3

CHICAGO, OCTOBER 15, 1909

35 Cents a Year

## A Sketch of the Union Movement in Japan

Despite the fact that the Social-Democratic party met decisive attack by the government when it was launched in 1900, the union movement in Japan was granted recognition by officials as early as 1886 because of its capitalistic trade union tendency.

Evidently with insight of coming trouble between labor and capital which will be inevitable according to the process of industrial development, a politician, Yajiro Shinagawa, whose popularity as a radical attracted the people by emphasizing the necessity of establishing a national labor body that stands for compromising between labor and capital.

The opinion was followed by the prompt result: "Tokyo Typographical Workers Union" was founded on the basis of the civic federationism of America, with "Mark Hanna" Shinagawa himself at the head of the committees. J. Sakuma, an owner of the biggest typographical concern, and S. Katayama, a socialist leader, were on the committees.

Through this example, many labor unions were set forth and this grew to such an extent that in certain districts municipal laws provided that certain kinds of laborers had to join the union.

There was fermentation for years underneath, yet the majority of the workers were kept in ignorance and submission through the capitalistic management of social institutions that maintained for the sole aim to blind the people. These official trade unions were the worst of all in this respect.

But the inroads of socialism, what a hot touch to the heart of Japanese workingmen, whose class half a century ago, under regime of Shogunate, was regarded as the lowest rank of the four classes, of which the Japanese feudalistic society consisted.

They became aggressive in a short time. They organized themselves into a compact class-conscious body opposed to plutocratic and aristocratic oppression, as both remain a political power against workers.

Two large bodies were organized in the economic field in 1905, inspired by

"The Communist Manifesto", that are absolutely free from interference of the capitalistic influence and have no connection with the official trade unions. These were "Miner's Shisei-Kai", organized at Yubari coal mine district, and "The Miners' Brotherhood Association of Japan", organized at Shio copper mine and its mining factories where most deplorable conditions prevail among workers. Several villages around were ruined by copper poison as the result of an ill equipped mechanical condition. And the question whether the mine should be shut down or not has been a heated one in the lower house at that time.

Those two organizations were not only the first revolutionary unions organized on the economic field but are very significant in the history of Japan's labor movement and are also of vital importance to the labor movement of the far-east in the future.

In the meantime the second national convention of the socialist party was called to Tokyo, which party, having been admitted by the government, entered its activity through its widely circulated daily organ and several local papers. It flaunted a high spirit above all. The convention took issue as to the tactics, whether it shall adhere to political or to economic action alone. In previous years the socialists had 3 candidates at Tokyo, Chiba and Mybashi city during election time. The returns showed very poor results, except in Chiba where the socialist candidate polled a comparatively large vote. On the other hand the growth of the revolutionary union movement was marvelous. Militant industrial unionists organized in various localities, grew to be the center of the movement, leading many strikes and boycotts. So strenuous were their efforts, that the workers gained much better conditions.

The whole movement went through a process of regeneration. Very naturally the convention was inclined to abandon political action, and economic action instead would be centered upon.

Ashio miners, among whom the miners brotherhood association has a firm foothold, went on a strike in Feb. 1907, because their peaceful efforts to secure better conditions of life failed. The

employer has not only rejected their demands but soon called out military to attempt to start rioting for the purpose of discrediting the strikers and causing them to lose public sympathy, tactics that are very familiar in this continent.

Indignation exceeded patience, the strikers determined to defend their rights and liberty, all the miners rose in open revolt. They captured the magazine from which dynamite and revolvers were taken to be used freely. A battle-like scene continued for several days between strikers and imperial soldiery in which many were wounded and a few killed, among them the manager of the Ashio Mining Co. It was the first time that the workers red blood was shed in the land of the mikado. From that day to to-day, nay, until the capitalist class shall surrender the machinery of production and the necessities of life, there shall not a bit of peace exist between the working class and capitalist class in Japan.

A red flag unfurled upon the mountain high is an indication of final triumph of the working class.

Following the turmoil, arrests of officers of the organization were made. Fellow workers S. Minami, T. Nagaoka and others, charged of being the instigators of the disturbance, were compelled to stay one year in Tokyo Penitentiary, although, after all, the grand jury found them not guilty.

There are two factions in the labor movement of Japan to-day. One, represented by S. Katayama, advocates political achievements through ballot, the other, represented by D. Katakura, insists upon possessing the earth by direct action and revolutionary economic unionism and still is meeting a bitter fight. But in straight truth, socialist activity is somewhat overpowered by the government at present, for lack of systematic organization and education. The movement has been confused on account of their personal disagreement and their Japanese characteristic sentimentarism. In this the government and spies fully realized their advantages: A defeat for the Japanese working class.

Here is an innovation of the labor movement in Japan. Determined tactic

起し幸徳傳次郎が健全にては到底充分其意を果し能はざるにより、幸徳の病氣の重りたる折を見て、六組の巡査を以て東京千駄ヶ谷の平民社を襲ひぬ、巡査は土足のまま、暴入し、手當り次第に苦働手紙等を没收し雑誌の注文の爲替券までも脅迫して強盗しぬ、記者菅野スガ嬢も數週來の病頓に重りて打臥し歩行叶はざるを、無理矢理に引き立て、新宿署に拘引しぬ、附近の人々は何事ぞと黒山を築き巡査の暴行を見て顔を背くる者多く中には巡査に向つて惡口をつき石を投付けたる者もありし由、其他府下數ヶ所の同志の家も略ぼ同様の暴行に會ひたる由、

政府が僅かな力を持たず事如何に淺ましき事よ！吾等をして只だ暫彼等の行動を見せしめよ。

●北米の日本人は皆此通り？

一僕の働いてるおやぢは何々會社の重役さ、オートモビルを二つも持てるさ、今日もジョージお前のこしらへたバイは非常によく出来たどほめられて面目をはごした」とは多數の日本人の自慢して

よく語る處である實に嘔吐を催さざるを得ぬ、あゝ日本人は野良犬の如く蹴られて排斥さるゝかベツトの如く可愛がらるゝかの二つのみであるふか

同胞諸君！耻ぢよ恥ぢよ血あらば骨あらば恥ぢよ

世界産業労働同盟は血と骨のある世界の労働者の團結也、入會せよ日本人の勢力を北米の大陸を流るゝ大運動の中心に植付けよ

北米大陸に散在する進歩的思想を有する同胞よ

我等が一度此民主的米國より東洋の一小國を見る時而して其愛すべき郷國の今や二三の非人道的爲政者に依つて亂されつゝあるを見る時、而してそれが爲めに人文の發達は驚く可き程阻害されつゝあるを知る時に於て猶ほ泰平の夢を食り得べきか。

昔し秦の始皇は書を燒き人を坑にしたり、今や日本政府者は書を禁じ人を獄にす、而して世人の多くは獨り始皇の宇愚狂暴を責めて日本政府者の行動を默許す、トルコの逆政もサルタンの廢帝によつて

去り清帝の固陋も今や憲政を約するに至りぬ、我日本は幸にして君主專政の制を斥けて憲政制度の上にあり、然るに今日我日本をして只二三の有司の爲めに昔日の專制的逆政を見んとするは吾人の忍ぶ能はざる處也。

吾等は場合によりあらゆる力を以て之に反抗せざる可からず、即ち世界の人道の意義を有する協會及び集會に訴へて以て其逆政を擧げ我日本の眞に立つ所を明にするを要す。

今や日本に於ける吾人々道の戰士は激しく政府と戦ひつゝある也吾輩は東京同志より痛切なる一片ののアップルを手にしぬ、而して知りぬ彼等は今や死刑絞殺を期して反抗しつゝあるを、かゝる時北米の地に於て衣食の安易に甘んずるは即ち淫する也、吾等が内地の人に比して物質的安樂の地位に立ち第一になさんとする事は金錢を送る事也、よし數仙も棄つる事なくして彼等に送らば幸也

眞に人道の爲に文明の爲に、吾等は本國の同僚を助けざるべからず

吾等が座上に安居して本國の苦闘を傍觀するは寧ろ苦痛とする處、只汝の能ふ限りの金錢を送りて吾等の赤心を表せ

シカゴ日本人青年數名  
義捐金は本社にて取扱ふ

本紙「平民新聞」は世界産業労働同盟の日本人會員に依つて經營するものにして全く營利事業にあらず

本紙は第一號より英文欄にて、常に日本人排斥の愚物共に行撃を與へつゝあり諸君にして本紙を有益也發行繼續せざるべからずと思ふならば至急本社に一年分購讀料三十五仙を送れ本社購讀料は英文欄にあり

シカゴに於て日本字と英文の新聞を發行するは本紙のみ、而して之が労働者によつて支なれつゝある事を誇れ。

## プロールタリヤン

## 如何にして在米同胞の地位を向上すべきか

『産業同盟主義』とは近世非常なる勢を以て發達したる、労働運動の一方策である、政治屋や新聞記者の生白い奴達の机上の議論と違つて、此運動は常に労働者自身によつて經營され傳播されて行くのである事を知らなければならぬ。

嘗て労働者は種々の事をやつて見た、選舉運動もやつたし貴しども恐れ多き事ながら玉顔、直訴まで試みたが、デクの棒の様な撻めに會つたとは甚だ恐入る次第だ。そこで世界の労働者は目を覺した

『労働者は労働者自身の團結の力と自身の行動によつてのみ、權利と利益を獲得し、労働者解放の實を上げる事が出来る』即ち産業同盟主義が湧然として起つて來たのだ。

歐洲では伊と佛とに最も盛に行はれ米國ではシカゴの世界産業労働者同盟が代表し、日本では幸徳傳次郎、坑夫の南助松、永岡鶴藏、

車夫の野澤重吉等が夙に主唱した第一に北海道の夕張炭山に坑夫至誠會と云ふのが起され、更に足尾銅山に日本坑夫同盟と云ふのが設立され、坑夫の友と云ふ月二回の新聞まで發行するに至つた、此二ツこそ日本に於ける最初の産業組合であつた。

果然目の覺た労働者は、資本家の虐待に堪へずしてストライキを起すに至り、軍隊は坑夫を皆殺しにすべく動員さるゝに至つた、續いて別子銅山のストライキとなり更に至る處にストライキを見た。

嘗て犬の如く輕蔑され、馬の如く虐待された日本の労働者は團結とストライキと云ふ武器で、はげしく暴虐なる資本家政府に迫つた。これから日本の労働者は其正當なる權利を要求すべく如何に勇敢に戦ふであらうか。

さて在米同胞労働者の意氣は如何なるものであらうか、彼等の意氣地なく自覺のない事は夥しく又久いものだ。

此大多數の日本人は、鐵道鑛山果實農産に働いて居る、米國資本家

は吾同胞の汗と血によつて贅澤の極をつくして居る、鐵道ではよく日本人が危險の多き場所にやられて負傷し慘死する。

よく沈思默考する時が來た、何故に吾等は苦しまさるべからざるか何故日本人は排斥せらるゝや何故日本人の職業は限られつゝあるか

而してそこに『産業同盟主義』と云ふ武器が之等の問題を解決すべく吾等の手に殘されてあると云ふ事を忘れてはいけない、即ち白人の労働者と連合して貪慾なる資本家に迫り賃銀を餘計に取り時間を少く働くようにする事、一方には白人同志と連合して日本人排斥派の黃色新聞記者や黨臭政治家輩に大打撃を與へる事、同時に日本人はユニオンに加入する事に依て、如何なる職業にも従事する事が出来る。

世界産業労働者同盟は即ち此産業労働者同盟主義を代表したる唯一のユニオンである。

『世界の労働者同盟せよ!』とは此團體の設立せられたる理由だ、日本人は自由に入會する事が出来る、日本人は之に加入する事によつてのみ凡て目的を達する事が出来る、支部に至る處にある、尙日本人支部を設立する事も出来る、日本労働者はあまり北米で地位が低く又孤立して居たが、今や日本人大活動の時が始まつた。

北米の労働運動に打入れ!世界の労働運動に突入せよ!

『世界の労働者團結せよ!汝の失ふ所は鐵鎖、のみしかも得る所は全世界也』

ユニオンに入會したる時は其組合の支配せる所に於て職業を得る事が出来る、尙詳しく事は本社に照會すべし。

## 日本政府の狂愚を見よ

ハワイのストライキの時上野領事に向つて日本人ストライカーを防禦すべく訓令を發したる政府の狂愚を言ふは寧ろ贅とする處なれども、近來の行爲は實に言語道斷の行動と云ふべし、政府は元來とスマークすら鎮壓し能はざりし、二十世紀の人道運動、社會主義を排斥せんと、こんでもな思案を



# THE PROLETARIAN



Published by  
Japanese I. W. W. Propaganda League

All communications and remittance  
should be addressed to T. Takahashi,  
935 Wells Street, Chicago

Yearly Subscription	35 Cts.
A bundle of 100 copies	\$1.00

is badly required in this case. A more effective strategy is needed in the struggle against capitalists who exercised all possible knowledge and equipment in methods to destroy anything that might hurt their class interest.

Industrial unionism agitation should be commenced now throughout the land. We shall neither allow the capitalists to usurp the guidance of the labor organization nor the politician to use it for his own ambition. Organizing an army of producers which aims solely for the interest of the working class, we move toward the goal of emancipation, "abolition of wage system".

The revolutionary industrial union movement in Japan was once tested in the case of "The Miners' Brotherhood Association" at Ashio and proved a success although it had unfortunately gone on prematurely.

We should carry on this work again with utmost patience and skill, if necessary to the point of timidity until it will get sufficient power.

What a shock it would be to the ruling class when they learned one day that every wage earner had organized in his own interest, and our initiated anti-militarism propaganda will have emptied the barracks of the regiments!

A vigorous agitation for revolutionary industrial unionism should be started now, right now, in Japan!

## Mikado gets O.K. from Czar.

How to root out the revolutionary movement in the land was one of the important programs in the secret official congress at Tokyo which had been called on account of the controversy between China and Japan over the Antung-Mukden railroad problem in Manchuria.

Those organized "black hands" finally decided to proceed with the railroad work immediately in spite of the protest of the Chinese government and also decided unanimously that drastic measures will be adopted for suppressing socialistic and union movement.

The socialists and unionists in Japan have been bitterly fighting for a long time. Not an organ is allowed to be printed there, nor are they allowed to hold a meeting.

Every active member is followed by a spy wherever he goes, and any action that might bring suspicion is closely watched.

When a few fellow workers started a paper at Kumamoto city near Nagasaki port, the police confiscated all. When Jiyu-Shiso was launched by D. Katakoto, it was obliged to publish twice the same number because the first copies were robbed by the police on the way from the printer to the office of the paper without any warrant.

Consequently secret publications now prevail. Fellow comrade Uchida, a Buddhist priest and two other fellow workers were arrested on a charge of illegal publication.

Below is the list of illegal publications as officially given for this year:

"Law and Authority", "Quick Learning as to Socialistic Theories", "An Alarm Clock for the People", "Anarchism and Free Labor", "What is the Real Good Thing to the People", "Anarchism and its Ideal".

You know how despotic the Japanese government is since "Communists' Manifesto" and "Conquest of Bread" were suppressed.

A liberal magazine, "World-Wide Woman", was recently fined 100 yens because this paper translated "The Capital" from time to time.

"Home Magazine" was also suppressed. The reason is simply that the editor, Miss Yasuko Hori, is a to-be wife of a fellow worker who is serving in Chiba penitentiary.

The government then decided to take final action to blow every revolutionary movement out of the country.

By 3 o'clock on Aug. 15th, under command of chief of police Takahashi himself who is a most notorious brute, a vast number of police, divided into six squads, marched to and invaded the office of the paper "Heiminshi", armed with glittering swords, and demanded the surrender of all documents, subscriptions for the paper, financial books and even money orders.

Miss Sagako Kanno, who had been in charge of business since the paper was established, being in ill health for several weeks, was unable to walk at the order of arrest.

She was dragged from her bed and kicked down in the most brutal and savagous manner. Then she was carried on shoulders for a distance of 3 miles to the police station.

Another band was dispatched to make a search of all the residences where our fellow workers are living with their wives and children. Three more arrests were made the following day in suburbs of Tokyo.

## The Japanese I. W. W.

### Propaganda League

was organized and chartered on Oct. 7th through which we will push our work more systematically.

Owing to the lack of space the financial report will appear in the next issue.

Help us in our work by sending in subscriptions for the paper.

Italian fellow worker Vittorio Cravetto and the others at Barre, Vt., sent 10 Dollars to Japan in June 1908 for donation to the movement. But the money went astray (?) and has never been traced. Investigation is following.

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

## The Industrial Worker

Rear 412 FRONT AVE.

SPOKANE, WASH.

Yearly One Dollar.

## Industrial Union Advocate

250 W. 125th ST.

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Yearly 50 Cents.

We endorse the above being the only revolutionary workers' papers, to English speaking fellow workers as well as Japan-born fellow workers who can read English.