

Advertiser 25. 7. 17.

The name of Acting Lieutenant-Colonel F. F. Muecke, who is serving with the British Royal Army Medical Corps, is among those of South Australians mentioned in the dispatch of Sir Douglas Haig's on April 9, which is published in the London "Times" of May 29.

Daily Herald 28. 7. 17

ECONOMICS AND SOCIALISM

MARXIAN DOCTRINE DEFENDED.

"W. G." writes:—I am very sorry if I have done an injustice to Mr. Heaton in stating that in his lecture on economics dealing with trade depressions and unemployment "he set aside the Marxian theory jaucingly as one of the 200 different theories of little interest." It now seems from his letter that he was in deadly earnest, and that he demanded, and still demands, facts to support it. For the information of readers of "The Herald" who have followed up this controversy I may here once more state that Marx's explanation of the main cause of unemployment and want amidst abundance of wealth is to be found inherent in the capitalist system itself. The Herbert Heaton theory—I mean the capitalist theory—is this, that this remarkable phenomenon is brought about by "the psychology of the business community." I suggested that this peculiar "psychology," like unemployment itself, was the direct result of the same fundamental cause—capitalism. But Mr. Heaton, being a true son of the capitalist university tuition, sticks to his guns and maintains that unless I can bring along my "facts" in support of Marx his absurd psychology must be accepted as correct. I am supposed to bring some facts to prove that a depression in trade can be brought about by an over-supply of boots, clothes, houses, iron, coal, or bricks. Unfortunately statistics are not available, so far as I know, in respect to this, for the obvious reason that the bosses in these particular branches of industry don't take the public into their confidence, and for the additional reason that the typical boss never does think he can have an "over-supply" of anything. Does Mr. Heaton deny the Marxian propositions on which the Marxian theory is based—(1) that labor receives only approximately one-third of the wealth it produces; and (2) that capital (or those who "own" the essentials of production) receives the remaining two-thirds? If this is so, is there anything illogical in the assertion that the community of wage-workers cannot normally, under capitalist conditions, purchase the sum total of their productions?

But Mr. Heaton, in common with all opponents of Socialism, informs us that most of the Marxian theories have been abandoned. Who has abandoned them? Not the great and ever-growing working class movement in all parts of the world. The capitalist economists in our privileged universities, our well-paid professors, have been slaying Marx for the last 60 years; but Socialism of the scientific Marxian kind still marches on to triumph. As if he had made a discovery, Mr. Heaton asks if "W. G." has ever heard of "Revisionism," a school of thought in Germany which, he tells us, has pulverised Marx. Our learned friend is perhaps unaware that the party of Revisionists, who approved of temporary expedients rather than the straight-out revolutionary Socialism of Marx, was founded by Edward Bernstein about 20 years ago. In March, 1914, Bernstein gave a lecture at Buda Pest on "The Survival of Marxism," in which he practically recanted all his 16 years of antagonism to Marxism. In response to a request for his opinion of the Bernstein lecture Karl Kaunsky, one of Germany's most brilliant writers on economics, replied as follows:—"Bernstein acknowledges that all the important doctrines of Marxism are true—the materialist conception of history, the theory of surplus value, the concentration of capitals, of the coming breakdown of capitalism, of the class war, and its growing intensity. The class war of labor will modify humanity and bring Socialism. All these doctrines, defined by revisionism, are acknowledged by Bernstein, and Marxism has every reason to be satisfied." As Mr. Heaton quotes a nameless Syndicalist and a German historian (Socialist) as indicating the decline of Marx's influence, I beg to conclude this letter by quoting from two who will bear comparison with these dissenters. Says Laucknecht—"On the ground of the class struggle we are invincible. If we leave it we are lost, because we are no longer socialists. The strength and power of Socialism rest in the fact that we are leading a class war." Says George Bernard Shaw, one of the greatest, most brilliant, original, and daring personalities in the English-speaking world of literature to-day—"Marx never condescends to cast a glance of useless longing at the past. His cry to the present is always—'Pass by; we are waiting for the future.' Nor is the future at all mysterious or dreadful to him. There is not a word of hope or fear, nor appeal to chance or Providence, nor vain remonstrance with Nature, nor optimism, nor enthusiasm, nor pessimism, nor cynicism, nor any other familiar sign of the giddiness which seizes men when they climb to heights which command a view of the past, present, and future of human society. Marx keeps his head like a god. He has discovered the law of social development, and knows what must come. The thread of history is in his hand."

Advertiser 28. 7. 17.

TWO "SKITS."

From "CLEAN WIT AND SKIT"—A fine procession on Friday was marred by a couple of objectionable items, one in particular being the skit on members of our late Government. Clever wit or skits when clean are always appreciated, but the objectionable words used on this occasion call forth indignation. It would be wise on future occasions for the committee to prevent a repetition of such features.

Review 28.7.17

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

AN EXTENSIVE SCHEME.

MELBOURNE, July 27.

A report by the executive committee of the Advisory Council of Science and Industry, which was tabled in the House of Representatives on Thursday, states that the time has arrived for initiating on a permanent basis an extensive scheme of scientific research, and the committee is convinced that the results would justify the considerable expenditure involved. The initiation of the scheme would go far to inaugurate a new era in the economic industrial life of the Commonwealth. The functions of the proposed institute are set out as follows:—

1. To consider and initiate scientific research in connection with or for the promotion of primary or secondary industries in the Commonwealth.

2. The collection of industrial scientific information and the establishment of a bureau of information for the benefit of those engaged in industry.

3. The establishment of national laboratories.

4. The general control and administration of such laboratories when established.

5. To promote the immediate utilization of existing institutions, whether Federal or State, for the purposes of industrial scientific research.

6. To make recommendation from time to time for the establishment or development of special institutions or departments of existing institutions for the scientific study of problems affecting particular industries and trades.

7. The establishment and award of industrial research, studentships, and fellowships, to include either travelling fellowships or fellowships attached to particular institutions.

8. To draw attention to any new industries which might be profitably established in the Commonwealth.

9. To keep in close touch with and seek the aid of all Commonwealth and State Government departments, learned and professional industries, and private enterprises concerned with or interested in scientific research.

10. Co-ordination and direction of scientific investigation and of research, and experimental work with a view to the prevention of undesirable overlapping of effort.

11. To recommend grants by the Commonwealth Government in aid of pure scientific research in existing institutions.

With regard to the constitution of the institute, the committee recommends—Firstly, that for the purpose of controlling and administering the institute three highly qualified salaried directors, of whom one should be Chairman, shall be appointed by the Governor-General in Council; secondly, that of the three directors one should be an expert business and financial man of ability and organization, and the other two should be chosen mainly on account of scientific attainments and wide experience. The executive council further recommends that all discoveries, improvements, &c., made by workers directly employed by the institute should be vested in trustees appointed by the Government as the sole property of the estate, and should be made available under proper conditions and on payment of gratuities or otherwise for public advantage. It is proposed that the institute should be empowered to charge fees for special investigations for any particular person or firm. It is estimated that the amount required for the first year to carry out the programme of work drafted by the committee will be as follows:—Prickly pear, £4,000; blowfly, £2,000; cattle tick, £2,000; nodule work, £1,000; cotton, £1,000; alcohol and alcohol engine, £1,000; tanning, £1,500; utilization of waste timber and forest products, £2,000; other investigations, chiefly in connection with secondary industries, £4,000; printing, £700; administration, £3,500; total, £22,500.

Advertiser 28.7.17

UNIVERSITY TUTORIAL CLASSES.

The movement for the wider dissemination of University education among people who work hard for their living is growing rapidly. Three tutorial classes are already in operation in Adelaide, two of which are studying economics, and one is studying English language and literature. Two additional classes are now in course of formation, one of which will combine the kindred subjects of philosophy and psychology. Miss Elizabeth Jackson, M.A., has been appointed tutor of that class. The second class now forming will deal with "The Modern State: historical, theoretical, and practical," and Mr. H. Heaton, M.A., M.Com., Director of Tutorial Classes, will be the tutor. These classes cover a three-year course of instruction, and in each case will be preceded by two public lectures, Miss Jackson's lectures being as follow:—July 30, "What is psychology?" and August 6, "Fellow feeling." Mr. Heaton's two public lectures will be given on August 2, "The making of modern Japan," and August 9, "The growth of democracy." All the lectures will be at the University.

Register 30.7.17.

AUSTRALIA DAY PROCESSION.

From the Rev. ALBERT MORRIS, Brampton:—A deplorable and saddening impression was created by the University students' contribution to the Australia Day procession. They gave good ground for a growing opinion that the University stands for cultured larrikinism. Why should these shameless youths use their brains for the bolstering up of such a thing as the Honor trade? Surely these children of privilege and moneyed parents ought to stand for progress and cleanliness! It is not hard to understand why the high and responsible places in our Commonwealth are mostly filled by the children of strugglers possessing ideals, who rise from the ranks, rather than by the pampered children of the rich who so often swell the ranks of the wasters.

Register 31.7.17

AUSTRALIA DAY PROCESSION.

From "A PARENT":—Surely even the Rev. Albert Morris can distinguish between a skit embodying a bit of innocent fun and a serious advocacy of either prohibition or the reverse? His comments on University students are not only lacking in charity—they are even largely inaccurate. If he will go through the list of undergraduates he will be surprised to find how very few of them are blest with wealthy parents. The large majority are equipped with brains and a determination to carve for themselves a career, the expense of which their parents could not afford, were it not for the assistance given by a beneficent Government and our generous educational system. May I compliment the students upon the part they took in an imposing pageant, and assure them that thousands of spectators greatly enjoyed their jokes, and hope they will not be disheartened by such criticism as that penned by Mr. Morris?

Daily Herald 1.8.17

THE MARXIAN THEORY

UNIVERSITY LECTURER'S VIEWS.

Mr. Herbert Heaton, M.A., writes:—W. G. did not answer my question. I asked for facts in support of the Marxian theory of depressions, and am given the theory once more. I am told that depressions are "inherent in the capitalist system." One might just as soon say that indigestion is inherent in the human system. By taking certain precautions one may avoid indigestion; and if business men would take warning from the events preceding and accompanying previous depressions such occurrences might be avoided or their severity minimised. And it is precisely because they neglect such warnings and pursue the old policy of get-rich-quickly, especially in times of boom, that the world has suffered from economic fluctuations. That was the theory I put forward as explaining modern depressions. Given a different system, say, Socialism, fluctuations might be due to the difficulty of estimating accurately the likely demands for goods. But, returning to the point at issue, it is no answer to my query simply to talk about "inherent" tendencies, and make cheap references to the non-existence of statistics. There is abundant information available concerning every depression of the last century. If "W. G.'s" contention was true an especially large crop of bankruptcies among makers of food, clothes, boots, &c., would accompany each depression, and such facts could not be smothered up.

I am asked if I deny the Marxian proposition "that labor receives only approximately one-third of the wealth it produces." Yes, until "W. G." brings forth evidence to prove it. For Australia—at any rate, so far as statistics are available—the proposition is untrue. In 1912 (I quote from Knibbs) the value added to raw materials in our factories amounted to £195 per employe. The average wage was £108. In other words, 56 per cent. of the value added went to labor. In the previous year roughly £27,500,000 was paid in wages and salaries in our factories; £25,800,000 went to "all other expenditure," excluding light, fuel, and cost of raw materials. Out of the latter figures reserves had to be provided, depreciation allowed for, advertisements, office, and other incidental expenses met. Then what was left went in interest on borrowed money and profit to capital. I am not attacking or defending this distribution of the wealth produced. I simply ask how it fits in with Marx's two-thirds to capital. For other countries no adequate figures are available.

I am aware that Bernstein is said to have "practically recanted" his Revisionist views, but have not been able to secure a copy of his recantation. If "W. G." can lend me one, I shall be grateful. Meanwhile, I accept with great caution Kautsky's description of the lecture, for Kautsky is an orthodox among orthodox Marxists. But even if Bernstein has gone back into the Kautsky fold, he cannot undo the work he has done, or scatter to the winds the facts he collected in criticism of Marx's theories or prophecies. A man does not prove truth wrong by denying it to be true; and Bernstein's data concerning the survival of small capitalists, &c., remain. Further, Bernstein was not the only man to apply the higher criticism to the work of the Master, and Marxian critics would have abundant materials on which to build, even if Bernstein had never lived.

May I point out in conclusion that because I disagreed with one point of the Marxian theory, it by no means follows that I am an opponent of Socialism, any more than a person is an anti-Christian because he refuses to accept the authority of a particular miracle. If implicit belief in Marx is an essential to Socialist faith, then there are many heretics and many heathens in the Socialist fold. I have not yet lectured on Socialism, or expressed any opinions on the relative merits of Capitalism and Socialism. Hence any reference to my "capitalist university tuition," "capitalist economics," and the like, are just stupid. "W. G." is profoundly ignorant of the modern university world if he supposes that its members are antagonistic to working-class aspirations. The German historian to whom I referred in my last letter, Sombart, is the author of a book, "Socialism and the Social Movement," which is far and away the best and most sympathetic survey yet written, a book which would convert the staunchest anti-Socialist. The other "nonentity" to whom I referred was the author of "The Decomposition of Marxism" (George Sorel), the intellectual leader, and, if you like, the Marx, of French Syndicalism.

Advertiser 4-8-14

COMMERCE AND EDUCATION.

UNIVERSITY STAFF INADEQUATE.

MR. HERBERT HEATON'S VIEWS.

Mr. Herbert Heaton (lecturer on economics and director of the tutorial classes of the Workers' Educational Association at the Adelaide University) was entertained at luncheon by the Adelaide Chamber of Commerce at the Grand Central Hotel on Thursday. The president (Mr. E. Allnutt) occupied the chair, and there was a representative attendance. After the loyal toast had been honored, an address was delivered by Mr. Heaton. He stated that Chambers of Commerce would have much to do in solving problems that would arise in the near future. The big question everybody was considering was "What will happen after the war?" At present the situation was blue with decided streaks of black. He had been distressed to see reports of statements made, particularly in England, that the war should be utilised as an opportunity to "dash" organised Labor, and that some employers of a more unscrupulous nature, laughed at the idea of the restoration of the conditions the unions had patriotically put on one side. He had been even more distressed to see that a committee of a big employers' federation had recommended that what was to be urged was practically the crippling of trades unions, the repealing of all factory legislation, and the cutting away of all those things which the workers sacrificed in the interests of the nation. If such a policy were pursued it would be not merely futile, but highly dangerous. If anything in the war