

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 13, NO. 335.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1913.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## THE INTERNATIONAL.

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**T**HERE are two of them.

One International has itself given the name to itself. So far as it is concerned it is proud of its existence and proud of its name, though both name and existence arouse deep animosity, rage and fear in opposite quarters. This International is the International of the Socialist World, typified by the International Proletariat; it is a name that sprang from, hence reflects, an existing fact—the fact that the world's proletariat are actually one nation, have identical class interests, hence, upon the triumph of their standard depends peace on earth, good will among men.

The other International has not named itself, yet it also is a fact in existence. The fact is not exactly like that other fact that lies at bottom of the first International. In some respects the fact at bottom of the second International has features exactly the opposite of the features of the fact upon which the first rears its proud head. While the interests of the first International make for peace, in that they remove the cause of war, the interests of the second International make for war, in that they undermine the cause of peace. This notwithstanding there is that in the second International that entitles it to the name. Affairs in West Virginia are exhibiting and illustrating the point.

Capitalism presupposes a proletariat, a layer of the population which is compelled to sell itself into wage-slavery, seeing it is stripped of the necessaries where-with to exert its labor-power, produce and live. No proletariat, no capitalism. As the proletariat is necessary for capitalism to start, so is the extension of the proletariat requisite for capitalism to expand, grow and thrive.

Now, then, whether intentionally and knowingly, or accidentally and against

their will, the Capitalist Class of the several countries so contrive that each supplies proletarians to the others and thus help to keep the supply of the others' labor market well stocked.

Originally, it was feudalism that, by tearing the peasantry from the land, launched capitalism on its career. Once launched, capitalism took care of itself, that is, of increasing the supply of proletarians. The Marxian Law of Value illumines by explaining the process. Concentrated and improved productive materiel produces more cheaply; thereby it smokes out the individuals and concerns that do not operate up-to-date materiel; the upshot is that the proletariat increases. An overflowing labor-market at home overflows into other countries. Thus it happens that even the United States, whither the overflow of all other countries flows in steady streams, "sends" its proletarians abroad—they are found in Mexico, in the jungles of Brazil, in South Africa, aye, even in China and Japan. But it is in West Virginia that, at this particular moment, the most striking illustration of the second International is being furnished.

As a whole, the United States is the country in which the illustration has been best furnished. Within three quarters of a century of its birth, American capitalism stood abreast of the oldest capitalisms of Europe, and ahead of several. The feat would have been impossible had capitalism in America been left to its own resources in the matter of stocking and overstocking the labor market. The second International came to the aid of capitalism in America. The overflow of proletarians manufactured in Europe became available here,—and American capitalism, aided by local circumstances, leaped forward. It leaped forward as a whole. In spots it lagged behind. West Virginia, it now turns out, is one of these spots. And West Virginia is bestirring herself to make up for the loss of time, especially in the mining industry.

Frankly and coolly as a mathematical proposition the West Virginia situation is being explained by the spokesmen of its mining interests. "The miner in West Virginia is mostly native{,}" so runs the explanation; "these miners labor with only a 30 per cent. efficiency on the amount of equipment; that makes profits small; in Pennsylvania profits are large; it comes from the Pennsylvania mine-owners having displaced the domestic miner with 'Harwaeckers' or 'Harwocks,' a particular element of

the Austro-Hungarian; this element is equal in efficiency to the Welsh miner; he can be made to work so hard that his efficiency runs up from 60 to 70 per cent.; consequently the thing to do is to displace the native miner and get in the Hungarian; that will multiply profits four-fold.”

Needless to say that the “Harwaecker” or “Harwock” is not anxious to leave his own country and explore America. Needless to say that if he turns his face to America, and his back to his own green and fragrant hills, the reason is that the labor market at home is overstocked—thanks to the Hungarian branch of the second International.

The existence of the second International is the palpitating fact that welds and compels the ever closer welding of the first International.

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Uploaded August 2015

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