

White Workers' Insane Prejudice.

By J. M. G.

The white workers' prejudice against the coloured, when analysed is found to have no rational basis, is nothing more than the mental kinks created by an environment that has given the white workers an inflated idea of their own value to society.

For the white workers to continue nursing this prejudice is fatal. While doing so the coloured workers are displacing them in all branches of labour, as the employing class has no prejudice against employing cheap coloured labour. This unreasoning prejudice of the white workers can only be removed by a proper understanding on their part of the basis upon which society is built.

Society as formed to-day, broadly speaking, has only two classes: the capitalist class and the working class (white and coloured). These two classes are antagonistic to one another, with an antagonism that is irreconcilable, as is evidenced by the many recurring conflicts such as strikes and lock-outs. All attempts to bring about stable conditions have been failures, and must necessarily fail under a system of society having as its basis private and individual ownership in the tools and machinery of production.

But whilst we have this conflict between the possessing class and the non-possessing class, there is a conflict of interest within the classes themselves, a conflict that in the big industries is gradually being eliminated amongst individual capitalists, by the formation of Trusts and Corporations within the Nation.

This conflict or competition within the capitalist class on the international field for the markets of the world has and must lead to war between the groups of national capitalists whose interests clash; and the huge armaments that have been prepared by the large industrial countries during the past forty years is justified by the war that is now raging in Europe.

This war is the international arbiter that is intended to settle which group of national capitalists will dominate the markets and bring about an international combine that will eliminate competition and establish a monopoly, thus ending those antagonisms that is inherent in any system of competition.

The workers, the non-possessing class (white or coloured) whether as individuals, or collectively as organised labour, are dependent upon the capitalist class, the possessors of the tools of production. In their struggle, as individual wage slaves, for a living, they compete one with another for jobs, which competition leads to antagonism. Or, it may be, organised as craft unions, banded together to preserve to the members a monopoly in a particular industry to the exclusion of other workers, denying the antagonisms that must necessarily exist between the employing class and those

employed, the exploiters and exploited, these also lend themselves as tools to be used by the capitalist class to crush other craft unions as well as the unorganised workers.

Our society having as its basis private ownership, with production for profit, has led to the enslaving of the mass of the people to a greater extent than in any previous form of society, owing to the complex nature of production and the combination of capitalistic interests in the big industries, as Trusts and combines.

To meet and combat this organised capital it is necessary for the workers to combine as a class irrespective of race or colour, skilled or unskilled, recognising that to leave any section of the workers unorganised is to leave a weapon in the hands of the employing class, that must and will be used against them to their undoing.

The prejudice of the white workers against the coloured has no rational foundation. The employers have no colour prejudice. They as buyers of labour power buy in the cheapest market irrespective of colour. All, or any race or colour is grist to the economic mill by production for profit, and the cheaper they buy the power of labour, the more surplus value they get.

Let the white workers divest themselves of their senseless prejudice. They are not called upon to love the coloured workers as themselves, but are asked to recognise the fundamental fact that while they ignore the coloured workers and neglect to organise them in the struggle against capitalism, the capitalists are using them to-day, and they are gradually growing more efficient workmen in the various crafts, and in the very near future the white workers will awaken to the fact that to exist, they will have to accept wages based on the lower standard of living of these coloured workers.

Such is the position as controlled and determined by the economic forces operating in our present society. There is no question of sentiment or humanitarianism. It is to the interest of the white workers to join hands with their coloured fellow workers to combat the mighty forces of modern capitalism. Organise as a class! It is the only hope. To neglect doing so is fatal to the interests, not only of the white workers, but criminal to the coloured workers, and treason to humanity.

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