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FROM OUT THE PAST GLIMPSE THE FUTURE

BY

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From Out the Past Glimpse the Future

"Backward look across the ages,
And the beacon moments see."
—Lowell.

INTRODUCTION

History teaches many lessons that prove useful and often necessary in shaping the course of future actions. Just as a glance over the back trail will often guide a traveller in the right direction onward, so a brief survey of Industrial History will assist those who are striving to improve the workers' lot, and planning for their future economic emancipation.

The story of man's struggle for existence, through all ages and under changing systems, is one of vital interest to earnest thinkers.

This short pamphlet is little more than a synopsis of that story, but it is hoped that its publication may stimulate a desire for a greater knowledge of the subjects touched upon.

The following works are recommended:—"Six centuries of Work and Wages" (Thorold Rodgers); "The Industrial History of England" (H. D. B. Gibbons); "Eureka—Freedom's Fight" (R. S. Ross); "The Good Old Days" (Frank Anstey A.P.); "Australia's Awakening" (W. G. Spence).

THE STRUGGLE FOR EXISTENCE

BARBARISM.

Primitive man had a hard struggle to win from nature the necessities of life. Savage tribes hunted game, fished in the streams, and gathered such roots and herbs as contained nourishment.

Seeking fresh and wider hunting fields, the various tribes came into conflict. Conquerors in these tribal wars, seized their victims' belongings, killed the prisoners, and extended the area of their hunting grounds.

ORIGIN OF SLAVERY.

Advanced to another stage, barbarous tribes realised the advantage of reserving areas of land to raise flocks and herds instead of depending on the fortunes of the chase. About that time—described as the dawn of civilisation—the important discovery was made that prisoners of war were worth more alive than dead, and so it came about that, instead of being put to death, prisoners captured in war were compelled to work the pastures and herd the flocks of their conquerors.

Victorious tribes also found that it was often easier to steal cattle than to raise them, and so made war on neighboring tribes, seizing land, stock, and captives. As their herds increased, larger areas were required, and wars were extended for the acquisition of territory.

Thus we see that war is the outcome of greed; and slavery is the outcome of war. By force and bloodshed have the strong oppressed the weak in all lands.

For a long period the whole tribe shared the spoils, but later strong men—successful warriors—appropriated certain lands, captives, and herds for their individual use. Such was the beginning of individualism and class distinction.

CHATTEL SLAVERY.

When the necessary supply of slaves could not be secured by capturing war prisoners, slaves of different colours and various nationalities were forcibly recruited in distant lands, and sold in open markets. Human beings became the personal property of others. They were mere chattels.

SERFDOM.

The ever-growing value of slaves induced owners to improve conditions so that the slave could marry and propagate more slaves. The slave, the wife, and the family, belonged to the estate, and by degrees chattel slavery merged into serfdom. Though the system changed, the effect was the same.

The slave belonged to the master.

The serf was bound to the land which belonged to the master.

The master, or lord, had no need to own the serf when he owned the land to which the serf was bound.

By creating private property in land formerly held in common, the actual tillers of the soil were held in as complete subjection as had ever been the captive slaves.

WAGE SLAVERY.

With the centralising of armies under a king, serfs were driven from the castles, because there was no longer use for them as fighters or as workers raising provisions for the soldiers. Forced to seek employment elsewhere, these homeless men, with no land or tools, were compelled to accept whatever was offered for their labor, and so we witness the beginning of the wage system.

These changes served the selfish interests of the privileged few. The lords and masters owning the land and tools, found it more profitable to employ workers at starvation wages and dismiss them when they chose, than to retain them permanently as slaves or serfs.

War was the origin of masters and slaves, and right down through the ages wars have maintained the power and privileges of the classes who oppress and exploit the masses.

At first it was the strong arm and heavy club that won power and privilege for the few. Later it was the private possession of the source of production and tools of trade that gave to the dominant minority mastery over the lives and liberties of the majority.

The foregoing merely sketches in briefest outline the changes from slavery to serfdom, and then to wage slavery, characteristic of the historic past of almost all the older countries.

An epitome of the industrial history of England will enable us to follow more definitely the continuation of the human struggle for existence against inhuman oppression.

FIXING A MAXIMUM WAGE.

At the opening of the fourteenth century in England, serfs and wage slaves existed side by side on a bare pittance. The great plague of 1348, in which

one-third of the population perished, caused a serious shortage of laborers. The keen demand for their services gave laborers a new sense of their value. They realised for the first time that they really counted for something, as workers, and they joined in demanding increased pay. A rise of fifty per cent. in wages alarmed the land-owners, who petitioned the King to intervene. Edward III. issued a proclamation in 1349 ordering that no man should demand or landlord pay higher rates of wages than those ruling before the plague. He also ordered penalties for laborers leaving the land to which they were attached. As soon as Parliament met, the King's proclamation was ratified by the "Statute of Laborers." Included in its eight clauses, the Act ordered imprisonment of all persons, whether serf or free, under sixty years of age, who declined to undertake work at wages customary in 1347, unless they were merchants, occupiers of land, or possessed of private means. Anyone quitting service was to be sent to the common gaol, and fugitives, when caught, were branded with hot irons.

In defiance of these drastic measures, however, secret arrangements were made, and wages continued to rise. Twenty years after the plague, wages had doubled. Large landowners gave up farming and let their lands. A spirit of independence was manifest, and as wages rose, rent of land fell. Peasant unions were formed, and bands of reformers went around preaching revolutionary doctrines. "By what right," they asked, "are those whom we call lords greater than we? They have leisure, fine houses; we have pain and labor, and wind and rain of the fields, and yet it is of us and our toil that these men hold their estate."

Landlords sought to crush the agitation by trying to force their tenants back into serfdom. They shamelessly abused their power of inflicting fines in the Manor Courts, constituting themselves prosecutors and judges.

The crisis came in 1381 with the Peasant's Revolt, but, in spite of the King's treachery and the imprisonment and execution of the leaders, serfage or villeinage became extinct.

"THE GOLDEN AGE OF LABOR."

The fifteenth century and the first quarter of the sixteenth century has been described by Thorold Rodgers as the "Golden Age of English Labor." "At no time," he writes, "were wages relatively speaking, so high, and at no time was food so cheap."

Constant attempts were made to enforce the "Statute of Laborers" in the reigns of Henry IV., V., VI., and VII., but they were futile, because of the

strength of peasant unions and craft guilds. The distribution of land was more general, the tenancy of land more secure, while large areas were held in common.

Craft Guilds controlled the artisans' tools of trade and the output of their labor. Because the workers to a large degree owned and controlled the means of production and the tools of trade, they received at that period a larger share of the output of their labor than ever before or since. THIS WAS THE "GOLDEN AGE."

CRAFT GUILDS.

The Craft Guilds, which consisted of artisans of each craft, controlled and regulated each particular industry.

The Guilds sought to secure good work by its members. They prevented any but members of each Craft Guild from making the wares produced by that particular craft.

Night work was prohibited.

Eight hours was the maximum day's work.

The Guilds also acquired land, and from the rentals made provision for destitute members, widows' pensions, and apprenticing poor children.

The Guilds, to a large extent, fulfilled the work in the middle ages that the Trades Unions have striven to do in modern times.

Had the workers retained the position enjoyed at that period, and made progress corresponding to the progress made in increasing productivity, want and misery would have been unknown for the past 500 years.

NO POLITICAL POWER.

But there was one weak link in the chain. The masses remained political nonentities. The King and a select few controlled the machinery of Government, and, though for more than a century the workers successfully resisted repeated attempts to downgrade their conditions, the political machine eventually proved too strong. King Henry VIII. got an Act passed, suppressing many of the Guilds, and confiscating their lands and revenues.

WORKERS CRUSHED DOWN.

In the following reign, this Act was brutally enforced. Insurrection broke out, but German and Italian mercenary soldiers were hired to repress it. "The protests of the people were everywhere choked in their own blood."

Then for two centuries followed the pauperisation and degradation of the working class. Regular

employment became a thing of the past. The common pastures were encroached upon, and the workers were forced by law to accept the wages decided by Justices who were generally the employers. The wages fixed ranged from 6d. to 9d. per day. Thorold Rodgers says:—"In 1610 it would take an ordinary laborer more than forty weeks to earn the provisions which in 1495 he could have got with fifteen weeks' labor."

As the people's conditions were reduced, rents increased. Agricultural land, formerly let for 3/- per acre, could not be rented for less than 19/- per acre in the 18th century; 25/- in the early part of the 19th century, and later a rental of £2 per acre was paid for the same land.

THE EPOCH OF GREAT INVENTIONS.

The introduction of machinery marked the transition from the domestic to the factory system.

In 1760, James Watt took out his patent for the steam engine.

In 1770, James Hargreaves invented the spinning jenny.

The same year, Crompton invented the "mule"—a combination of two previous inventions, which enormously increased production. The brain which designed it brought profit only to employers, as eight years later Crompton died in poverty.

In 1771, Arkwright introduced his patent spinning machine or "water frame."

In 1785, Dr. Cartwright patented the "power loom," which was one of the principal factors in destroying the old domestic system.

The introduction of the steam engine into factories completed "the industrial revolution." Many land-owners sold their estates and purchased machines. The old mills driven by water wheels were displaced by large factories equipped with steam power. Workers from their country homes congregated in these large factories. Thus centralisation and congestion are incidental to capitalist methods.

PITILESS CAPITALISM.

By the seven years' war England had crippled her commercial rivals, and her foreign trade grew.

Manufacturers prospered, but the workers suffered. Machinery which should have eased the burden of toil, and raised the standard of living for all, had the opposite effect, because it was controlled by a few capitalists.

The hours of labor, instead of being reduced, were lengthened, while many workmen were unemployed. Women and children frequently displaced men.

Child labor was recruited from the work-houses. Special days were set apart for the inspection of pauper children. Traffickers in these little white slaves would take them from work-houses to the factory districts, where the factory owners examined their physical capacities, exactly as did the slave dealers of other days. The parish authorities, to get rid of imbeciles, frequently insisted that one idiot should be taken with every twenty sane children. These helpless mites were paid no wages, and as they were cheap they were ill-clad, half-starved, and worked till they dropped. They died off rapidly, and were secretly buried at night. There were plenty of others to fill their places.

Writing of factory life, Southey, in one of his letters said:—"The slave trade was mercy compared with it."

Disease, caused by overcrowding, overwork, bad food and worse ventilation, spread alarmingly through the factory districts. This and the rising anger of the masses obliged Parliament, in an Act passed in 1802, to make some pretence at reform.

The object of this Act, unctuously announced, was:—"For the preservation of health and morals of apprentices." It fixed hours of labor for children at twelve per day. One member, describing factory conditions, said:—

"Waiting at the factory gates, I saw children coming out, and a set of sad, cadaverous creatures they were. The crippled and distorted forms might be numbered by thousands. The sight was most piteous—the deformities incredible."

The "London Times," of October 2nd, 1822, contained a report of a meeting of magistrates at Winchester, at which a resolution was carried declaring that a laborer with a wife or child to support who refused to accept wages throughout the year amounting on the average to 4/6 per week, should forfeit all claim to relief from his parish.

A Parliamentary Report in 1840 showed that the general wages for weavers was one penny per hour.

Government enquiries in 1842 revealed ghastly conditions in the mining industry. Children of 5 and 6 years of age worked in the dark for 12 hours a day, opening and shutting doors. Girls of tender years were harnessed to trucks like beasts of burden.

This was a period when manufacturers and mine-owners were prospering, piling up immense fortunes out of the blood and sweat of helpless wage slaves. It was the time also when rapacious landlords lived

riotously while their tenants were being ground in the dust.

Although for centuries it was a crime to join a workers' union, the misery of the poor drove them to combine.

The "Combination" laws, which prohibited the formation of unions, were repealed in 1824, but the following year Parliament declared that "any action which might result from deliberations of workmen is illegal." Despite the penalties imposed, Trade Unions grew, and compelled recognition. Not until 1871, however, were Trade Unions legalised.

Whilst the Reform Act of 1832 swept away some of the landlords pocket boroughs, and gave increased voting power to the middle classes in the towns, it did not establish a democracy.

THE CHARTIST MOVEMENT.

Realising that, not until the workers had power through Parliament, would there be any real reform, a noble band of men started an agitation in England for a universal franchise. In 1838 they issued a document entitled "The People's Charter."

The principal demands put forward were "One Man One Vote" and "Equal Electorates."

For ten years (1838 to 1848) the Chartist Movement occupied a prominent place in the public mind. The sacrifices made by its leaders to win for all men the right to vote should put to shame those who are too apathetic to exercise the franchise for which their forefathers had so gallantly fought. Though the agitation was suppressed by all the rigor of the law, and prison and banishment was the reward of its leaders, the seed planted in the soil of Britain ultimately bore fruit.

AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS.

The breaking up of the Chartist Movement in Great Britain, together with the famine in Ireland, caused many lovers of liberty and antagonists of oppression to turn their eyes to new lands, in search of that freedom which they had sought in vain in their own country. A number set sail for Australia, and later the gold discoveries stimulated the flow of migration to this great Southern land. These sturdy pioneers laid the foundation of the Australian Labor Party. Trades Unions were at once organised, which have continued ever since, growing in strength and numbers, forming the great industrial army now 800,000 strong, that is fighting unceasingly to improve the workers' conditions.

A BLOW FOR FREEDOM.

The first notable manifestation of the fighting spirit of the pioneers was witnessed at Ballarat in 1854, when 20 diggers lost their lives in the memorable Eureka rising. Some concessions were granted as a result of the revolt, but, despite the gallant efforts of trade unionists, the bulk of the workers were shamelessly sweated.

Thousands of Chinese were brought to work the mines in the hope of smashing the miners' organisation. Shearers were paid as low as one penny per head for shearing sheep, and were charged double rates for rations. Women and children in the clothing trade were worked 50, 60, 70, and up to 80 hours a week at starvation wages.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The report of the Chief Inspector of Factories on the Clothing Trade in Victoria, dated 21st July, 1890, gives some idea of the workers' deplorable position at that time. The following are a few typical examples taken from the report:—

“Women and girls machining shirts, receive 8/6 a week of 56 hours

Making colored shirts, 8/4 for a week of 60 hours.

Caps, 5/- for 50 hours.

Shirt finishing, 10/6 for a week of 72 hours.”

The same inspector reported that men working in the boot trade, “boot blockers” and “boot finishers,” received 30/- a week. Women, “slipper felling,” made 12/6 for a week of 80 hours.

In 1893, a Board of Inquiry reported to Parliament that one witness, a shirt manufacturer, stated on oath that “5/- or 6/- a week was a good wage for a finisher.”

A practical tailor stated in evidence that a factory owner was getting men's suits—that were sold at 42/—made complete for 2/-.

A manufacturer stated that he paid for making “stock” sac suits 1/3 for coats, 8d. for trousers, and 8d. for vests. Total 2/7.

Another manufacturer declared that “5½d.” was a fair price for making boys' knicker trousers.” “In most cases,” he said, “only 3d. was being paid.”

A tailor with five years' experience stated in evidence that “he was formerly paid 2/6 to make a coat, and now received only 1/-.”

Another witness said trousers were given out to be made right through, including pressings and sewings, for 6d. to 7½d. a pair.

“Shirt makers,” the report states, “worked 60 to 70 hours a week. They were paid 2/10 per dozen for making shirts, and provided their own machines and cotton.

Girls were often employed for three months for nothing. Another three months at 2/6 per week, and then turned adrift.

Military overcoats, with capes, were made for 3/-.

The members of the Board of Inquiry make the following comment in their report:—

“Persons engaged in this work have only two courses open to them—either to accept the starvation prices or appeal to charity, and they prefer the former.”

If low wages were a remedy for unemployment, as some even now assert, there should have been none out of work at this period. The records, however, show that 16,000 men and women were looking in vain for employment.

DENIED POLITICAL REDRESS.

There was no tribunal to which the oppressed workers could appeal. Parliament was entirely in the hands of employers and land monopolists.

These conditions created numerous industrial crises, and the early nineties witnessed a series of bitter conflicts between employers and employees.

SMASHING THE UNIONS.

The Maritime Strike, provoked for the purpose of smashing the workers' organisation, spread to other industries. Mine-owners and pastoralists joined with the ship-owners to put an end to unionism. It was then that the workers realised how powerful was the weapon wielded through Parliament, and how hopelessly handicapped they were in the fight. The machinery of Government was in the hands of their opponents. The forces of Government, backed by the police, the courts, and the military, were behind the employers in every struggle.

Sixty thousand peaceful citizens assembled on Sunday afternoon, 31st August, 1890, at Flinders Park, Melbourne, to hear the men's story of the strike. They were surrounded by 1,000 soldiers armed with rifles, each man having been issued 40 rounds of ball cartridges, with instructions that if the order was given to fire, they must not point their rifles in the air, but “FIRE LOW AND LAY THEM OUT.”

There was no sign of disorder, and the Government's action in calling out the troops was bitterly resented.

THE BIRTH OF POLITICAL LABOR.

It dawned upon the Union leaders that they should organise politically as well as industrially. Workers of all crafts saw the need for united action, and direct representation in Parliament. The land boom followed by the bank smash, bringing poverty and misery to thousands of homes, accentuated the position. Everywhere the workers were the victims of a policy they had no hand in shaping.

Out of their sufferings and travail, and from the ashes of industrial defeats sprang the Political Labor Movement of Australia.

Beginning with numbers woefully small, the Labor Party soon became a force to be reckoned with, and it succeeded in wringing from the reluctant hands of hostile Governments one reform after another.

INDUSTRIAL LEGISLATION.

The proposal put forward to regulate wages by law was stubbornly resisted, but the insistent demands by the workers, then organising politically, could not be continually ignored. The first Wages Boards were created in Victoria in 1896, and operated in six industries only. Since then Wages Boards and Arbitration Courts have been established in every State. There are 180 Wages Boards now in Victoria.

Those workers of to-day who believe that without political action they would be paid the same wages as they are now receiving, should contrast the industrial conditions in past years where the legal regulation of wages and hours operated, with those places where there was no such regulation or control.

A Royal Commission appointed by the Victorian Government in 1901, to investigate the operation of the Factories and Shops Act, took evidence in four States of the Commonwealth.

Bitter opposition was shown to the Act by the majority of employers. The president of the Shopkeepers' Association of Melbourne, in the course of his evidence before the Royal Commission on 17th April, 1901, made this monstrous statement:—

"No nation was ever built up by legislation of this character. . . . 'unrestricted sweating' has been allowed in England, and we have there a nation built up unparalleled in the history of the world. . . . A great deal of sweating goes on, but though it is unfortunate to the individual, I fancy it is beneficial to the nation. You cannot get the extreme benefit out of a man without breaking some up. You cannot win a battle without killing a lot of men."

William Angliss, master butcher, Melbourne, giving evidence on 30th May, 1901, said:—

"Our association is unanimous that 58 hours is a fair week's work. We were cut down from 63 to 52, and it has acted most disastrously to our trade. . . . I consider it is a great mistake to fix the time for drivers at 52 hours per week. I think 60 hours per week would be a fair thing. Drivers get 30/- per week. In Sydney the wages are lower and the hours longer, and we have to contend against Sydney in the shipping trade."

The secretary of the Milkmen's Union stated in evidence:—

"I discovered the following cases of low wages: Two men at Moonee Ponds 4/- and 5/- a week respectively; a man at Collingwood 10/- a week; a man at Abbotsford 12/-; two men at Ascot Vale 8/- and 9/-; a married man in Malvern, 12/6; and so on."

A representative of the United Drivers' Union appeared before the Commission, and advocated the extension of Wages Boards to carriers. In support he handed in the following statement:—

"Carters' and Drivers' Grievances.

"The men employed by T. Walbridge state the average time worked weekly is 66½ hours.

"Men carting to and from a factory commence work at 6.15 a.m., finishing at 6.30, sometimes 7.30 p.m. Wages 32/6 a week.

"Coal carters for Huddart, Parker & Co. start at 6 a.m., finishing at 6.30 p.m. No half-holiday. Wages £2/3/-.

"Drivers for Hoffman Brick Co. work thirteen hours per day for five days, and eight hours on Saturday.

"Drivers employed by cartage contractor for Davis & Cornwell's Pottery, Brunswick, work from 6 a.m. to 6 and 7 p.m. No half-holiday. Wages 24/- per week.

"Drivers for John Sharp & Co. work 60 hours in five days, receiving five days' pay, having to stand idle on the sixth day.

"Men employed as rabbit carters for various firms in the city have to work 100 to 120 hours per week; no half-holiday."

The protection of the law had not then been extended to these men.

NEW SOUTH WALES EVIDENCE.

The Commission took evidence in Sydney in July, 1901:—

"Frederick Lasseter, a Sydney Universal Provider,

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was asked if a Wages Board system such as that in Victoria would put him out of the competition. He replied that he would close the factory.

A boot manufacturer also declared that it would close factories.

The managing director of Dixon & Sons, Sydney, said:—"Trade should be untrammelled as regards wages. The minimum wage would never work."

The works manager of the Sydney Soap and Candle Co., said:—"It is not fair to either master or man to have a Board to regulate wages."

A Sydney clothing manufacturer said in evidence: "Female labor in the factories is far better off in Victoria than in New South Wales, because of the regulation of wages and hours by Wages Boards. Women here are paid 4½d. to 5d. for making a pair of trousers. A good hand can earn 10/- a week by working fourteen to sixteen hours a day."

Another manufacturer said:—"There is no sweating in my factory. I take a girl and give her 2/6 a week for three months; if she is clever she gets her wages doubled." The same witness admitted that he paid women 5½d. a pair for making trousers. "Ten shillings a week," he said, "would be fair average earnings. Wages are less here, and we can compete with Victoria. That is due to the absence of legislation."

An officer in charge of the Labor Department of New South Wales gave the following instances from the Inspector's Report of 1899:—

"Three sisters making order trousers at 6/6 and 7/- a dozen never make more than 9/- a week each. . . . Some poor creatures live on food scarcely fit for human beings. A woman making moleskin trousers at 6d. a pair, worked late, and had not, from Christmas to May, averaged 10/- a week. She spent 2/6 a week on food—bread and black tea. She bought 6d. worth of damaged potatoes and half a pound of butter in four or five weeks, and every week she got 2d. or 3d. worth of meat. There are many places in Sydney not fit for factories, but there is no power to drive them out."

A draper's assistant, asked what is the ruling wage, replied:—"There is none—it is who can get the hands for the lowest wages. I can bring a man who was offered 8/- a week."

The first Industrial Arbitration Act did not come into force in New South Wales until December, 1901.

SWEATING IN TASMANIA.

As late as 1907, a Royal Commission appointed by the Tasmanian Government investigated the sweating conditions of that State. The report of that Commis-

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sion disclosed that men 26 years of age working in the baking trade received 11/- a week. Bootmakers were paid 32/6 a week, and finishers with 8 years' experience 22/6. In clothing factories women made trousers for 7½d. a pair, and complete sac suits for 7/-. Learners worked six months for nothing. Adult laborers in jam factories received 4/- per day. Girls, 16 years of age, worked for 8/- a week.

Laborers worked for the City Council in Hobart for 5/- and 5/6 per day. Horse drivers received 20/- to 23/6 per week.

The rise of a strong Labor Party in Tasmania has since altered those conditions.

"TRIBUTING" IN MINES.

The gold mining industry of Victoria is another illustration of how men can lose the standards won by years of industrial organisation unless they are protected by the law. Although for many years the union rate for miners was 7/6 a day, that did not prevent mines being let on "tribute" (i.e., a sharing system) under which miners worked for an average of less than half the established wage rate. A record of "tributing" operations at Ballarat showed that for twelve months only three tribute parties earned wages; the average earnings being 19/2 per week.

The miners are now working under a Federal Arbitration Court Award.

With these, and many other facts to guide them, it can readily be understood why intelligent unionists are so keen for political action based upon industrial organisation.

LABOR'S INFLUENCE.

With the growth of the Labor Party's influence in Parliament, Industrial, Political, and Social questions were more and more discussed from the workers' view-point. Public opinion was created in favor of reforms that previously were described as impracticable and visionary. And, although for the most part in a minority, Labor members exposed hideous wrongs, awakened public conscience, and forced indifferent, and in some cases hostile, Governments to pass legislation in the interests of the masses.

Labor can claim a large share, and in some instances the full measure of credit for adult suffrage; the abolition of the black slave traffic in Australia; the establishment of Wages Boards and Arbitration Courts; also Workers' Compensation, Old Age Pensions, Invalid Pensions, Maternity Allowance; Land Taxation, Closer Settlement, the Commonwealth Bank and Note Issue; and many other Legislative achievements.

CARRY ON.

Although progress has been made, much remains to be done, and the younger generation are called upon to continue the struggle. The health and housing of the people require immediate attention. The evils of unemployment, land monopoly, and profiteering must be firmly grappled with. Australia has rich, undeveloped resources, yet workless men are in want of the goods their labor could produce if given the opportunity.

Agitation and organisation must go on so long as there exists the anomaly of want in the midst of plenty.

LESSONS OF HISTORY.

The great truths taught by history are that, without united effort the workers will gain very little, and that without political power they may lose all they have ever gained.

When all the workers understand the lessons of history, and realise the importance of industrial and political organisation, the success of the Labor Movement will be assured.

THE LABOR MOVEMENT.

The Labor Movement, swept backward and forward in different ages, represents the striving of the working class to reach a higher standard of living. The Labor Movement of to-day is a continuation of that effort in every country to satisfy humanity's yearning for a fuller and better life.

The class struggle, as we have seen, arose out of the early struggle for existence. Its origin can be traced to inequalities created by force, and its growth to the ruthless methods by which unequal opportunities between man and man have been maintained and aggravated.

This review of the past is an attempt to throw on the screen flashes of centuries that have gone; centuries through which human beings fought and fell, lived and died, leaving behind them many examples of unswerving devotion to the cause of justice and humanity.

The heroes of past industrial and political battles speak to us from out the pages of history. Their sacrifices are our inspiration. Their deeds are landmarks guiding the workers ever onward in the great march towards political, social, and economic freedom.

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