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STRIKES AND SOCIALISM.

The news that a serious strike has broken out in Cuba is only one of many announcements of a similar character we have been receiving in the course of the last few weeks. Day by day the news of strikes accomplished and strikes threatened has come to hand—strikes in almost every quarter of the globe, in England, in North America, in Austria, in Belgium, in Scotland. Everywhere the demand is the same, and everywhere it is met with the same answer: higher pay and better conditions are demanded; an unsatisfactory offer is made, refused, and then reconsidered; a compromise is arrived at; and work is resumed until such time as is ripe for the renewal of the farce. We state briefly and superficially the manifestation of portentous economic processes, because the manifestations are themselves short-lived and skin-deep. They are not on that account unconnected with profound causes and extensive results. In a word, the aims of Trade Unionism and of Socialism are of their nature inseparable from one another. This has been disclaimed by the Trade Unionists, and occasionally by the Socialists themselves. Moderate Trade Unionists are anxious to secure their interests without dabbling in political projects beyond their compass. In France, at least, if not at the English Trades Union Congress, they have disavowed all interest in Socialistic tenets. They have expressed the fullest disapproval of the violent propaganda of anti-militarism of M. Hervé; and they have, on the whole, exerted themselves to give an impression of perfectly loyal and law-abiding citizens who have, nevertheless, an interest to secure and the determination to secure it.

This is perfectly right and proper. The legitimate use of a Union for the furthering of legitimate demands is a logical corollary to our industrial system. Why is it, then, that actually the Union is dangerous and too often unacceptable, that in spite of their serious inconvenience strikes are constantly organized by workmen whose ultimate interest is to stand well with the employer? The cause, in the main, is twofold. Firstly, the employer is by no means universally the liberal and healthy-minded capitalist who recognizes in the permanent welfare of his employees his own interest. We do not mean that employers should assume the character of "Captain Reece, commanding of the Mantlepiece". But, certainly, it is astonishing to see how little capital employers are prepared to invest in the comfort and contentment of their workmen. Without sacrificing their advantage, employers can do much to kill violent and senseless Socialism in the act of birth: a little ill-timed obstinacy has done more for the unhappiness of the working-classes than all the harsh slave-driving of the Industrial Revolution.

If the situation is aggravated by the attitude of the employer, it is also aggravated by the attitude of the working-man; and here lies the second half of the cause of the impossible working of Trade Unions. The workman is ready at all costs to taste a little of the power which the Union gives him; and the employer sees to it that he should feel the risk of such dangerous experiment. Thus misunderstanding and hostility are created; since in Socialism the dissatisfaction of the employee finds more comprehensive expression against the tyranny of capital than is possible within the limits of Trade Union agitation.

Every strike means an appreciable addition to the ranks of the Socialists; for, unfortunately, every strike intensifies the position of mutual hostility into which capital and labour are thrown. It is difficult for employers to make concessions without disclosing a chink in their armour; nor can the working-classes accept treatment which limits their independence by blunting



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the edge of their only weapon. Both sides are being driven to extremes; but it is incumbent on the employer, from an actual superiority of strategic position and a presumable superiority of outlook, to make the first move in the direction of generosity. This the employer is not unwilling, but afraid to do.

PARIS COUNCILLORS IN LONDON.

London, October 7.

A banquet was held at the Guildhall yesterday in honour of the Paris Councillors who are visiting London. The French Ambassador pointed out the important part the City had played in bringing about the Entente Cordiale, which was the best guarantee of the peace of the world.

THE INDIAN CROPS.

FAMINE IMMINENT.

Simla, October 7.

After the heavy Monsoon rains of August, a hot and dry September has been experienced. Though there is some uneasiness as to the crops, good reports have been received from Burmah, East Bengal, Assam, the Central Provinces, parts of Bengal, Bombay, and Madras. In West Bengal the crops are poor, and in the North West Provinces a complete failure, so that a famine is imminent. The prospects in the Punjab are bad.

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BRITISH TRADE DURING SEPTEMBER.

London, October 7.

According to the Report for September, imports show an increase of £281 441, exports an increase of £4 631 167 over last year's figures for the same month.

DEATH OF PROFESSOR MASSON.

A telegram from Edinburgh announces the death of Dr. David Masson, Professor of English Literature at Edinburgh University.

MUNICH REFUSED A CREMATORIUM.

Munich, October 8.

According to this morning's papers, the Government has refused to sanction the request for a crematorium made by the local magistrate.

AMERICAN NEWS.

RAILWAY STRIKE IN CUBA.

New York, October 7.

Four thousand railway strikers attempted to hold up the trains between Havana and Catabanos. They stoned the passengers, wounding a few persons. The strikers were subsequently dispersed by a detachment of police. The Workmen's Federation at Havana has decided on a general strike in order to express its sympathy for the railway workers.

ANOTHER TELEGRAPHISTS' STRIKE THREATENED.

A telegram from Ottawa states that another strike of telegraphic operators on the Canadian Pacific Railway is imminent. The operators have refused the offer of a ten per cent rise in wages. Should the strike come into effect, traffic would be seriously impeded.

TARIFFS RAISED ON THE NORTH GERMAN LLOYD.

A telegram from Bremen states that the North German Lloyd has raised its prices on the passage to New York and Galveston for steerage passengers.

WAR IN SOUTH AMERICA.

San Francisco, October 7.

The steamer "San Jose" has arrived here from Panama with the news that an engagement has taken place between the army of the republic of Honduras and that of Salvador, in which the latter was defeated. Acajutla has been taken. The attack was well prepared, and took effect in the presence of the United States war-ship "Yorktown".

Washington, October 8.

The report from Panama circulated yesterday in San Francisco of a victory having been gained by the army of Honduras over that of San Salvador at Acajutla is described by the State Department as an absurd invention. The Department declares that, on the con-

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