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RISE OF ANARCHO-SYNDICALISM

by Katsunori Nakamura

In Japan, the period when the direct action movement of the Anarcho-Syndicalism came to the fore is very clear. It was after the return of *Kotoku Shusui* from America in June, 1906. The *Kotoku's* address in the speech meeting on June 28 in the same year which was sponsored by the Japanese Socialist Party became the turning-point for the rise of the direct action movement. Just after that the socialists were divided into the two groups, pro and anti direct action movement groups, and they argued this movement seriously.

Before that meeting the socialists actually tried to organize a socialist party by the name of the Social Democratic Party, although this movement was prohibited by the government. Since then the socialists chose peaceful methods in developing their movements and wanted to realize their wishes through the Diet deliberation. No one did not want to start the socialist revolution by the general strike of the labourers and naturally it was impossible even to think of it.

Under these circumstances, the address of *Kotoku* which advocated the direct action movement was really sensational and this movement spread like wildfire among the socialists through the Second Congress of the Japanese Socialist Party in February, 1907.

In this article, the author wanted to find out why the rise of direct action movement became the great problem among the socialists and why this theory was widely supported and spread rapidly among the socialists. In conducting this study, the author analyzed the rise and development of this movement pointing out two important elements, the captivity of leader *Kotoku* which was very attractive among the comrades and the domestic and foreign political conditions of that time which accepted this movement.