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Some Issues Concerning the Historical Study of Labor Movements —A Comparative Study—

by Kanae Iida

This essay takes up the question what is the trouble of the labor movement of Japan, and indicates that it comes from the constitutional weakness of Japanese trade union.

In the First Section, we explain the differences in the implications of such words as "trade union movement", "trade unionism", "labor movement", and "working-class movement", stressing the importance of a comparative study of the Japanese labor movement with those of other countries, if we should ever want to secure a right perspective of Japanese labor movement.

In the Second Section, we consider what specific points should be taken up, if one should ever want to make a comparative study of Japanese labor movement with other countries, especially with England.

In this connection, emphasis is laid on the importance not only of a comparative study between enterprise union and craft union, but that between enterprise union and general union.

In the Third Section, the point how the labor movement of Japan should proceed to have her trade union accomplish its development from its enterprise form of entity to an industrially organized body of labor negotiation, showing at the same time the pressing need, if any, of learning from the labor movements of advanced countries as to how they were originated and what were and are their characteristics. In other words, here are presented comparative studies of craft union and enterprise union, craft union and general union, and general union and enterprise union.

In the Fourth Section, labor movement as the "natural spontaneity" among workers and as an "object conscious promotion" by leaders is discussed, mainly centering around V.L. Lenin's Work *What Should Be Done?* Further, the significance of the role played by the "spontaneity" of masses, and the "object consciousness" of leaders in Japanese labor movement are explained.

In brief, this essay shows the conditions by which the labor movement of Japan is circumscribed and how to overcome them.

“Value”, “Price” and “Land Rent” in Socialist Economy (II)

by Ayako Hirano

If we want to define the similarities and difference of private and socialist commodity production, it is necessary to make clarify the characteristics and the causes of private commodity production and then compare them with the corresponding aspects of socialist commodity production.

I write these more or less wellknown things, chiefly because some economists, while acknowledging the importance of so-called Marxist historical methods, still fail to grasp the real, deep, underlying causes of the existence of commodity production. They alledge, mistakenly, that Marx derived commodity production from the existence of private ownership, and they fail to appreciate the economic meaning of the category “private labour” and its relation to the category “social labour”. Moreover, they cannot conceive of private ownership as anything other than “the right of individuals to dispose of certain things and to decide about them”, nor do they see that this right has always been a reflex of economic development, though being relatively independent and reacting back on the economy. They do not see that the origin and existence of a form of commodity production cannot be explained by the existence of this or that specific system of law. On the contrary, commodity production must always be interpreted as belonging to a given system of appropriation (manifested at every moment of observation in the shape of a definite, seemingly rigid, legally established form of ownership), which is linked with a certain inner contradiction in social labour and with a given level of the forces of production.

The underlying theoretical cause is, in fact, that the founders of scientific socialism, Marx and Engels, were able in their day to acquaint themselves only with the private type of commodity production. They tied these relations to private production, and therefore supposed that with the extinction of the capitalist economy, commodity production would also disappear. Today we should clearly recognize that Marx and Engels were in their day not necessary to foretell the complexities of a socialist economy, and indeed they never set themselves such a task.