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The Economics of the Lausanne School in Italy

by Tamotsu Matsuura

As Schumpeter emphasized, in his book "The Great Economists, from Marx to Keynes", that the economics of Pareto was derived from the Italian type of thought, now we would like to consider what is the Italian type of thought of the Lausanne school in Italy, which originated from Paretian economics, and then we could find the fundamental characteristics and the historical position of this school.

Through the analysis in this paper, firstly the following point has been made clear that the Italian type of thought in the economics of this school, from the point of view of the history of economic thought stemmed (a) from the value theory of utility in the 18th century and (b) from the economic thought of welfare of the Italian scholastics. Secondly we can conclude that Pareto exposed the technical character which the general theory of equilibrium included implicitly as the essential one of this school, and so the development of the contemporary theories of consumer's behaviour was based upon it. It has not only produced them but also the concept of Pareto Optimum maximization of group welfare in economic efficiency.

The Development of Enterprise-wide Unions in the Prewar Time of Japan

by Ryuji Komatsu

As everybody knows, the labor union of Japan in the postwar period is characterized by the enterprise-wide form of structure; the overwhelming majority of the unions are organized on the basis of each different enterprise.

In tracing the origin of these unions, it is important that we look into their conditions in prewar time. Before the war, the labor unions by

industry or by craft were far more numerous than the unions by enterprise.

These horizontal unions, however, had their branch units in different workshops. Also, these horizontal unions did not function as they were expected to, as they were engaged in their activities within the limits of each workshop or enterprise unit.

Such being the situation, the unions by enterprise, as developed after the war, are generally considered to have had their formative bases already in the prewar time. But we cannot overlook to have been considered that these "bases" were just "genetic symptoms", and that it was only after the war that they came to be formalized into regular labor unions.

A careful research, however, of the prewar unionization process reveals that not only the "genetic basis", but clearly discernible enterprise-wide unions were in existence in those days. In the confused conditions of labor union movement immediately after the War, that is, about 1920, we find that there were some independent unions formed on the basis of a factory or enterprise unit, which should structurally and functionally be taken as enterprise-wide unions. They look very much like the bona-fide labor union by enterprise as appeared after the War.

Thus it seems essential that the development of the enterprise-wide unions should be studied by tracing their incipency not only with some company unions and some national patriotic company organizations (Sanpo) before the War, but those unions that had existed around 1921.

One of the reasons why the independent enterprise-wide union was disregarded in the history of labor union movement is that the fact-finding analytical method was little applied in this field of study.

However, since the enterprise-wide labor union is a positive manifestation of the labor and industrial relations of a specific enterprise, it is natural that the enterprise labor union movement be clarified on the enterprise level.

For this reason, the author has looked for the concrete examples of the labor union of this kind in the prewar period, and has tried to explain their historical significance.

On the basis of a series of findings along this line of research, the author has attempted to present and elucidate the origin and the functions of the prewar enterprise-wide unions as well as the significance of the historical role played by them.