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On the Study of the Post-war Labour Movement in Japan

by Kanae Iida

August 15, 1945, when the Japanese imperialism collapsed, is regarded as new starting-point of post-war Japanese labour movement. Speaking generally, the Japanese trade union movement started as early as 1900, and went on developing up to 1930, though rather intermittently. After 1930, however, it was interrupted by the successive wars: the Manchurian Incident (1931), the Sino-Japanese War (1937) and World War II. The result was that the labour movement was suppressed and all the trade unions of Japan was paralysed and transformed into the Sampo, totalitarian organization, thereby forbidding any labour movement or labour dispute.

The post-war trade union movement started after the interval interrupted by the fifteen years war, and so began as the new Model Union, the enterprise union in no connection with the pre-war movement. Considering the pre-war trade union movement had been developing as the horizontal union, that is, the craft union and industrial union, it was a curious fact that the post-war movement was developing the enterprise union which characterised the industrial relations in the factory and company. But, notwithstanding, we cannot deny the post-war trade union movement was the revival and survivor of the pre-war movement.

Why did the company (factory or workshop) union—enterprise union dominate the labour movement of Japan? We have many views about this problem. As one of the most noteworthy of them, Mr. Ohkoshi stresses the continuance and consistency of post-war movement from and with the pre-war organizations. He takes 'continuance' theory that post-war company or factory unions find the most primitive type in the great enterprise union. As the basis of these conditions, he mentions about the feudal factors in the Japanese capital-labour relations. On the one hand, Prof. Fujita takes the view that the dominant appearance of the enterprise union in the post-war movement of Japan is owing to the politics of the communist party which tried to utilize the enterprise as the workshop-committee or revolutionary steward (revolutionäre Obleute) and the communist party evaluated only the revolutionary part of the enterprise union in the post-war inflationary period.

On the other hand, Prof. K. Takahashi appoints the fact that the post-war conditions were extraordinarily movable and unstable and so the orientation of the labour movement was influenced by the power-balance between the employer and unemployed.

The writer, criticising these views, tries to develop and the way of study of the post-war labour movement.

Competitive Equilibrium for a Neoclassical Model of Economic Growth

by Hiroaki Osana

The properties of a competitive growth equilibrium are investigated for a neoclassical economic model. Each household is assumed to act so as to maximize his dynamic utility function subject to the wealth constraint that the present value of consumption stream be equal to the present value of income stream. From this hypothesis and the assumption of perfect foresight, the aggregate consumption functional is derived. On the other hand, the aggregate production is assumed to be carried out by a representative firm which acts competitively with a neoclassical aggregate production function. Competitive equilibrium is a time path of economic variables which keep the equality of investment and savings.

It will be shown that the economy has a unique competitive equilibrium which converges monotonically to a unique balanced growth equilibrium. The same result is obtained under the assumption of stationary expectation. Furthermore, the competitive equilibrium is shown to be Pareto optimal if either the subjective rate of discount (assumed to be common to all households) is sufficiently large or the initial capital stock is sufficiently small. But it is not optimal in the sense of maximizing the discounted sum of the welfare of consumption per household, unless the population is stationary and the instantaneous welfare function is the logarithm.