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The Friendly Society and Strike Association in the Earliest Stages of Japanese Labour Movement

— The Significance and Rôle of Rôdô-Kumiai-Kiseikai —

by Kanae Iida

In Europe, the emergence and development of the working-class movement was characterized as the natural, spontaneous and voluntary activities of craftsmen who had organized the friendly society, sick and funeral society and pension society. While workingmen's organization grew up as the benefit society in one district, it often developed into the strike association in the another at the same time. In Germany, the workingmens' association was born as 'die Bildungs-verein' (the association for improvement of working-classes).

In Japan also, the working class had these three types of organizations. Rôdô-kumiai-kiseikai was the national centre in 1900's of Japan. However, it was presumed to be the friendly society or benefit association which organized the Iron Workers' Union (Tekko-kumiai), the Improvement Society of Japan Railway Co. (Nittetsu Kyoseikai) and the Printers' Union.

In this essay, the writer mentions about the relationship between the Kiseikai and Kyoseikai as the contradiction between the friendly society and the strike association. This essay consists of the following four chapters.

- 1) The Benefit Society and Strike Association.
- 2) Rôdokumiai Kisei-Kai and the Benefit Society — Fusataro Takano's View on the Trade Union.
- 3) Nittetsu Kyoseikai as the Strike Association.
- 4) The Decline of the Strike Association.

Industrialization of Agriculture and Aggregation of Cooperatives in the Socialist Economy I

by Ayako Hirano

Structural transformation is an important factor of economic growth. It is almost

impossible to assess the reserves inherent in a structural transformation, in the framework of which labour and development could be concentrated on and shifted to the production of more profitable products. If the state succeeded with the aid of investment policy and the regulation system in reducing the share of less profitable products and could significantly develop the most profitable industries with the aid of adequate selective policies, this would be of immense importance for the economy as a whole.

Capital intensity is raised by changes in the production pattern. No doubt, growing capital intensity is a regular concomitant of modernization. As regards the efficiency of operation, also the reserve side of the problems mentioned above appears.

In the wake of the socialist reorganization of agriculture, the requirement was pushed to the fore that peasant incomes should reach the level of average worker incomes. The disadvantage of peasants in respect of income influenced agricultural production through several transmission: among other things, through the massive flow of young peasant cohorts to the towns.

Industrialization of agriculture and aggregation of cooperatives turn up to the stage of socialist economy to recreate the interrelation between agriculture and industry with a new system of productivity.

A complex of industry and Agriculture is entirely new conception in socialist economy, indeed.