

NOTEBOOKS ON IMPERIALISM

(Extract)

"Notebooks on Imperialism" contain materials gathered by Lenin for his book "Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism". The Notebooks were first published in a separate volume in 1939.

(...)

SIEGFRIED, *NEW ZEALAND*

André Siegfried, *New Zealand*, Berlin, 1909.

(N.B. Chapter 28: "Imperialism.")

A very useful outline of a *broad* economic and political scope. The distinctive feature of "imperialism": exclusiveness. *The yellow race is completely barred from entering the country. Savage restrictions (e.g., £ 100!!! - p. 190) on immigration in general. A country at the edge of the world (four days to Australia!). Almost as big as Italy, but with a population of less than one million!!! (9 0 0,0 0 0 - p. 189; 929,000 in 1907, p. 234; half of France) ((magnificent climate, etc.)).*

N.B.

"Snobbishness" of the population (Chapter XXI): servility towards the aristocracy ("Sir" is a title of honour, before which they crawl), the British monarchy, the Court, etc., etc. Population growth is *very low*.

A country of inveterate, backwoods, thick-headed, egotistic philistines, who have brought their 'c i v i l i s a t i o n' with them from England and keep it to

themselves like a dog in the manger. (Exterminated the natives - the Maoris - by fire and sword; a series of wars.)

Example: persecution of the *Australian* (N.B.) workers who emigrated to New Zealand (1893, 1898-) (p. 191): the "Labour Party" attacked them.

Equal rights for women. - Campaign against alcoholism. - Clericalism: intense religiosity; numerous sects.

Opposed to union with Australia: we are for ourselves. We are "the best country in the world" (293) (!!)...

N.B. || "New Zealand imperialism" (p. 294)... Its "special form" (ibidem)... "colonial jingoism" (295 idem 296), which might be described as "Australasian imperialism" (295).

Two trends of imperialism (fully compatible):

1) Great-Power imperialism (participation in the imperialism of Great Britain).

N.B. || "Local imperialism" (295) - its isolationism... exclusiveness.

Protest against the French presence in New Caledonia - against the German occupation of Samoa (297), etc. This leads to irreconcilable hostility because of the "Greater New Zealand" idea....

In June 1901 New Zealand annexed the Cook Archipelago.

New Zealand is Great Britain's most "faithful", loyal colony.

The national debt: £51,200,000 (out of £66,500,000) - British capital		Arch-patriots in the Boer war (307) ... (sent troops against the Boers)
Trade - 66 per cent with Britain	

Prime Minister Seddon - a representative of Australasian imperialism. "An imperialist of the first water" (310) ... (he died June 10, 1906. Was Prime Minister (1893-1906) (p. 71))

His first trip to Britain - 1897
" second " " " - 1902

"The champion of *social policy* in him (Seddon) began to yield pride of place to the *imperialist* and *protectionist* statesman" (311). Although a reformer (favoured reforms in New Zealand) - in Britain he made up to the *Tories*. The Conservatives lavished praise on the "socialist Seddon" (311). *The Times*, June 18, 1902, praised Seddon, the radical, the democrat, the imperialist!! (quotation p. 311).

N.B. social policy +imperialism!

N.B.

Growth of the idea and practice of preferential tariffs....

Their "socialism": "The New Zealanders are practical and opportunist to the point of cynicism" (67) - - - and the workers too (67), they are wholly "conservative", they have something to "guard" (ibidem).

N.B.

(Seddon - a representative of the "Labour group in the Liberal Party" (68)).

Labour protection legislation - factory inspection - and of work in the home - a 48-hour working week (law of 1901) for men, 45 hours for women - minimum wage, etc.

Compulsory arbitration, etc.

The "key" to all this is protectionism (140) and industrial *prospérité*.... ((It could not be maintained under free trade).... Old-age pensions (at 65). ...

N.B.: || the imperialist bourgeoisie is buying the workers by social reforms

Creation of small landownership; large estates (stolen, etc., in the basest fashion from the Maoris, etc.) bought out and sold to smallholders - that is "*democracy*", but not *socialism*" (175). ((True!))

"Converting big landownership into small! That is what the French revolution did, too" (175).... (...)

LCW Vol. 39, p. 531-533.

(...)

THE LABOUR MOVEMENT IN CANADA

The labour movement in Canada ("bourgeoisified")

... "The skilled, and especially the English-speaking, part of the *working class* is *completely bourgeoisified*. Its conception of trade unionism is still wholly that of the old, narrow-minded English trade unions. Besides, spiritually they are still completely in the grip of the church. To be regarded as an 'apostate' is the deepest shame, 'respectability' is the highest honour." This is beginning to change: a spirit of discontent ... rising living costs. "Today forty-two men actually control more than a third of the country's total wealth".... The petty bourgeoisie, especially in agriculture, is against the trusts. (*Die Neue Zeit*, 1913-14, 32, 1, p. 382, a paraphrase of an article by Gustav Meyer: "Agrarian Discontent in Canada" from *The New Review*, 1913, September.)

Ibidem, p. 384 on South Africa (the Rand) (9). Workers consist of Chinese, Kaffirs and whites (ruined by the Boer War). Endless tyranny by the British capitalists, the mine owners and the government. Little by little a class

labour
movement
in Canada
(bourgeoisified)

42 men ...
one-third
of all wealth

South
Africa

(9) District in Transvaal, South Africa.

struggle of *all* the wage workers is developing, but slowly "owing largely to the hesitant attitude of the conservative and narrow-minded labour leaders, who are still wholly in thrall to the old trade unionism" (from the *International Socialist Review*, 1913, October, paraphrase).
(...)

LCW Vol. 39, p. 593-594.

(...)

THE JAPANESE AND THE CHAUVINISM
OF THE AMERICAN WORKERS

Die Neue Zeit, 1913 (31, 2), p. 410-12 (June 20, 1913).

N.B.
chauvinism among workers

Erwin Gудde, "New Exceptional Law against Japanese in the United States" (Date: San Francisco, May 21, 1913).

This law, which forbids the Japanese to buy land (it can be leased only for three years) was signed by the Governor on May 19, 1913, despite objections by Woodrow Wilson.

This is "an exceptional law of the worst kind" (410) - "a policy even worse than the Prussian policy towards the Poles" (412).

The American workers, too, are guilty of *chauvinism* (N.B.) (412). "The gentlemen of

"labour
leaders"
narrow-
minded,
conservative
old trade
unions officials

American
workers
and their
chauvinism

towards
the
Japanese

the American Federation of Labour not only want to deprive the 'yellows' of all rights, but want to drive them out of the country altogether" (411).

This exceptional law "is proof that the population of California, and above, all its working class, are doing yeoman's service for the American *i m p e r i a l - i s t s*, who for years have been preparing for a war against Japan. *The Socialist Party, too, has been found wanting in this matter*" (411).

This law is "only a link in a long chain of laws" (412)....

LCW vol. 39, p. 627.



|| N.B.



Workers
back
imperialists....



Socialist
Party
too!!!