

Some Remarks on the Immigrant Scare

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The defenders and guardians of property are trying to raise such a dust in one corner of the labor market as to divert public attention from the general misery of the workers and stave off the Social Revolution with one more quack reform. They feel specially called upon to inquire into the condition of the comparative handful of Jewish and other foreign immigrants who have fled to London from the persecution and oppression of the ruling classes elsewhere. Very probably the Tory Government might find a new and stringent alien law convenient in dealing with other foreign refugees, besides the victims of the sweating system, if only they could establish any sort of pretext for proposing it,

What would these disinterested philanthropists think of a law to forbid the emigration of English capital to search for cheap labor in other countries! Yet to the English worker it is much the same if his labor-force is undersold at home or abroad.

Is the terrible fight for a day's employment that takes place every morning at our dockyard gates caused by the competition of Russian and Polish Jews? In a recent report to the House of Lords, it was stated that in the months of January and July, 1887, 440,000 cases occurred of railway servants oil the fire great English railways working from 13 to 24 hours out of the 24. Is this the outcome of foreign immigration? The pitiless machine of monopoly and competition is everywhere grinding its slaves, English or foreign, down to the lowest conditions of existence they can be forced to accept rather than fight or die. The only possible remedy is the international combination of all workers to resist this international tyranny of property by every means in their power, until they can finally overthrow it.

Our Socialist comrades among the East end Jewish immigrants are doing their level best to bring about this combination. Their weekly paper, *The Worker's Friend*, printed in their own dialect of Hebrew, is obtaining so good a circulation that it has been publicly denounced by the middle-class Jews and determined underhand attempts made to suppress it. It holds its own nevertheless, though our comrades have hard work to pay their pay. Several English groups of Socialists gave practical proof how thoroughly they appreciate the international character of the labor struggle by, helping *The Worker's Friend* over a financial crisis the other day. If any of our readers care to send subscriptions, large or small, for the support of this Jewish socialist paper, we shall be very glad to receive them and forward them to our East-end comrades.

Our Jewish comrades are not only Socialist propagandists. They are energetically occupied in organizing trade societies to combat the sweating system, raise the rate of wages to subsistence

level, hold out a helping hand to friendless immigrants, who being ignorant of English and English wage rates, are helpless victims of the sweater and his agents, and to communicate the real state of affairs in the London labor market to their brethren abroad.

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