

The Human Factor in Reconstruction

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Repository Citation

Anonymous, *The Human Factor in Reconstruction*, 4 Marq. L. Rev. 2 (1919).

Available at: <http://scholarship.law.marquette.edu/mulr/vol4/iss1/2>

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THE HUMAN FACTOR IN RECONSTRUCTION

A year ago the people of this and other countries were still joyful over the outcome of the titanic struggle, in which millions had sacrificed their lives that the foe of humanity might be defeated. Everyone in this country expected a brighter day since mind had been victorious over matter; since materialism had given way to spirit. Germany, the great war power, had been crushed by the help of the great mass of American people, who had thrown their weight into the balance.

Today these same American people are facing a greater problem, for this time the enemy lurks within. Everywhere there is social unrest, industrial and political strife. The period of reconstruction has arrived and with it many perplexing problems. At this time when production should be at its maximum, difficulties retard its progress. It was thought that a conference of the leaders of the various factions would make some kind of an agreement whereby a settlement could be had. It has failed in its purpose. What is more, it broke up in confusion. We as a majority on the side lines have been asking the question, why? Surely there must be a reason, more deep seated than the question of collective bargaining, the high cost of living, or the other economic principles involved.

The trouble which now confronts us had its inception and its growth in the minds of the German philosophers. Their devilish philosophy of materialism; the thing before the man; the machine rather than the individual; was sown in the German universities from whence it has been carried and transplanted to many of our higher institutions of learning. Through these institutions it has been carried forth and spread throughout the length and breadth of our land, by the college cub, and planted into our society, into our industrialism, into every phase of American life. He was sought by the manufacturer, greeted by American society. Man, mind, humanity was lost sight of, until recalled by the great war, to conquer the enemy. These attributes are found in the people, who have realized their potential force, and are now clamoring for recognition through various agencies. These agencies through poor leadership in many instances have made this situation acute. But, are we not reaping the harvest of the false teachings of many of our higher institutions of learning?

EDITORIALS

The universities are the throbbing pulse of our nation and must soon awaken and adopt the true philosophy of life. The material philosophy must be defeated in those universities where it was adopted and fostered.

The human factor must be recognized in our society, in our industrialism, for we have not as a nation adopted the false doctrines of philosophy. Our forefathers recognized the human factor in government, when the fundamental law was established. The human factor has many failings, but did not the common sense of our forefathers in conjunction with the consideration of the human factor make our democracy a success?

As an example of the Prussian philosophy in our industrialism, we shall have to turn back to the years of 1913 and 1914, when in many of our large industries the college cub armed with his false doctrines was wielding his club. He forced resentment into the men by trying to make them so many machines. He gave them no opportunity to show their individuality, for in his mind the machine took the place of the individual. There was but one alternative, either to become a part of the efficient machine of production or get out. Today this resentment which was forced down is bursting forth in fury against the manufacturer and his system. Men want to be considered as such. They wish an opportunity to show their individuality, and do not want to be swallowed up in a system fostered by the great minds of that autocratic power which they just succeeded in defeating. Can you blame them?