

SOCIAL STUDIES 1007

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

CONTENTS

I. INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IN ENGLAND	2
Sparks of Preparation	3
Fires of Continuation	6
II. INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IN THE UNITED STATES	13
United States Industrial Climate	13
Rise of Industrial Progress	18
Modern Industrial Developments	22
III. INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IN CANADA	31
A Pioneer in Economic Expansion	31
A Forerunner in Modernization and Technology ...	34
IV. SOCIAL CHANGES OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION	38
Negative Drawbacks	38
Positive Contributions	43
GLOSSARY	50

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IV. SOCIAL CHANGES OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

The advancements in technology and in mass-production methods greatly expanded the potential of industry. The resulting progress did not come without its price, however. The burden of

change was intensely felt by the common laborer whose life-style and social position were completely revolutionized by industrialization.

SECTION OBJECTIVES

Read these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able:

10. To explain the social changes that resulted from the Industrial Revolution:
 - 10.1 To describe the urbanized life-style as opposed to rural living.
 - 10.2 To explain the frustrations of living and working conditions on the laborer.
11. To describe the influence of the Industrial Revolution on the world's economy.

VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.



bourgeoisie
collective bargaining
compensation

laissez-faire
socialism
tariff

NEGATIVE DRAWBACKS

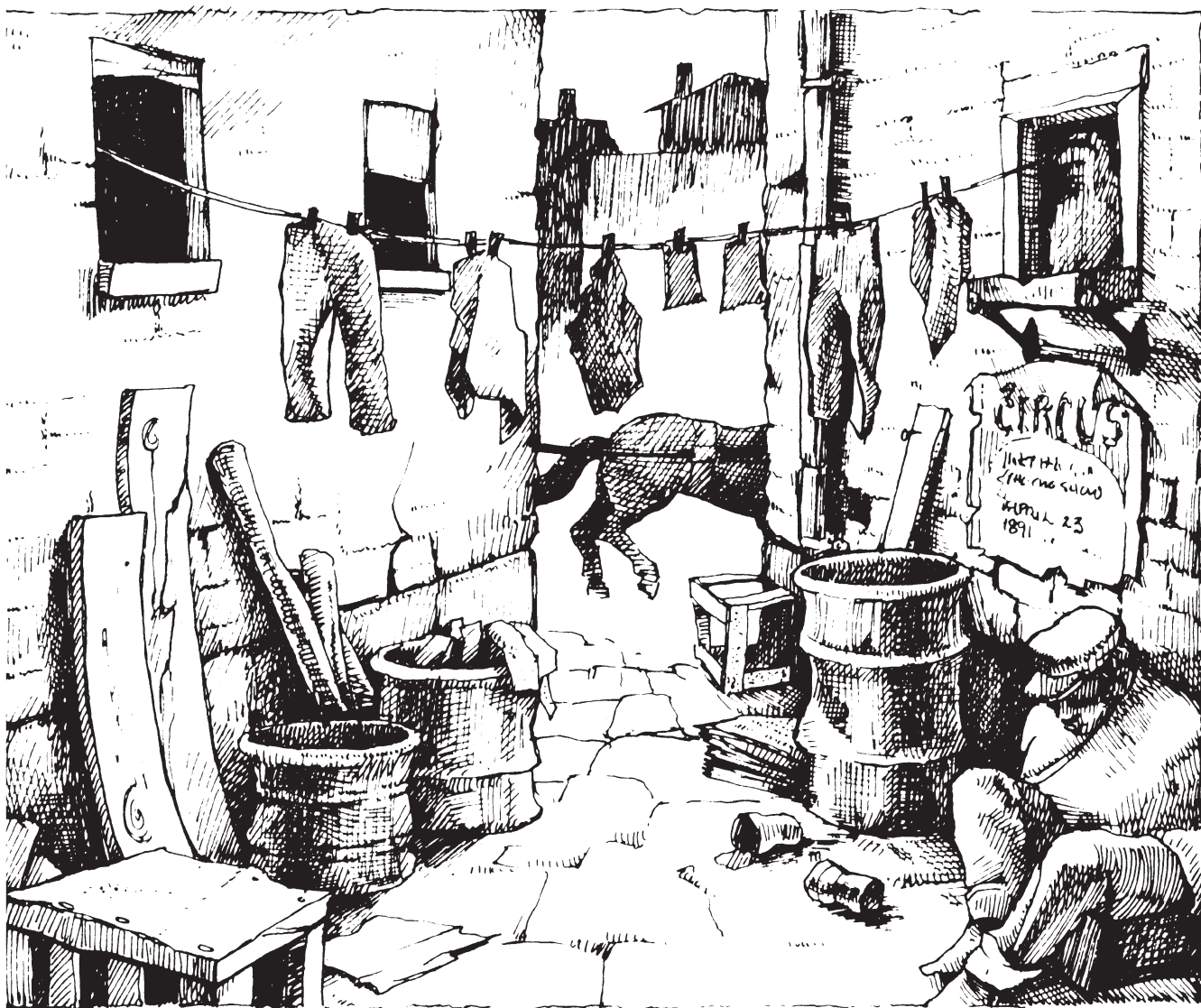
The Industrial Revolution brought masses of people from outlying farm districts into urban areas in pursuit of a better economic life-style for themselves and for their families. Although some were successful in achieving these goals, most people who had lived in rural areas found life in urban settings to be less than they had hoped for.

Urbanized life-styles. After selling the little they owned in hopes of bettering their positions, rural families had little choice but to remain in the new situation they had chosen for themselves in the city.

The great influx of workers to the city created immense social problems. The most pressing problem was the lack of adequate housing. Many of the workers were unable to afford houses or decent apartments because of their meager wages. Therefore, two or more families often shared one floor of an apartment dwelling. This situation was the forerunner of tenement housing in today's large cities. The tenement houses were three to six stories high with each floor divided into separate family units. These houses were often

overcrowded, poorly ventilated, and dimly lit with some rooms having no windows at all. The houses were bad enough in good weather; however, conditions became desperate during hot, humid summers or during damp, freezing winters because heating and ventilating systems were sadly inadequate. Tenement dwellers also suffered from the lack of proper garbage disposal and poor sanitation, thereby increasing the risk of sickness and disease. Also, water posed an additional hardship, with several families relying on a single source. Furthermore, the crowded, disorganized, and poorly-kept tenements were dangerous firetraps.

Prior to automobiles and trains, inefficient transportation also created difficulties for the city worker. Most people had to walk through crowded streets to their respective jobs. Mass-transportation systems were slow in developing and were seldom adequate. The overcrowded, frustrating urban conditions encouraged crime and alcoholism, especially in slum areas. Immorality was more the norm than the exception. To combat these evils, church organizations and gospel missions conducted their outreach ministries for Jesus Christ,



Tenement Living

shining the only ray of light onto many hopeless souls. In Christ, man can be confident (Philippians 4:19) that his needs will be provided and can be content (Philippians 4:11) in whatever state he finds himself.

On the farm the rural worker had enjoyed a life of relative independence and wholesomeness. Setting his own hours, the farmer worked hard; but farming was a satisfying labor. The farmer was his own boss and in control of his own life. The drastically opposing life-styles of factory working and city living was a shocking contrast. The confinements of city life and factory labor had entrenched the urban employee in economic slavery. With his independence gone the factory worker had to rely on others for employment, housing, and food. The freedom he enjoyed in his former coun-

try atmosphere was exchanged for the fears and anxieties of city dwelling.

In the early days of the Industrial Revolution, workers had very little to show for the wealth or comforts they helped to manufacture. Out of these conditions arose the theories of communism. Karl Marx, a German, carefully observed the exploitation of the proletariat. He called the wealthy industrialists the capitalists.

In the unsuccessful German revolution of 1848, Marx and Friedrich Engels wrote the *Communist Manifesto*, which outlined the theory that working-class revolutionaries should overthrow their capitalistic masters. Later fleeing to England where they lived in freedom, Marx and Engels wrote *Das Kapital*, which is considered an authority on **socialism**.

The struggle between the capitalist **bourgeoisie** and the working proletariat was brought to a head by the Industrial Revolution. Marx's contention was that labor really produced all wealth, but only received a small portion of the value it produced. Marx argued that capitalist owners were the recipients of the wealth in the form of profits. Marx further stressed that this imbalance could be changed as the time grew ripe for the proletariat to rise up and overthrow the bourgeoisie rulers.

The Marxist movement, which claimed that social ownership and operation of production could be achieved gradually, peaceably, and even democratically, was called socialism. On the other hand, the group of Marxist socialists who preached that the class struggle would end in war called themselves communists. Communism proclaimed that after seizing power through force and violence, the proletariat would then rule until a

utopian state of socialistic government could be established. In reality the Communist Party is ruled as a dictatorship, giving the people no voice at all.

Communism has spread its influence in many parts of the world. Communism has a special appeal in the poor and underdeveloped nations since it promises them independence and wealth. Where communist governments are firmly entrenched, change is difficult because opposition to the government is met with force and penalties.

The Marxist system is deceptive because it does not meet the longings of mankind. It may change some social conditions, usually at the expense of personal dignity and liberty, but it does not satisfy man's deepest need. True peace and contentment is found in following Christ rather than in following the ideals of any social or economic movement.



Write the letter of the correct answer on each line.

- 4.1 Rural living included (1) a more wholesome environment, (2) satisfying labor, (3) irreversible social and economic problems, (4) independence. _____
 a. 1, 2, 3 b. 2, 3, 4 c. 1, 2, 4 d. 1, 3, 4
- 4.2 Problems facing tenement dwellers included (1) cramped quarters, (2) poor sanitary conditions, (3) crime and immorality, (4) poor housing, (5) efficient lighting. _____
 a. 1, 2, 3, 4 b. 2, 3, 4, 5 c. 1, 3, 4, 5 d. 1, 2, 3, 5
- 4.3 Factors giving rise to the theories of Marx included (1) abuses dealt to the working class, (2) understanding bosses, (3) poor conditions under which laborers lived and worked, (4) employers taking advantage of employees, (5) lack of profits given employees. _____
 a. 1, 2, 3, 4 b. 2, 3, 4, 5 c. 1, 2, 3, 5 d. 1, 3, 4, 5
- 4.4 Communists (1) support a type of socialism, (2) believe that the working class would overcome through force, (3) agree with the free enterprise system, (4) seek to set up a future ideal socialist government. _____
 a. 1, 2, 3 b. 2, 3, 4 c. 1, 2, 4 d. 1, 3, 4



Answer these questions.

- △4.5 What changes in life-style would a farmer who became a factory worker experience?

4.6

Americans live in a basically free enterprise system. Although the U.S. government regulates many activities of the people, the people are free to pursue a wide variety of activities within the regulations and guidelines.

Socialism is the belief that national or local governments, rather than individuals, should own a nation's resources and control their use. Socialism calls for public ownership of land, factories, and other basic means of production.

Think about what principles should guide a Christian who lives and works in a free enterprise society. What should be his attitude toward government regulations? How can he serve the Lord with the variety of economic opportunities? How can he avoid becoming materialistic and competitive?

Then consider what principles should guide a Christian living in a socialistic society. What is his duty to the government? How should he feel about not owning property, or about large taxes to distribute wealth evenly, or about having to work hard with less financial returns?

Write a 600-word essay answering these questions. Remember that the Bible has principles that will guide Christians living under any type of government or system.



Factory frustrations. Factory working conditions and urban living conditions were similar in the early years of industry, and both were despicably inhumane. Working hours were long and hard, often from sunrise to sunset. Fourteen to sixteen hours a day was generally considered a normal work load for men, women, and even children. Poorly ventilated factories were hot and steamy during the summer months and cold and drafty during the winter. Also, safety and sanitary conditions were poor, and serious and sometimes fatal injuries were quite common. Accident insurance or injury **compensation** was nonexistent. Wages, already at meager levels for men, were even lower for women and children.

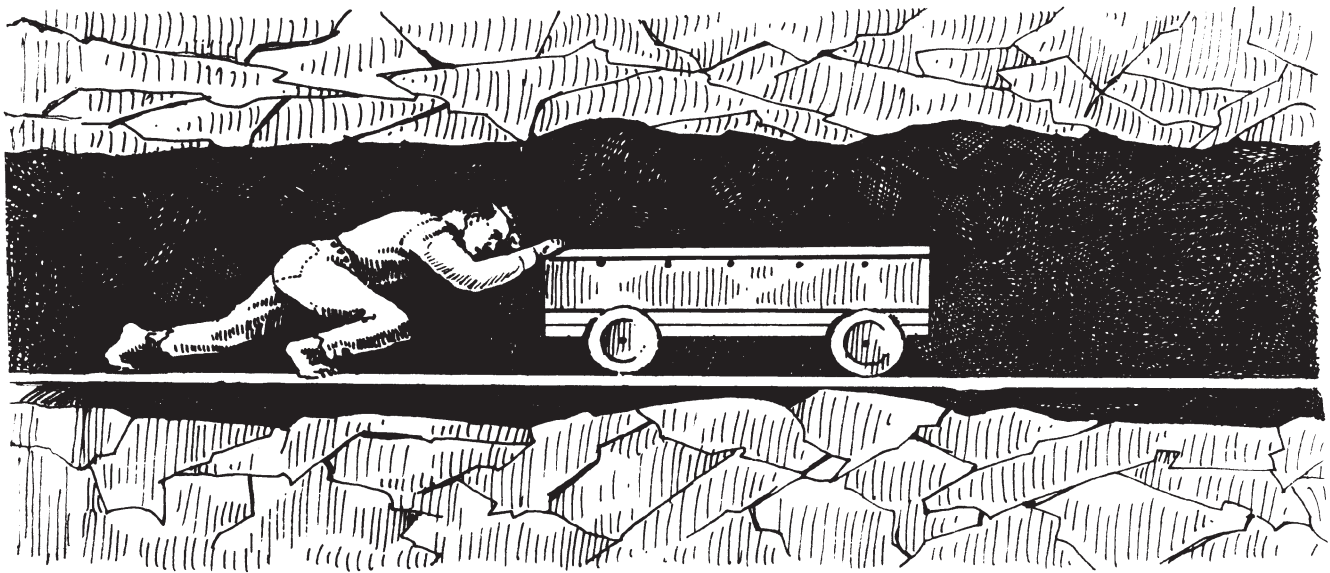
One of the most abominable aspects of the early years of the Industrial Revolution was its treatment of women and children. Children who had not even reached their sixth birthday were mercilessly put to work in mills and mines. In coal mines women were used to pull the carts of coal, and children pushed the heavy loads in areas too low for horses or mules. In factories women were often forced to work on their hands and knees under the harsh discipline of threatening supervisors. Children worked until exhausted and were cruelly beaten if found sleeping at their assigned tasks.

Consequently, work in factories was often uncertain and unsteady. Sometimes goods were manufactured so rapidly and in such great quantities that those goods would often accumulate at the factory, waiting to be purchased or shipped. When this accumulation occurred, employers would cut already meager wages and reduce production. The dreaded

layoff often lasted until business increased. This increase in business sometimes took months or sometimes ended in the closing of the company. Unemployment was feared by all workers, and no unemployment insurance was available to meet needs during times of such crises. In addition, no retirement pension was available; consequently, unless the unemployed worker received charity, he was literally faced with starvation.

Although the plight of the workers was known to the government, their grievances were not acted upon. This lack of action was caused mainly by a **laissez-faire** policy in economics and politics. Many leaders in the economic and political communities held firmly to the ideas of economist Adam Smith. Smith explained that business activities were based on two natural economic laws: (1) the law of supply and demand and (2) the law of competition. According to these laws, if the supply of a product is down and the demand for it is great, the product will get a higher price because of its scarcity. As a result, both prices and profits will go up, allowing capitalists to invest more money in factories to produce the product in demand. When the supply of this product increases, competition between manufacturers will increase. Smith's theory totally forbade interference by government in the operation of these private businesses; therefore, governments remained silent, although they approved of the increased economies industries were providing.

The philosophy of laissez-faire began to lose popularity, however, as workers' cries for improvement continually were refused or



Boy Pushing Coal

ignored by most businesses. The terrible abuse suffered by English workers finally forced labor-improvement laws to be reformed and legislated. This breakthrough for the factory laborer resulted largely from the arousal of public sentiment against the deplorable working conditions revealed in the writings of authors Charles Dickens and Benjamin Disraeli. On the other hand, wealthy landowners and nobles resented the rising standard of living of the middle class and searched for laws to hamper their progress. During the early part of the nineteenth century, a series of much-needed labor improvement laws began in England. In 1819 children under nine years of age were prohibited from working in cotton mills and children between the ages of nine and eighteen were not allowed to work over twelve hours per day. Expanded in 1833 to cover all textile factories, this law also prohibited night work for all children under eighteen years of age. In 1847 the *Ten-Hour Act* was passed, stating that women and children could only work ten hours a day. Because factories were so dependent upon women and children, ten-hour workday became a general practice for all textile workers.

Moreover, laws were also passed improving safety and sanitary conditions that were regularly enforced by inspections. Other countries soon followed England's example in dealing with the plight of their factory workers. The laissez-faire theories about industry were

gradually replaced by a government more sensitive to the needs of its working class.

As long as harsh labor conditions existed, workers rallied to take the initiative to protect themselves. Although disagreements and lack of unity caused temporary setbacks, labor ultimately became organized. Consequently, by offering a strong and united front, the working man would have some leverage in dealing with big business.

Unions also organized to take a stand against employers' abuses. On an individual basis, such an attempt would have failed since an average worker had little opportunity to bargain with his employer. The little contact the worker had with factory managers and supervisors was inconsequential. The factory managers and the supervisors were employees lacking the authority to change wages or working conditions.

Unfortunately, factory reform laws did not bring about a change in wages; but they did improve working conditions. Workers needed a leader to confront their employers with the injustices dealt to them. By forming unions, labor leaders were able to bargain for the improved conditions of all laborers. Factory workers now were able to force industrialists to listen to their grievances through a process called **collective bargaining**. If industrialists did not hear the workers out, the entire work force would cease labor and *strike* until a mutual settlement could be reached. Although they

were not paid while on strike, the eventual outcome would benefit workers in the long run. Factory owners dreaded the prospect of strikes because of lost production while they still had business costs to meet.

Although collective bargaining negotiations

were often difficult, the end result for the work force was well worth the effort. As equalizers in the balance of industry's power, unions gave the common laborer a voice in the negotiations. With years of needless suffering behind them, the agony of the past gave way to hope for a brighter future.



Write true or false.

- 4.7 _____ Early factory workers had a ten-hour workday.
- 4.8 _____ Unemployment was feared by early laborers.
- 4.9 _____ Adam Smith endorsed a laissez-faire policy in economics.
- 4.10 _____ Dickens wrote about deplorable factory conditions in England.
- 4.11 _____ Factory reform laws did much to increase factory pay.
- 4.12 _____ Strikes were called if employers did not improve conditions.
- 4.13 _____ Employers lost money during strikes even though workers were not paid during strikes.



Answer this question.

- 4.14 What does the Bible have to say concerning employee-employer relationships and how each should treat the other? How do inconsiderate employers and labor unions violate these principles? Consider such Scriptures as I Peter 2:18-20; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:22-25; 4:1; I Timothy 6:1-2; Titus 2:9-10; and James 5:1-6.

Write your reply on a separate sheet of paper.



POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS

Whatever the claims of socialists and communists, and in spite of the past unfortunate situations of many factory workers, the accomplishments of the free enterprise system have been amazing. The increased production and quick distribution of goods advanced the security, recreation, relaxation, and health of many people. With much of the cruel and exhausting work forbidden by law, many of the negative aspects of industry have been greatly reduced.

Increase in economy. Under the free enterprise system, the Industrial Revolution raised the standard of living in many parts of the world. The services and goods produced continue to bring

prosperity, making even poor countries seem wealthy compared to their economic status a century ago. Although the free enterprise system has greatly aided in the development of many countries, it also sometimes led to exploitation of less industrialized nations.

Most of the successes of the Industrial Revolution did not occur through radical terrorists who advocated the overthrow of the capitalistic system. Success came through reforms made within the system itself. The answer to economic improvement does not lie in a revolution of force or violence, but rather in a patient and consistent stand through means of discussion, compromising, and bargaining.

Industrial improvements came mainly as a result of laws passed by the democratic process or through the organization of labor unions using the collective bargaining technique. These improvements did not always come without resistance from both labor and management. However, firm negotiations are a far cry from the *overthrow-of-capitalism* policies of both the socialist and communist camps.

The expansion of industry would have never occurred without the tremendous increase in the market for manufactured goods. The great demand for products resulted in an abundant supply. This expansion was due largely to an ever increasing, mobile population that continually demanded the products of industry. The growth of better communications and cheaper transportation that provided for a wider distribution of goods also contributed to industry's boom.

Because of the rise in the economic level of both the producer and the consumer, mass production was required to satisfy the appetite of the world's markets. Highly industrialized nations sometimes

produce more than they can consume; therefore, international trade and commerce is recommended. No modern-day nation is absolutely self-sufficient. To prosper, a nation needs this mutual exchange of raw materials and products with other nations. Consequently, the industrial countries of the world rely on international trade quite heavily. Also, industrialized nations export surplus goods so that they might import the products and materials they need from other countries to maintain a balance of trade.

When foreign dealers price their products lower than those on the home market, however, international trade can cause severe domestic problems. To protect themselves from such an occurrence, businessmen in industrialized countries operated within the framework of those governments that offered protection from competitive foreign businesses which attempted to undersell their products. **Tariffs**, or taxes, were placed on less expensive imports. Consequently, this levy raised import prices, thereby protecting internal business and establishing a stable economy within the country.

