

EDITOR'S REMARKS

Proletarian Globetrotters

Migration is the warp and organization of the woof of working-class history. The quest for wages which lured innumerable men, women and children into manufacturing and mining towns from the adjacent countryside also dispatched some fifty-five million Europeans overseas between 1821 and 1924, to North and South America, Australasia, and southern Africa. The fact that large numbers of those emigrants subsequently returned to their homelands, either temporarily or permanently, has often been noted by historians, but its implications for the countries of origin have only recently received the close attention they deserve. In this number of *ILWCH* Dirk Hoerder offers a comprehensive survey of the available studies of return migration and suggests an agenda for future research. Frank Farrell introduces us to the contentious historiography of the Australian labor movement. Disputes over the significance and evolution of Australia's "socialism without doctrines" have not only shaped the questions posed by successive generations of that country's historians, but have also engaged prominent European and North American reformers and revolutionaries. Perhaps the return flow of ideas from Australia has overshadowed that of people.

The movement of both people and ideas appears in John Laslett's analysis of the making of the miners' craft among Britain's "independent colliers," the transformation of union practice during its confrontation with large mining corporations in the later nineteenth century, and the transfer of British styles of work and struggle to the United States. Like Farrell, Laslett reminds us that more than a third of all the Europeans who migrated overseas were from Britain and Ireland. Their stamp is as visible on American miners' unionism as it is on the Australian Labor Party.

The organization of labor markets and the material conditions of workers' lives provide the main themes for Walter Licht and William Chase. Licht scrutinizes recent trends in American labor economics in search of suggestions from that discipline to guide historians. From studies of the internal labor markets of firms, he argues, there evolved theories of labor market segmentation, some of which are rigorously historical and have posed important questions about divergences in the experiences of different groups of workers and about the periodization of American labor history. Chase draws our attention to three new books about workers in the U.S.S.R. He sets the discussion of plant management, wage policies, and union practices in the context of an historic shift from a labor force swollen with recent migrants from the countryside to today's chronic labor shortage. The most difficult problem of all in the Soviet context, he contends, is to assess the workers' own ideas and activities.

Our reviews this time discuss everything from unions and parties through

Victorian women and leisure time in Mussolini's Italy to the life of a fascist thug in London's slums. Two reviews of scholarly books by people who are active in the union and labor education movements hint at the rising level of collaboration between historians and labor activists, which is reported from the "Threads" project of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers, from the conference on union responses to new technology, from Turin's CISL archives, and from the lively activities of colleagues in Canada and in the Washington, D.C. area. May we take this opportunity to welcome Anatoli Ilyashov as ILWCH's correspondent from the capital region.

D.M.