

Feb. 20, 1987

Eugene's Dec. 1986 report on 5 books on the 1st International, which includes also the Peking edition of the PC, because that edition has the first 2 drafts which weren't included; the French work, "La Premiere Internationale, Recueil et documents", ed. by Jacques Freymond, interests me especially, because very obviously it has all sorts of new things, new if only because they have never before appeared.

I want to single out, however, 2 points especially:

1) WL; and 2) the Aug. 8, 1871 Minutes of the General Council (p. 244-245) which reports that since Marx is speaking of all the work they are doing, that: "The misfortune was that the Trade Unions and Labor organizations held aloof from the International until they were in trouble, and then only did they come for assistance." And throughout its quite clear that he credits the International in all countries of seeing that the masses "be imbued with its ideas, they are sure everywhere in the working class movement to take the lead." In a word, those masses that belonged to the Internationale he credits with Reason and therefore of being in the forefront of all the struggles; at the same time he continued the work with the refugees.

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1st, it is important to note that some things from the draft were not repeated in the final, even though the same idea was in it: "It is the people acting for itself, by itself" (p. 141); "The Commune -- the positive form of the Revolution against the Empire and the conditions of its existence." (p. 160);

"All revolutions thus only perfected the State machinery instead of throwing off this deadening incubus." (p. 164)

"The greatest measure of the Commune is its own existence, working, acting under circumstances of unheard of difficulty!" (p. 182)

What is clear is that there are an awful lot of phrases that are very Hegelian, like by itself and for itself, like three different ways of referring to negation, and in one case calling the State "supernaturalist abortion of society".

The Minutes of the General Council of May 2, 1871 report a letter of Elizabeth Dmyitryeva, had been having mass meetings every night: "and that an Amazon core was to be raised". Some 5,000 had enlisted already; (p. 184). Throughout there are references to the fact that Marx had introduced the motions to ~~be~~ be for the organization of ~~the~~ in separate branches.

The London Conference of the first International, Sept. 17-23, 1871 (THE FULLEST RECORD OF THE CONFERENCE IS THE ONE IN FRENCH ED. BY FREYMOND) 17 Resolutions were passed there; no. 5 was the formation of Working Women's Branches: "it is however understood that this Resolution does not at all interfere with the existence or formation of branches composed of both sexes" (See also Padover, pp. 62-63 ). Resolution 5, Formation of Working Women's Branches, was moved by Marx in the name of the General Council and adopted on Sept. 19, 1871 . . . substantiating this Resolution, Marx ~~stressed~~ stressed the need for founding women's sections in countries where industries engaged many women . . . Marx believes the women prefer to meet by themselves to hold discussions. The women, he says, play an important role in life: "they work in the factories, they take part in strikes, in the commune and so forth. . . they have more ardour (passion) than the men". He adds a few words recalling "the passionate participation of the women in the Paris Commune" (Freymond, pp. 167-68).

Resolution 8 was to secure agricultural producers to the movement of the Industrial proletariat:

"Meanwhile, the federal councils or committees are invited to send agitators to the rural districts there to organize public meetings, to propagate the principles of the International and to found rural branches." (Padover, pp. 63-64)



"Citizen Marx reported that he had received news from New York . . . the most important item of the news was that Wendell Phillips, the great anti-slavery leader, has joined the ranks of the International." (8/15/71, Minutes, p. 358). The Council report of August 29, 1871 reported in the Eastern Post, no. 153, Sept. 2, 1871, concentrated on a correspondence and reported on a "letter from America stating the need for drawing Negro workers into the International" (footnote 70, 71, p. 531).

"Citizen Marx read a letter from the Central Committee of the Association for the United States. ~~Some of the Miners in Pennsylvania were still on strike, but those who were were dividing their wages with those out. The painters and plasterers had organized themselves on the model of Crispins -- as the shoemakers called themselves. The typographical union had just held a Congress in Baltimore and a great strike of colored laborers was taking place in Washington, which was defeated by the stepping in of white labor."~~