

each business to every other. Accordingly in some vast centres there will be gathered together directors, statisticians, clerks, joining in one all the myriad threads that bind an industry together, and not for one industry only but for every industry—a huge agglomeration of men that will dwarf our present central offices into utter insignificance. In these centres will be gathered all the actual moving forces to keep going the apparatus of production. From them will issue the directions that will organise all work and all distribution of the products of labor. And note here, that there must be no failures. War Offices and Local Government Boards may make mistakes, and the vital interests of the country feel it little; but in these new centres a mistake at once affects the whole of the State; for not only must each central authority for one industry act for itself, but it must act in perfect accord with every other industry, or confusion will be worse confounded. Let us see more closely then—

- (a) What manner of work these centres will have to do, and
- (b) How they will arrange to get their orders carried out.

THE TASK OF THE CENTRAL AUTHORITY.

First, what will these central authorities have to do? They will have to determine at regular intervals, as the result of inquiries and estimates previously made, how much of each product will be required for a given time.¹ Take, for instance, the amount of cotton goods. They will have to ascertain the requirements of the whole State in every article of cotton material for whatever period they make their estimate. This involves a register of the requirements of every individual in the community—that is to say, of some forty millions of people in this country, in every variety of cotton goods, from the baby's shirt to Sunday frocks. Then the varying tastes of each will need some consideration, unless every one is to be compelled to adopt the patterns and texture provided by the State. Unless the nature of woman changes, a condition of this kind would, alone, wreck the whole calculation.

Again, we must remember that production in the Socialist State is primarily for use, and that surplus goods would represent labor wasted, so that it becomes of the greatest importance that the register of requirements shall be exact. But, besides, there will have to be considered what production may be necessary for exchange. We cannot, for instance, grow cotton here: therefore we must buy it from abroad, and we can only do this with goods in exchange.² Now, the same inquiries that will be requisite for cotton goods will be necessary for every other article in use, from thimbles to bedposts, and from Sunday clothes to china dishes. Can you conceive what an army of officials will be requisite for this purpose—to register and estimate the varied requirements of forty millions of people, to make the complicated inquiries and calculations that will be necessary to determine what production is needed for exchange—and what tabulating and summarising will have to be gone through to arrive at a definite result? It takes some years for the Registrar-General's Office to make out the simple details of the census. You can imagine, then, what proportions this function would assume and what an army of unproductive workers it would employ. And it must be repeated at short intervals, for the increasing or diminishing population will necessitate regular revisions of the estimates.

I do not suppose it is just to say that this *could* not be done, but it is, I think, obvious that it would be an enormous work, liable to great errors and consequent failure and waste. And add to this that the central authority, having found out the amount necessary to be produced for use and exchange, would then need to distribute or arrange for distribution the produce of the country so that at every centre there would be an ample supply of materials to meet the needs of the community. There must be in Preston and Liverpool, say, the articles that Preston and Liverpool will need. One can easily realise that we are in presence of a task so colossal, that it requires no less an imagination than that of the professional Socialist to see it successful and to conceive of its satisfactory working.

(To be concluded.)

¹ See Kautzky, *Morrow of Social Revolution*, p. 24.

² The value of cotton imported in 1906 was over £56,000,000. We imported during that year also food, drink, and tobacco value £238,158,156, and raw materials for manufacturing purposes to the value of £211,478,327. Practically all these imports are paid for in manufactured goods.

The Late Very Rev. Father Marnane, S.M.

(From Our Christchurch Correspondent.)

July 6.

Shortly after 5 o'clock on Sunday evening last the Very Rev. Father Marnane, S.M., pastor of St. Mary's, Manchester street, who for several years past has been a great, but patient, sufferer, passed away. Gradually sinking for some time, he was finally seized in a fit of apoplexy, to which he soon after succumbed.

The late Father M. T. Marnane was born in Tipperary Ireland, in 1856. He was educated first at Rockwell College (near Cashel) and afterwards at St. Mary's College, Dundalk. In 1879 he went to France, studied at the ecclesiastical college of the Marist Fathers there, and also in Switzerland. Subsequently returning to Ireland, he completed his religious education at the Catholic University School of Dublin. Ordained at St. Mary's, Dundalk, by his Grace Archbishop Redwood in 1885, he came to New Zealand at the end of that year to take a professorship at St. Patrick's College, Wellington. After some years of useful activity in this seat of learning, then practically in its infancy, he was destined for a missionary career. Coming to the Christchurch diocese, he was at first assistant priest at Barbadoes street (Cathedral parish). Eighteen



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months later, when St. Mary's parish was formed, and the Ven. Archpriest Le Menant des Chesnais, S.M., was appointed its first pastor, Father Marnane joined him as assistant, and together, through hardships, inconvenience, and considerable privation, they laid the foundation of the present prosperous parish. In 1895 Father Marnane took sole charge of the parish, which has meanwhile made marked progress. Through his exertions, aided by the ready response of his parishioners, who were very deeply devoted to him, a splendid presbytery was erected on the site of the old and dilapidated structure which perforce had to do duty long after its days of usefulness were past. He also erected a neat little church (St. Michael's) at Hornby, an outlying district of the extensive parish. Failing health about two years ago necessitated his relinquishing his parochial duties and taking a complete rest and change. With this object he went on a twelve months' tour through America to Ireland. This, however, had not apparently the desired effect, and, although returning somewhat improved, his parishioners were grieved at their hopes of complete restoration not being realised. The late Father Marnane was the most genial of men, and as a pastor most devoted and tactful. He was dearly loved by his people, a generous friend and benefactor to the poor and distressed. He was greatly esteemed by his fellow-priests, and his