

WORKERS ABROAD

it. The workers, in short, are to be considered as producers not merely of cloth and iron but of societies, of work not made with hands ; an activity in which, according to ancient philosophy, their strength and skill could be of little use.

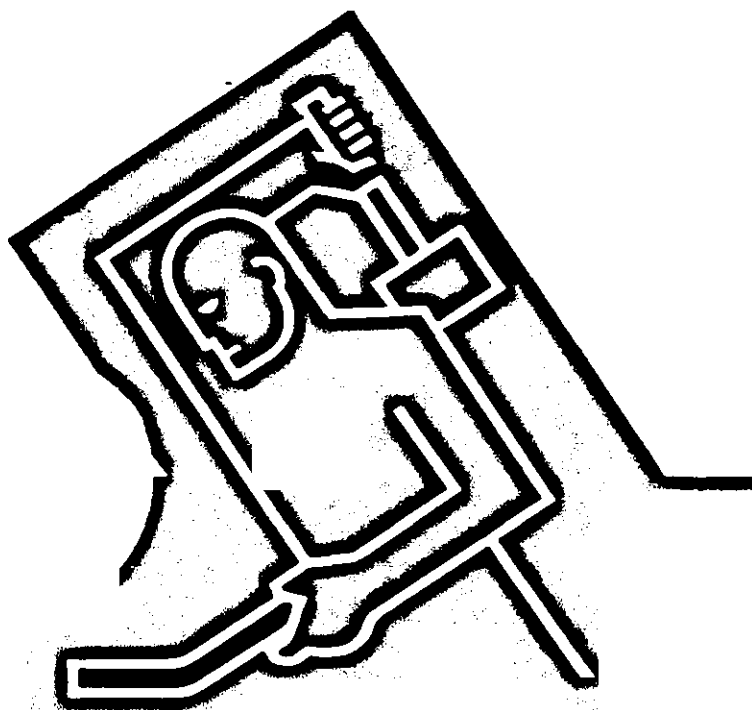
The field is also, of necessity, narrowed in time ; the history commences not where in fact it did, but with the first French Revolution, which may be taken as marking the breakdown of feudalism and the beginnings of the modern order in Europe. The Revolution—that is, in effect, a refusal to tolerate the intolerable—became an important, but by no means the only element, in the labour movement, which in part also consists of an attempt to attain to the unattainable. In both, since they are human activities, there is passion ; but passion, though no movement can live without it, is not enough, and the labour movement had thus to examine its own life and find a philosophy of itself. This endeavour, as might be expected, gave rise to doctrines which have not been permanently or universally accepted in the movement. It is no part of the business of the present writer, who is committed to none of them, to decide how far they are true ; but it is hoped that this outline will provide the reader with an idea of the circumstances in which these doctrines arose, and of the problems to which an answer had to be sought in the light of them.

French Journeymen in the Eighteenth Century

French industries in the eighteenth century were, with few exceptions, carried on by producers on a small scale, who were commonly included in trade guilds.

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G. P. JONES



DISCUSSION BOOKS No. 34

The physical and political conditions of the working classes in countries outside our own, carefully described and used for purposes of comparison with the circumstances of British workers, and their place in the body politic.

DISCUSSION BOOKS

General Editors :

Richard Wilson, D.Litt., and A. J. J. Ratcliff, M.A.

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No. 34

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by
G. P. JONES, D.LITT.



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PREFACE

THE following pages, which contain the substance of lectures delivered to a W.E.A. Tutorial Class in Sheffield during the winter of 1937-38, will, I hope, prove to be of interest to a wider public.

I may be permitted here to acknowledge the patience with which the lectures were heard and the forthright, yet friendly, spirit in which the topics at issue were discussed by the class.

My colleagues, Professor Douglas Knoop and Mr. A. G. Pool, very kindly read the manuscript and suggested many improvements. I am also indebted to Mr. Pool for help in correcting the proofs.

G. P. JONES.

SHEFFIELD, *October 1938.*

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