

*Ernst Paul*

Starting with the fact that much research is still to be done regarding the industrial history of the Sudeten countries, and on the strength of his political participation in the Sudeten-German Workers Movement, the author gives a series of suggestions and indications. The gradual transition of the Sudeten-German industry from handwork to machine resulted in a long survival of the publishing system; thus out of a rich tradition of craftsmanship a type developed who was capable of skilled labour, and who as a social type survived till the thirties of our century. Though the social grievances during the time of the industrialization led to uprisings of the workers in the region of Reichenberg in 1844, their poverty prevented them taking any considerable part in the bourgeois revolution of 1848. Since the second half of the 19th century the Workers' Movement was supported mainly by the craftsmen and skilled workers, who had already acquired the education and experience necessary for political organization. The Workers Movement can claim the merit for having fought energetically and successfully against alcoholism and the resulting moral degeneration of the worker. The Co-operative Societies also played an important part in the fight against alcoholism and exploitation.

Of the utmost importance for the gradual strengthening of the Workers Movement, and its spiritual force, were the Workers Education Associations, as can be seen, for example, from the life of leaders like Josef Seliger. In these education centres Schiller, Heine, Herwegh, and well-translated works of foreign poets, were read. Through this they became acquainted with their cultural heritage and acquired the equipment for their political work. Finally, it was important for the people that the villages and small towns were industrialized, thereby avoiding the agglomeration of large industrial cities as in the Ruhrgebiet or the Midlands of England. So evolved a type of worker who loved his homeland, who lived in his own house, often farming his own land, and who succeeded in making his life meaningful.