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Industrial Lecture

10/5/20

Responsibility that rests on those who deal with public opinion, and who take a democratic view of life is the necessity of insisting constantly on the potentiality of the worker, which means of course the potentiality of the human being; the possibility of developing through wise educational methods the human being wherever you find him. A good deal of the present unrest of the world in the working masses comes from a stirring sense of power which they neither know how to direct nor develop.

Possibly the gravest educational problem of our time is the education of the worker. To get at him we may, under our system, get him until he is 14 or 16; but what you do to that point is only the beginning, as we all know. Education is a thing which must follow people through life, and some kind of system which keeps the man always interested in developing his understanding, training his mind, controlling and directing his moral impulses, as well as interested in acquiring more and more technical skill--this is the kind of thing that must be devised. Many fragmentary and imperfect attempts to do this are on foot, but most of them look only to one element in real education, vocational and technical training. Specialization in vocational or technical training is not enough. There must be some method by which the understanding and the moral sense are constantly being aroused, enlightened , enlarged; and this has to be done in connection with 8 or 10 hours daily work. A problem--but the educational problem of the world today. It is

hopeful because at the bottom of it there is this potentiality. It is difficult because of the handicaps and our own ignorance of methods as well as of the inertia encountered among the workers and the scepticism of authority.

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