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Eugène Hins, [Resistance Societies as the Organization of the Future] 26

Yes, resistance societies will persist after the abolition of the wages system, not by that name but in terms of what they do: they will organize work. They will solve the problem of free exchange, by operating a vast allocation of labour from one end of the world to the other. They will replace the old political systems: there will be representation of labour instead of confused, heterogeneous representation.

At the same time, this will be an agency of decentralization. For the centres will vary according to industry, each in its way forming a state apart and preventing for ever a return to the old form of centralist state – which will not preclude another form of government for local relations.

As you see, if we are open to the reproach of indifference to any form of government, it is not because we are content with the first government that comes along; it is because we detest them all equally, and because we think that a society true to the principles of justice can be established only on their ruins.

26 This text is a synopsis of a speech given by Eugène Hins (see note 11) during the morning session of 11 September 1869, at the Basel Congress. This is the first statement outlining the basic features of anarcho-syndicalism. It is located in PI, II: 111. For other interesting observations on this subject, refer to the debate on the question of the general strike which took place in one of the sessions of 4 September 1873, at the ‘autonomists’ IWMA Geneva Congress, published in PI, IV: 75–7.