

The Greatest Thing on Earth

Say, you fellows that don't have much time for anything but work and hunting a job, don't you want to know something about the Greatest thing on Earth?

When a rich gold strike is reported in some inaccessible region in the far north or in the dusty deserts of the scorching south, what a stampede of humanity forthwith takes place to the new eldorado? Scores fall by the way and never reach their destination; and those who do arrive, how many succeed in bettering their condition? The great majority of them after a few months of struggles and privation are stony broke and glad to take any old kind of a job to keep life in their bodies. They did not know about the Greatest Thing on Earth.

When the U. S. Government a few years ago threw open for homesteading some of the reservations in Idaho and Washington, there were thousands waiting to make the rush at the boom of the gun. Some won a few acres of land, but many thousands had their run for nothing. These disappointed landseekers had never heard about the Greatest Thing on Earth.

Out here in British Columbia there is a boom in fruit lands and the land sharks and real estate men, who created the boom, are reaping a goodly harvest. Only a few years ago land could be obtained from the government at one dollar per acre, while a lot of the knowing ones get big chunks of the best land in the province for nothing. These people loaded up with all the land they could afford to pay taxes on, and the taxes were very light then. Now they are selling fruit farms of from two to forty acres at from \$50.00 to \$300.00 per acre! Thousands of deluded immigrants are swarming into this province and swallowing the bait like gudgeons. They think they will make a pile of money raising fruit for the northwest farmers. But after a few years of experience, when they find the C. P. R., the G. T. R., the C. N. R. and Great Northern all of one mind in charging all the traffic will stand, they will begin to see that there is no more prosperity (for them) in raising fruit than in growing wheat on the prairie. They will, in either case, be only working for the railways! Evidently these deluded people never knew anything about the Greatest Thing on Earth.

The chief aim of the average human seems to be that of trying to get something for nothing, but it generally takes the more cunning and unscrupulous to succeed at that game. But whenever a cute 'un does contrive to get something for nothing it is a sure fact that someone else is being robbed. To most people so constituted this getting something for nothing is the greatest thing on earth, and they put most of their time on the job.

But the Greatest Thing on Earth I want to tell you about is altogether different. It stands for HAPPINESS, HEALTH AND PROSPERITY FOR ALL. Not merely for a few who can afford to pay for it, but FOR ALL HUMANITY.

It means education for our children. I don't mean just an ordinary common school education, but a real college education, as good as the sons and daughters of millionaires get today.

It means work for all. Not the sort of work you detest, but the work you delight in; the work that will absorb your attention while you are at it, so much so that you will lay it down with regret when quitting time comes. There will be no more clerking for Bob, who wants to be an engineer; no more school teaching for Annie, who wants to be an artist. The wrong occupation makes life a misery for millions.

It means health for all. There will be no more slum dwellings for the workers. Every man and every woman will be wealthy enough to own his or her own home. Every house will be fitted with the most up-to-date hygienic and sanitary appliances such as to-day can only be afforded by the well-to-do; moreover there will be no rent or interest to pay. There will be no more adulterated goods offered for sale, thus saving the lives of thousands of infants annually.

Wage slavery will be abolished. No man will ever again be compelled to hunt for a master. It will be the first time in the history of this old world that freedom, true freedom becomes an actual fact. Wage slavery has borne far more evil fruit than ever chattel slavery did. For this cursed wage system has been the progenitor of most of the flagrant evils prevalent today—crime, ignorance, poverty, prostitution, drunkenness, disease, depravity—and nearly all the ills that flesh is heir to. All these will be swept away by the greatest thing on earth.

When it puts a stop to wage slavery it puts a stop to the degeneracy

of the race, physically, mentally, morally and spiritually. It is well known that the poor have been so ill nourished that they have deteriorated greatly in physique from their predecessors of a hundred years ago. European nations have been compelled several times to reduce the standard of measurement in order to obtain sufficient recruits for their armies.

The thing that will do all this is surely the Greatest thing on Earth. Just think of it! No young girl will be compelled to choose between \$3 a week in a department store and big money in a brothel. No young man will be compelled to lie on his belly picking coal by the light of a candle hundreds of feet underground because there is nothing else in the world for him to do.

You will insist that SOMEBODY must pick coal underground. Yes, but the Greatest Thing on Earth isn't going to have coal produced in any such crude manner as prevails today.

I would like to mention a few thousand other good things that this Greatest Thing on Earth is going to do for all humanity—not a few, mind you, but all—but my space in this week's Cotton's is already overdrawn.

"Well, what is it, this Greatest Thing on Earth?"

"Can't you see what it is? I thought you would have guessed. Well, the word calls it, for want of a better name, Socialism. But, as you know, 'a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.'"

"What?" you scream, "Socialism? Well, by—"

"Now, don't be an ass! Study it a bit before you go any further. Study it for yourself and see if it is not the Greatest Thing on Earth."

R. W. NORTHEY, B. C.

The Toronto World is very much concerned lest the C. P. R. capture the Grand Trunk. The excuse the Liberal government made for giving the G. T. P. millions was to have a competing road to compete with the C. P. R. The G. T. P. would oppose the C. P. R. and we would have competition. The World now fears that the G. T. and the C. P. will become one. Of course. What else can the World expect? Did it really believe that the Liberals were going to do anything to hurt the profits of the railroad barons? If it did the World has not got its eye teeth out yet. The excuse the Liberals gave was merely to deceive the people. After the millions were safely pocketed, let the railroads unite. That is the scheme. As Socialists we care nothing whether it is one set of labor thieves who rob the workers or whether there are two sets. What concerns us is that the wage slaves are robbed. And we are out to stop that robbery by taking away the railroads from their present owners.

There are many capitalists who pray to God to bless humanity, and then go and draw dividends from factory companies where slaves are worked long hours. Then these capitalists tell the wage workers to be of good cheer because they have prayed to God for humanity. The workers are getting sick of that rant. They will soon tell the capitalists, "Keep right on praying. But pardon us while we take your factories away from you and run them in the interests of humanity."

Montreal Power rose 29 points on the stock exchange and Senator Forget made \$145,725 by the rise. Don't kick, wage slaves, when the plutes clean up a hundred thousand dollars or so out of your sweat and the earnings you do not get. Be thankful to the boss that he lets you have a job so that he can rob you. Don't listen to the wicked Socialists who are trying to corrupt your morals by making you discontented with the robbery practised upon you.

Controller Ainey of Montreal, elected by the workmen as their representative on a capitalist ticket, is advocating the construction of municipal tenements for the workers. Joe evidently wants the industrial bosses to be able to hire cheaper wage slaves owing to the fact that the workers will have less rent to pay. Wake up Joe and work for the abolition of wage slavery.

In the U. S. there are at present over 300,000 automobiles privately owned. Yet the wealth producers, the wage slaves, do not seem to keep a private automobile to take them to work when the whistle toots at seven a. m. No. The automobiles belong to the labor skimmers. Can the skum expect to skim the roads in joy rides?

SUB PRICE OF COTTON'S

Canada and England.
Six Months, 26 copies 25c
Six Months, clubs of 5 1.00
One Year, 52 copies 50c
One Year, clubs of 5 2.00
Three Months, club of 5 50c
Three Months, club of 10 1.00

THE CHURCHES

Montreal is a city of churches. Catholic churches, Methodist churches, Congregational churches, Presbyterian churches, and many other churches.

Vast edifices flaunt their spires to the sky, and prostitutes sell their bodies for the means of life in the shadow of the churches.

The ministers of God talk morality from the pulpits, and the slums are filled with fever and wretchedness.

Altar cloths and interior decorations beautiful to the eye meet the gaze of the reverential worshipping labor thief as he kneels in prayer. And without the unemployed and overworked and underpaid shuffle along the streets while the labor thieves perform their devotional rites to the god they pretend to worship.

The useful workers are robbed and the churches and ministers depend for support on the offerings of the legalized robbers.

The ministers preach a doctrine of love and Candy is forced to commit crime that his loved ones may not lack the means of life.

The ministers preach about purity and pure young girls are forced to a life of shame because of their expropriated condition.

The ministers preach about honesty and the men and women who live by robbing labor assent, because they realize that what the preachers mean is that the workers must not rob those who have robbed them.

These are the institutions that the capitalist press of Montreal do reverence to. Every Saturday long columns are given over to the respective places where these ministers are going to give forth comfort to the wealthy and stones to the workers who ask for bread.

These churches are so sunk in sycophantic worship to the master class that they do not realize the brotherhood of man. They are so sunk in the pharisaical worship of cold morality that they have lost the sense of justice if they ever possessed it.

These churches do not understand the needs of humanity. With their doles of charity they make a mock of the sufferings of man.

The Methodist church at Vancouver declared that capital must be protected. This shows where the Methodist church stands. It stands with these who forced Candy to crime. It takes the side of the plunderers against the plundered. It stands for the robbery of the workers and it has the blasphemy to declare that it preaches the doctrine of a god of justice and a god of love.

The Anglican church sends Dr. Ingram over to Canada as its best representative. This man says that the Anglican church does not understand the workers. And he goes on to declare that the workers pathetically want a chance to educate their children so that they may climb to be the equal of the highest in the land.

Ingram is so blind that he wants slavery to continue with a chance for the more cunning wage slaves to escape the slavery and climb to a position of authority among the slave drivers.

And Ingram has the blasphemy to declare that he preaches the doctrines of a god of justice and a god of love. Ingram is the best the Anglican church can produce. What reactionaries, what worshippers of enthroned tyranny must the rest of the Anglican preachers be? They spend their time praying long prayers to God to spare the rulers of the empire that slavery may long continue in the land.

The other churches take their ranks with these. It is not necessary to speak of the Catholic church. It has stood through the ages a bulwark for the oppressors against labor. Today in Belgium where it is strongest, there the people are deepest sunk in poverty, ignorance and in misery.

And the churches want to lead the workers into their fold so that they may be taught in the name of religion not to rebel against the masters, not to rebel against hard taskmasters, to be faithful to the master class, and to give out of their slaves' pay many dimes so that other slaves may be reached and have the word of bondage preached to them in the name of religion.

And Candy is forced into crime that his loved ones may live.

And the judges who enforce the capitalist laws and cause the Candys to be hung are reckoned prominent pillars in the temples of Montreal.

Can the wage slaves be blamed for shunning the places of worship? Can they be blamed if they treat the ministers of the gospel with contempt. Can Moses Baritz be blamed when he thunders forth against the Christianity of the land?

You ministers of Montreal. You wonder why the workers despise you. You are agents of reaction. You know not what love means. You know not but to do the will of those who pay you, the slave drivers of Montreal by whom you are hired to preach false doctrines.

The prostitutes of Montreal rise up

and condemn you. The thieves of Montreal rise up and condemn you.

Preach your doctrines if you will. But the salt of the earth will not listen to you. A new power is rising that will overthrow those whom you protect. The Socialist organization is sweeping on that will free the slaves against your will.

Then will the Candys no longer be oppressed and forced into crime.

The British Situation

The Welsh miners, the cotton spinners, the boiler makers, and the railway workers of Great Britain are in a state of unrest. The capitalist class have endeavored to befoul the workers with conciliation boards and wage agreements. They got the workers tied up in agreements and thought that the labor question had been solved. And now the workers are proving themselves to be revolutionaries.

The officials of the boiler makers had made arrangements to settle all disputes by conciliation and arbitration. New methods of riveting have come into operation. The bosses fixed a price for this work. The workers wanted a higher scale. The question has been going from conference to conference for over six months. And the men have been working on the lower rate. This has been fine for the employers. The workers have seen through the dodge and have gone on strike.

In the cotton spinning trade the bosses had made an agreement to have no raise of wages nor lowering of wages for five years. Owing to the lessening cost of gold the price of living has gone up. The price of living is going higher. Nevertheless the workers were to see their wages grow smaller in purchasing power without kicking. That was the agreement. Moreo'v'g all disputes were to be settled by agreement.

The present dispute rose in this way. At Fern Mill, Oldham, a grinder, named Howe, was called upon by the foreman of a blowing room to clean the carding engine. The grinder refused as that was not his trade. He was discharged. The question was not submitted to arbitration. The man was kicked out. A strike was the result. The masters have declared that unless the workers go back to work there will be a lockout against the spinners.

The miners' dispute is one over the price of certain cutting work. This dispute has been kept dragging before the conciliation boards for eighteen months, the masters paying the lower rate in the mean time. The workers got tired and quit.

With regard to the railway trouble a great strike was averted in 1907 by Lloyd George and the Board of Trade. A working arrangement was arrived at which did not please the men. They have tried to live up to it, but they have found that the railway employers do not. The railway employers claim the right of contracting themselves out of the agreement then arrived at, with workers who will contract themselves out of what little benefits the agreement gave. Hence the strike.

The old line trade union officials are scandalized. The workers are no longer content to follow their labor leaders into capitalist traps. The capitalist press is scandalized. The workers are in a fighting mood.

The workers may go through much suffering in the coming strikes, suffering that could be avoided would the workers unite on the political field and pass laws to expropriate the masters out of control of the jobs.

A great outcry has been raised among Protestants against the Canadian authorities who publicly and officially did reverence to the papal legate at the Eucharistic Conference. They cry that Canada is disgraced. Catholicism is an expression of the feudal method of production. Protestantism is an expression of the capitalist mode of production.

The squabbles between these two rival modes of religious worship does not interest the wage workers. Whether Catholicism is dominant or Protestantism is dominant, the man who does the work will get robbed of his labor product. Let the masters squabble among themselves. Let the workers unite with an eye single for their own emancipation.

EVERY WEEK

You run across a paragraph or an article in Cotton's, which you ought to mark and hand to a neighbor. For this purpose you should have a bundle of five or ten copies coming to you each and every week. For \$1.00 you can get Five copies for 6 months or Ten copies for 3 months. Send in your order now and get the full benefit of the Special Issues.

Cotton's Compendium of facts is a valuable little book that is assured in the near future. Facts that hammer the profit system welcomed.

Capitalist Squabbling

The wage worker is robbed of the greater portion of that which he produces. If rents are high, then the worker must charge high for his labor. The industrial capitalist must pay more for wage labor in order that the land capitalist may get his toll.

The wage worker receives in wages a sufficient amount to keep himself alive and strong so that he may go to work on the morrow. Some of them are given enough to raise a family of wage slaves after them to take their places as mules in the capitalist mills when they get worn out.

The capitalist class is composed of various sections with antagonistic interests. The landlord capitalist wants high rent. The railroad capitalist wants cheap rents so that he can hire cheap help. The railroad capitalist wants high freight rates. The industrial capitalist wants low freight rates. The financial capitalist wants high interest. The stock manipulator wants low interest. The departmental store wants a parcels post. The merchant in the small town with three or four clerks under him does not want a parcels post.

Each of the varying sections of the capitalist class raises a commotion to get what it wants and endeavors to identify its interest with the interest of the people. "The public is interested in protection," say the manufacturers. "The public wants the railroads to have bonuses," declares the railroad baron. The sectional appeals of the various antagonistic interests are di'vined into the ears of the workers and they are told to work for this or that grab in the public interest.

The wage workers have interests of their own. Their main interest is to get all they earn. The wage workers are robbed and the parasite possessing class does the robbing. It is a matter of little moment to the workers, what section of the capitalist class gets the greater share of that robbery. Let the capitalist sections squabble among themselves over the spoil. Let it be the aim of the workers to stop the spoilation.

According to official figures compiled at the City Hall in Montreal the rentals paid for workingmen's homes are as follows. 3,069 houses rent for \$150 per year. 3,769 rent for \$130. 5,752 rent for \$120. 7,466 houses rent for \$100 per year. 6,076 rent for \$90. 6,170 rent for \$80. 4,980 rent for \$60. 2,446 rent for \$50. 2 rent for \$20. 1 rents for \$10 a year. Candy, the man St. Pierre sentenced to death for murder, was tried by men who paid \$200 a year rental. Candy was not tried by a jury of his peers. He was not given a fair, impartial trial. He is being done to death at the behests of the capitalist class through the instrumentality of the petty bourgeoisie. But this is the kind of justice the workers can expect under the present system. The workers get it in the neck at the hands of their masters and their henchmen judges. And the masters and the judges call it "justice."

Our government is a capitalist government. It is bound to squeeze the worker of all but a bare living. Suppose the Canadian government resolved to take over the banking privileges. Would that benefit the wage workers? Not at all. The government would get more revenues and would immediately proceed to give bigger bonuses to the steel industry, or build bigger warships, or pay the Governor-General a bigger salary, or give him a sweller mansion. The wage workers do the work and all the Liberal Government does is to apportion the squeeze on the wage workers to the respective bunches of labor skimmers. The banks happen to have a strong pull with the capitalist politicians and hence are given a particularly juicy squeeze.

Read the editorial on R. L. Borden. Then reflect that Edgar N. Rhodes, M. P. for Cumberland county, is some pumpkins in the Conservative party. He is whip for Nova Scotia. He has swallowed the Halifax Platform holus-bolus. He believes that capital must have its squeeze. The strikers of Springhill are wrong to hurt the poor, dear Cumberland Coal Company when they pretend to be so hard up. Workers of the world unite. You cannot rely for aid on capitalist politicians. They will help you only when they are afraid that you will get mad and take the blinders from off your eyes and look at yourselves as you are—wage slaves of a master class.

SUB CARDS

Five yearly sub cards sent anywhere in Canada or England for \$2.00. Cash in advance or after cards are sold. Sub cards are printed government postals. Fill out and drop in mail.

The fellows who do the hardest work get the least pay and the least respect. Do you wonder why?

Shall Cotton's Quit?

The sub list has gone down again below the ten thousand mark. There were 498 off and 275 ons. This shows that the revolting wage slaves of Canada are not taking as much interest in Cotton's as they did six months ago.

The revenue for Cotton's this summer has never equalled the expense account. There were many weeks the revenue would not meet the wage bill.

Summer has gone, and the fall is one third past. And the sub list keeps bobbing under the ten thousand mark. I have refused advertisements in the paper could have got because they were not those that I thought should go into a Socialist paper.

When you were sending in seven and eight hundred subs a week I reduced the price of the paper twenty-five per cent.

We have kept the paper going in spite of deficits, in the hope that the wage-plugs of Canada would waken and fight for their own interests.

The wage-plugs have not wakened. Many of those who have wakened have gone asleep. They are either so indifferent to the wakening that they do not desire to help the paper or else their awakening has been more sentimental than real.

The last two paper bills of a hundred and fifty dollars each have not been paid. Another bill will soon be coming due.

And the revenue of Cotton's many weeks does not equal the wage bills. Trusts are being formed on every side. The government is gleefully plundering the wage slaves.

And the wage slaves will not waken but sleep on while they are robbed of the greater share of what they produce.

Lincoln long ago declared in answer to a certain question that "If the people like that sort of a thing, that is the sort of a thing the people like."

If, today, the wage slaves of Canada like to be robbed, then that is sort of thing that they like, and it is little use fighting for them when they like to be robbed.

Cotton's has built up a circulation of ten thousand. That circulation does not pay. And the army of sub hustlers do not show any signs of making it go higher. Rather they show signs of letting it go lower.

If this lack of interest continues, then Cotton's will go out of business. There is no use fighting for those who will not help themselves.

If you wage plugs want wage slavery, the capitalists will accommodate you. If you want to buck up and fight for your freedom, then Cotton's will be with you. But you have got to speak up quick and sudden like.

If you like your chains, boys, hug them to your heart, and I will go and help the capitalists accommodate you with heavier chains.

The wage slaves can have freedom or slavery. If you prefer slavery, then there is nothing on God's earth that can prevent you from having what you want.

Will you put Cotton's on a basis where it will carry itself? If you will then the paper will continue.

If you will not, then the paper will quit. I am getting tired of fighting for a bunch of quitters.

Circulation Statement

Following is the statement of circulation for the issue of September 29th.

	OFF	ON	TOTAL
Ontario.....	163	97	4101
Nova Scotia.....	23	6	1267
British Columbia.....	122	39	1423
Alberta.....	24	82	1235
Saskatchewan.....	15	7	627
Prov. of Quebec.....	121	14	538
Manitoba.....	20	8	435
New Brunswick.....	4	4	122
Elsewhere.....	4	9	122
Yukon Territory.....	1	0	39
Prince Ed. Island.....	1	1	21
Newfoundland.....	0	8	13

Total..... 498 275 10,215

Loss for week 223

Total issue last week was 11,000

That "Banner Collection" is a dandy for the man who is just starting to read up. Seven of the best books for only 50 cents.

COTTON'S PRINTERY

does good JOB PRINTING. Stationery, Cards, Handbills, Leaflets, etc. Let us figure with you on your Job Printing. Send for samples of stationery and prices. JOE DEPARTMENT, Cotton's Weekly, Cowansville, P. Que.

ATTENTION!

Locals and unattached comrades throughout Ontario desiring the services of the PROVINCIAL ORGANIZER, are requested to communicate with R. Liss, Secretary Provincial Executive Committee, 39 Breithaupt Street, Berlin, Ont.

Province of Quebec District of Bedford No. 854

Dame Margaret J. Grubb, of the Village of Knowlton, District of Bedford, with common as to the property of Edward W. Morgan, of the same place, blacksmith, duly authorized to enter on Justice. Plaintiff.

Edward W. Morgan, of the same place. Defendant.

An action for separation from bed and board and property was instituted in this cause the 6th of September, 1910.

W. H. LYNCH Attorney for Plaintiff. Sweetburg, 7th September, 1910. 116-8