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Devoted to the Propagation of the Principles of International Socialism

\$1.10 PER YEAR IN UNITED STATES

COWANSVILLE, P. Q., THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1909

LET US CLEAR THE WAY FOR THE SOCIALIST STATE

VOL. XXXVIII No. 31

## EQUALITY

Goldwin Smith in a recent article declared that socialism is impossible as long as men are unequal. Humanity would have to be rolled out flat before socialism could triumph. Goldwin Smith has but little knowledge of economics. He may know history and the minute differences that are at present erected by law into barriers between men by legislative process. Smith has the capitalist outlook and the individualistic tendency of a man who gets his living out of other men's work. Consequently, he is immune to socialistic influences and to socialistic conceptions.

Socialism does not want to make men equal. It wants to make men diversified. Socialism does aim at giving every man an equal opportunity for self development. When one man has inherited great wealth and has had every care lavished upon his upbringing and when another man inherits great poverty and is kept in vile surroundings and is forced to work beyond his strength till he fills a premature grave in the Potter's Field, the two men have had unequal chances in life and have been unequal in opportunities. This inequality, however, has not been inherent in the nature of the two men, but has been purely accidental and external. The differences have been the result of unequal access to the material needs of life which are necessary for physical, mental and moral development.

The law has given the one man great possessions from his birth and has taken them away from the other. A changed law can give the two men an equal start in life. A changed law may prevent either of them using his powers to keep the other from access to necessary physical things. The two men may be as unequal as you please. The rich man may turn out to be a fool or a wise man. The poor man may turn out also to be wise or foolish. The inequalities will not be altogether eradicated. Yet the inequality that will result under socialism will be inherent and not accidentally produced.

Goldwin Smith might study the laws of heredity and environment to advantage. Equality of opportunity will make men ambitious. Good homes and good food will make men strong and healthy. Freedom from masters and from the fear of starvation will make men independent in spirit. Men are not unequal at present. Some are arrogant, and corrupt through too much power over the destinies of men and women. Other men are slavish and fearful of spirit and weak of body because of too much subjection to arrogant and corrupt masters. Both types of men are bad and both will disappear in the triumph of socialism.

Goldwin Smith has a great reputation as a writer. We have failed to see wherein he excels. He has a certain amount of brains and a passable style. The only reason we can see for his reputation as a writer is the fact that a frantic and fearful capitalist class in need of defenders has found in him the best that their lost cause can discover. Hence, as the Philistines through their heralds, lauded Goliath to the skies in the face of the Israelites, so a capitalist class through a capitalist press, lauds Goldwin Smith highly in the face of the socialists.

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## FRIGHTENED PLUTES

Many persons are afraid of socialism. They realize that there are good things in socialism and would like to see many things, advocated in the various socialist publications, brought into existence. Yet they fear the socialist methods. They have been brought up to fear disorder and to be afraid of mob uprisings. Consequently, while they appreciate the theoretical qualities of socialist doctrines, they fight against the practical application thereof.

To every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. To every oppression there seems to be, in the long summing up of history, an equal revolt. If the oppression has been mild and the methods of relieving that oppression are easily put into operation, there will be no violent outbreak on the part of the oppressed. These facts should teach the frightened plutes that in fighting

socialism, they are but laying up for themselves or their children, a terrible outbreak of mob fury, the very thing which they most wish to avoid.

Across the border Roosevelt has violently opposed socialism. Taft, both as a judge and as a Cabinet Secretary, has done all he could to break the power of labor and to force the workers of the States into conditions which are unbearable. Taft as President, will continue his repressive tactics and will be petted and lauded by the national multimillionaire vampires. The capitalist press will hail him as the greatest President. Yet Taft is laying up for his country an epoch of cyclonic terror. Even now the rich men of the States are afraid. They know that they are living in voluptuous and extravagant splendor over a vast inferno of human misery.

Canada is developing quickly along the vicious lines of American retrogression. The splendor and the misery are increasing. Let the frightened plutes remember that the only hope of Canada is to develop along the lines of free, political and industrial institutions. Let them remember that if they wish to avoid the national cataclysm which they fear, they must not oppose socialism, but must assist its coming in a peaceful manner.

## BUYING HIMSELF A JOB

The farmer when he buys a farm thinks he is acquiring property. As a matter of fact he is buying himself a steady job. There are three ways by which a farmer may get money. He can work himself, he can employ others to help him and take a profit from their work, or he can hold the land for a rise in value and sell at an advance.

When a farmer holds land for a rise, he wants to make money out of the needs of a growing population. He wants to get something for nothing. Thus if a farmer buys land for one thousand dollars and holds it till he sells at ten thousand dollars, he is taking nine thousand dollars for which he has given no equivalent. He is absorbing to his own benefit the value an increased population has given to the land. Among farmers this is considered a fine thing if a farmer gets it. If a non-farmer gets the land and holds it for a rise the farmers are apt to look upon the holder as a land shark. This is the way in which the farmers of the West regard the C. P. R.

If the farmer employs farm hands to help him till the farm he is entering the capitalist class. He hires men for a days wage and makes a profit on their work. The lot of the farm laborer in the Province of Quebec is a hard one. The farm hand is one of the worst exploited laborers in the Dominion. He has no regular hours and his pay is the poorest. In employing help the farmer takes advantage of the farm hand's necessity and makes money out of the work of another.

If, however, the farmer buys a small farm in a stagnant part of the Dominion and works it himself he will find that he has only bought himself a steady job. The small farmer works hard and gets little. Every trust in Canada and every railroad corporation takes toll of his toil. He is a wage slave with apparently no boss. His slavish condition can be seen from the fact that he has to hustle morning, noon and night and at the end of the year he is exactly where he was when he began.

We cannot blame the farmers for exploiting the farm hands. They are slaves themselves lorded over by the can trust, the milk company, the express companies and all the protected manufacturing and bonused home industries. The farm hand is the wage slave of a slave. No wonder his lot is hard.

When the farmers awake there will be many fine fortunes come tumbling about the ears of financial, railroad and industrial magnates. There is one good thing about the farmer. He is hard to make as a socialist, but when he is once made he sees the point and stays made.

Socialism may be defined as the economic brotherhood of man legalized.

Socialism will benefit every man, woman and child.

## THE FUTURE LIFE

The philosopher of the past, looking over the suffering in human life and perceiving the great inequalities therein was forced to believe that this world could not be all, that somewhere in the future life the inequalities of pain and pleasure suffered by individuals here, would be compensated and equalized. Hence there arose the doctrine of a blessed future state. The poor and the oppressed and the outcast, and the miserable were taught to bear their present afflictions with patience sure in the knowledge that a good God would look in compassion on them and make them happy elsewhere did they but conduct themselves in a deserving manner.

When, however, education advances, when men come to see that the great amount of suffering and misery is unnecessary and preventable, when men come to see that they can consciously organize human effort so as to bring comfort, health, affluence and happiness to each individual, then men cease to be content to look to a future state of happiness. They want heaven here and now upon earth, and they get up and hustle for it.

There is a doctrine of the persistence of force and this doctrine holds good in the mental as well as in the physical realm. Men have been looking for a future state of blessedness and it is hard to get them to turn their eyes and energies to the present realization of what they consider to be a future ultra mundane condition. Hence the old morality fights the new, and the Christian dreamers denounce the Socialist activities as being irreligious and atheistic.

## CHURCH UNION

Ecclesiastical circles among the non-conforming churches are being ruffled by an idea of church union. The Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches are considering whether they shall serve the Lord together or whether they shall serve the Lord apart. To these denominations it seems that these questions are large and of world importance. To the average man with clear vision, the questions seem trivial and easily solved. The churches should get together. Their petty differences and petty desires to remain apart only show their own narrowness and stiff necked pride.

Men's religious ideas are going through great changes. Nine out of ten don't believe the stuff they hear from the pulpit. They attend church, however, in order to be respectable in general and to please their women-folk in particular.

Once upon a time men busied themselves about trifling differences. The religious leaders had the road to heaven all planned out and they had the plan of heaven, and the political form of the heavenly state would assume, in their pocket. Each religious leader, however, had a different plan than the others and they each considered their particular plan the only one which was absolutely correct. Hence arose sects. The Roman Catholic sect was the most powerful, but there were many other minor sects. The Anglican sect was the next most numerous. The other sects were offshoots of, and protests against these two.

The average man to-day is a doubter. He has little faith in the validity of creeds, and the separate organization of such similar churches as the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational ones appears to him to be ridiculous.

If the churches wish to survive they must unite. Not only must they unite, but they must drop a lot of the old antiquated dogmas that they now profess. More and more men are refusing to go to church and say they believe a lot of things which they do not believe, even for the sake of respectability and of their women folk. If hypocrisy is a sin then the conscientious non-churchgoer is really a better man than the hypocritical, non-believing, creed-muttering, respectable churchgoer.

Canada's drink bill was \$76,867,649 last year. This is offset by only \$16,500,000 revenue from the traffic—47,337,661 gallons entered for consumption.

## A RECENT INCIDENT

Recently in the House of Commons at Ottawa a squabble occurred between Wilfred Laurier and George Foster. Both considered that their feelings had been injured by the remarks of the other. Foster hinted that Laurier had taken bribe money with which to win elections and Laurier hinted that Foster had appropriated unto himself money entrusted to his care.

There was great excitement. Both gentlemen became heated and appealed to the Chair for protection against the hinted insults. It is a rule of Parliament evidently, that no member must say anything unpleasant about another member. Both gentlemen therefore, after much Chinese-like argument, apologized to the other and the incident was closed.

This little incident is lurid of the decadence of Parliamentary life. There is no real difference between the two parties. No question of principle divides them. Government member and opposition member can go to sleep side by side in their Parliamentary seats in perfect peace and amity. It is only when some little personal squabble arises that there is any opposition and that opposition is analogous to two friendly cats spitting at each other in momentary anger.

Both the Liberal and the Conservative parties represent the capitalist class. Both parties are corrupt, but both are true to the capitalist interests. It is only when one party goes back on the capitalists that the members of the other party awake and begin to fight in dead earnest. The capitalists send one party to Ottawa to run the country in the interest of capitalism. The capitalists send another party, at present the Conservatives, to Ottawa to act as watch-dog on the other. The Liberal government is looking after the interests of the capitalists to their perfect satisfaction. The Liberal government is practically building a railroad for the capitalists. They give large tracts of land to the capitalists. Bonuses, forest areas, fishing rights, natural resources are all falling into the maw of capitalism and the capitalists are content. Therefore the opposition watch-dog can sleep at its post. It has nothing to do but draw its salary and growl once in a while to show the capitalist that if the Liberal government does not act obediently to the big interests, the opposition can really bite.

When will the workers awake to their own interests? When will they send men of their own class to Ottawa to fight in their interests? Let a strong group of labor men be sent to Ottawa and it will surprise the actual workers of Canada how quickly the sham opposition between the Liberals and Conservatives will cease.

There is one labor representative at Ottawa, by name Alphonse Verville, but he is absolutely useless. He follows slavishly at the heels of the Liberal leaders and is but a nose to be counted on the side of the Liberal majority in divisions.

## SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

The modern civilization is upheld by many persons because they believe it to conduce to the progress of humanity and to be in accordance with the doctrine of the survival of the fittest. Under the present system, it is considered, the weak go to the wall and are obliterated, while the strong survive and the race is thus improved by natural selection.

These ideas seem to be in accord with the Darwinian theory of evolution. This is true in a sense, yet the evolutionary process under modern economic conditions does not conduce to the survival of the highest type of manhood. Given certain conditions, a certain type of creature will survive. Given other conditions, another type of creature will come to the top.

In an organized society where the laws handicap honor, justice, truth, mercy, humanity, the persons who possess these qualities, will be crushed out of existence in the struggle, and the crafty cynical, brutal, sedentary, immoral, creature will rise and survive. In the struggle for existence those persons will survive who possess the qualities that will fit into the conditions.

To-day the moral individuals cannot rise in the legal profession, in the legislatures, or in business. The very fact that a man has become successful in the competitive world proves that he has been cruel, crafty, and in all likelihood, crooked.

When a civilization tends to elevate the base, parents and educators, in trying to make their children and pupils successful, will inculcate principles of morality of a very low plane. Examples of successful men will be held up to the imagination of the youth and they will be taught to follow the footsteps of the men who have been crooked.

Thus it is that the ideals of our Canadian youth are low. Thus it is that selfishness and non-moral success are diligently practiced by men and admired by boys. Our Sunday Schools teach a higher morality, but they remain vacant, or are attended by a few boys who stop attending as soon as they are old enough to control their own actions. Even their young natures realize that if a boy wants to be a success under present day conditions he must forget all the precepts of the Sunday School, or regard them as twaddle.

Conditions must be changed before an improvement can take place. A new environment must be consciously produced by legislative action. It must be made possible for the good to succeed and the evil in man must be discouraged. It is not sufficient to teach that the good will succeed in Heaven and the bad will perish in Hell. It must be shown that the good will succeed on earth and the bad and selfish will perish here and now. When a civilization with such conditions is produced on the material plane of this earth, our whole national outlook and our national ideals will be changed for the better.

## WAGE SLAVERY

Many persons cannot see that the day laborer, who sells his labor power for a specified sum, is a slave. There appears to be a free contract between the parties, and a fair exchange is no robbery.

As long as the contract is free there can be no slavery about the matter. When the contract ceases to be free then slavery is instituted. The socialists affirm that the wage contract is not a free contract, but that one party, the employer, takes advantage of the necessities of his fellow-men in order to get work out of them in return for a mere living. Assuredly the workers would not work ten hours a day, in unhealthy factories for a wage which barely keeps them alive for love of the job. If they had any alternative before them they would gladly take it.

The essence of slavery consists in subservience of one mortal to the will of another, the first appropriating the labor product of the second and the second receiving food and nourishment in return. Under our present civilization the master class possess and control the machinery and the means of life. To live the workers must go to this master class and surrender their labor power in return for whatever the master class see fit to give. In this wage system the three elements of slavery are present, control and appropriation on the one hand, and a bare living on the other.

In country districts this wage slavery is not so apparent. The wage workers are not so numerous and there is at times competition among the bosses for wage workers. There is more of an appearance of freedom of contract. Yet as times goes on and the means of life become controlled by the few the truths of the wage slave theory will become clearly apparent.

## DO SOMETHING

You are not a good Socialist unless you hustle for Socialism.

If there is no Socialist party local in your locality, organize one.

Don't go to bed a single night without being able to say to yourself that you have been doing something during the day for the furtherance of the Cause.

## A SPLIT

A split is reported in the capitalist press, among the Socialist ranks, of Great Britain. It appears that at a meeting of the National Administrative Council of the Independent Labor Party, held on Monday at Edinburgh, Mr. Victor Grayson's actions were endorsed. This practically amounted to a vote of censure on Kier Hardie. Thereupon Kier Hardie, Philip Snowden, Ramsay MacDonald and Bruce Glasier resigned their seats on the Council.

The capitalist cablegram to the daily press of America takes the pains to add that if this split continues it will relieve the Liberals of much pressure in the direction of Socialistic legislation. This, we may state, is incorrect.

The Independent Labor Party of Great Britain is an amalgamation of trade union members and socialists for the purpose of political action. Hardie has been the leader of the trade union section. The socialists have been most active in propagating their doctrines among the rank and file of the trades unions. Hardie and his kicking comrades were elected as trade unionists. They have sat peacefully under the Liberal wing much as Verville does at Ottawa, and have waited patiently till the Liberals should get around to give them something out of the goodness of their capitalist hearts. They have waited long and patiently and have been given a few crumbs.

Grayson, the militant socialist, has been carrying the war into Africa. He has marched up and down Great Britain delivering fiery addresses to the unemployed. He has bucked against the antiquated machinery of the House of Commons and was thrown out of the chamber for his pains. He has waited for no crumbs, and now the Administrative Council endorses his actions.

Hardie and his associates have done good service in organizing the workers into a political force. When, however, they want to keep that force merely a wage slave force and not a socialist force they are acting as brakes to the wheels of progress. They are evidently too stubborn to change their opinions hence they resign from their seats in the Council which they themselves were instrumental in creating.

Their resignation shows that socialism is taking hold of the heads and hearts of the British workers. The Liberals will have some hard fighting to do henceforth to keep the workers down.

## THE CAPITALIST POSITION

G. DESMOND

The capitalist position, at present, appears to be very strong. They are the dominating class. They control industry, law, legislatures, armies and navies, in fact all that stands for power and authority. Therefore they feel secure. And indeed, so long as the workers remain ignorant and spiritless, so long as they are content to be robbed at the point of production, fooled in the elections, cheated and befuddled in the law courts, and join the military and other forces to shoot down their fellows, the capitalist position is certainly impregnable. That the workers could do these things, as they have done in the past, seems almost incredible, and one could hardly believe it were the records of history not so plain.

But with all its apparent security, the capitalist position is extremely precarious. The capitalist class exist only by virtue of their ability to use the workers as tools to further their own schemes. Numerically they are an insignificant part of the mass. All their strength lies in the power to blind, mislead, and befuddle the workers. Against any general uprising, either political or industrial, they are helpless. Before an assault in force of the proletariat their apparently strong defences melt away and the attackers find themselves in possession of all industrial and political powers. The work of International Socialism is to educate the workers to a clear understanding of the present situation, to unite them in a solid class-conscious body, and finally to direct their energies into such channels as will enable them to capture the powers of government and the control of industry and use them for the benefit of the working or producing class only.