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# Cotton's Weekly

W. U. COTTON, S.A., S.C.L., Editor ESTABLISHED DEC. 2nd, 1908

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## THE ART OF BRIBING

Canada is in the grip of the railways and the express companies, these latter being owned by the railways.

The people cry aloud. The western farmers want cheaper rates. The railways do not care.

The politicians say not a word. The newspapers raise no outcry. They have been bribed into silence.

The railways could give a two cent passenger rate and make money. They charge three cents a mile.

Why do not the newspapers make an outcry? For this reason. All a newspaper man has to do is to join a Press Association, get a ticket showing he is a newspaper man, and he can ride wherever he likes for two cents a mile flat rate.

Any newspaper publisher or editor, no matter of how small a sheet, can work this little game.

Why should the newspapers cry out for a two cent rate, when they already have it? Let the common rabble pay their three cents.

If you are a big newspaper you do not have to even pay this. Give the railway a puff, charge it up as advertising, and get a pass good for so many miles. See the game?

The railways take particular pains to let the dopeheads, which claim to give the unvarnished truth each day, in on the ground floor. Those who read the capitalist papers, however, are not informed of this little fact.

Three cents a mile for the common mutts, passes for the big papers against articles praising the railways; this is the situation as it is, and the common mutts are given tainted news.

There has been a great outcry for a parcels post and cheaper express rates. Have the people got them? No.

The newspapers have. Job printing can be shipped either by parcels post or by the post-office for eight cents a pound anywhere in Canada.

Here again the newspapers are let in on the lower floor. Let the common people howl. The newspaper owners do not care.

As for the politicians. Every M. P. used to have a pass snuggling in his pocket.

The people got wise to this little game and protested. This was an attempt at bribery. Did the M. P.'s heed the voice of the people? Of course they did. They returned the passes and passed a law that M. P.'s should be carried free of charge by the railways.

But the common mutts, the kind of creatures who listen to the politicians telling about their patriotism, can still pay three cents a mile.

Now don't get hot under the collar at this editorial, nor at the railways, nor at the politicians, nor at the newspapers.

We are all playing the game of skin-my-neighbor, under the capitalist system. Socialism would abolish the game and substitute co-operation for competition, and earned revenues for unearned revenues.

You who are not a Socialist, you stand for the system of legalized graft.

If your politicians put it all over you, if your newspapers are to you, if the railways take your hide, don't kick.

You voted for the rotten system, and you should take your medicine like a little man.

The astronomer on a far-off planet turned from a huge machine somewhat resembling our telescope and said to his audience: "I saw the Earth. Its oceans and waterways are full of huge ships bristling with murderous cannon which they keep pointed towards each other, and for some unaccountable reason at intervals engage in a bloody struggle. Other ships full of people are racing across the oceans, and the shores are strewn with wreckage and the bodies of the dead. On land there is a perpetual war. Every city inland has barracks full of men ready to fight, and the streets are lined with police armed with clubs, iron rods and guns, which they use constantly. Riots and murder are prevalent all over the land. Men are shooting each other and tearing their fellows open with great knives fixed on the ends of rifles. Thousands are starving and freezing in the cold climates, while in the hot zones they are dying in swarms with fever and pestilence. In the country the peasants toil from dawn till darkness, and are poor, while in the city great lines of men are waiting for bread to be given to them. The slums of the cities are awful to behold, and in them are the saddest sights our machine has yet shown to us. As the earth revolves it shows the same never-ceasing panorama. In the study of the Earth it appears that a nation may cease fighting with another for a time, and workers, male and female, are set at the task of making commodities at a break-neck speed. When the country has piled up an enormous amount of the product of labor, — vastly more than they can consume, — they at once go to war with another nation and kill each other by the thousand. Then those workers who are not killed return to their labors and commence the piling up of surplus values again. The farce seems to have been going on for a long time, and shows no sign of diminution. I will see if I can find any good things on Earth, and at my next lecture will report to you."

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## THE ART OF BRIBING

The capitalist system has outlived its usefulness, and must go.

Canada is a great hunting ground for private detectives and thugs.

When workers sell their labor power they are robbed. If they refuse to sell it they are starved, or shot.

The worker cannot hold his labor power off the market and wait for a rise in price. He must sell it at once, and it is a forced sale at that price.

The Liberal party and the Conservative party are capitalist to the core. They are two souls with but a single thought—how to skin the working class.

Behind every temptation one meets lurks the capitalist system. Then these hypocrites stand up in church and sing "Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin."

The sickening slobbery and bootlicking toadyism going on at Ottawa over the royal parasites is enough to make a decent man wish he was living with the Eskimos.

Bankers and large and small capitalists may differ in politics of the Liberals and Conservatives, but they are all united as a class against laws that favor the working class.

A battleship starts with a lot of money and is costly all the way through.

A 13.5 inch gun costs \$70,000, and its life is 82 shots. Every time it is fired it depreciates over \$850. The shell costs \$700.

Recently the British battleships Thunderer and Orion engaged in target practice. In the practice 80 shots were fired at a direct cost of \$56,000, for shells, and a depreciation cost of over \$68,000 wear and tear on the guns. Total, \$124,000 for the shells and guns alone.

The U. S. is building a Dreadnaught, the Pennsylvania, of 30,000 tons. Germany has laid down a battleship of 35,000 tons, and Great Britain is going them one better with a ship of 40,000 tons.

Poor little Borden is putting away with three ships costing only \$35,000,000.

We Canadians are indignant that he spends so much, but the profit makers and battleship trust magnates are smiling at the little piling infant that Canada is sending unto them.

\$35,000,000 for three battleships, pshaw, a mere flea bite.

But as this is Borden's first trip into the market for their wares, they smile nicely on him as a country storekeeper smiles upon a new farmer customer who comes with a dime or two order.

Meanwhile the \$35,000,000 which Borden is wasting would go far in wiping out the tuberculosis plague from Canada, or in abolishing the slums of our cities.

How much safer will you feel when Borden's \$35,000,000 dreadnaughts are sailing around the seas with a chip on their shoulder? Will you leave your chicken-house unlocked at night? Will footpads never molest you? Will your sons and daughters be safe from temptation? No. The only difference the building of these battleships makes is that the capitalists will sweat every dollar of that \$35,000,000 out of your tough old hide.

Hundreds of bright newspaper men are forced to keep mum. If they said what they thought in their papers they could get ditched in a hurry. Capitalists control the policy of the Canadian dailies, and as long as the editors of these papers are locked in the cage with the beast they will have to do as the beast says and take what it allows them. This is the sole cause of the punk condition of the daily papers being sold to the masses today.

The ice crop of Montreal has not yet started to be harvested owing to the mild weather. But there will no doubt be plenty of ice next summer to cool drinks and dainties for those able to afford it. The little children of the slums, however, will have no ice to cool their fevered brows as they suffer and die in the stifling heat of July and August. Ice will then all be in the hands of the capitalists, and counted as a luxury.

After a barbarian goes forth and directs the slaughter of workers who are termed an enemy, but who do not know the reason why they are fighting, he returns to his native shores and is hailed as "Gen. Plunduff, G. C.B., V.C., K.C.B., K.G.," etc., etc. Then the capitalists whose interests he carried out in the butchery, turn around and call you "Bill Jones, the sewer-digger."

Workers howl for the Union Jack and claim British laws are the best ever made. By the time a few more workers get shot up by thugs of the capitalists under this fine old British law, Canadians should be able to realize that British laws are the same as the laws of any other civilized (?) country—they are made for the masters' interests, and will benefit the capitalist class ONLY.

Ever hear this phrase: "We do not require your services any longer?" This is exactly what you can say to the capitalist system when you cast your next vote on the Socialist ticket.

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## ONTARIO'S CHANCE

The Socialists of Ontario have a chance for political action possessed by the Socialists of no other province.

Throughout Canada, with the exception of the local house of Ontario, candidates for representatives, either Dominion or Provincial, have to deposit from \$100 to \$200 before they can be nominated. If they do not succeed in getting one half the votes of the winning candidate received, the deposit is forfeited.

This penalty prevents Socialists putting forward candidates, for while \$100 means little to the labor skinner, to successful manufacturers and their jackals, the lawyers, it means a whole lot to the slave who gets \$1.75 or \$2 for ten hours' work.

For the local legislature of Ontario, however, no deposit is exacted. A fee of \$2 alone is exacted, while one signature to a nominating paper, I believe, is sufficient.

This freedom for political action should be eagerly seized by the Socialists of Ontario. At the next provincial elections a candidate should be run in every constituency.

This is important. The Socialists of Ontario should become busy right away, nominating their candidates and laying plans for their campaign.

We Socialists believe in political action. The method of exercising our political rights in a constitutional country like Canada is the election of candidates to represent us in the parliament and legislatures of Canada, in order to enact into law the principles for which we stand.

We can never elect candidates if we do not nominate them. The longer we delay getting into the actual arena of political life, the longer it will be before we succeed in breaking through into the legislature and finally winning the majority of members.

We engage in agitation. We point out to the working class how they are robbed and the necessity for abolishing that robbery. Our agitation will win point and vigor and far more attention if we have candidates in the field for whom those who are with us can vote. Laurie would be the laughing stock of Canada if he went about preaching Liberal ideas and political action and yet neglected to have candidates in the field to whom the masses could vote.

The people would laugh and listen to something that was "impractical and visionary."

When the Socialists of Ontario seriously and earnestly proceed to put candidates into every constituency, Socialism will cease to be "visionary and impractical" in the eyes of the people, and will become a live, vital issue.

Ontario has an opportunity to wipe out the disgrace which Canada now suffers among International Socialists. The party in every country gives its Socialist vote to the world; these are compiled and thus the total Socialist vote of the world is arrived at. Among these statistics Canada does not figure. She is totally absent. Our vote is so insignificant.

At the last Dominion elections in 1911, the Socialist vote was 6,996. This is for a country with a population of over seven millions. Belgium, with about the same population, had a Socialist vote of 483,241. Switzerland, with 3,700,000 population, had a Socialist vote of 105,000. Denmark, with 2,565,000 population, had a Socialist vote of 98,721. Even Bulgaria, with a population of 4,284,000, polled 13,000 Socialist votes in 1911. Does not that put Canada in a bad light from a revolutionary point of view?

Another reason why Socialists of Ontario should run candidates is to have something practical for the comrades to engage themselves in. To meet in locals and study economics is necessary—and dry. I think it has been the experience of nearly every local in Canada that economic classes and Socialist locals which meet to discuss economic questions from the Socialist viewpoint, dwindle away to next to nothing. Children can be made to go to school, but grownups cannot be made to go and will not go. Hence locals which deal in abstract economics only grow small in numbers and weak in influence. However, let an election be sprung and put a candidate in the field, and conditions change at once. Interest brightens. Comrades who have dropped out return. Enthusiasm runs high.

If the Ontario comrades will run candidates in as many constituencies as they can, they will see their membership treble, their vote increase marvellously and the day of Socialism brought measurably nearer.

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But it is not a bit too early for an active campaign to begin.

There are 196 constituencies. In the last provincial elections the Socialists ran candidates in only 7 of them, getting a vote of 3,206.

The locals of the Social-Democratic party should, as soon as possible, select candidates for the next provincial contest.

In advertising, the aim is to get the thing advertised before the attention of the people, not one day or two days, but constantly. They become accustomed to the thing advertised, and finally patronize the advertiser. The same with Socialism. If you spring your man on the constituency in the heat of an old party campaign, you are like a new advertiser. The people will patronize the old brands. Voters will naturally patronize the Liberals and the Tories, seeing the capitalist papers are constantly advertising these two parties by reporting the activities in the legislature at Toronto.

If there is no local in a constituency, then some comrade, who is a member at large, should have his candidate endorsed by the Ontario Provincial Executive Committee. The following are the rules governing Socialist candidates, as laid down in certain sections of the by-laws of the Social-Democratic party:

Section 3.—No section of the Social-Democratic Party of Canada shall act in conjunction with any body of men not recognizing the class struggle and the necessity of abolishing capitalism.

Section 10.—No person shall be nominated as a candidate for any office in the Provincial or Dominion Executive Committee or any public office unless he has been a member of the party for at least six months and has identified himself with the party by active participation in its work.

Section 11.—All candidates for any legislative or administrative body shall sign a resignation paper with a blank space for date, before the official nomination takes place, and deposit same with his local.

Section 12.—The resignation signed by any member of the Party elected to the Provincial or Dominion Parliament shall be held for joint action by the local he represents and the Provincial Executive Committee to be referred to.

Section 13.—Any member of the Social-Democratic Party of Canada, elected to the Provincial or Dominion Executive Committee of Parliament shall devote four months of each year to organization work in his respective province, or furnish a substitute.

Section 14.—Any person may join as a member of the Party provided he pledges the platform, constitution and pledge of membership, by applying to the Dominion Executive Committee or the Provincial Executive Committee of the Province in which he resides. Such member shall pay the monthly fee of twenty-five cents.

There are 106 constituencies. There are 49 locals of the S.D.P. In some constituencies there are more than one local. Hence in many of the 106 divisions, members at large will have to be run to cover all the territory. They will have to be members for six months. I would urge comrades where no local exists to get into the party at once so as to qualify for the race. Write H. Martin, Secretary, 61 Weber St. East, Berlin, Ont., for application form.

The Independent Labor party will no doubt be in the field also. Section 9, above quoted, lays down the rule to be followed. If the I. L. P. recognizes the class struggle, and the necessity for abolishing capitalism, their candidates can be assisted by members of the S. D. P., and joint candidates can be run, as in the case of the late Toronto municipal elections.

Cotton's Weekly has tabulated the location of the 49 locals according to the constituencies for Dominion elections. These in many cases are the same as the provincial districts. According to this tabulation, the district of Nipissing has 14 locals; Thunder Bay and Rainy River has 9; the Toronto districts have 5; Waterloo South has 4; Algoma East has 3, and the following Dominion electoral districts each have one local: — Waterloo North, Wellington South, Brockville, Oxford North, Algoma West, Simcoe East, Ottawa, Perth North, York South, Welland, Hamilton, Renfrew South, Lanark North and Lincoln.

In these districts Socialist candidates can be run by the locals. In other districts candidates will have to be run as members at large, or else locals will have to be formed as soon as possible.

Cotton's hopes that the comrades of the unorganized territory will be organized as soon as possible, and that their activity will result in such a vote that Ontario will put Canada among the world statistics of the Socialist vote. Ontario has a population of 2,523,274. Denmark has a population of 2,565,660. The Socialist vote of Denmark in 1910 was 98,721. Will you let Denmark beat you forever, Comrades of Ontario?

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## THE MIDDLEMAN

"From the producer to the consumer."

That is a phrase which is frequently seen in the dopeheads of Canada.

We are told that the middleman is unnecessary, that he but adds to the cost of commodities to the ultimate consumer without rendering any service.

The commission which examined into the high cost of living in Toronto in their report declared that the multiplication of retail stores was one of the causes for advancing prices.

Pressure, irresistible pressure, is being brought upon the politicians at Ottawa to introduce a parcels post system, whereby chickens and eggs and other farm produce may be shipped directly from the farm to the city consumer.

At Sarnia, Mimico, West Toronto, North Bay and a number of other Ontario points the National Railway Association has established branches for selling goods without profit to railway workers.

From New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba the country merchants have been feeling the competition of the mail order houses. They have met in their little assemblies and have demanded legislation against these intruders into their territory. They put up the plea that they pay local taxes, which mail order houses do not. The legislation has not been forthcoming.

The middleman has no friends.

The employers of Canadian slaves want to have the living of the slaves cost as little as possible, in order that wages may be as low as possible.

Hence the high cost of living is not altogether to their liking. It is true that the canners' combine, water the stock, boost the price of canned goods, and help raise the cost of living. It is true the land shark and rent lord boosts the price of land and rent and sends the cost of living higher. It is true the mine-owners boost the price of coal and send up the cost of living. It is true the meat trust sends up the price of beef. But, you know, this is all legitimate profit, and profit is sacred.

But the cost of living soars, and wages must be raised much higher. This is the terrible calamity which the profit lords do not wish to face.

Hence their remedy, abolish the middleman. Slug him out of the ring. Start co-operative stores and parcels post and bring the producer of food stuffs into direct relation with the slave. Then maybe the middleman's charges will be eliminated and wages need not be raised so high.

Socialists raise no objection to the process. When the middleman is slugged out, he will fall into the hands of the wage workers, and after a dose, more or less severe, of the galling nature of wage slavery, he will be raising his voice lustily for the abolition of the capitalist labor skinner.