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# Cotton's Weekly

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This is No. 117

COWANSVILLE, P. Q., CANADA, DECEMBER 8, 1910

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## THE FRENCH REPORT

General French has reported that the Canadian militia is inefficient. It does not give value for the money spent. It is overofficered and undermanned.

The capitalist papers are giving much attention to this report. The Conservative papers are declaring that the Liberal government is to blame. The Conservatives are attempting to make party capital out of the censure General French has bestowed upon the present management of the militia.

As far as the workers are concerned it makes little difference whether the militia is well managed or ill managed. The workers can rest assured that the militia, even under the Liberals, has been effective enough to put down strikes and to protect the possession by the parasite owners of the machinery of wealth production against the wealth producers.

The militia of Canada no doubt has been run abominably from a business point of view. Such a method of running business has been good for the grafters.

But let us suppose that the militia is run effectively. Wherein will the farmers and workers of Canada be benefited? Should the Conservatives succeed in getting formed a well trained military body the Canadian toilers would not benefit in the least. Rather would they be injured. For the militia of Canada is not maintained to fight a foreign foe. It is maintained to put down strikes in Canada and to fasten the legalized graft of the parasite capitalist class of Canada upon an unwilling proletariat. I can see perfectly well how that capitalist class wants to get an efficient body of bayonet stickers at a bargain counter price. When the Conservatives bend their energies to this task we can rest assured that they but obey their master's voice.

## Shall Fedorenko Be Surrendered?

The agitation for the safe guarding of Fedorenko is bearing fruit. The bloodhounds of Russia are afraid that their victim will escape. Therefore they are rushing "proofs" to Winnipeg that Fedorenko is a "desperate criminal." It is now pretended that Fedorenko killed a priest, slew several peasants and engaged in highway robbery.

These charges come too late. If these were true, why did the Russian authorities not seek to extradite the fugitive on these charges? They knew the fight they had over Rudowitz and Jan Poren. Why, with the example of these extradition fights to guide them, did the Russian authorities choose a political offence upon which to make the fight?

Fedorenko is wanted for his political offences. As C. M. O'Brien declared in the Alberta legislature, he is wanted that he may be tortured to force him to reveal the names of his comrades in revolution. Aylesworth, who wanted Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone to be hung, will willingly hand over Fedorenko to have his flesh bruised and torn.

The judges in Winnipeg who are trying the case must follow the damnable capitalist law which they are paid to enforce. The judicial wage slaves in Winnipeg, Mathers and his fellow hirelings, have already decided that the Czar shall get his victim.

What say you, people of Canada? Shall Fedorenko be surrendered? Shall Aylesworth, whose flesh is comfortably clothed and well sheltered on the nine thousand dollars he gets as pay from the labor thieves who wring the wealth out of labor, be allowed to surrender the flesh of another to medieval torture?

That is what will happen unless the people of Canada rouse and in thunder tones dare Aylesworth to stain his office with the blood from the torture instruments of darkest Russia.

The Liberals of Great Britain declare that the veto of the Lords is the paramount question. The Liberals are talking through their hats. The paramount question in Great Britain as elsewhere is the abolition of rent, interest and profit.

The honorable members of Parliament are turning the House of Commons into a prize ring in order to excite the mob and make them forget that the pickpocket capitalist class is going through the pay envelopes of the productive workers.

Laurier is a never was who thinks he is an izzier.

Socialism will not come until the common people want it.

Many a would be capitalist works hard trying to make a living without doing useful work.

Lord Joice, once a prominent Liberal, has joined the Tories as he says he does not want to surrender to the Socialists. Thanks, me lud, for advertising us.

The question of initiative and referendum was submitted to the electors of the state of Illinois. 451,864 voted for initiative and referendum and 128,017 against.

The Toronto Globe characterizes Sydney, N. S., as the Pittsburgh of Canada. The American social investigators declare that Pittsburgh is a hell upon earth for the workers.

The discovery of the law of economic determinism has placed the revolt of the workers upon a scientific basis. The producers are now able to revolt according to knowledge.

Government ownership and municipal ownership will not cure the economic ills from which we suffer. England has government ownership of many things, yet the problem of poverty is there most keen.

The Austrian government is spending five million dollars to build workmen's houses in Vienna. The Liberal government of Canada is spending twenty million dollars for useless warships.

Arthur J. Balfour declares that behind the single chamber conspiracy in Great Britain lurk home rule and Socialism. Even our political opponents are doing their best to advertise Socialism.

Premier Asquith of Great Britain has declared against the referendum because it would do away with the representative character of Parliament. Initiative, referendum and right of recall make popular government. Parliamentary institutions and representative government make for autocratic government.

Up at Ottawa a Grit called a Grit a coward and a Tory called a Tory a liar and the stenographers wrote like fury and the people spent ten dollars a minute while the two politicians and their supporters raised a verbal row. And all the capitalist papers make a big splurge of the incident. And the wage-slave still swats away producing surplus values for the master class.

Spain's soldiers grew restless. The government gave them higher pay. The Brazil naval men struck for higher pay and trained the guns of the fleet up on the city of Rio de Janeiro. They got the raise. The soldier is a necessary worker for the capitalist in order to keep the productive worker in a position of slavery. When soldiers or sailors strike their wants are attended to at once.

Jim Hill sees a panic approaching. He has been to Taft and told him to look out for business squalls. Taft was incredulous. Jim declares that Taft could not see the danger as he lived in the political atmosphere and not in the industrial. Jim is seeing what the Socialists have been seeing for a long time. The top heavy, rotten business and industrial exploitation of the wage slaves produces chaos. Jim thinks going slow and letting the workers starve for a while will settle the matter. The Socialists know that a revolution is necessary before relief will come.

The United States Steel Corporation is introducing an old age pension scheme. All employees over sixty who have been employed for twenty years can retire on a pension. We Socialists look with suspicion upon the capitalists when they come bringing gifts to the men they plunder. Pension schemes when controlled by the masters are frequently used to keep men in subjection. The masters hold the pensions as a bait to the workers to work on small pay without striking in order to get given them a respectable penny. But experience shows that workmen will strike for higher pay even when it endangers their pension rights. For the masters overload the future hope of the workers with present poverty wages.

## THE NAVY QUESTION

The navy question has been up in Parliament. It has produced acrimonious discussion. But both Laurier and Borden are fighting over the difference between tweedledum and tweedledee. Laurier wants Canada to spend money for warships under Canadian control. Borden wants Canada to spend money for warships under British control.

It is plain to see why Laurier wants a navy. He has numerous friends with coal to sell and steel to dispose of. He has numerous friends who want to make millions out of a navy. The profit on each Dreadnaught built amounts to a million and a quarter dollars.

Governments are easy marks for capitalists. The governments of the world are supposed to be run for the benefit of all the people. But the governments are run for the benefit of the few. The national revenues are taken and disposed of to the friends of the politicians in power.

There will be fine pickings in the navy and Laurier wants these pickings to go to his friends. An army and a navy are used principally for this purpose. The American army scandals, French army scandals, German army scandals, and the permanent standing scandals of the British army show that the military forces of a nation are needed by the capitalist class as a method of easy profits.

R. L. Borden, on the other hand, has the imperial bee buzzing in his head. He wants Canada to pay millions to Great Britain to help her bear the burdens of the parasite capitalists. Borden wants Canada to pay that million and a quarter profit to the labor skimmers of Britain on the Dreadnaught proposition. Laurier stands for the home labor thief. Borden stands for the British labor thief.

It is not remarkable that in all the discussions over the navy the members of the working class, who will eventually have to bear the burden of the navy, are not mentioned nor considered. Why should the special political agents of the labor skimmers interrupt the serious business of their lives by considering the needs, hopes and aspirations of those who produce the wealth? The wealth has been produced by the workers. It has come into the hands of the government. The workers have done their share. Now the politicians are at work discussing which set of plunderers will enjoy the wealth produced by labor.

## TORY AND LIBERAL

The Tories of England have come out for the referendum. Balfour has pronounced in favor of submitting important questions to the people. Asquith has replied that this would destroy the importance of Parliament and would abolish the representative nature of the House of Commons. Asquith does not want the people to rule. He wants the Liberals, the representatives of the bourgeoisie to rule. The Liberals are as bad if not worse than the Tories.

This is not the first time that the Tories have dished the Whigs on a reform question. Out of thirty factory acts passed during the nineteenth century twenty were passed by the Tories. They also passed all the Trade Union Acts except the act of 1871, which almost annihilated the unions, and the act of 1906.

As a matter of fact neither the Liberals nor the Tories of Great Britain are aiming at the abolition of the underlying curse of Britain—wage slavery.

Two old women in Montreal, blind and helpless, have spent fifteen years in Montreal jail. They have never committed a crime. They cannot earn their living and have been arrested again and again on the charge of being vagrants. On November 29 they were released, having served a six months sentence. On November 30 they were found early in the morning huddled together on the steps of the city hall with no protection from the cold or snow. They were arrested on the charge of being vagrants with no visible means of support and will again endure prison fare and confinement because of their infirmities. This in Montreal, the richest city in Canada. But what else can you expect under the reign of capitalism, where to succeed needs cunning and cruelty and where the weak are trampled under foot.

Capitalist robbery is educating the workers in the ways of revolt.

## LLOYD GEORGE

Slowly the system of capitalism is crumbling. Lord George is a portent of the times.

In Great Britain too many have climbed into the capitalist coach. They have crowded in, they and their wives and their children and their men servants and their women servants. The workers left to pull the mass of idle humanity at the top are overburdened.

Poverty, poor wages, unemployment, heavy rents, squalid dwellings, all these are the symptoms of the overloaded capitalist coach. Some of the riders must be shoved off and made to walk or tug at the ropes. This is the function Lloyd George has set himself to perform.

The Chancellor cannot perform the task directly. He cannot perform the necessary amputation of unearned revenues after the manner of King John or Henry the Eighth. He cannot proceed to shake one parasite loose from his unearned revenues. It must be done legally, methodically and with due parliamentary dignity. He has placed a land tax upon the landlords and with the revenues raised he will increase the old age pensions and start the insurance of two millions of workmen against the hazards of unemployment.

At once those who live by the sweat of others become alarmed. Lloyd George is characterized by many terms of invective. The empire is said to be rocked to its foundation and in danger of sudden dissolution because a little of the unearned revenues are shaken out of the pockets of the over wealthy through a super tax.

Were the Lords but-wise they would realize that the Liberals were their best friends. The government is hurting the parasites a little in order to keep the restive working class from hurting them much.

## VICE

Prostitution is rampant in Winnipeg. There the police authorities maintain a segregated district where prostitution can be carried on without interference. The religious people, particularly Dr. Shearer, have been denouncing the protection of vice, and declaring that the police draw revenues for protection. Colin H. Campbell, Attorney-General of Manitoba, declares that the charges against the police are cruel slanders. But he says nothing about the cruelty of prostitution.

The City Council of Chatham, Ont., have decided to get rid of all disorderly houses. The police on Nov. 29th were instructed to institute raids and inform the inmates that they must leave the city.

In Montreal there are three recorders, Recorders Weir, Dupuis and Leet. Recorder Weir declares that prostitution must be stamped out. He believes in fining and jailing women. Recorder Dupuis believes that prostitution is necessary and should be protected by the government. The third recorder, Leet, believes that prostitution should be stamped out but that refugees should be maintained for the victims.

Capitalism cannot solve the evil. The capitalist judges and capitalist police have no remedy. Let prostitution be protected and it will spread. Let it be rigorously stamped out by police methods and it will retreat into private homes, and will spread.

Dupuis talks foolishly. So does Weir. Leet thinks he has a remedy in preparing refuges for the women. In the sixth century after Christ the Emperor Justinian of Constantinople chose as his empress Theodora, a prostitute. Theodora gathered up five hundred women from the streets of Constantinople and placed them in a refuge, a palace on the shores of the sea. Many of them threw themselves into the sea from despair and weariness at this system of compulsory reformation.

Prostitution is based not upon the desire of women to live immoral lives. It is based upon the economic needs of the women. It is a bread and butter problem.

Remove the economic pressure. Let the food, clothing and shelter and rest from long wearisome labor be the birth right of every woman child born into Canada and in a few years prostitution would cease from our cities, villages and towns.

Parliamentary institutions are decaying. We must choose between industrial democracy and capitalist autocracy.

Three persons have been shot in a strike riot in Chicago. The private ownership of jobs results in murder.

The hell hounds of the Czar are after Fedorenko. Shall our judges be allowed to obey the hell hounds of Russia?

The machine displaces the wage slave. Let the wage slaves collectively own the machines and the machines will make them free men.

Why do the grafters legalized and otherwise get away with the graft? Simply because the voting cattle vote for their own robbery.

The Pope is now approving the Kaiser of Germany. This is a sure sign that the Kaiser is about to get it in his political neck.

The plutocrat politician talks a lot about benefitting the consumer. He fights shy of the question of benefitting the producer. That would give the game of the capitalists away.

We have an anti-combine law on our statute books. But it is never enforced and will not cure the trust evil. For the trusts have come to stay. The remedy is not to smash the combines but to socialize them.

Socialism does not stand for dividing up. Capitalism stands for that. Socialism stands for the collective ownership of the means of wealth production and social enjoyment thereof.

Two hundred and fifty men are still locked out by the Grand Trunk Railway owing to the recent strike. The workers must expect this kind of treatment as long as they allow the capitalist class to own the jobs.

The Steel Trust is going to pension its employees. When Socialists advocate old age pensions they are cried down as wanting to reward lazy shiftless beggars. When the plutes give a pension dote the plutes are called generous fellows.

It cost the New York state Democratic committee \$328,870 to elect their ticket with Dix at the head. Big Business had the money and backed Dix. To say the election of Dix was a victory for the common people is to say what is not so.

The Liberals give Canada capitalist robbery. The Tories are hungry for the job of getting a chance to help the plutes. The Socialists are the only class that stands for a square deal for those who produce the wealth.

When slave laws are in force then the mass of men and women are either exploited slaves or parasite exploiters. The slave laws are in force in Canada, and they result in exploited worker and exploiting capitalist.

Competition in railroads is dead. Transportation is a natural monopoly. Yet Laurier and his backers are building the G. T. R. and giving it to a private railroad company under the pretense of competition. But the plutes need the craft and the people of Canada will stand robbery without kicking.

Socialism is based on the revolution produced by the capitalist mode of production. Socialism is bound to come as the political super-structure based on the socialization of production and exchange. Whether it come by means of the general strike, of parliamentary action or by violent upheaval the future alone will disclose.

The Socialist revolution will cause the exploited class to rise to power and thus end exploitation. Former revolutions resulted in the rise of a new parasite class the overthrow of an old and the continued exploitation of the workers. When the workers rise then there will be the final abolition of all parasitism.

The agitation among the western farmers is good. Their demand for public ownership is also good. Their putting the fear of the people into the hearts of the political tricksters at Ottawa is also good. But their demands will not solve the problem of robbery, the problem of special privilege nor the problem of unemployment. These rest upon the curse of slavery which desolates our Canadian land.

## CHEAPER GAS

A Montreal paper is conducting a campaign for cheaper gas. The gas company charges a high price. The gas capitalists make much money. The capitalist paper is trying to reduce the price of gas. This does not mean that the capitalist sheet is fighting the battle of the exploited.

This particular paper praises Montreal. It boasts the price of real estate. When rents go up it declares that Montreal is getting prosperous.

Now too many idlers cannot ride on the backs of the exploiters. The workers can only support a certain number of parasite plunderers. It naturally follows that the capitalists will squabble among themselves as to who shall have the easiest and most luxurious time. When the workingmen rebel all the plutes rush to beat back the workers to slavery. When the workers are patient then the squabbles among the plunderers come to the front.

If the gas company gets much revenue then there will be less revenue for the landlords. So the capitalist sheet fights the plunder of the gas company in the interests of the plunder of the landlords.

And the simple people rush to buy the capitalist sheet and think that there is a paper that will protect them from being robbed. When the people are easy marks cheap tricks like the above will keep them quiet and delighted.

But bother take it. Those pesky Socialists are increasing in Montreal and are opening the eyes of the people to the universal robbery to which they are subject. Cheap tricks will not much longer keep the people quiet.

## Taxation Without Representation

Taxation without representation was the wrong that drove the American colonies to revolt. Taxation without representation caused Mackenzie and Papineau to rebel in Canada. Taxation without representation is being practised upon the workmen of Canada.

The railroad workers of Canada perform the work of transporting the commodities and travellers of Canada. Their labor produces the revenues of the railway companies. Yet the transport workers do not have representatives who say how the revenues of the railways shall be spent. The steel makers and coal miners produce steel and coal. Yet the revenues from the sale of the commodities are not handled by men who do the work. The wealth produced by the coal miners and steel makers is automatically managed and disposed of by a privileged class. The industrial wealth produced by the working class is appropriated by the master class. The workers are taxed by the capitalists of all the surplus values they produce. And the workers have no say in what manner the wealth shall be disposed of.

As a result we see the inevitable outcome. The inarticulate and taxed class live in the crowded quarters of the city. The superior class live in palaces. The wealth which the capitalists tax away from the industrial workers is used, not to benefit these taxed, but to allow those who do the taxing to live in much luxury.

The Socialist demand is that industrial democracy be introduced. Let those who create the wealth have the disposal thereof. This is nothing but just. Yet the privileged capitalist class fight this demand preferably by cunning; by force when necessary. When in history did the privileged class do anything else?

Dr. J. E. Laberge, in a special report to the City Council of Montreal declared that many of the refugees of Montreal were unsanitary and bred diseases. Under capitalism the weak are beaten down into filth. Dr. Laberge recommends the building of municipal night refuges. This is the best capitalism can propose, a resting place for the wrecks. The capitalist system cannot eliminate the production of human wrecks. They are by-products of the unearned revenues of those who live on the labor of others.

Winston Churchill when he went to Africa took a lot of books on Socialism with him to study. He came back and has announced that Socialism will destroy initiative and enterprise. This declaration is what we might expect from a man who went to darkest Africa for enlightenment.