

## RECORDER DUPUIS' SPEECH

### PASSING REMARKS

ROSA GABRIEL

When a woman advocates equal rights with man, even in so small a matter as using the vote in municipal and parliamentary affairs, she is looked upon by a great many men as a useless being, or as a sour old spinster whose womanly nature has been warped by some disappointment of the affections, that having failed to enter that matrimonial Elysium which is generally supposed to be her one goal in life, has retired from the world in high dudgeon, migrated to one room and lavishes her affections upon a few cats, and by way of diversion meddles in politics.

It is clear to us women, that those men do not want us to act in the political drama, or even to get one glimpse behind the scenes. They are most anxious that we should keep our places in the audience and like obedient children, applaud, whether we admire the drama or not.

Let a woman dare to raise a voice on any subject, other than washing clothes, scrubbing floors, or minding babies, and she is immediately dubbed immodest, unwomanly, unsexed. Whatever thoughts and statements she may entertain outside of the domestic regime, must be suppressed. That is not her sphere. The days when women were considered the weaker and dependant sex are over. Our lords have drawn the rein too tight and we rebel. The injustice of man-made laws are only too evident. We have a striking incident before us in Recorder Dupuis' speech of the 25th ult.

We are face to face to-day with a terrible evil, one of the greatest evils that exist, an evil which concerns women more than men; inasmuch as a woman, be she the greater or the lesser sinner is without the question, always the sufferer. It is the woman who pays.

The social evil, as we term it, is one of the evils which is sapping the strength of the nation; it is contaminating our young men and women; and its effect on the next generation can only be guessed at. It is a serious question, and one which calls for the unbiased judgement of wholesome minded men and women.

Recorder Dupuis as a judge has failed. He would have us believe that he has been doing his best to stop the evil, while all the time he has been hiding it—carefully guarding the reputation of the decent men who are engaged in this traffic and preventing their families from being broken up. He says that his methods, though they may not meet with the approval of those Barnumesque spirits who want scandal, at least meets the ends of justice. Do they?

Is it justice that one man shall be allowed to interpret the law and dispense justice according to his own perverted ideas of sin and sinners, without the knowledge and consent of his colleague and contrary to laws themselves?

Is it justice that he should pounce on the weaker sinners, treat them like vermin, while he smiles sympathy and consent on the stronger and greater sinner, while he helps him to escape in the dark?

His Honor tells us that he belongs to the human school of judges. I would like to know what he means, as I fail to see either one touch of humanity either in his actions or his speech. He goes on to tell us that thanks to Mr. French more than five hundred of these poor wretches have been allowed to take on the appearance of honest women, and with the aid of this mask, they have introduced themselves into honest residences. They have invaded the restaurants, stores, etc., and within the next two months there will be two hundred more of these women free to contaminate the city. Where are their partners in sin? Are they not free? Are they not in respectable houses, invading restaurants and stores? Are they not free to roam the city and under the judicial protection of Recorder Dupuis allowed to infest society as honest men? Our worthy Recorder has quite overlooked the fact that these women do not sin alone, that these women could not carry on an immoral and illegal traffic if it were not for those respectable and decent citizens he is so ably defending.

He says: "It appears what offends the paragon of public virtue most is the fact that no additional scandals are provoked because no arrests are made of men who may be found in these houses." And then he waxes eloquent in the cause. "It is," he says, "necessary to appease the truly virtuous, the professionally virtuous, to bring desire to

the wife, the young daughter, to carry war into the household, to enjoy in public the confusion of a man who forgot himself at a certain moment, to feed on his shame, and wickedly and intimately to watch in imagination the pain of his people. Those are magnanimous sentiments and I would like to know if Recorder Dupuis puts them into practice when judging the man who, driven to desperation by the pangs of hunger, in a moment of temptation steals a piece of bread, and does he allow those generous and Christian sentiments to predominate when passing judgement on a poor miserable girl who has been betrayed and in a moment of frenzy kills her child? I think not.

His plea for momentary weakness falls flat. I know of many causes which eventually drives a woman to those depths; but I know of none which drives a man there except his depraved nature. It is certainly not a moment of forgetfulness but deliberate sin.

The evil is great one and drastic measures ought to be taken to stamp it out, but by all means let us have fair play. Why should not a man be punished if he is guilty? Why should he not take his place in the dock by the side of his partner in guilt? There is only one reason and it is this. The laws were made by man for himself and while this lasts women must not expect justice, because she will not get it.

Recorder Dupuis concludes by telling us that when he was appointed to the dignity of judge he did not cease to be a man. That goes without saying. The whole speech testifies to that fact and proves to us how much a man is Mr. Dupuis, and how very little a judge.

Not until we get clean, wholesome, pure minded men and women in power will we ever arrive at a sensible solution of this problem of the traffic of souls.

## Why the Farmer Owns His Farm

In the childhood of many now living the Canadian West was not settled up as it is now. There were great tracts of land entirely useless to society until improved.

The capitalist adjusted his keen-vision spectacles and scanned his proposition with care. It meant, will you take your wife from home, friends and kindred, and your children from educational advantages, go on a far journey many miles by wagon, live in a hole in the bank, engage in a hand to hand struggle with Nature, contend with grasshoppers, bollweevils, chinch bugs, green flies, drouth and flood in order to make an unproductive wilderness a productive country?

And the capitalist answered softly to himself, "no not if I can get the other fellows to do it."

And the other fellow did it,

And the years passed by, and through the labor of the pioneers these lands became gold mines, and the capitalist had another proposition to consider: Shall I buy these farms and operate them? And the specs were adjusted and the proposal viewed in all its bearings. It meant this—shall I pay out a large sum of money for land, more for buildings and repairs, more for stock, for insurance, taxes, seed, agricultural implements and labor, and for all this outlay assume all risk from grasshoppers, chinch bugs, green flies, boll weevils, drouth and flood?

And the capitalist sighed softly to himself and said, no thank you, not if I can get the other fellow to do it. I would very much prefer to conform to capitalist constitution which is—avoid all expense, all risk, and all work as far as possible. Besides, I already own the railroads, the stock market and the mills; and as long as I can pay the farmer what I please for his products, charge what I please for hauling them to market, and also what I please for hauling back to him all his supplies and exact from him what prices I chose to ask for all he buys, I think I can manage by being industrious, economical and avoiding drink, to eke out an existence without owning the farm; and for the welfare of our great country and for the honor of the flag which floats over the just and unjust alike, I will be willing to deny myself this great pleasure, as long as I can buy the farmer's wheat at eighty cents a bushel and sell him back the bran at the same price (one dollar and thirty-five cents a hundred).

As long as the farmers will vote once a year to bear all the expense, do all the work and take all the risks, and pay me the same price per hundred for bran that I pay him for wheat, I will be satisfied.

So that is why the farmer owns his farm.—Jay Eye See.

### ITEMS OF INTEREST

#### To the Workers of the Dominion of Canada.

The price for business 'phones in Alberta for the coming year, is to be \$39, instead of \$50; residential 'phones, \$25 instead of \$30, and desk 'phones, \$6 instead of \$12.

The smallest electric motor in the world was made by a Texas electrician and watchmaker, who uses it as a scarfpin and drives it with a tiny chloride of silver battery.

On June 30th last, the total miles of road in operation in Canada was 22,966, with 4,327 miles under construction. Over twelve hundred miles of new line were completed during the year.

The National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives of Great Britain, according to its half yearly financial statement, just issued, has \$584,200 in its treasury. The membership of the union is 30,508.

Two-cent letter postage between the United States and Newfoundland has become a reality on March 1, the American government having agreed to the reduction. The postage has hitherto been five cents.

A house to house census which has been taken under the auspices of the trades union at Berlin, Germany shows a total of unemployed persons in Berlin, of 97,367 in addition to 33,933 unemployed in the suburbs.

George Howell, secretary of the Trades and Labor Council, and C. M. O'Brien, Dominion organizer for the Socialists in the province, have been selected by the Socialists of Calgary as candidates in the approaching Alberta provincial elections.

We must bind our women to our hearts with hoops of steel. Every privilege which we enjoy we must hold back not an instant from them. For every woman left at home to drudge, her mind unlighted by the Socialist flame, we will miss another voice and heart in the day when we'll need both.

Every additional subscription gained for COTTON'S WEEKLY means a double gain—it means the carrying of the Socialist propaganda into one more household every day, and means much more power in the office to keep up the paper and carry it on to assured success. A word to the wise should be sufficient.

The Labor Committee of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council have sent an appeal to the organized workers of Eastern Canada, asking them when purchasing headgear, to buy only hats bearing the union label of the Hatters International Union of America. Some twenty thousand men are involved in a fight against the combine.

The Victorian Australia Legislative Assembly elections have resulted in the return of 39 anti-Socialists, 21 Labor and Socialist members and 5 Independents. The Labor party gained six seats. The Melbourne "Age," in summing up these results, forecasts that the Ministerialists will number 22 and the Opposition, including the Labor members, 43.

The number of passengers carried on Canadian railways during the past year was 24,044,992, an increase of 1,907,673, or 5.9 per cent., over 1907. The average passenger journey for the year was 61 miles, and the average number of passengers per train 54. The number of tons of freight hauled during the year was 63,071,167, showing a decrease of 794,968 tons or 1.24 per cent.

The rapid growth of the Socialist movement in Germany has astonished many people who do not understand the tremendous vitality of Socialism. The latest report of the Berlin section of the party shows that where the Social Democrats had only 8,000 votes in this city in 1883, they are now polling 100,000 votes in the third class of voters alone, as against a bare 22,000 for all the other parties. The thirty-five Socialists in the Berlin City Council virtually control the body, but their power is greatly restricted by national and state laws.

The gross earnings on the Canadian railway of Canada for the past year amounted to \$146,738,214, an increase of \$180,098 over 1907. Operating expenses averaged \$4,672 per mile of line showing an increase of \$51 per mile over 1907. The percentage of operating expenses to gross earnings was 73.04, an increase of 2.34. Net earnings for 1908 were \$39,614,171, a decrease of \$3,376,366. The returns with respect to equipment show a substantial increase in motive power and cars during the year. The number of locomotives added was 368; freight cars, 8,302, and passenger cars, 384.

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The returns of accidents on Canadian railroads for 1908 show that 449 persons were killed and 2,347 injured. As compared with 1907 the fatalities were 140 less, but the number of persons injured was greatest by 195. The total number of passengers killed was 28, as compared with 79 in 1907. The number injured was 345, as compared with 352 in the preceding year. During the year 224 employees were killed and 1,793 injured. There was but one passenger killed to every 1,215,892 carried, and one in 98,691 was injured. Only two passengers were killed in collisions, as compared with 26 during the preceding year. Only eight were killed by derailments, as compared with 21. Of the 100,739 railway employees in Canada one in every 449 was killed, and one in every 56 injured. In the case of trainmen the statistics prove that one in every twenty-three were injured, and one in every one hundred and sixty-eight killed.

#### Legislation for the Workers

I should like to draw your readers attention to fact that a bill to abolish the Poll Tax in British Columbia was recently introduced into the local house at Victoria, and as usual with any bill which is to benefit the workers it was defeated.

Comrades Hawthornwaite, Parker Williams and McInnis with three others voted for the bill, but thirty-one Liberals and Tories voted against it. Who pays the three dollars poll tax in B. C. and Alberta? The working man; yet the old parties come out and tell us that they are the friends of labor. It is about time that some people dropped the scales from their eyes and used their ballots in their own interests.

F. HYATT,  
Calgary.

#### Labor in Great Britain

Mr. Keir Hardie, the chairman at the Labor Conference held in England recently, stated that at the end of 1908 the wages of working classes of Great Britain were down £26,000 per week. It was significant that while the wages of the working-class had declined to the amount of £1,300,000 a year, the amount of income assessed for income tax had increased by £14,700,000, which showed that the robbery of labor was proceeding at an increasing pace.

Recently it had become fashionable to advocate technical instruction, and a return to the apprenticeship system as a remedy. People forgot that the average of the skilled workmen on the unemployed list was 9 per cent., and to multiply the number of skilled workers would be to increase the total of unemployed.

Whilst Free Trade did not solve the Labor problem, in all probability Protection, however disguised, would tend to aggravate it.

#### Alberta Elections

Calgary, Feb. 25th, 1909.

Local Calgary has decided to run two candidates for the city of Calgary in the forthcoming Alberta Provincial Elections. The sum of \$200 is required as a deposit fee. Who will help us fight the battle of the worker against the Capitalist combine (Tories and Liberals)? Donations will be thankfully received and acknowledged by

F. HYATT  
Box 270, Calgary, Alta.

#### HOW IT SPELLED.

Miss Antique (school teacher)—"what does w-h-i-t-e spell?"

Class—No answer.

Miss Antique—"What is the colour of my skin?"

Class (in chorus)—"Yellow."

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