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# Cotton's Weekly

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## Gab Fest at Ottawa

**M.P.'s Talk Useless Rot at Ottawa at a Cost of \$11 per Minute, while Unnecessary Want Walks the Streets of Our Cities and Haunts the Shacks of Our Prairies.**

### FOREWARD

To many, Cotton's Weekly appears to be wild and unreasonable. To many it seems that Cotton's Weekly says harsh things about honorable gentlemen without cause. A good many common people, whom Lanctot declared God liked because "He made so many of them, feel kindly towards their fellowmen in whatsoever position they may be placed, and whatsoever they may do as long as these fellowmen continue to smile and reach out a glad hand with a hearty grip to it.

We who are Socialists, who have studied history and psychology, who know the motives actuating men, who have analyzed modern political activity, forget sometimes that we have weaker brethren who are deceived and know not they are deceived. We denounce without giving the reasons why we denounce. To us the robberies of the capitalist class and the malicious activity of their political jackals at Ottawa are so apparent that we take it for granted that all the exploited farmers and wage slaves of this fair Dominion of ours must of necessity see these fellowmen in their true light, as the destroyers of freedom who fatten on the sufferings of others.

But we must remember that we have studied. Many wage slaves and farmers are kept so busy working for the capitalists that they have little time to reason out why they must spend such laborious days in this age of invention, labor saving machines and rapid production of the necessities of life. They feel lonely and when the political jackal of the master class reaches out the warm hand they feel touched and vote for the representative that rises on their votes to betray them into deeper slavery.

The limitations to study, on the part of those whose bodies are so wearied by labor that they have little energy left to give to their brains that their minds may think out the cunning schemes of their rulers, is one of the reasons for this. The fact remains that the political betrayers of the toilers grow to great power on the slavery of the men they legislate into slavery. Walt Whitman declared that he was continually surprised at great masses of men being moved by men who had no faith in men. Tennyson says:

Plowmen, shepherds, have I found,  
and more than once, and still  
could find,

Sons of God, and kings of men in utter  
nobleness of mind,  
Truthful, trustful, looking upward to  
the practised hushings liar;

So the Higher wields the Lower,  
while the Lower is the Higher.

I have frequently said that the lawyers are the jackals of the capitalist class. I have frequently said that the two parties at Ottawa are both capitalist parties and that their opposition against one another means nothing. It is a fake opposition which is staged for the fooling of the toiling population of Canada to deceive them into thinking that their rights are being protected. I have frequently said that Parliament is a gabfest and that the only work done is that done for the master class. I wish in the present article to show you one day's activity in Parliament. I wish to show you just what a fake game your representatives are playing. I have taken for this purpose the discussion in Parliament that took place on Thursday, April 27th. When I have finished I hope you will see just how you are fooled, and wake to a realization of the necessity of electing Socialists to Parliament, who will use the political power you give them to benefit the wealth producers of Canada.

### ADELARD LANCTOT, M. P.

You no doubt remember the spurge made in the capitalist papers about Adelard Lanctot, M. P., the honorable Member of Parliament for the electoral district of Richieu, P. Q. The town of Sorel is the home of this gentleman, who by the way, is an advocate. Sorel is noted for being one of the show graft places of the Liberal government. You remember the exposures that took place over the management of the Department of the Marine Fisheries. There were all kinds of graft in this Department. The Liberal government so far has refused to investigate thoroughly the graft in this branch of the

service. A little corner was raised and Sorel was brought into unpleasant prominence in this connection. For Sorel is one of the chief centres where wage slaves are employed by the Marine Department of Canada and where paints, oils, ships and supplies of the Department are prepared and stored.

Adelard Lanctot, M. P., Advocate, born 1874 and Liberal M. P., since 1907, had the happy lot of being an M. P. and of living in the government town of Sorel. In 1909 he began to build a house. In May 1910 the house was so far completed as to be ready for the painters. Adelard Lanctot, M. P., interviewed the government employees of Sorel and as a result the wage slaves of the government were put to work painting the house of this honorable gentleman. The paints and oils were furnished out of the government stores. Government painters were at work during the months of July, August, September and October, according to the sworn testimony of some of the painters.

It was quite a large house. Mr. Lanctot evidently found the practise of his profession, or his political activity, or his parasite revenues from the sweat of robbed laborers very large, for the painting came to quite an amount. When questions began to arise about Mr. Lanctot's house and there appeared to be trouble brewing, Mr. Lanctot gave a check to the government officials on November 22nd 1910 for the sum of \$375.00 as payment for the government wage slaves employed in painting his mansion. (What wage slave in Canada can afford to live in a house which costs \$375.00 in labor alone to paint?) This check was not cashed until January 12th, 1911. The bill for government paints and oils furnished by the government was \$81.60. This was paid. The total came to \$457.20. Bear that amount in mind.

The workers were furnished in a slip shod manner. The time was kept on loose leaves shoved into the corner of a desk and brought forth when demanded by a parliamentary committee. The workers swore they were employed eight weeks. The time-keeper swore they were employed two weeks, in some cases. Some witnesses swore that the work done was less than \$457.20. Other witnesses swore the work was worth from \$700 to \$1000. So you see there was considerable difference of opinion about the value of the work done. It was not until the matter was ventilated and became a public scandal that the loose time sheets were forthcoming. The check was given when the matter had become public talk and was not cashed until there was a certainty of a public investigation.

The Independence Parliament Act, chapter 10 of the Senate and House of Commons Act, section 14 reads as follows:

NO PERSON, directly or indirectly, alone or with any other, by himself or by the interposition of any trustee or third party, holding or ENJOYING, undertaking or executing ANY CONTRACT OR AGREEMENT, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, with or for the government of Canada on behalf of the Crown, or WITH or FOR ANY OF THE OFFICERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, FOR WHICH ANY PUBLIC MONEY OF CANADA IS TO BE PAID, shall be eligible as a member of the House of Commons, or SHALL SET OR VOTE IN THE SAID HOUSE.

Read the words in capitals and find out for yourself just what right Adelard Lanctot has to sit and vote.

### THE FAKE FIGHT IS STAGED

Here we have a brief sketch of the facts. An M. P. is caught using government property. He has enjoyed the services of workmen and materials in the employ of the government for which government moneys have been paid. When the matter becomes public he repays the government in part at least for the services and materials rendered. According to the Act he is at least technically guilty in the eyes of the law. There is a situation prepared in which a great show of fighting can be displayed. Much language can be employed. Lawyers will have a chance to talk. The people can be deceived with a great flourish of words. The common people out of whose unpaid labor the capitalists get all their revenues will see a fight staged for their particular observance and may be led to think that the Members of Parliament are fighting and opposing one another all for the benefit of the dear people. The Members of Parliament, in order to deceive the people, actually spent eleven and one-half hours discussing the matter and putting up a great word battle. And every member of Parliament laughed in his sleeve while the fake fight was going on. For each and all of them knew what the decision would be before the gabfest started.

The newspapers were pressed into the service. The Tory papers came out in flaring headlines, telling of the awful case of Adelard Lanctot, M. P., who was caught grafting. The Liberal papers defended Adelard Lanctot and declared that he had paid back every cent to the government for work done and had only got the government workers to do the job because there were absolutely no unemployed painter wage slaves on the commodity market to be bought and he could only get the work done by borrowing the government wage slaves which the government officers lent him in order that the poor man need not live in his magnificent mansion during the winter months and suffer the mental tortures of an artistic soul because of its unpainted and hideous appearance.

When the capitalist publicity agencies had sufficiently ballyhooed the coming word battle in Parliament to the common muffs who are robbed by almost every law passed by the capitalist jackal legislators at Ottawa, the leading talkers among the M. P.'s unlimbered themselves and got to work.

### THE COST OF TALK

It will be well, I think, at this point, to discover to you the cost of talk. We say that lawyers come high. That talk is cheap except when it is done by a lawyer or notary or doctor. The wage slaves must produce food, clothing and shelter. They must clothe the bodies of their masters in fine cloth. They must build big houses for them and pleasure grounds, and delicate foods. They must labor long hours and get on an average less than two dollars a day.

The professional man lets loose a string of unproductive words and these words come high.

Adelard Lanctot, M. P., is an advocate. The discussion of his conduct in Parliament lasted eleven and one-half hours. Save for a few questions asked the speakers and a few words interjected into the discourses, there were thirteen Members of Parliament who took part in the discussion and of these thirteen members, TEN WERE LAWYERS, TWO WERE DOCTORS AND ONE WAS A NOTARY.

Let us see how much these speeches cost the country. Let us look into the expense of this sham fight arranged by the supporters of the capitalist parasites in order that the workers might be fooled. We cannot tell how much Parliament will cost this year, but we know how much it cost last and we can come pretty near finding out just what these speeches cost the country.

The last session of Parliament lasted from November 14th, 1909 to May 14th, 1910, or a hundred and seventy-five days. The cost of the members of Parliament to the country came to \$553,208. As Parliament lasted 175 days, the cost of the members averaged \$3,161 per day. The incidentals of the House of Commons came to \$117,556, or \$2,386 a day. The Senate cost the country \$358,556, or \$2,049 per day. The total of these three items comes to \$1,329,320, or at the rate of \$7,596 per day. This is not all the expense. There was an expense of \$49,327 for the library of Parliament. There was an expense of \$173,637 printing, printing paper and binding. There are other expenses but I have not included these in the reckoning as I wish to make a conservative estimate of the cost of the talk of the M. P.'s on April 27. The Senate can rightly be considered part of the cost of parliament because the Senate is kept up simply as a home for the aged and infirm politicians whose sole duty is to vote down such little measures as Verville's eight hour day bill.

Basing our calculation on the cost last year of \$7,596 per day, we can easily find out what the direct cost to the country was of the discussion of Adelard Lanctot's little doings.

The cost was for the day, \$7,596. As the discussion lasted eleven and a half hours, from 3 to 6 p. m. and from 8 p. m. Thursday, to 4.30 a. m. Friday morning, the cost was \$600.50 per hour, or over \$11 per minute. As there were thirteen speeches each speech cost \$581.

### THE FAKED FIGHT

Talk that costs \$11 per minute should be something worth while. It assuredly ought to be productive of good to the people. The welfare of the workers, the wealth producers, should be carefully considered when like and talk costs so much.

But nothing of the kind happened. Six Liberals got up and solemnly asserted in many words that Lanctot was a much maligned man. Seven Conservatives got up alternating with the six Liberals and asserted in many words that Lanctot should no longer be allowed the privileges of a Member. The question was just where it was before the discussion began.

Do you not remember that old story in the school readers of our young days. "And another little ant went in and carried off another grain of corn?" Listen and see if this is not just as ridiculous.

W. M. German, Advocate, Liberal, M. P., for Welland got up and said in many words that Adelard Lanctot was an honorable man and did not intend to steal any part of the \$457.20. And he sat down and his speech cost the country \$581.

And F. D. Monk, K. C., B. C. L., D. C. L., Advocate, Conservative M. P., for Jacques Cartier, P. Q., got up and said in many words that the conduct of Adelard Lanctot was very suspicious and he should no longer be allowed to remain an M. P. And he sat down and his speech cost the country \$581.

And Sir Allan Aylesworth, M. A., K. C., P. C., Advocate, Liberal M. P., Ontario North, got up and said in many words that Adelard Lanctot was an honorable man and did not intend to steal any part of the \$457.20. And he sat down and his speech cost the country \$581.

And C. J. Doherty, D. C. L., L. L. D., K. C., ex-judge, advocate, Conservative M. P., for Ste. Anne, Montreal, got up and said in many words that the conduct of Adelard Lanctot with respect to the \$457.20 was very suspicious and he should no longer be allowed to remain an M. P. And he sat down and his speech cost the country \$581.

And V. Gifford, K. C., advocate, Liberal M. P., for Vercheres, P. Q., got up and said in many words that Adelard Lanctot was an honorable man and did not intend to steal any part of the \$457.20. And he sat down and his speech cost the country \$581.

And T. W. ... but why engage in a word battle with the rest. Crothers, Tory, advocate, M. P., for Elgin West, was against Lanctot. G. W. Kyte, Advocate, Liberal M. P., for Richmond, N. S., was for Lanctot. J. D. Reid, M. D., Tory, W. B. Nantel, advocate, Tory, and Eugene Paquet, M. D., Tory, were against Lanctot, while L. P. Brodeur, Advocate, Liberal, D. A. Lafortune, Advocate, Liberal, and P. E. Blondin, Notary Public, Liberal, spoke in favor of Lanctot. And each of their speeches cost \$581.

You can easily judge the result of the vote! Every Liberal member voted that Lanctot was an honorable man and every Conservative member voted that Lanctot was a dishonorable creature. And as the Liberals were in the majority Lanctot is an honorable gentleman by vote of the House of Commons.

### IT IS TIME

We Socialists know that a man's morality and outlook are determined by the way he gets his living. Birds of a feather flock together. In every province the legal profession is a close corporation. Lawyers do not prey upon one another. They prey upon the public.

The outcome of the whitewashing of Lanctot was a foregone conclusion. Do you think that ten lawyers would turn upon one lawyer and put him where he could not get \$2500 for

taking part in a lot of talk? The attack and defence of Lanctot was one of those little episodes of parliament which the members think it wise to arrange on occasion in order that the voters may not get too discontented. It is an old trick.

After the great fight, after the people were aroused by a personal attack upon an M. P., and after the House had decided that the M. P. was an honorable gentleman, the House got down to business. The next day the Members only worked five and a half hours. Here was capitalist business to be done and it was done. Such little bills as the bill to incorporate the Ontario-Michigan Railway Company and to incorporate the Pacific and Hudson Bay Railway Company passed their second readings as a matter of course. The capitalist class wants to build more railways and to have the wage slaves do the work while the capitalists own the railways. Sure thing. Both Tory and Grit are ready to accommodate their masters the capitalist class. Such little franchises as these slipped through the House of Commons like greased lightning.

Can't you see the whole political game? Can't you see that the workers have nothing to hope for from the capitalist representatives at Ottawa? If they were out to help you they would talk and talk far differently. They would not squabble over and whitewash the Lanctots and waste \$7,596 of time over a little \$457.20 bill. They would drop all such trifles and get after the big things. They would enquire into the robbery of the workers. They would put a stop to the skin game of the banks. They would put a stop to the private ownership of the mines. They would take steps to vest the ownership of the means of production and distribution in the collective working class. They would give labor what it earns and make the capitalists and their hangers on get into the ranks of the productive workers.

They do not do this. They keep quiet all such questions of the rights of the workers. They let laws slip through the quiet that give millions to the parasites. They pass laws to further enslave the workers. Then when the workers show signs of growing restless they single out one of their own members, arrange a sham fight over his little peccadillo doings and in the end whitewash him with a great flourish of the white-wash brush.

Are you forever going to stand for such trickery? Why not seize the remedy? You have the votes, workmen. Why not use them? Why not select men of your own class to go to Ottawa? Must you forever vote for the jackal lawyers? Are not your Comrades in toil more fit to represent your desires than the soft-handed, well paid henchmen of your masters?

The Dominion elections are coming off next year. Begin now and talk among yourselves. Get over the idea that you are not able to run your own politics. Pick out some of your revolutionary Comrades and vote them into power.

Then when you have working class representatives in the legislative halls of Ottawa will echo to different words. The right of the wage slaves to liberty will be rung in the ears of the capitalist politicians.

Sir Allan Aylesworth, the man who prevented the Appeal to Reason circulating in Canada when the capitalist thugs had unleashed their dogs of law and were shaking Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone by the throat and the Appeal had sprung to the rescue of these heroes in the class war, had this to say in the discussion as to whether Lanctot should remain in the House: "This House, as the House of Commons in England, has been spoken of before now as a gentlemen's club. CERTAINLY IT OUGHT NOT TO BE PUT ON ANY LOWER FOOTING."

Your strong arms forge the steel. Your strong bodies lay the tracks, build the mansions, build the jails in which the unemployed of your class are shut up as tramps by your masters. And their jackals at Ottawa make laws against you, engage in sham fights to deceive you, and declare that the body of legislators that make these laws is a gentleman's club and must not be put on any lower footing.

Workers of Canada. It is time you were achieving your own liberty. It is time your strong arms were seiz-

ing that little piece of paper called the ballot and chasing the lawyers from the halls of Ottawa and putting the members of your class there.

It is useless to alleviate poverty. The thing to do is to obviate it.

Beware of the Boy Scout movement. For the parasites of Canada are using this movement for the perpetuation of their robbery upon the workers of Canada.

You elect a man to Parliament who believes that legalized graft is right. Then you become indignant when that M. P. slops over and grafts on his own account. Are you not foolish to expect that political purity will spring from a man who believes in corruption?

The vast mass of Canadians are disgusted both with the Grits and the Tories. The only trouble is that each individual voter thinks he alone is disgusted. They only need to discover how disgusted they all are to turn out the talking parrots that invest Ottawa at the present moment.

The Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company estimate that they own 200,000,000 tons of unmined coal. When the social revolution has triumphed and it comes to reckoning what the working class will have to pay to the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company for their coal areas the price will be reckoned on the basis of the amount of labor it cost the Company parasites to put the unmined coal in the ground, and the parasites will get nothing.

On the first of May the new Quebec law went into force and the liquor saloons could not open till seven o'clock. This was not passed as a temperance measure. It was passed to prevent the wage slaves of the Province from taking their morning bitters on the way to work. Whisky is bad, particularly the Quebec licensed saloon kind of rotgut. But slave-drivers do not want their slaves to booze because it reduces their efficiency. But in this case as in all others the capitalists must be their own gravediggers. For in making wage slaves strong for slave work, they are also making them strong to think for themselves and strong to conquer their masters in the coming revolution.

You workers have in your own hands, the power by which you may consciously make your economic and social world. When you learn to use your class power intelligently, want, poverty, degradation, child-labor, sweat shops for men, women and children, and long degrading hours of drudgery will pass away and be remembered only as a bad dream. Wind, steam, electricity are now harnessed to the magic tools you have created and handed over to your masters to torture you with. When you have intelligence enough to possess yourselves of them, they will relieve your burdens. While you recognize your master's title to them, they are the instruments of your enslavement and the enslavement of your wives and children. Study Socialism and learn the way to economic, social and intellectual freedom.

The accountants of the Grand Trunk Railway Company have been figuring up the cost to the company of the late strike and they find the direct loss to be \$700,000. Indirect losses will bring this amount up to over a million dollars. It is said that this is the loss to the company. But we know that all the income of capitalists come from the unpaid labor of the workers. This \$700,000 loss therefore is nothing but a part of the unpaid labor of workers that the G. T. parasites thought they would get and did not. How foolish workers are to allow a set of parasites to rob them of all. Why do not the Grand Trunk workers work, not for a greater wage bill, but for the ownership by their class, the workers, of the Grand Trunk railway system along with all the other means of wealth production and distribution?

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