

# Cotton's Weekly

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W. U. COTTON, B.A., B.C.L., EDITOR AND PROP.

CLEAR THE WAY FOR THE CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH

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## OUR COURTS

With the evolution of industry and with the changing conditions the institutions of the country became outworn. What were once supposed to be instruments of justice become instruments of injustice.

Canadian courts are getting to be political institutions swung in the interests of the master class. The courts are the instruments used by capitalists for the carrying out of capitalist ideas. Consequently the pretensions of our courts to be worthy of respect fall to the ground. They are becoming contemptible.

Out in British Columbia an election campaign is on. The Premier, Mr. McBride should have a chance to tour the country to expound his views. These views are capitalist and oppressive but still he should have a chance of expressing them. To keep him out of the campaign an old libel suit is raked up and he is summoned to a court as a witness. If he does not attend the capitalist court will hold him guilty of contempt and jail him till the campaign is over. Thus in the west the capitalist court is swung as a political club to keep McBride out of the campaign.

Down in Glace Bay the courts are trying a case of conspiracy on the part of the mineowners. In this case of conspiracy in restraint of trade the capitalists asked not to be forced to disclose information about their business as the United States companies might get hold of it and use it. The court held that they need not disclose such information for trade reasons. If the American companies wanted the information they would get it. They have the Pinkerton detectives who can get any information wanted. The decision of the court at Glace Bay simply shows that the courts of Canada are capitalist institutions.

Dan McDougall and Patterson are two strike leaders in Nova Scotia. The Coal Company has them arrested for libel and gets them hauled clear up to Montreal for their trial. They are not tried at once but are kept waiting in Montreal day after day. Here again the courts of Canada are shown up to be capitalist institutions. The very fact of the arrest of Dan McDougall for criminally libelling a group of labor thieves, the very fact that the courts throw their protecting powers around labor thieves, parasites, men who live by the sweat of others, shows conclusively that the courts of Canada are the instruments of capitalism and contemptible.

Bill Haywood knows about the U. S. courts. He has been plastered with injunctions and legal processes till he could not have moved had he obeyed them. He just laughed at the orders of the courts and today he is a free man.

In Canada the capitalist system is just beginning to work. Up till recently we were an agricultural and a pastoral people. Now we are becoming industrial. Just as soon as that system develops the courts prove themselves to be the special police of the labor thieves. Our Canadian courts will have to interpret the laws more in consonance with modern conditions or we will have in Canada the old fight for freedom against a lot of scoundrel bigwigs who are mis-called judges of justice.

## THE WILL OF THE LORD

In the early days of the New England states there lived a Puritan who believed that God ruled the world and had ordained the day of the death of every man. One Sabbath morn., as he was leaving his dwelling, he said goodbye to his wife and shouldered his gun, for the Indians were liable to scalp him if they got a chance. The good wife on seeing the gun remonstrated with her spouse. "Why do you take thy gun, John? Hath not the good Lord ordained the day of thy death and canst thou put that day off by the use of weapons?" To her husband replied: "Thou says right. But who knows but that the Lord has ordained that this day an Indian should die at my hands, and who am I that I should stand in the way of the Lord's will?"

There are many people who are bolstering up the rotten capitalist system and are looking solemn and are quoting scripture to keep the thing alive. The Lord has appointed masters and the workers should be content to serve. "Servants be obedient to your masters." The Lord is a Lord of peace and the workers should not raise turmoil. These same people will pray that King Eddy be victorious over his enemies. They would gloat should England smash the Germans. "I'm glad to say, my dear Augusta. We've had another glorious battle; Tenthousand German's sent below. Praise God from whom all blessings flow," is their attitude.

The same book to which the labor thieves are going to support their labor thieving has been the same source from which many revolutionists have drawn their authority for their revolts. "He hath put down the mighty from their seats," could be hurled against your Strathconas, your Booths, your foxys

Lauriers, your blustering Borden. Old Cromwell cut off the head of Charles the first with unctious righteousness and the same authority could be used to repeat the dose upon modern tyrants. I am not upholding assassination because history shows that from assassination new terrorisms arise. But I say that bible quoting is mighty dangerous to the throne of King Edward.

The old Puritan did not want to stand in the way of the will of what he called the Lord. In the same way the modern labor leader could quote scripture and say he is doing the will of the Lord and if he succeeded it would be proof absolute in the eyes of the ignorant that the Lord was with him.

When I hear the big ones of the Churches giving forth their ideas and talking about the rights of capital and the will of the Lord I feel like telling them: "You stop that foolish noise, take a back seat, and learn your A. B. C's over again."

## Paid in Advance

Every copy of Cotton's Weekly is paid for before it leaves this office. If you get Cotton's through the mail with a colored address label on it, numbered, your subscription has been paid by some friend who wishes you to look into the truths of Socialism. You need not hesitate to take Cotton's from the post office as no bill will be rendered, and the paper will be promptly discontinued when the subscription expires.

## THE CAPITALIST SHELL

Socialism is being prepared within the shell of capitalism. There are many men who cannot perceive the socialist philosophy. They have the ideological viewpoint. They believe that the ideas of great men have controlled the destiny of humanity. The socialist philosophy, on the other hand, holds that the evolution of humanity has been an organic process with which the great man has had but little to do. He was the product of his age raised to sight like the white foam on the top of a wave.

The socialist movement is an economic and social one. The capitalist organization is producing within itself the socialist organization. When conditions are ripe the child socialism will be born. The strikes and lockouts and soldiers and prostitution and the whole feverish condition of the decadent capitalist organism are but evidence of the approaching birthpangs of socialism.

The capitalist has to go. He tries to stay. The old and the new are struggling together and the new is bound to win out. Those who stand with decadent capitalism will be looked back upon as reactionary creatures who were the tools of tyrants who were trying to prevent the economic liberty of mankind. Laurier, Borden, Brodeur and all the capitalist politicians of Canada will be looked back upon by future ages as we look back upon James the Second or George the Third. They will be the sneered at of history.

Laurier is not to be blamed or praised for his stand. As he is a reactionary he must be shaken from political power, before the social revolution can arrive. That is why Cotton's opposes Laurier. If Laurier were a chimney sweep or a ditch digger, he would be with Cotton's in its fight for the freedom of the working classes. But as he draws his food and clothing, and shelter and automobile from the kindness of the master class in return for political favors rendered he sticks by the hands that feed him. Consequently his power must go with the power of his masters.

The shell of capitalism is getting pretty thin. It can be broken through. The industrial organization is now of a nature that can be handled by the workers for the workers. The political superstructure has become useless and is rotting to its fall. That is why Laurier is after a fleet to prop up his power. But the political henchmen of capitalism might just as well give up the fight now as later. Timothy grass must be pulled from a garden and made to grow elsewhere and the capitalist politicians must be eradicated from the political field and transplanted to the industrial organization.

The Montreal Y. M. C. A. Association is putting up a fine new building. The sons of the middle class need bath rooms and libraries and gymnasia and this organization is spending two hundred thousand dollars on a building. The capitalist press of the city have been complimenting the association on its work. In the meantime many girls in the departmental stores and shoe stores are being forced into prostitution because their wages lack two or three dollars a week from allowing them to live on what they get by the sale of their labor power. The ministers of the gospel will no doubt congregate to bless the new home of the Y. M. C. A. in the name of Christ.

The master class snarl at the socialists for what the master class call their doctrine of class hatred. The burglar no doubt also snarls at the men who teach that the burglar should not be allowed to plunder homes.

## TO THE WORKERS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

### MANIFESTO

Once again the citizens of British Columbia are called upon to elect representatives to make the laws of this Province. Each voter must come to the decision as to which Party will best serve his interests and cast his vote accordingly.

The policy of the Conservative government is to assist the great capitalist concerns that are seeking to fasten themselves on the Province.

The Liberal Party is seeking office and can be depended upon to do much the same thing as the government. The policy of either party in the different Provinces is the same; that is, to help the large business interests and to let the farmers and the wage earners take their chances.

This is good for the capitalists, but bad for the producing class. Therefore, the farmers and the wage earners have been compelled to join forces to fight for themselves. The small business men have also been left at the mercy of the great capitalist companies and they too are beginning to support the Party of the Workers, the Socialist Party of Canada.

The policy of the Socialist Party is to benefit the wage earners and the farmers and its members in the Legislature. The Socialist members have a splendid record in the way they have fought in our interests. The fight is whether the capitalists shall own the country or whether the people shall.

Jas. J. Johnson, of Enderby, B. C., is the candidate of the Socialist Party of the Okanagan. We are perfectly satisfied that he will fight our cause if the people elect him. If you are opposed to Socialism vote for either of the old parties. If you believe in the principles of the Socialist Party vote for our candidate—J. F. Johnson.

### Wage Earners of the Okanagan Valley

In a few days you will again be called upon to exercise the glorious right of voting your masters, be they Liberals or Conservative into power.

In the Vernon News, leader of the capitalist lickspittle press, Price Ellison, your present representative in the House, has been publishing his capitalist countenance and has also been telling of the splendid work he has performed for you in the House. It was not his fault that he overlooked to tell you of the splendid work in which he turned all Labor Legislation down during the time he has represented you. You see his eyesight is getting affected on account of the fat he accumulates through his effective way of operating his wage labor. He has not told you of the determined way in which he has turned down every measure introduced to better the condition of the wage earning class, your class.

But then you see, it was natural for him to do so, just as it was natural for him to boost the interests of his class by railroading legislation through, benefiting the master class throughout this valley. You are getting so used to being robbed by that class that you lick the hand that whips you, and the masters knowing this, lose no time in again assuring you, through the lickspittle editors and further parasitical hangers-on, of the prosperity you are enjoying. And please don't faint if they pat you on the shoulder and tell you how it is, through their special efforts that your bank account is so large, and your family are having everything they want. True, you have no motor car, but then if you vote for them you may get a ride in one and some Scotch on election day.

Perhaps you wonder how it is that all these big and little masters get so big belled and rich, and when in the privacy of your little shack, which by the way is not as good as your master's horse stables, you fail to see this prosperity, bank account, etc., then perhaps you may do a little thinking on your own account. You may even go so far as to wish to get rid of this parasitical class, which feeds on you and sucks your very life-blood in the form of profits. You will read socialist literature, papers, etc., and wake up to the fact that it has not always been so, and that it will not always be so.

All the Montreal papers join the chorus of prosperity. The ministers of the gospel are feeling the good times. They are paid by the labor thieves and when the labor thieves prosper they feel the reflex benefit. In the meantime a mother and six children were found starving in a back lane of the city, one child was already dead.

The vast majority of so-called criminals would have been decent law abiding men had they been allowed to be such. But they did not have a niche in the present system and had to get their living by crime. The natural criminals are abnormal and mentally unsound beings who should be treated in an insane asylum. Our whole criminal law is a farce and a crying injustice.

You will not be fooled by the trash the paid agents of capitalism hand out to you at election time. As class conscious workers you will stand by your class and vote the socialist ticket. You will register your protest on election day against the way the capitalist parasites feed on you and rob you. You will vote for the socialist candidate whose platform is as follows:

1. The transformation as rapidly as possible, of capitalist property in the means of wealth production (natural resources, factories, mills, railroads etc.) into the collective property of the working class.

2. The democratic organization and management of industry by the workers.

3. The establishment, as speedily as possible, of production for use instead of production for profit.

The Socialist Party, when in office, shall always and everywhere until the present system is abolished, make the answer to this question its guiding rule of conduct: Will this legislation advance the interests of the workingclass and aid the workers in their class struggle against capitalism? If it will the Socialist Party is for it; if it will not, the Socialist Party is absolutely opposed to it.

In accordance with this principle the Socialist Party pledges itself to conduct all the public affairs placed in its hands in such a manner as to promote the interests of the working class alone.

H. GILDEMEESTER  
VOTE FOR J. F. JOHNSON AND SOCIALISM

Appeal to Workers of Fernie Riding  
Fernie, B. C., Oct. 29th, 09.

Fellow Workers:  
The Fernie Electoral Riding has been for the past eight years a strenuously contested seat. At the last Provincial Election the workers lost the seat by some 60 votes through the Liberals deserting their own candidate at the eleventh hour and supporting the present member Mr. Ross. The Fernie Free Press, the organ of the Conservative Party is at present emitting frantic squeals of the most pitiful character for the Liberals to again come to the rescue of distressed Capital.

It is admitted that the seat must fall to workers. The Capitalists will combine forces to prevent a consummation so undesirable to them. They have money without end: we lack that essential weapon to success. We therefore ask all workers who can afford to do so to send their contributions however small to Oscar Erickson, Box 70, Fernie, B. C.

The combined forces of Capitalism are arrayed against us, let the workers show that they too are ready to obey the call of Class. Independent of defeating the tyrant Capital at its own game we can and will use your own Class the robbery perpetuated upon them by the present Industrial system.

As an example to Capital of the Political Power of the class-conscious workers. In an endeavor to send a toiler to fight the battles of the toilers in the Legislative Halls.

Signed, on behalf of the Campaign Committee

OSCAR ERICKSON  
Secretary

Call to Okanagan Valley Socialists

Mara, B. C., Oct. 26, 1909.  
Socialists in the Okanagan Valley are hereby called on to assist in the election of J. F. Johnson Socialist Candidate for the Provincial House. The election is called for November 25th. Funds are needed and should be sent to H. C. D. Gildemeester, at Mara, B. C., where he has moved. Every vote is needed. Socialist scrutineers will see that the count is square. Fight for the principles of Socialism and the triumphs of the farmers and wage earners.

GEO. W. PATTERSON  
Secretary Local Vernon

The master class, by the appropriation of the machines at which men must labor force the workers to become the slaves of the machines. In return for that slavery the machine owners take four-fifths of the product allowing one-fifth to go as wages to the slaves. When the slaves rise and capture the political power the master class will be expropriated of their machines of production and the workers will get five-fifths of what they produce.

MacKenzie King, the Labor Minister and henchmen of the labor thieves, has been up in West Middlesex trying to get the voters to vote for a lawyer instead of a farmer. The lawyer is the capitalist's jackal. King wants the jackals to run parliament.

A by-election is being held in St. James Ward of Montreal for the Quebec house on November the 12th. N. K. Laflamme is the Nationalist candidate. He is hammering it into Gouin. He makes the charge that twelve Montreal aldermen had been bought by the public service monopoly of the city, and Gouin would not let the thing be investigated. Alderman Robillard is the Liberal candidate and Laflamme handles him without gloves. He accuses Robillard of sitting idly by while Montreal was being sold out to the trusts and the corporations. He accuses Gouin of throttling the Royal Commission and choking it off in order that grave scandals, which were on the point of being discovered might go unrevealed. The Gouin government had taken away the right of workmen to trial by jury in cases of damage claims against employees. Laflamme also rakes up the old scandal of the dock laborers' strike a few years ago when the men struck on just grounds and the city council called out the militia on insufficient grounds to terrorize the workers back to their jobs. Altogether Laflamme has shown up the capitalist bias of the Gouin government. It is with the labor thieves all right. Whether Laflamme will be any better should he get power is another question which can only be answered by the sequel of a successful election.

## The Union Label

Cotton's Weekly would carry the union label if there was a typographical union in the Eastern Townships. We have not enough employees to form a union, so we are forced to wait till such times as an organizer of the I. T. U. gets through this district and brings the printers up to the mark.

The workman is robbed by the capitalist. The capitalist cannot refute the charge. The socialists keep hammering away upon the fact that the capitalists are a set of robbers who are making the workers divide up with them. The capitalists do not like that kind of talk. They want to talk of philosophy, of religion, of the future life, of brotherly love in the spiritual realm, anything but of the fact that they have their hands in the pockets of the workers and are stealing four-fifths of what rightfully belongs to the laborers. The socialists are going to keep on hammering at the fact that the workers are robbed until the robbers are made to quit their robbery and go to work at something useful.

Dr. Laberge, city health officer of Montreal, declares that the cells in the basement of the city hall are not fit to keep chickens in. Why should they be? These cells are capitalist holes in which to confine workmen who can get no work and who have to beg and steal. Does Laberge think that the labor thieves are going to make decent places for prisoners to sleep in? Not a bit of. Such places would cost money and the labor thieves can't spare the money. They need all their stealings to keep up their palaces on Sherbrooke street and their automobiles and to furnish expensive gowns for their mistresses.

The labor thieves control the Canadian parliament. What is your honest opinion? Do you think the Allens and Manns and Van Hornes are such weaklings as to surrender their control of power without being made to? The Canadian army and navy is being prepared by as cunning a group of plunderers as ever enslaved a nation to shoot and slay such workers as will not obey the will of the plunderers.

If you could make an agreement with a chap that he would give you half of what he made during all the time he was able to work would you not make it? But what kind of a foolishness would inhabit the brain of the man who agreed to give you half of what he made? That is the kind of foolishness your workman have committed by appointing a lot of labor thieves to make the laws for you. When are you going to wake up and get sense?

A forty-million dollar rubber merger is being formed in the States. The lucky individuals who are in on this deal will draw seven per cent on their stock holdings. While this deal is going on Mrs. Anna Worowich, of St. Louis, is pitiously begging the judges to send her to jail. She is hungry and can get nothing to eat. The Rubber Merger people will no doubt enjoy a champagne supper after their deal is completed.

In opposition Laurier promised "We will tax for revenue but not one cent for protection." In power Laurier has held up both hands for protection.

Laurier is now trying to force a navy on peaceful Canada. This is a fitting close to a life lived in trickery and evasion.

## THE NAVY SCHEME

In Europe the plutocracy of one country persuade the workers to stand for a fleet. The plutocracy of the next country raises a howl and gets their workers to build a fleet "to protect their country." Thus the game is started and the race for armaments is begun.

The plutocracy of every nation howls for an army and a navy. The country must be protected. The nation must take its place in bearing the burdens of the world. A lot more rot of a similar kind is turned loose in the capitalist press and by the parasite wealthy.

The parasites make money out of the army and navy. They sell coal to the fleet. They sell armor plate. They sell ships of war and cannon. They sell bits of paper made by banks and get large interest in return. They live at ease and the workers sweat themselves to death with hard work. The workers bear all the burdens of building the fleet and going soldiering. The labor thieves enjoy the revenues. And when the workers complain of their burdens the arms they have made are turned against them. The army and navy of the various countries are simply a means of plunder and repression for the labor thieves. Should the workers get too numerous a war is engineered and thousands are killed by bullets and tens of thousands die of disease. The labor thieves stay at home and batten still further on the miseries of the working class.

On this side of the water Canada and the States have had peace. But the labor thieves are hungry for the profits that will come from building a navy and getting an army. So the same trick is being played by the labor thieves of Canada on the workers. The United States government is in on the game. Canada and the States are both rushing into naval expenditures. The capitalist class is trying to rub the ears of the workers to get them fighting mad the one against the other. Canadian political jackals are hinting war with a foreign country. The political jackals of the States are building ships of war on the Great Lakes. The old trick of setting nation against nation is being worked for the sake of private profit.

Can you see no connection between the building of a Canadian navy and the coal and steel merger? The big coal and steel properties are to be merged into a trust of over a hundred million dollars. This means watered stock upon which dividends are to be paid. These dividends cannot be paid unless the market for steel and coal is enlarged. That market is to be enlarged by a Canadian navy. That means coal wasted in the furnaces of the ships and steel wasted in guns and ships of war. But these guns and ships are to be paid for by taxes sweat out of workmen. The labor thieves will get their pay from the political jackals who control Ottawa.

The world over the socialist party stands for peace. When Germany and Great Britain are trying to be flung at each others throat by the labor thieves, Kier Hardie and Bebel tell the plunderers that a general strike will be called if a war is declared. During the Algerias scare the French and German workers were exchanging fraternal greetings and declaring that the workmen of the two countries had nothing to fight for. The same thing occurred when Italy and Austria were being forced into war. The Canadian socialists and trade unionists are adopting the same principle of antimilitarism.

The trades and labor council protested to Laurier against his military policy. Laurier declared that he was in favor of peace but the period of war was not over. The thief protesting his honesty, the prostitute protesting her virtue and Laurier protesting his love of peace are of a composition all compact. Laurier heads the party that is the tool of the capitalists of Canada. Laurier has given away the land to private companies. He has given the forests to capitalists. Even the fish of the western lakes have been given to capitalists. Laurier has given millions to the plunderers of labor who own the G. T. P. Now Laurier is completing his work of plundering the workers. At the bidding of the labor thieves in the coal and steel industries he is building ships of war that his darling plunderers may have profit. The trades and labor councils of Canada, the unionist organizations and the socialists should demand the impeachment of Laurier on the ground of treason to the liberties of Canadian workmen. Let Laurier hear from the indignant toilers of Canada. Let him learn that he cannot sell Canada into perpetual bondage to the parasites without a protest that will shake him from power into an accursed oblivion.

Our philanthropists and preachers of morality are cumberers of the ground. We do not want charity, nor do we want homilies on religion. We want justice and we want the laborer to get all he earns. What can we think of men who sweat millions from their employees and then try to make it all right by giving a few thousands to a hospital or two?