

LET US CLEAR THE WAY FOR THE SOCIALIST STATE

Cotton's Weekly

A CANADIAN SOCIALIST PAPER

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WM. U. COTTON, EDITOR AND PROP.
H. A. WEBB, BUSINESS MANAGER.

Have you joined the socialist party yet? If you have not, you are behind the times.

A German version of "An Englishman's Home" was played in Berlin and was hissed off the stage.

Victor Grayson became a member of the British Parliament only to rebel against and disorganize its antiquated machinery.

The strike of engineers on the Great Lakes is likely to be called off the companies agreeing to recognize the closed shop principle.

It is the little capitalists and the little dealers who get robbed by the criminals. The big capitalists are rich enough to provide safety deposit vaults for their wealth.

The vote for the socialist candidate for Mayor of Racine, Wis., last week was 1,172, just double the socialist vote of last year. The socialists are evidently gaining everywhere.

The last session of the Texas legislature succeeded in passing twelve strictly labor bills. This is better than the Laurier government has been able to do for the workers in twelve years.

Countess Warwick, is giving \$1,500,000 to the socialist cause of Great Britain. The Countess is a staunch socialist and has given not only her money but her time and talents to the propagation of socialist doctrines.

New York churches have been having sales of workers. The out-of-work were put up at auction and their labor power was knocked down to the highest bidder. This comes perilously near slave labor, even to the blunted senses of a plute christian.

Doctors declare that it is almost impossible to discover the London worker whose father and grandfather have been London workers before him. The breed becomes outworn and goes down before the conditions of the London slums.

Montreal police are on a campaign against street loafing and have arrested fifteen young men for this offence. This is good. The lazy beggars should be made to work. Now if the police would only get after the fat clubroom loafers and make them work the world would be better all round.

The Methodists are having a heresy fight up in Toronto. Probably the poor beggar of a minister who is up for heresy will be put down and out by the ecclesiastical powers of Methodism. The path of the heretic blazes the way to progress but this is small comfort to the man who suffers now.

The new British children's act forbids parents taking their children to the barrooms. The result is that the fathers are going to the tea rooms with their children. Alcohol is a brain poison and prevents people from thinking correctly. This new act in keeping men's brains clearer of whisky will give the socialist agitators more intelligent creatures to talk to.

Joe Martin, Ex-premier of British Columbia, is the Liberal candidate in the English by-election of Stratford-on-Avon. Joe wants votes for women and to abolish the house of Lords. The Socialists want votes for all men and women and the abolition of the Lords themselves. Joe may consider himself a radical lion but he is a sucking dove compared with the socialists.

RENEWALS—When renewing always say that your subscription is a renewal. We receipt new subscriptions by starting the paper, and renewals by changing the date on the address label.

ERRORS—We make them sometimes. If you have cause for complaint try to write us patiently. We will do our part. Give us credit for the intention to deal fairly.

We are learning that the Canadian farmer is susceptible to the appeal of socialism.

Two Socialist women have been elected to the town council of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Business competition is ceasing and the only choice left humanity is between an industrial despotism and an industrial democracy.

The materialist conception of history is merely this—that the average man has always had the happy, or unhappy, faculty of chasing after the almighty dollar.

Socialism does not want to divide up the wealth of the workers between the workers and the non-workers. Socialism wants all the wealth to go to the workers who produce it.

In primitive Roman days the state was not so much political as industrial. Political developments are often more or less artificial and hinder the industrial wellbeing of those who do the work.

Socialism will be of great benefit to the rich young idler. It will take away from him the opportunity of squandering money to his own destruction and will make him do some really useful and healthful work.

The churches should preach socialism but they will not do it. The churches have been organized as the bulwarks of capitalism. Humanity with them is loudly praised and still shivers in the cold.

The socialists of Great Britain have been gradually working to free the movement from the incubus of trades union tactics in politics. They are evidently succeeding, as the recent bumping of Kier Hardie and his companions shows.

There are many leading socialists in Great Britain who refuse to run for Parliament. They consider that their dignity would be lowered by becoming a member of that assembly of smug, intriguing, useless men called the British Parliament.

In Great Britain there are one hundred and ninety-three packs of fox hounds containing over fourteen thousand and hounds kept for hunting. Forty-three million dollars are spent annually on fox hunting. The poor of the land die of starvation.

Many persons are opposed to socialism because they think it means the dividing up of wealth between the workers and idle. These persons never stop to think that the useless rich get the greatest share of the wealth produced by the workers.

Two planks in the platform of the Social Democratic Federation of Great Britain are abolition of the monarchy and repudiation of the national debt. No wonder that with the astonishing growth of socialism in Great Britain the values of Consols are falling.

The Independent Labor Party and the social Democratic Federation have pulled well together and have won some famous victories. They are now separating at the instance of the federation. When the separation takes place it looks as though there would be little left of the Independent Labor Party.

After June 1st in the State of Washington no woman will be legally able to enter any saloon. The new criminal code makes it a misdemeanor for the

owner or employee of "any drinking saloon or music hall where intoxicating liquors are sold" to "knowingly permit to enter such saloon or sell or give any intoxicating liquor to any female person." This is a good law. It would be four times better, if in the last line of the law the word female were left out.

There is at present being attempted in Great Britain the amalgamation of the Great Northern, the Great Central, and the Great Eastern railway systems. These three companies have a combined capital of \$163,000,000. If Parliament lets this deal go through there will be a large number of railway employees sacked, owing to the elimination of competition. Needless to say, very few of the expensive and useless directors will be ousted from their positions.

According to the report of John Gray, secretary of the Anthropometric Committee of the British Association, the British aristocracy, landed gentry, and cultured, professional classes are growing taller, while the unskilled workers are growing shorter and more stunted. Those who do not work eat and grow, and those who work do not eat and do not grow.

The Belgian chamber of deputies has established a nine hour day for the miners. The motion of the socialist deputies to make the mining day an eight hour one was defeated by a vote of 76 to 39.

The wool growers of southern Alberta are organizing to sell direct to the woolen mills, thus cutting out the middlemen.

THE BITTER CRY OF THE CHILDREN

GERALD O'CONNEL DESMOND

Think of the factory child

In the days of its youth made old,

Body and mind and soul defiled

To bring a sweater gold.

Think of it. Think. Is your heart of stone?

Think of the one, your joy, your pride,

Think of the child you call your own,

For Profit crucified!

Think of the child of the slums,

The child of the tenement,

Surely to such as these death comes

As a gift by the good God sent?

Grieve for them? No. It is best they die—

Dead they can feel no pain,—

Than toil and suffer unceasingly

For what? For a master's gain.

Think of them; puny, weak, half grown,

Toiling there underneath,

Till the white plague marks them for its own—

For that is the pitlads' death.

Think of them, murdered every hour,

That a mining magnate's girl

May go, with a million dollars' dower,

To the home of an English Earl.

Think of the babies that have died

For the lack of a mother's care.

Why? The mothers were torn from their side

To work in the great mills there!

Why must the workman's baby die,

And the mother break her heart?

The money is needed for statuary,

Libraries, "works of art!"

"Feed my lambs" said the Nazarene—

The Christ to whom ye pray—

Can ye look to your Christ with hands that are clean

While ye grind their lives away?

Ye say that the record is written true

That ye live in the fear of your God—

Liars! The price of your cushioned pew

Was wet with a child slave's blood.

Workers, think. When your master's wife

Rides out in that carriage of hers,

There's more than the price of a child slave's life

In the collar her pug dog wears.

Think of it! Think! Is your blood unstirred?

Are ye deaf to your children's cries?

The thing is plain—ye have seen and heard;

Oh Slaves! Will ye never rise?

Gompers is going to Europe to study the conditions of the working classes there. If he associates much with the leaders of European labor thought he will come back much tinctured with socialistic ideas.

Englishmen are leaving Britain in great numbers because of oppressive conditions there. There are so many parasites living off the incomes of the workers that the workers are leaving the country in disgust.

If a copy of this paper comes through the mail to your home, or if one is handed to you by somebody, it is an invitation to you to subscribe. You will get worth in sound education many times the subscription price and you help make possible the existence of a paper fighting the battles of the working class.

The United States white slave traffic is in a flourishing condition. This traffic consists of capturing girls and women for immoral purposes and keeping them in houses of ill fame against their will until they become too broken-spirited to object. Many foreign women have been imported under the belief that they were coming to positions as domestic servants. The United States authorities have been endeavoring to stop this traffic. The United States Supreme court has recently decided that not only must the immorality be proved for the conviction of the white slaves in the federal courts, but also the fact that the girls were imported for immoral purposes. This decision is equal to the famous Dred Scott decision which covered the U. S. Supreme court with infamy.

Every day in Greater New York three hundred persons are arrested for drunkenness. Eighty-five of the number on an average are women. New York is seriously considering the advisability of legalizing the sale of liquor on Sunday.

EASY LESSONS

In the Socialist Teachings

NO 6

"Labor Creates all Wealth."

GERALD DESMOND

The socialist's claim is that "Labor creates all wealth." Now this little sentence, while clear and intelligent enough to the educated, I mean the economically educated, is somewhat bald and needs a little elongation and explanation to the outsiders. "Labor creates all wealth," is such condensed truism that some do not quite grasp its full meaning readily and others even misunderstand it.

To make things clear we need two definitions at least. What is labor and what is wealth? The word labor in this sense may be said to mean those who labor—the workers—the working class (including all subdivisions of the working class, skilled and unskilled; mental and manual workers.) When we use the word "wealth," we mean not mere mediums of exchange such as money, but all things having value. So therefore we might express the thought in a less condensed form, thus, "Those who labor are responsible for the existence of all things of all kinds having value to humanity." Of course this may not be a very good definition, but it will perhaps be as intelligent as, or more, intelligent than, the condensed one.

Now when we say that "Labor creates all wealth" we simply make an assertion. Can we prove this? If we can, well and good; if not, the whole position we take up is weakened, if not absolutely untenable. We stand, as all of us know, strictly on the principle that the working classes are the only classes which are of importance to society. If labor creates all wealth then this contention is true, but if some other power than labor can create wealth then it is false, and the war cry of "To the producers, the workers, belong the full value of their product." does not of necessity mean that the workers are entitled to everything, as we claim they are. It all rests on that point: does labor create all wealth? Can we prove it?

I say emphatically that we can. Starting with a correct definition of labor and a correct definition of wealth, and bearing in mind the exact meaning of the word "creates," which means "embodies" or "places in" or "materialization in useful form," we cannot but arrive at this conclusion.

I make the statement unhesitatingly that "there is nothing having intrinsic value which is not the creation of labor." There is nothing apart from labor on which the power of labor has not been expended which has present value. Many persons, who think superficially, are inclined to place in what is called "raw material" or in the natural resources of the earth a certain intrinsic value. But this is not so. Raw material, disassociated from labor, is valueless and so are natural resources of the earth. Certain political economists speak learnedly of the potential value of say a coal deposit and endeavor to mislead in this way. But this very potential value itself depends upon the existence of labor and its willingness to assist in the materialization of this peculiar and intangible potential wealth.

The more we look into it the more inexorable the conclusion of the absolute impregnability of the socialist position. Let us take, for instance, what is probably the principal wealth of Canada, her immense grain harvest. Does labor create that wealth? Certainly. If labor did not plough the land in the first place, the grain could not be sown; if labor did not sow the seed, it could not germinate. If labor did not reap the grain it would rot in the field. If labor did not run the railroads it could not be transported. Take out of any these operations, cut out labor in any way, and Canada's grain wealth would fail to materialize. Labor is the whole thing. Labor, if one may use the slang in the connection, is this "supreme it," or to be more classical "labor omnia vincit."

Of course I will admit that labor has nothing to do with the laws of nature. We are in some ways dependent upon nature. Without the rain to cause germination and the sun to ripen, our grain-wealth could not materialize. But, and I want you to put this right into your head, even nature does not produce wealth. Nature only supplies certain things with certain wealth potentialities or value possibilities. It is labor which creates wealth. Labor which materializes the frequent potentialities of nature, again I say "labor omnia vincit."

As for the idea that capital, as opposed to labor, ever creates wealth, that is on the face of it absurd. The only thing necessary to enable the student to see this is to define capital. Capital is money invested in the machines of production which are used in the exploitation of the worker. Just scan the definition over and ask yourselves how capital can produce wealth. Is not the thing foolish on the face of it? How can machines of production, themselves the creation of labor, be said to produce wealth without labor. Moreover, capital is, as I have said, not even the machines of production themselves; it is only money invested in the machines of production. We cannot go into the subject deeply of course in this column and you must study for yourselves. Do so and you must come to our position. Granted you start with clear definitions and reason logically, you cannot do otherwise.

But, if we be permitted to say, while it is necessary for us to study, and study deeply, we must not overlook the practical side of the thing. To say that labor creates all wealth is not enough. We must go boldly on and proclaim the doctrine, "that to the producers belong the free value of their product," that, in a few words, "To labor belongs the earth and all that is in it." It is not enough for us to reason abstractly and discuss learnedly. Logic and reason are only of benefit in as far as they give a foundation whereon to build. We must reason logically, we must investigate impartially, to find out beyond doubt what is true. By doing so, as I said, we lay the foundation. But a foundation without a superstructure is useless. Upon the foundation of logic and reason and facts we must rear a superstructure. A superstructure of what? A superstructure of realization. Having decided that labor creates all wealth, we must further decide that labor shall and will, own and control and enjoy all wealth. That labor does not own and control and enjoy at the present time will, I think, hardly need demonstration. We all know that under the present system capital, and not labor, enjoys the bulk of the world's wealth. To wrest this privilege from capital is the aim of the organized socialist movement. We seek to ally the logical mind with the fighting spirit and to combine education and propagation with the struggle and the rebellion. So, therefore, we stand firm on the doctrine that labor produces all wealth, and we demand that labor shall own and control and enjoy all wealth, and we are united in a movement and an agitation and a rebellion which will never cease until labor does own and control and enjoy all wealth.

Questions:—Express the idea that labor creates all wealth so that all may grasp its meaning fully? Give your ideas for arriving at this conclusion? Is there any wealth in raw material? If not, why not? Show the relation between natural law and labor? Are you producing wealth? Are you getting all the wealth that you produced? If you are not are you satisfied to be robbed? Are you a member of the socialist party fighting for the free product of your labor? If not, when are you going to join?

Books to read:—"Wage Labor and Capital," by Marx. "Go over Price, Value and Profit once again." Then, if you are really determined to get to the root of the matter, dig into the "1st Volume of Capital."

Writers for Cotton's

We have been asked to get out a special May Day issue on April 29th. We are thinking of giving the front page over to special May Day articles. Here is your chance to get on the front page of Cotton's.

Make your articles fairly short and full of snap. We invite ALL Comrades from ALL Canada. The best wins out for the first page. Copy must be in by Thursday, April 22nd. We would prefer it before if possible.

Try a copy of that fine little book, "The Socialists" by John Spargo. Only 10 cents. Tells in plain language what Socialism really means.

Too much wealth spoils a man and too little ruins him. No one seems to have just enough.

"He that seeketh findeth," will not always apply to the job under capitalism.

The robbery of the rich is crime. The robbery of the useful is business.

Repeat it:—"Shiloh's Cure will all ways cure my coughs and colds."

COWAN

The capital accounts of Great Britain is a horrible tale the earth make frantic.

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