

"The Observer"

The Leading Weekly of the Eastern Townships.

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THURSDAY, SEPT. 24, 1908

TO WHOM DO THE PROFITS BELONG

The Canadian Pacific Railway company has recently issued its annual report. In that report, expenses are given as something like forty-five million dollars. Profits or net earnings totalled something like twenty-one million dollars. These profits went to pay the interests on bonds, preference shares and ordinary stock.

A business that yields about fifty per cent profit on its gross business is more than fairly successful and when that business is a public service corporation, questions are likely to be asked as to whom the enormous profits should belong.

The investor says that the profits should go in full payment of the dividends on stock. C. P. R. is quoted around 170 and the investor who buys at that figure would like to see the stock go up to 200. Consequently, according to the investor, profits should be as large as possible in order to boost stock.

The trackmen who toil in the sun, swinging a pick on the railway lines at \$1.40 per day, when he considers the profits of the system and his ten hours hard work, the trainmen and all the numerous employees, consider they are not getting a fair share of the profits and believe that their wages should be higher at the expense of the net earnings.

Finally, the farmer, the traveller, the dry-goods merchant and all who have to pay money for railway transportation consider the freight and passenger rates too high and believe that these should be reduced, also at the expense of net earnings and dividends.

The quarrel between dividend hunters, employees and travellers will continue until the railroads of the country are taken over and run by the people.

PRODUCTION FOR USE AND NOT FOR PROFITS

Production for use and not for profit is one of the fundamental axioms of Socialism. It is an axiom of the Manchester school of economics that the production for profit coincides with production for use. Even Adam Smith, however, upon whose writings the free traders of England base their arguments in favor of their particular hobby, had to admit that production for profit was not useful.

The advocate who makes several court proceedings for the fees that are in them when one proceeding would be sufficient; the doctor who does up a packet of pills and charges a physician's fee for a druggist's service; the merchant who sells a second class article for a first class price; the company promoter who sells stock without value behind them; all these produce for profit and not for use.

The Socialists believe they have hit on the plan whereby the present evils attending the search for profits may be eliminated. They desire to so arrange the affairs of mankind that commerce, industry and transportation will be managed without profit. They believe that the love of money is the root of all evil and that the present arrangement of society where men work for profits necessarily brings about the love for money. While we may not agree with all their conclusions, their dream of an economic commonwealth where all men will have enough and none will have too much is a glorious vision for the realization of which all good men labor.

RUSSIAN LITERATURE

To the Western world Russian literature is considered bizarre, grotesque and immoral. Some of Tolstoy's writings have shocked the western world, and there has grown up a group of younger writers whose writings have been condemned by Tolstoy as unfit to read.

Russian literature is the production and resultant of Russian political conditions. A brutal aristocracy which knows no moral law and oppressed people, overcrowded prisons, fever ridden cities and a corrupt church all go to produce a condition of life in which the conventional rules of morality as theoretically practised in the western world are practically unknown. The younger writers believe in depicting life as they see it and they see it all around them in a crude state.

In conventional England, where law and order have reigned supreme for centuries, literature is naturally peaceful and sedate and consists to a great extent in depicting scenes of orderly passions and calm rage interspersed with descriptions of peaceful and orthodox lovemaking. In Russia on the other hand, literature is wild and passionate and deals with the fundamental laws of nature and morality in a broken and chaotic condition. To orthodox and conventional people, Russian literature is a phantasmagorical nightmare. To persons who believe the study of life to be the greatest study of earth, the Russian tales of riot and murder, perverted morality and broken spirits make interesting reading.

Socialism in the United States

It is claimed that the Socialist political party has gained the support of some twenty millions of people throughout the civilized world. The party claims thirty-two members in the British Parliament, fifty-four in the French Chamber of Deputies, and forty-three in the German Reichstag, while it has numerous representatives in the governing bodies of the other European nations. In the United States the conditions of labor, until recently, were not such as to foster the growth of Socialistic sentiment, but of recent years the increase of the Socialistic vote seems to have been more rapid. Twenty years ago they polled a vote of 2,000; this year it is expected that their vote will approximate one million. They claim that the trade-unions are looking their way, and that the farmers, also, are being brought to support the Socialistic platform.

In this connection it will be of interest to our readers to see what is the platform recently adopted at the National Convention. It calls for the following:

"National ownership of the railroads and all industries on a national scale in which the trusts have practically killed competition. The extension of the public domain to include mines, quarries, oil-wells, forests and waterways; the scientific restoration of timber-lands and reclamation of swamp-lands. A progressive shortening of the work-day by law, in keeping with the increasing productiveness of machinery. A more rigid inspection of factories, mines and mills; protection of women in industry; abolition of child labor; compulsory insurance against unemployment, illness, accident, old age and death. A graduated inheritance and income tax; proportional representation, and the initiative, referendum and recall."

If this represents the extent of the Socialist demands, it will strike a good many that, with certain modifications, these demands are but in line with the trend of the progressive legislation of to-day.—Christian Guardian.

THE AMERICAN CIRQUE

An Appeal to the Filipinos by W. S. Morgan, Hardy, Ark.

You Filipinos don't know what you are missing by not wanting to become citizens of this grand country of ours. There isn't anything like it under the sun. You ought to send a delegation over to see us—the land of the free—land of fine churches and 180,000 licensed saloons; bibles, forts and guns, houses of prostitution, millionaires and paupers; theologians and thieves; libertines and liars; politicians and poverty; Christians and chain gangs; schools and scalawags; trusts and tramps; money and misery; homes and hunger; virtue and vice; a land where you can get a good bible for fifteen cents and a bad drink of whiskey for five cents; where we have a man in congress with three wives and a lot in the penitentiary for having two wives; where some men make sausage out of their wives, and some want to eat them raw; where we make bologna out of dogs

and calves out of horses and sick cows, and corpses out of the people who eat it; where we put a man in jail for not having the means of support and on the rock pile for asking for a job of work; where we license bawdy-houses and fine men for preaching Christ on the street corners; where we have a congress of 400 men who make laws, and a supreme court of nine men who set them aside; where good whiskey makes bad men and bad men make good whiskey; where newspapers are paid for suppressing the truth and made rich for teaching a lie; where professors draw their convictions from the same place they do their salaries; where preachers are paid \$25,000 a year to dodge the devil and tickle the ear of the wealthy; where business consists of getting hold of property in any way that won't land you in the penitentiary; where trusts "hold up" and poverty "holds down"; where men vote for what they do not want for fear they will get what they do want by voting for it. Where "niggers" can vote and women can't; where a girl who goes wrong is made an outcast and her male partner flourishes as a gentleman; where women wear false hair and men "dock" their horse's tails; where the political wire-puller has displaced the patriotic statesman; where men vote for a thing one day and cuss it 94 days; where we have prayers on the floor of the National Capitol and whiskey in the cellar; where we spend \$500 to bury a statesman who is rich and \$10 to put away a workman who is poor; where to be virtuous is to be lonesome, and to be honest is to be a crank; where we sit on the safety-valve of energy and pull wide-open the throttle of conscience; where gold is substance—the one thing sought for; where we pay \$15,000 for a dog and fifteen cents a dozen to a poor woman for making shirts; where we teach the "untutored" Indian eternal life from the bible and kill him off with bad whiskey; where we put a man in jail for stealing a loaf of bread and in congress for stealing a railroad; where the check-book talks, sin walks abroad in daylight, justice is asleep, crime runs amuck, corruption permeates our whole social and political fabric, and the devil laughs from every street corner. Come to us, Filippies! We've got the greatest aggregation of good things and bad things, hot things and cold things, all sizes and varieties and colors, ever exhibited under one tent.

People may differ with regard to public ownership, says Mr. Borden. The criticisms his platform has provoked from some of his own party papers would seem to indicate that people do differ.—Sentinel-Review, Woodstock, Ont.

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The Trend of Industry

In 1895 there were blast-furnaces in the United States producing annually 8,000,000 tons of pig-iron. In 1907 there were only 443 blast furnaces, but these produced 25,000,000 tons of pig-iron.

The aggregate capitalization of the great trusts in the United States exceeds twenty billions of dollars, or nearly a quarter of the total wealth of the country.

Six great railway systems control over ninety per cent of our vital railway mileage; and half a dozen men can fix the freight rates for the whole United States.

A thousand cities and towns own and operate their lighting plants in the United States, and two or three times that number in the leading countries of Europe.

Clipped From Contemporaries

Progress is the realization of Utopias.

Disobedience is the cardinal virtue of the human race.

Dividends are made by labor and enjoyed by idlers.

The conservatism of to-day was the radicalism of yesterday.

From the fountain of discontent flows the stream of progress.

Slavery is dependence on another for the means of subsistence.

Had men no ideals; had society no utopias, life would not be worth living.

Right without might availeth nothing, and might without right is disastrous.

A lot of men who talk of dying for their rights have not sense enough to vote for them.

Politicians beg from the workingmen one day 365, and workingmen beg from politicians the other 364.

A prostitute sells her flesh for the same reason that a soldier sells his manhood—for food and clothing and shelter.

The difference between the man in stripes and the man in broadcloth is the difference between speculation and speculation.

"Women are inferior to men" cry the trousered half of humanity, and forthwith close the hatches on them lest they should find themselves mistaken.

Any man with the aid of an active imagination should be able to present an attractive program of promises. It takes a real statesman to present a record of actual accomplishment.—Sentinel-Review, Woodstock, Ont.

During August 863 babies under one year old died in Chicago, mostly from the effects of capitalism. Say, Teddy Roosevelt, wouldn't it have been awful if their mothers had practiced race-suicide?—Western Clarion.

NATURE A VERY SKILFUL PHYSICIAN

Put Up Her Medicines In Most Tempting Form.

Have you ever tasted anything more delicious than the fresh, ripe, luscious fruits? These are Nature's medicines. A regular diet without fruit is positively dangerous, for the system soon gets clogged with waste matter and the blood poisoned. Fruit juices stir the bowels, kidneys and skin, making them work vigorously to throw off the dead tissue and indigestible food which, if retained, soon poison the blood and cause indigestion, Headaches, Rheumatism, Neuralgia and a host of other distressing troubles.

Put there is a quicker way to stimulate the organs to do their work properly. Take one or two "Fruit-a-lives" tablets every night, besides eating some fresh fruit every day. "Fruit-a-lives" combine the medicinal properties—many times intensified—of oranges, apples, prunes and figs, with the best tonics and internal disinfectants added.

Their action on Bowels, Liver, Kidneys and Skin is as natural as Nature's own, but quicker and more effective. Sold by all dealers—25c. for trial box—50c. for regular size—\$1.00 for \$2.50. Fruit-a-lives Limited, Ottawa.

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THE HUB

The Bargain Centre of Missisquoi and Bromfield

Fall Business Now in Full Swing Goods All Here

Our New Fall and Winter Goods are now here and we are now busy selling them. We call special attention to our very select collection of really good quality in

Women and Children's Cloth Coats

We are not keeping much in the low prices, but have some old styles which we will make very low.

We are making a specialty of a line of Women's Beaver Coats in black, brown, green and navy, in seven-eighth length at \$12.50 each, and some very nice heavy Frieze Coats around \$8.00.

We will commence showing our Furs in a few days now and as usual we will have a very fine collection of FURS of all kinds.

Our New Dress Goods are selling very well and already we have been obliged to send in repeat orders for some of the more popular striped effects. Navy and Brown still have the preference.

We are looking well after our staple Dry Goods Department, and all lines of Cottons, Sheetings, Tickings, Flannellettes, Ducks, and all printed Cotton Lines will be found very complete.

We call attention to our stock of Carpets and Carpet Squares, Rugs, Matting, Oilcloths, Linoleums, Lace Curtains and House-Furnishings of all kinds.

WE HAVE RECEIVED On the Men's Side of Our Store

A shipment of New Fall Suits for Men and Boys, and a very complete line of Fall and Winter Underwear in all grades, and we would emphasize the fact that we are careful not to handle anything but what we consider the very best goods that are guaranteed not to shrink.

New Boots and Shoes

We have received this week some New Boots and Shoes and our stock is now in good supply in Bals and House Slippers.

OUR MILLINERY DEPT. IS NOW BUSY BRING YOUR ORDERS IN EARLY

Wanted in Exchange

New Laid Eggs 22c. Potatoes at 65c per 60 lbs. for limited quantity. Fresh Butter. Block Wood, No. 1 quality, \$2. We want your business. We have the goods and we are doing our best to make our terms and prices attractive to you. We will take your good Dry Maple Sugar at 7c per lb. Come early while stocks are at their best and you will have better choice and avoid any disappointments.

The Hub, Cowansville

F. X. A. GIROUX ADVOCATE Sweetsburg, P. Q.

FOSTER, MARTIN, MANN & MACKINNON

ADVOCATES, Royal Insurance Building, 2 Place d'Armes Square, Montreal. Geo. G. Foster, K. C. J. E. Martin, K. C. S. G. Archibald, J. A. Mann, C. G. Mackinnon.

Weir, Macallister & Cotton, ADVOCATES ROYAL INSURANCE BUILDING MONTREAL, P. Q.

JOHN LAUDER SURGEON-DENTIST Office on the ground floor of the Ruiter Block, Cowansville.

WESTOVER & COTTON ADVOCATES, ETC. HULL BLOCK COWANSVILLE

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