

Total No. of Subs for
Issue of Feb. 2

10,617

Total Edition
Last Week 11,500

W. U. COTTON, Editor

This is No. 126

COWANSVILLE, P. Q., CANADA FEBRUARY 9, 1911

\$2.50c a Year—25c for 6 months

Cotton's Weekly

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No. 127

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H. A. WERN, BUSINESS MANAGER

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Recognizes the Class Struggle

HOW DO YOU VOTE?

You workmen are realizing the benefit of the union. You see that each one of you alone is powerless to get better conditions from your bosses. So you work together. You organize a union and you elect officers of that union. You discuss together what is best to do. You want more income. You want shorter hours of labor. You want better conditions in the shop. More pay means less profits for your masters, the owners of the concern for which you work. But that does not stop you from trying to get more pay. Shorter hours of labor are not wanted by your masters. They will not give you a working day of seven hours instead of ten hours. But because your boss does not want to give you seven hours or eight hours does not prevent you trying to reduce the hours of your labor.

You organize to do this. You appoint your union officials. You appoint men of your own trade to be these union officials.

You would not think of going and getting a lawyer to become your union official. You would not think of going and electing your boss to be your union official. You would laugh at the idea of choosing your boss as your officer to go and ask himself to give you higher wages. You know that to be ridiculous.

Yet you act just as foolishly in another way as you would if you choose your boss to run your union. You vote for the lawyers and for your bosses to be members of parliament and to be members of the provincial legislatures to make the laws governing you and your labor. Then you go and ask your bosses and these lawyers to pass laws in your favor.

If you were working ten hours a day and you wanted to work eight, you would not appoint your boss as your representative to go to himself and his fellow bosses to get the eight hour day for you. Supposing you were foolish enough to do this, what would your boss do? It is easy to guess. He would think you very foolish but he would not decline the honor. He would tell you he would accept the position and try and get the eight hours a day. He would dawdle on the job and you would continue to work ten hours. He would interview his fellow bosses and talk with them for months. You would keep on working your ten hours a day. When you became pressing to find out what he was doing he would tell you that the matter was having his serious consideration, that there were many interests involved and you must be patient. Finally he would declare that the time was not opportune to introduce the eight hour day system.

That is how he would act, is it not? You would not expect him to act any differently would you? You know this is the way he would act because you do not ask your boss to go interview himself as to whether you should have the eight hour day. You send a group of workmen to ask for it. If it is not granted you strike for it. You recognize the class struggle. You know the boss will not give you things that will reduce his profits unless you can compel him to. You don't trust him to cut his own business throat. You do it for him.

You recognize all this when it applies to shop conditions. But you do not recognize it when it is applied to politics. You act very foolishly in political matters.

In politics you go and elect your bosses or the lawyers to be your representatives. There are many millionaires who are members of parliament. They go there by your votes. They get their revenues out of your unpaid labor. The less pay you get the more profits for them. The longer hours you work the better they like it.

After electing your bosses, or the people who make a living out of your bosses like your lawyers, you call them your representatives. You go to them and ask them to give those of you who work on government works the eight hour day. They do just what you would expect your bosses to do. They promise to take this measure into serious consideration. They tell you there are many interests to be considered. They appoint commissions. They dawdle and discuss and your fellow workers continue to work ten hours a day. They keep discussing and dawdling for years. Then they finally tell you that the time is not ripe for this measure. You are surprised. But why

should you be? This is just what you would expect your bosses to do.

What is the remedy? The remedy is the remedy you have found in your unions. Why not appoint working class members to represent your interests in the legislative bodies? Do you think if your union officials were members of parliament that they would have turned down the eight hour bill?

Elect working class members, men who know the robbery that is practised upon you. Then when you elect these men you will find a great change come over the laws. You will find that you have been robbed. You will be surprised at how much you have been robbed of. You will get the full social value of your social labor. Then the tricks of your masters by which you have been kept in slavery will be gone forever.

Hon. Robert Rogers, virtual premier of Manitoba, is to enter the arena of Dominion politics. He is said to be a whirlwind campaigner and it is intimated that he will organize the Conservative forces for the next Dominion elections. Rogers recently let out a howl about the new reciprocity convention. He declared the Liberal machine was tinkering away with a reciprocity agreement in order to hold up the manufacturers for campaign funds, that the treaty was unsettling business and that if passed it would be injurious to the interests of Canada. Rogers is thus putting himself in line for a job of governing Canada to the benefit of the labor skimmers. The Liberals are getting outworn and want much more money to run campaigns on. Rogers is willing to serve the labor skimmers in a more efficient and less expensive manner. The labor thieves have their eyes open and maybe we will see the Conservatives in power. What about the electors, you ask? Don't they have any say in the government? They could, but they don't. They are voting cattle to vote for the puppets of the labor skimmers. They voted for Sir John A. They voted for Laurier. And when the plume papers tell the voting plugs that Laurier is no good and that Borden is the man, the voting cattle will go and vote for Borden.

Premier McBride of British Columbia declares that there is an era of assured prosperity for his province. He figures that in the next four years the railway construction planned will cause the expenditure of fifty million dollars and the government is going to spend five million a year on public buildings making twenty millions during the four years. Moreover many industrial establishments will be built to provide the food and clothing and necessities of the hosts of wage slaves, to be employed. So everyone is going to have lots of work to do. But that is as far as McBride will take the argument. He is a cute old customer and knows better. He has had Hawthornthwaite and other Socialists pounding truth into him on the floor of the legislature. McBride knows but he won't tell. There will be lots of work and lots of prosperity. But who will do the work? The wage slaves will do the work. Who will get the prosperity? The capitalists. For the workers will build and the capitalists will possess and therefore McBride rejoices at the big melons for his darling labor skimmers. His government will see to it that only enough melon juice will trickle down to the wage slaves as will keep them alive and fit to go on working. Many of you British Columbia wage slaves voted for McBride and his henchmen. Oh you easy duifers.

There are many people who say they are Socialists, that Socialism is a good thing, that they are working for it. When you ask them how they voted last election they reply that they voted for Laurier or for Borden, showing that they do not know the political basis of Socialism. In every civilized country of the world there is the Socialist party united to oppose the capitalist parties. How can you be a Socialist when you vote against Socialism? What would you think of a man who called himself a Conservative and yet went, election after election, and voted for the Liberals? You would say that man did not know what he was talking about. That is just what the man does who says he is a Socialist and then goes and votes year after year for the capitalists.

LAURIER ON THE EIGHT HOUR BILL

On January 16th, Sir Wilfrid Laurier spoke on the eight hour day on government works bill introduced by Alphonse Verville. This bill had been ripped to pieces in committee. It had been slaughtered and the torn and tangled remnants were being tossed backward and forward across the floor of the House.

The old bill was little. It provided that work done whether by contract or otherwise, should be done on the eight-hour-day-labor basis. Overtime work was not to be allowed save in cases of emergency.

The bill in its amended form simply provides that work done on public buildings by the government by day labor shall be done on the eight hour day basis. Overtime to be reckoned as time and a quarter. NO MINIMUM WAGE IS FIXED. So the government can employ men at a cheap rate, work them ten hours a day, and the eight hours regular time and the two hours overtime reckoned at time and a quarter will come to but an average day's wage for a ten hour day. Mackenzie King admitted in Parliament that the government could do this. The bill in its present form is nothing but a joke, a little joke played by the political henchmen of the labor skimmers upon the wage slaves of Canada.

The labor organizations throughout Canada have met in indignant protest. They have repudiated the bill. They do not want it. It is useless.

It is interesting in this connection to read what Sir Wilfrid has to say. Sunny smiling Laurier has held the confidence of the workers simply because they have not realized that he is their foe.

This tattered remnant of a bill was being discussed. Sir Wilfrid, arose and said:

"I have no doubt whatever that the labor organizations for which my hon. friend (Mr. Goodeve) seems to speak would prefer the Bill originally introduced in this House to the Bill in its amended form. BUT THE CANADIAN PEOPLE ARE NOT COMPOSED ONLY OF THE WORKING CLASSES. THERE ARE OTHER CLASSES. AND THESE OTHER CLASSES OBJECT TO THE BILL. I can understand very well that although the working class would welcome this measure if it were more drastic than when first introduced, still they realize that there are other interests to be considered, and they are willing, as is the case in regard to most of such legislation, to take the principle in an amended form and to accept less than they would like to have."

There you have Sir Wilfrid. There

The politicians boast that Canada is free, that she pays nothing to the motherland, that she is not taxed. That is just where the politicians fool the people. Canada is heavily taxed to support the rulers of Great Britain. There is over six hundred million dollars of British money "invested in Canada." This means that Canada is being drained thirty million dollars a year in interest which goes to the British labor skimmers. These thirty millions are a tax. Under Socialism rent, interest and profit will be abolished. This tax will cease. But at present it is not levied by government officers and is not voted on at Ottawa. But the British labor thieves get the money all right.

The bank owners and the railroad owners and the industrial magnates tell you that Socialism is not good as it will interfere with private initiative. The bank managers and the railroad owners and the industrial magnates run to the government for charters and big bonuses and protection and special privileges. These gentlemen fear Socialism as it will put an end to their private initiative in the direction of plundering the people through special laws and special grants of money from the state.

Verville's eight hour day bill for persons working on government contracts has been so amended by the workingman's friend, William Lyon Mackenzie King, as to provide that the eight hour system shall be applied where it is already in force. Nice little King. He can go play with the workers and pretend to help them as long as he don't hurt the boodle schemes of the labor skimmers.

are other classes besides the working classes. These other classes can only be the parasite classes. Sir Wilfrid says that the working classes ARE WILLING to yield up this poor little measure in the interests of the parasite classes. Laurier fights the workers and lies to Parliament about their desires.

Just think over this attitude of Sir Wilfrid. The workers want eight hours a day on work paid for by the government. The government has paid seven million dollars for a bridge that fell into the river. It is paying bonuses to steel magnates. It is letting fall contracts in New Brunswick. It buys sawdust wharves and pays good money for them. It gives railway bonuses. It can maintain a profitless postoffice system for the transmission of the business letters of the labor skimmers from Montreal to Australia for two cents.

It can do all this, BUT IT CANNOT CUT OFF ONE HOUR FROM THE WORKDAY OF THE LABORER IT EMPLOYS. The contractors and special interests must be made rich at government expense. The wage slave must toil heavily that the government funds must be used to build up the private fortunes of the employing classes.

The workers must be content to have their bills slaughtered because the other classes demand it. That is what Laurier says. Labor wanted this measure. Laurier the representative says labor cannot have this bill. Why? Because the other classes are against it. Laurier therefore does not represent the interests of the working classes. This is what Cotton's has been saying. Laurier is the henchman of the capitalists. The workers can expect no mercy from him. His sunny smile is warm to the labor skimmers, but cold and glittering and icy towards the workers.

Sir Wilfrid adopts the Socialist theory of the struggle of the classes. He flings his influence against the class that produces the wealth the capitalists absorb.

Shall the workers of Canada forever trust to their political enemies for favors? Will they forever go, hat in hand, to the henchmen of the special interests to demand small measures? When, workmen of Canada, are you going to rise in your political might, send your comrades from the workingbench to represent you in the places the laws are made and take unto yourselves, not merely a beggarly eight hours a day bill, but something far more valuable than that, something that rightly belongs to you—the full social value of the wealth your labor produces?

The old is passing. Individualism is going. Socialism is coming. Humanity is being pushed forward into the new state often against its will. The enemies of Socialism say proudly, "Socialism will never come." And lo, while they thus speak, Socialism advances with great strides, its vast shadow covering the world horizon. In Great Britain old age pensions are being granted. You do not have to go off and be shot at to get them. They are given to the old and needy. In Great Britain a plan is being worked out to insure all workers against invalidity. Here the need of the person is the only consideration. Again a scheme for providing workers with insurance against unemployment is being inaugurated. It is true that these measures are introduced by a capitalist government and are shaved and pared to be as useless as possible to the workers. But still they recognize the principle that individualism is dead and that Socialism is necessary for the safety and preservation of the people.

Canada is said to be prosperous. There is said to be lots of work for all. While other countries suffer from unemployment the wage plugs can get all the work they want if they will only work cheap enough. If this is true there is only one reason for it. The surplus workers are set to work to build newer and bigger slave pens for the master class. In other words, the capitalists are "developing" Canada. When the new factories and railroads are built then we will see the free and independent Canadian wage slave hump the ties hunting for work.

Socialism will abolish poverty.

Socialism is the hope of those who toil.

Socialism will free the worker and the millionaire from the fear of want.

Many persons are Socialists at heart and do not know it.

The workmen of Canada are ripe for Socialism. It is only a question of getting the principles of Socialism to the workers in a manner they can understand.

In 1900 the land value of the city of Winnipeg was assessed at \$11,000,000. In 1911 it is assessed at \$108,000,000. This value is the property of those who enjoy rent, interest and profit. They did nothing to earn it. Under Socialism this value will belong to those by whose labor the value is produced, by the productive workers.

The Hudson's Bay Company own sixteen million dollars worth of land in Edmonton. You Edmonton wage slaves who pay rent, how do you like to be taxed for the homes you live in by a bunch of labor skimmers across the pond? If you like that kind of treatment just keep on voting for the capitalist politicians. They will only be too happy to accommodate you by laws that will make you pay rent!

Say, Mr. Worker, you think you are free. But are you? Over in Magog, P. Q., the Dominion Textile Company has a cotton mill. There the hands go in in the morning. Then the doors are locked. No one can get in and no one can get out save the door is unlocked. It is run like a penitentiary. Do you call that freedom? Your boss tells you you are free. The capitalist politician tells you you are free. But when the doors are locked and you are set to your job imprisoned do you call that freedom?

According to F. J. Dixon, the organizer for the Manitoba single taxers the Grand Trunk Pacific insiders have organized a subsidiary company called the Grand Trunk Pacific Development Company. This company controls 51 townships with 78,840 acres. These will be easily worth twenty-five million dollars. There are five persons who own the shares of this company. C. M. Hays is one. With two hundred dollars he stands to get five millions. Who will pay it? Why the farmers and wage workers, the men who produce all the wealth. Socialism will stop this robbery. But the wise farmers and wage workers don't want Socialism. Socialism might break up the home, don't you know?

The eight hour day bill on government works has been introduced into parliament year after year. Verville has got up year after year and proposed this bill. It has always been pigeonholed or sidetracked. This year it was discussed more fully and finally the government accepted the bill in a mutilated shape. It has been cut down so that now it is worthless. The laboring men wanted this bill. But they elected capitalist politicians and then went to the representatives of the class that robs them to get dolos. Are you not foolish, workers?

The Liberal government at Ottawa has introduced a tariff bill into the House of Commons whereby lower duties will be put in force if the bill passes in Canada and the U. S. There are three possible explanations of the bill. Either the Laurier government really want to help the western farmers. This is inconceivable. The farmers were made to be fooled. That has been the principle on which Laurier has run his government. So the second possible explanation is that Laurier wants to fool the farmers by making a pretence of passing a bill which he will carefully see does not pass. The third and most likely explanation is that the Liberal machine is looking out for campaign funds for the next elections and they are holding up the protected interests by a threat of reciprocity if the labor thieves do not come down with a lot of hard cash with which to buy the votes of the honest electors. It looks as though the manufacturers have come down because in the new bill manufactured goods are conspicuous by their absence from among the list of lowered duties.

Socialism is the movement that will free the workers from wage slavery. It is a movement of the workers by the workers for the workers. The worker who fights against Socialism is fighting the movement that will free him.

MINDING YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Are you a workman? Do you live in a city? Then you have heard Socialism discussed in the streets. You have seen what you thought was a disgruntled lazy person talking on a street corner about robbery and oppression. If you did not know what Socialism was you either smiled at his efforts or got mad. That is if you did not pay attention to what he said. If you listened carefully you no doubt heard many things which you felt to be right. But somehow the remedy seemed not to be clear. You failed to grasp the key to the argument.

Perhaps the Socialist discussed the church or your pet politician and you became provoked at his words. Perhaps you felt that the Socialist was meddling with the affairs of the workmen and that the workmen were perfectly able to look after their own interests. Probably you felt like saying, "Here, you street shouter, don't you butt in to our business. We can run it ourselves."

Ah, there is the point. You think you can run your own business. But you can't. That is if you work for wages, if you hold down a job. That is what the Socialist has been telling you. He shows you that you can't run your business and that Socialism will give you a chance to run your own business.

What is Socialism? Socialism is the workingclass, ownership and management of the means of production and distribution for the benefit of the working class. Under our present system the means of wealth production and the wealth that flows from the ownership thereof belong to the capitalist class.

You say you run your own affairs, your own business. What is your business? What do you do most of your waking time? You work. What do you work at? You work at your job. You are a railway man or a moulder or a carpenter or a machinist or a printer. It is your business to do the things connected with your trade. Now can you manage the things connected with the business as you want? Of course you can't. Can all of you who work in one shop manage the affairs of that shop? Of course you can't. The owners of the shop or business manage your affairs. They tell you what jobs to work on. They determine the conditions under which you work. If you go and say you would like to have better conditions or more pay or would like another foreman you are told not to meddle in things which are none of your business. Perhaps you get the sack on the spot. If all of you together through your union demand better conditions you are not given them. Your leaders are marked and sacked and blacklisted. Yet the foreman under which you work, the pay you get, the conditions in which you work, the hours you are kept on the job, all these concern you. You discuss them in your unions, thus recognizing they are part of your business. The Socialists tell you that under capitalism you cannot mind your own affairs. The capitalist class minds your business for you.

Under Socialism you will mind your own business. For you, the workers, will own the factories in which you work. You will choose your own foremen. You will cut out the rent, interest and profit now going to the master class. You, having become the masters of yourselves, will get all the proceeds arising from your joint labors.

The Socialists want one thing. They want you workmen to unite together on the political field, vote into the legislative bodies workmen from among yourselves, and by laws made by workmen to put your jobs under your own control and to give to you the wealth you produce.

Mr friend, when you tell the Socialists that you don't want Socialism, when you tell the Socialists to mind their own business and leave yours alone, you mean that you don't want to mind your own business but want to have the capitalists mind your business for you.

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