

INFANT MORTALITY

The little child is supposed to come as a blessing and light to a household. The charms of poetry have played about the infant that comes to bless motherhood. The popular magazines have played up infant psychology. Ministers of the gospel preach from the text about little ones coming to Christ.

Yet behind all this beautiful sentiment hangs the heavy shadow of black fear. Will the little one live? Will the pain and suffering that comes to the mother in bringing a child into the world be of no use? Will the little hands lie still or ever they have learned to play? Will the little eyes be closed forever before they have a chance to co-ordinate themselves and look upon the beauties of this material universe? Will the heart hunger of the mother yearn at the side of a newly made grave? Let us see.

According to the census of Canada 1901, there were 50,342 children under one year of age. There had died under the age of one year 21,328 children. Out of 71,670 births there were 21,328 deaths. The infant death-rate was over twenty-five per cent of the birth rate. In Ontario alone in 1907 there were 9,930 deaths of children under five years of age. In the city of Toronto in 1907 there were 1,313 deaths under one year of age.

Those who desire to get statistics upon infant mortality more fully, may write to the Registrar-General of Ontario, Toronto, for Dr. Helen MacMurchy's report on Infant Mortality. The statistics here given are taken from that report.

Herod's massacre of the innocents has hung through history as an infamous deed. Yet the babies murdered in that slaughter numbered but twenty or thirty. In Toronto alone over a thousand a year die, nearly all of whom could be saved with a proper system of caring for motherhood.

The United States spends \$7,000,000 a year on plant and animal health. But not a cent does it spend for the two hundred thousand babies that die every year from preventable causes.

WHY DO CHILDREN DIE?

Why do children die? Bottle fed babies are the ones that die. Of three hundred babies admitted to the Dresden Children's Polyclinic in 1900 and 1901 there were fifty-three deaths. These deaths all took place among the bottle fed babies. Of the 93 breast fed babies not one died.

Of children dying under one year of age more than two thirds die from gastro-intestinal diseases, in other words, food poisoning. When trade is depressed and work is scarce, when wages are low, and employment intermittent, the RATE OF INFANT MORTALITY DROPS. In the siege of Paris 1870-1871, when the general mortality rate is said to have doubled, the infant mortality actually fell forty per cent.

During the cotton famine the infant mortality dropped, and the same thing happens every time there is a big strike affecting women's work.

In Berlin in July, 1909, there were 913 deaths of children fed on cow's milk, and 86 deaths of children breast-fed. The Medical Health Officer of Birmingham, Eng., enquired into the deaths of 3000 infants and found only twenty-four deaths from among babies that had been breast-fed alone. The babes whose mothers are in an economic position to care for them do not die.

Great cities have a great infant mortality and manufacturing towns where women work have a still greater infant mortality. New York has 171 infant deaths to one thousand births. Fall River has 260 deaths.

What do these facts show? They show that woman labor is responsible for the slaughter of the innocents. What woman labor? It is the parasite wives of the parasite receivers of rent, interest and profit among whom the infant death rate is high. It is the laboring classes who suffer the snatching away of their little ones. It is upon your class, workers of Canada, that the suffering falls.

There's a narrow ridge in the graveyard
Would scarce stay a child in his race,
But to me and my thought it is wider,
Than the star-sown vague of space.
—Lowell.

It is you working men of Canada, who have to stand beside the little

open grave the most often. Your labor is plundered. You are robbed of the fruits of your toil. You cannot protect your wives and little ones. The Minister of labor is among the plunderers. In his own constituency of Waterloo the manufacturers whom he assists in their labor exploiting enterprises, have been advertising in the British newspapers for more female help. They boast that they have eighteen hundred women working for them. Can you not see any relation between this and the high death rate among Canadian infants?

Laurier can spend twenty millions for war ships. He cannot see his way clear to spend that money to save the infants of Canada. It is time the doddering old supporter of the child killing system should be relegated into private life with all that he represents. Laurier mouths imperial words and the children die at the factory gates of the labor thieves; denied the right to live that rent, interest, and unearned profits may go to the idlers.

In Berlin, in 1903, Newman investigated 2,701 infant deaths. Where the families were in one room dwelling he found 1,792 deaths; in two room dwellings, 754 deaths; in three room dwellings, 122 deaths, and in larger dwellings, 43 deaths.

Who lives in the crowded quarters? Not the parasite exploiters. It is you, workers of Canada, who are crowded into the back streets. It is your babes who die.

The question of child murder is LARGELY A POVERTY QUESTION. This is the statement of Dr. MacMurchy. "Every thing we can do to increase efficiency and prevent poverty, will prevent infant mortality too." Who are the ones who suffer poverty? Not the exploiters. Is it Sir H. Pellatt who is sporting round London with six hundred paid murderers at his heels while the children of the Toronto people die? Is it Pellatt who is poverty stricken? No. It is the people he exploits. Is Lord Stead who paid for a bunch of skilled shooters to go and murder the Boers poverty stricken? No. It is the Canadians whom he exploits. Is it Fielding, the Canadian Finance Minister, who is poverty stricken? No. The labor thieves gave him a hundred thousand dollars because he had been their faithful henchman and had worked for the exploitation of the Canadian men and of Canadian women.

Helle examined into the social status of parents of 170 infants dying in Gratz during 1903 and 1904; 112 who died had very poor parents; 49 children had poor parents; 9 had well-to-do parents, and no deaths occurred among the children of the rich.

Does not this tell you a story? Does not this arm your soul with a courage to go forth and do battle with the system that kills your little ones in your homes? The capitalists mouth cant phrases about Socialists stealing property away from the capitalists. The capitalists are stealing the babies of the workers and handing them over to the terrors of grim death. The capitalists talk about Socialism breaking up the home. The capitalists are leading your wives in tears to the side of little graves where their babies are buried.

Join the grand army of social revolt. Fight for the right of your children to live. Throughout the ages has rung the call for men to protect their homes—and their little ones. That call is ringing in your ears today in Canada. It is no foreign foe you have to fear. It is your Canadian foes, the capitalist exploiters, the traitors to the homes of the people of Canada.

You will find your foes wearing grand clothes, living in magnificent homes. You will find them whispering into the ear of Borden, of Laurier, of McBride, of Sifton, of Whitney, of the other politicians. You will find them in the council halls of the nations. You will find them wherever capitalist exploitation is taking place.

Join the army of revolt. Resolve to overthrow the power of the traitors to Canadian homes. Remember. You are fighting for the liberty of yourselves, the well being of your wives, and the lives of your children.

The national debt of France is six billion dollars. One million five hundred thousand French persons share in the ownership of this debt. They tax themselves to pay interest on the money. Under Socialism the national debts would be abolished and their place would be taken by old age pensions and contributions to the support of the incapable and state aid for motherhood.

MILK INSPECTION

Montreal health officials have begun a campaign for pure milk. One farmer who had typhoid in his home was not allowed to sell milk in the city. He threatened to sue the city for large but unspecified damages. Other farmers have been encountered on the routes of various inspectors who absolutely refused to allow the city officials to visit their farms or to inspect their herds or their stables. In all these cases the position has been taken that the producer is the sole judge as to what constitutes healthy food, and any attempt on the part of the officials of the consumers to want to inspect the sources of production which are the private property of the producers is an impertinence and an outrage. This is the true individualist outlook. Are not the farms the private property of the farmers? Are not the cows the private property of the farmers? Then what right have outsiders to come round investigating? It is an infringement of the right of private property.

But the position of the farmers is not maintained by the public. The officials still keep on poking round. The public interests outweigh private ownership. Individual profit must give way for the general welfare. And the people say that this is well.

Once admit that the general welfare must triumph over individual profit and the way is paved for Socialism. Profit is not in the general welfare. Wage slavery is the prolific source of woes. Capitalism produces slaves and masters. It prevents the free development of a free people.

Surely then capitalism stands condemned and the good of the people must be maintained although there may be wrought personal distress. The general interest of the people of Canada will cause rent, interest and profit to be abolished, and the cooperative commonwealth to be introduced.

Laurier in his parting speech in British Columbia declared that the Liberals and Conservatives were both aiming for the welfare of Canada but by different methods. The welfare of Canada in Laurier's estimation is the welfare of the labor thieves. The last day of the session of the B. C. legislature saw the slaughter of seven bills introduced by the Socialist members for the benefit of the workers. The Conservative majority slaughtered them. And Laurier says that he and the Conservatives are aiming at the same thing. Does not this show where Laurier and his gang stand?

Some busybodies who say they are for labor, but who in reality are working for the labor thieves, are agitating for compulsory arbitration to prevent strikes on public utility concerns. If the men could only be prevented by law from striking then the plutes would rejoice for their profits would be sure. But through-out Canada are the Trades and Labor Councils with eyes wide open to any such obvious job as that. Canadian labor is not going to be tied down by the law to their bosses. Canadian labor is awake and will vote themselves into control of the machinery of production.

Mackenzie and Mann are building railway lines. Mackenzie and Mann are going into the meat-packing business. Mackenzie and Mann are organizing a ten million dollar company to manufacture pulp and paper. Mackenzie and Mann are organizing a fish trust on the B. C. coast. Mackenzie and Mann are fighting the demands of their western car men for higher wages. Mackenzie and Mann are capturing industry and organizing it for the benefit of their stock holders and their own purses. As they organize industry so must the wage-slaves who do the work organize for their own protection. Capitalist organization means organized wage slave revolt.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier denies that the bonds of the Hudson Bay Pacific Railway has been guaranteed by the Canadian government. The agreement may have been drawn up. The Liberal profit mongers may have promised the guarantee of these bonds. The plans may all be laid to guarantee them. It would be strange if they were not guaranteed, considering the record the Liberal government has behind it. But Laurier can declare that they have not been guaranteed as yet. And the Liberal press echoes this denial to show how the Laurier government is protecting the interests of the people. It is to laugh.

CANADIAN BEEF TRUST

The beef trust has gripped the American meat trade. The farmers must sell to the trust and the purchasers must buy from the trust. The trust pays poor wages and the trust magnates riot in the wealth gotten from low priced cattle, beaten down wage slaves and high priced meat. The profits have been immense and our Canadian labor skinner are after part of the profits. Fielding and Laurier and the Liberal politicians are making plans to abolish the tariff on live stock coming into Canada. Mackenzie and Mann, backed by millions of pounds of British money, are building railway lines to convey the cattle into Canada to their own packing houses, and a Canadian movement is on foot to do battle with the beef trust.

In this fight the workers have little interest. Just as in feudal days rival lords set their tenants on to build castles for the nobility and to enlist in political battles for the benefit of their masters, so today the rival capitalists set their wage slaves at work producing surplus values for their masters. The capitalist barons whether they work for the American beef trust or for the beef trust that is being started on Canadian territory by the labor skinner who are backing Mackenzie and Mann.

When wars broke out between rival nobles there was much rejoicing among those who made their living by war. The armorers and heralds had much to do. There was scurrying and haste and life and motion. But the energy was wasted in destructive enterprises.

When the Canadian beef trust gets warring with the American beef trust there will be competition. There will be haste around our legislative halls. There will be work for lawyers. There will be commercial agents of the American trust and commercial agents of the Canadian trust wasting their energies in trying to steal the world markets for the rival trusts. And the slaving farmers on the farms and the wage slaves in the packing establishments will sweat to support the expenses of the economic war and to keep their masters in luxury as well.

Would it not be better for Canadians to co-operate to produce for themselves what they need? Would it not be better to eliminate this useless competition and the unearned profits which go to support the parasites on labor who draw dividends in return for no work done? Would it not be better for Laurier and Fielding to bend their energies to produce a state of society where food would be produced for the support of the useful workers instead of being produced for the profits of Mackenzie and Mann and their servants who are necessary to keep the wage workers in the position of wage workers?

Surely it would? But Fielding and Laurier will not use their energies in the interests of the people. They are the instruments of the masters for the continuance of wage slavery. Their minds filled with slave driving ethics, can we expect them to be untrue to the slave drivers?

BORDEN IN ONTARIO

Robert Borden will be up in Ontario during September. He will talk about Laurier and extravagance and waste. But he will not define his position with regard to the working classes. Borden is trying to become Premier of Canada. Will the Ontario Socialists ask him what his position is on the question of the robbery of the workers?

Robert Borden will tour Ontario. Can the Socialists of Ontario get him to make clear why he does not discuss the Springhill strike?

Borden is willing to talk much. But he says never a word of direct interest to the toilers of the Dominion. He should be made come out into the open. He should be shown up as the friend of the labor thieves.

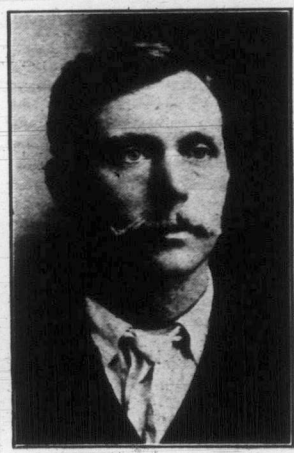
The Socialists of Ontario can make Borden's tour very uncomfortable by questioning him and watching him squirm on vital questions.

Will the Ontario Socialists do it?

The capitalist apologists consider that Socialism stands for robbery. Socialism stands for the prevention of the robbery of the workingmen and women. Is it robbery to prevent robbery?

"Wor-kers av th' Wor-uld, yez are a fright," says Mr. Dooley. "Yez hov nawthin' t' lose, but yer brains—and yez haven't any."

A Turkish bank has just acquired three million dollars of Canadian securities. This means that between a hundred thousand and a hundred and fifty thousand dollars a year will be paid by Canadian labor to Turkish labor skinner. We Canadians pretend that we are free and that no slavery takes place in Canada. But we like slavery and rejoice at it. Here are our Canadian papers chortling because Canadian workers are to be made slave in order that the "unspeakable Turk" may live off the sweat of Canadian labor. This is the result of capitalism that Laurier and Borden so enthusiastically support. Capitalism enslaves Canadians to the Turks. Canadian labor dragged captive at the economic chariot wheels of the Turks. How do you like that kind of twentieth century civilization, Canadian workers?



JULES LAVENNE

The readers of Cotton's no doubt are anxious to know what Comrade Jules Lavenne looks like. Take a good look at him for here he is. Jules is under arrest on a charge of perjury laid by the company. Jules declares that he is not afraid of a law suit with the devil. He has something worse to face, a criminal law suit in a capitalist court.

Comrade Lavenne is going to plead his own case. Whatever the outcome to himself personally, he may know that he has fought a good fight for labor, and that his name and fame in the annals of Canadian fighters for freedom will grow brighter with the years.

THE CUMBERLAND COMPANY

The Cumberland Railway and Coal Company, according to their own statement, is in a bad way. In 1906 they lost \$77,000; in 1907 \$156,000; in 1908 \$22,000 and in the first four months of 1909 \$42,000. These losses totalled over a quarter of a million dollars.

The officials declare that the Springhill mines are very expensive to operate. The average hoist is 3,500 feet; the seams pitch from 18 degrees to vertical, and over present workings there are 2,000 feet of superincumbent pressure. In spring and fall as high as 41 tons of water must be pumped, to each ton of coal mined. Moreover, there is a costly system of ventilation to be kept up.

The coal is highly bituminous, cross-factured and consequently friable, producing a large proportion of small than any other coal in the Province. The company claims that in 1906 they lost twenty cents on every ton mined; in 1907 fifty-one cents; in 1908 seventeen cents and in 1909 thirty-nine cents.

The company claims that the average daily wage of the miners has increased from \$1.83 in 1895 to \$3.14 in 1907. The wages dropped to \$3.00 in 1908 and \$2.90 in 1909.

On September 1st, 1909, the management notified the miners that they would be taken back to work only upon a reduction of fifteen per cent in the wages paid at the time the strike commenced. This out means forty-four cents per miner, reducing the wages to \$2.46 per day.

According to the report of the Department of Labor at Ottawa the cost of living, as determined by the wholesale price of 230 commodities, has gone up forty-three per cent. A wage of \$1.83 in 1895 would purchase at wholesale prices as much as a wage of \$2.61 would now purchase. Taking into account the enormous advance in retail prices, it is safe to say that a wage of \$1.83 in 1895 was as good as a wage today of \$2.75. The Cumberland Company wants to pay \$2.46. This would equal a reduction of almost 12 per cent in the

scale of living that the men enjoyed in 1895.

Is it any wonder that the miners of Springhill are on strike? In the last fifteen years machine production has made vast strides. A revolution in industry has taken place. The labor of man's hands is much more productive. Yet the Cumberland Coal Company wants its men to reduce their scale of living in order that it may make profits.

THE OTHER SIDE

It is very peculiar that a capitalist concern would keep itself in operation just to give work. For the last four years the Company lost money, according to its own account, on every ton of coal mined. Why does not the company admit its failure and go out of business? Does it think that in this twentieth century of wage slave revolt that toilers of the Dominion are to live like chattel slaves, that once again J. R. Cowans may fill his stables with race horses? If the company is losing money, why does it attempt to import seals to take the place of the striking miners. The Company declares that it is operating at a loss. The men declare that the company has developed the mines for twenty years ahead. The company says that high wages are not conducive to steady work and maintenance of output, as there has been an average of a hundred and fifty-nine men off work daily, equal to ten per cent of the total employ. If it costs the company more to mine coal than the coal is worth, then the officials should rejoice when the men take a holiday. The less miners at work, the less coal there will be mined and the less the company will lose. Instead of rejoicing, the officials complain that ten per cent of the workers take holidays when the mine is running, thus saving the mine owners ten per cent of their loss. Is not that a ridiculous state of affairs for a sensible mine management to lay before a sensible public? Do the officials think they can guff the public?

The men complain that there has been mismanagement. That the mine officials know nothing about mining and if the mine is not paying, it is the fault of the bad policy of the management.

It is always a cheap trick of the capitalist minded to tell the wage slaves that times are hard, the bosses are making no money and that the wage slaves must accept less wages, poorer food and more poverty stricken ways of living in order to hold their jobs. There have been twenty-three strikes at Springhill. The economic war has hurt the pocket books of the Springhill mine owners. The capitalist agencies pour out their sympathy for the parasites whose incomes have been used up in the class war and tell the workers that this is not the time for them to press the class war because the poor parasites will be put out of business.

The class war must end in the abolition of economic parasitism. What is warfare for, but to conquer the enemy? The ultimate aim of strikes is to grant unto the workers the full product of their toil to the exclusion of enjoyment therein on the part of the capitalist property owners.

Springhill is pretty well revolutionized. Jules Lavenne has not been pumping revolutionary philosophy and revolutionary ethics into the wage slaves without effect.

Supposing that, owing to the demands of the strikers, all the revenues of the mines are used to pay labor and raw material and nothing is left for the parasite owners of the company's stock certificates. The owners would get nothing; they would find it unprofitable to run the mines and in spite the capitalist owners would close the mines down and let them flood with water. Then every plute organ in Canada that gave the question consideration would yelp and howl about the town of Springhill being destroyed by the exactions and impossible demands of the wage slaves. As long as capitalists control the legislative bodies, the capitalists will rob the workers or keep the workers out of the machinery of production. It is for the Socialists to capture the legislative bodies and to hand over the machinery of production to the collective working class to run to the exclusion of the parasite profit receivers. Under capitalist laws J. R. Cowans in his despotism can deprive 1700 workers of the chance to work without being robbed. Under Socialism the miners will run the mines and such labor wars as that of Springhill will be ended forever.