

SOLDIERS AT SPRINGHILL

Two hundred soldiers, members of the Royal Canadian Regiment, are now in Springhill helping the labor skimmers of the Cumberland Railway and Coal Company break up the homes of the workers.

There are those who say that Socialism will break up the home. They have nothing to say when capitalism breaks up the home. The Cumberland Company has begun the eviction of families from the company houses. About twenty-five notices of eviction have been served. The men, who want roofs over their families, and their comrades who felt that their turn was coming next, objected. They did not like to see homes broken up. But property rights of the parasite owners are paramount. The workers cannot have homes if the labor skimmers say no. They must vacate what homes they have at the dictates of the bosses. For this is the law of capitalism which runs throughout the slave territories of Canada.

The men protested against being forced out of their homes. Their comrades assisted in the protest. Forthwith fear entered into the hearts of the Springhill plunderers. Troops were requisitioned from Halifax. The Mayor of Springhill refused to sign the order for troops. The Mayor is elected by the votes of the people. He refused to do the bidding of the bosses. The judge is appointed, not elected.

Thereupon recourse was had to a judge. The judge under our capitalist laws is the paid henchman of the plunderers. His function is to protect rent, interest and profit. Judge George Patterson, of the county court, affixed his signature to the order for troops. There was the frenetic Drysdale at Halifax hurling injunctions at the strikers. There were the strikers in Springhill disobeying the injunctions. There were the courts serving eviction notices on the strikers showing signs of not getting out of their homes. The majesty of the laws for the keeping of the wage slaves in subjection was being held in contempt. Judge George Patterson rushed to the protection of the outraged slave laws. He ordered the troops up from Halifax.

And it was the Royal Canadian Regiment that came. Before a bunch of legalized butchers can have the name Royal attached to them they must get the consent of the King. These Halifax butchers had been graciously granted the privilege of connecting themselves with royalty. They have also adopted the title of Canadian. Is not Canada in the grip of the parasite lords of rent, interest and profit? And are not these armed men paid, equipped and drilled to shoot Canadian working plugs when they attempt to become free and escape wage slavery? Then why should they not have the titles of Royal Canadian?

The troops are in Springhill. The Cumberland Company is importing wage slaves from Europe. When Canadian wage slaves become restive then they are turned loose and workers from overcrowded Europe work them from their jobs. If the workers refuse to work until conditions are slightly improved, then their jobs are to be taken by slaves from Europe directly imported for the purpose.

Now Cowans feel secure. Now the plunderers are rejoicing. The guns of the official murderers are ready to be aimed at the hearts of Canadian workers. Now scabs can be put to work without fear of danger. Miserable conditions for the workers can be maintained and all the gathered power of militant force is prepared to keep the workers in their misery.

Workers of Canada, what lesson do you gather from the treatment of your fellow workers in Springhill? Laurier is parading the west and talking of the wonderful prosperity of Canada. Your fellow workers in Springhill are suffering want and hunger. Borden has paraded Ontario and talked about many things, but not one mention of the slavery which the toilers of Canada endure. You have nothing to hope, workers of Canada, from Laurier, Borden or the other capitalist henchmen, but slavery when you toil, and hunger, jails, and machine guns when you do not work.

Unite among yourselves for the conquest of the political power of Canada. Let the roar of your mighty protest echo from Atlantic to Pacific. Let the plunderers of your bodily labor hear the united protest of your revolt and tremble for their parasite position. You have nothing to hope from your masters but chains. To free yourselves you must unite on the political field for the ousting of your masters from the possession and control of the mines, mills, forests and machinery of production at which you must work for your daily bread.

Every bunch of sub cards sent out, carries some of our new picture post cards. Five half-yearly cards, \$1.00. Five yearly \$2.00.

How do you like, when applying for a job, to be told that you, a free worker, can't have it, because a prisoner is doing the work for nothing? That is the game Whitney, Reaume and Hanna are playing on the workers of Ontario.

A revolution takes place in the means of production. There necessarily follows a revolution in the mode of thought owing to changed economic conditions. Thus a new era is born and many persons erroneously consider that the great thinkers did it. The great thinkers may have helped, but the times must have been ripe for the change or the change would not have come.

What say you, workers of Canada? Are you going to stand for Whitney and the pegg and chain gang? Are you going to let your jobs taken from you by a parasite? Have you sunk so low that Whitney and his henchmen can replace you by slave labor and you raise no protest? The spirit of Canada will rise in protest against the slave chain gang of Ontario.

The railroads want laborers. Prison labor is handy. The manufacturers will for help. Behold the jails are full. Free labor is expensive. Prison labor can be had for little. How the months of the capitalists water for prison labor! How the profit ledgers are scanned over wage bills! And Whitney, Hanna and Reaume are on to the job ready to throw prison labor into competition with the job holder.

If the workers of Ontario do not protest against the competition of prison labor the system will be introduced into the other provinces. For the capitalists of Canada are watching the spirit of their wage slaves. If the workers protest then the experiment will be stopped. Hanna will quit. Reaume will draw back. But if prison labor can be introduced into Ontario the whole of Canada will become tainted with the competition of slaves.

The Liberal government is exacting the possession of twenty-five dollars from immigrants other than farm laborers going to a job. This is hailed as a great reform for the protection of labor. Now British immigrant societies are lending twenty-five dollars to the immigrants who want to come to Canada. The Laurier government will give no real advantage to labor. The Laurier government is too much interested in seeing the capitalists get their profits out of the hides of the workers.

Mortals are blind-creatures so far as the future is concerned. We learn slowly from experience and we have to learn the same lesson over and over again. In slave countries the incentive to work is removed from the slaves. The spirit within does not move the hands to labor, the brain to think, nor the feet to run. The master class takes the resultant product of the thinking brain, toiling hands and running feet. Why therefore should the spirit of the slave be active to work? The spirit of the slave being sluggish, the incentive must be applied from without. The feet must be tingled with the bastinado. The lash must make the bare back quiver. This comes to be the ordinary mode of exacting work. The bosses see no other way by which industry could be carried on and they announce that without slavery you could not flog the workers and without flogging the workers would not work. The Ontario government is starting on the first step to this point of view. They are setting slave prisoners to work. Pretty soon the slave whip will be in evidence. Oh Hanna, Hanna. Get wisdom, man, and a little understanding.

One of the schemes under way is to let out prisoners in Ontario to municipalities to crush stone for roads. More political patronage will now be on tap. Those polling subdivisions which do not support the government will get no prisoners. Those who support the government will get roads built by criminals. Does not this open a beautiful vista for bribing counties? The wage workers will get fewer jobs and have to tramp the streets as prison labor becomes more generally applied and those counties which support the government most enthusiastically will get the most prisoners to take the jobs of the wage earners who will have to hit the ties to another town for a job? Will the workers stand for this? Of course they will. Have they not whooped it up for the politicians of their bosses every election? And have not the workers always got hit in the neck for so doing? Why should they change now? If they will stand for wage slavery why not for prison slavery?

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This is how it works out. Criminals

TREATMENT OF CRIMINALS

The whole idea of criminology is changing. With the revolution in the method of producing the necessities of life comes a revolution in the mental concepts in all lines of thought.

In the days of chattel slavery cruelty was practised on all sides. Therefore prisoners were inhumanly treated. In the days of feudalism obedience and submission were taught. The innermost thoughts of a man had to be submitted to his feudal lord or to the lord's religious supporter, the priest. The man accused of crime had to plead truthfully to whether he was guilty or not. If he refused to plead, "stand as mute of malice," as the old English law puts it, he was, according to English law, laid in a dungeon with a weight about his middle as great and greater than he could bear. He was fed on insufficient mouldy black bread and stagnant water and thus he remained until he pled or died. On the contrary, Europe, even when a prisoner was not guilty, he was nevertheless tortured because he might be lying and torture might make him tell the truth. Many an accused person has confessed himself guilty of a crime of which he was innocent to escape the torture.

Then rose capitalism and the abolition of torture. This gave rise to the classical school of criminology. When Cesare Beccaria in 1774 published a book against the barbarism of the mediaeval laws he was met by a storm of abuse. The abbe Jachinei published four volumes against him calling him the destroyer of justice and morality, simply because he had combatted the torture and the death penalty.

The middle ages were dominated by the feudal idea of class distinctions ordained by God. Those who rebelled against such class distinctions were impious wretches who merited tortures and death by the most excruciating methods. The bourgeois revolt overthrew these ideas and established what is known as the classical school of criminology. The bourgeois system maintained the idea of the freedom of the individual apart from heredity and environment. A man is what he is because he wants to be what he is. A man has a free will and he who succeeds has exerted that free will and should be honored. A man who commits a crime does so because he so willed and is morally responsible and should be punished. This is the basis of the classical school. Rewards and punishments proportional to the mildness or severity of the offence.

The new school is called the positive school of Criminology. Cesare Lombroso and Enrico Ferri are among the originators of this school. This school maintains that the criminal is not free to commit or not to commit crime. Ferri divides the influences which go to produce crime into three classes, anthropological, telluric and social. The first is the race of the man and his heredity. Italians are more prone to deeds of blood than are the English. In one year there are three thousand deaths from violence in Italy as compared with three hundred in Great Britain. There are also born criminals who are no more responsible than are insane persons. Lombroso dwelt upon the anthropological nature of crime. And this side has been pushed forward by the rich criminals of America in their own defence. "Dementia Americana" played a great part in the Thaw trial.

The next influence is telluric. A hot sun produces less crimes against property and more crimes against persons. "Crimes Passionels." Cold produces property crimes more than crimes against persons.

The third influence is social. In Naples the poor are very poor indeed and they unite together into bands to compel the property owners to give the means of life to the men and women who would otherwise die. This is the famed Camorra. The roots of this society lie in the social poverty of the many.

Man is a product of these three things and the crime is the reaction of the individual to the influences around him. He is not responsible.

This is the basis of the new science. This is what Whitney, Hanna and Reaume realize but dimly. They feel that our whole criminal system is based on an error and that the criminals are victims of society rather than its outragers. Consequently we have their attempts to do some justice to the criminals by getting them out into the open air.

But the Ontario executive is victimizing the victims of society and victimizing society also in their proposed remedy. The prisoners are to be turned into temporary slaves under the pretence of doing them justice for society having victimized them.

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als are victims of heredity, of their country, of the capitalist social order. For being victims of society, society shuts them up behind stone walls. Whitney et al in order to do justice to the victimized criminals, makes chattel slaves of them. Hanna, Reaume, and Whitney, are foolish mortals indeed.

Words of Abraham Lincoln

"I see, in the near future, a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of war, corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption, in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all the wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of our country than ever before, even in the midst of war. God grant that my forebodings may be groundless.

"Monarchy itself is sometimes hindered as a refuge from the power of the people. In my present position, I could scarcely be justified were I not to raise a warning voice against the approaching return of despotism. It is not needed, nor fitting here, that a general argument should be made in favor of public institutions; but there is one point, with its connections, not so hackneyed as most others to which I ask brief attention. It is assumed that labor is available only in connection with capital; that nobody labors unless somebody else owning capital somehow by the use of it induces him to labor. Labor is prior to and independent of capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor, and could not have existed had not labor first existed. Labor is the superior of capital and deserves much the higher consideration. I bid the laboring people beware of surrendering the power which they possess, and which, if surrendered, will surely be used to shut the door of advancement to such as they and fix new disabilities and burdens upon them until all of liberty shall be lost.

"In the early days of our race the Almighty said to the first of mankind 'In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread,' and since then, if we except the light air of heaven, no good thing has been or can be enjoyed by us without first having cost labor. And, inasmuch as most good things have been produced by labor, it follows that all things belong of right to those whose labor has produced them.

"But it has so happened in all ages of the world that some have labored and others have, without labor, enjoyed a large proportion of the fruits. This is wrong and should not continue. To secure to each laborer the whole product of his labor, as nearly as possible, is the worthy object of any government.

"It seems strange that any man should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing bread from the sweat of other men's."

It is said that Christianity triumphed by ceasing to be Christianity. The organization grew at the expense of the things taught and upheld. Laurier triumphed in politics by ceasing to be a Liberal. The platform of 1896 was made to be broken. The capitalists of Canada demanded service against the interests of the people and Laurier evidently made a secret compact to serve the capitalists instead of the people of Canada. Today the Conservatives expect to win the next elections. But they feel that they cannot win under the leadership of Borden. Therefore there is a constant struggle among the Conservatives to get rid of Borden. Borden stands for public ownership which the plunderers do not want. There is a well defined movement to call McBride from the premiership of British Columbia to put him at the head of the Tory party. McBride comes from a reactionary government. He is pliable. He serves the capitalist interests. His contract with the C. N. R. by which the province of British Columbia took all the risks of the enterprise and the C. N. R. takes all profits makes him dear to the hearts of the capitalists. The Conservative party may succeed next elections. But it will be under the leadership of a safe politician who will allow the plunderers to plunder the workers.

There are many miners and prospectors up in Northern Ontario who would be glad of a job. They would be willing to work as navvies on the roads to get the bread by which to live. But Hanna, prison labor loving Hanna, forbids. Prisoners are to do the work.

The politician wants to have nice public buildings and spacious offices in which to promenade his carcass. Public buildings take labor power and labor power means money and money means taxes. Therefore, happy thought, the politician in Ontario is going to utilize prison labor to do the job.

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Col. Sir Henry M. Pellatt was fined twenty dollars at Toronto for speeding his automobile on Dundas street. Thus do the parasites have even a branch of the criminal law applied for their exclusive use. Under the private ownership of public property which now prevails, what workman could be fined for speeding his automobile?

The Bank of Nova Scotia is increasing its capital stock from three to five millions. This means that there will be two million dollars worth of promissory notes which the bank can put out in the shape of bank notes and draw interest on. Great are the trickeries by which the profit hunters get profit for nothing.

Many settlers were attracted into the wilderness of Northern Ontario. Settlers in a new country find it difficult to make a living until their lands are cleared and they are raising their own food. They were attracted by the assurance that they could get work from the Ontario government in the building of roads. This is now taken away. The work is done by prisoners.

Whitney, the Conservative Premier of Ontario is throwing prison labor into competition with free labor. This tickles the plutes and Aylesworth, Liberal Minister of Justice at Ottawa, is going to help along the job. When it comes to smashing the power or labor, there is no division between Tory and Liberal politician. They are both anxious to help break the power of the workers.

There are many in Ontario who rejoice because public buildings will be beautified by prison labor and roads made. Prison labor is slave labor. In Egypt the pyramids were built by slave labor. In Rome the roads were utilized for the passage of troops to quell slave rebellions. Yet there are blind fools who rejoice that slave labor is to be introduced into Ontario.

The capitalist system relies upon the unemployed for its continued existence. Give every worker a chance of employment and the power of the capitalists would be broken. It is competition among wage slaves for jobs that keeps wages down to the bare subsistence level. The workless hunt jobs. There are not enough jobs to go round. It is upon this fact that the capitalist system bases its plunderings. Now for these already too few jobs Reaume is going to furnish prisoners. That will make the competition all the keener among the workers for what jobs the prisoners do not take. O wise Hon. Dr. slave driving Reaume.

The government has to feed, clothe and shelter the prisoners. The free workers have to find food, clothing and shelter for themselves and families. The government owns the jobs and are turning them over to the prisoners. Thus the free workers can't get the jobs. The prisoners get them. The free workers can't get food, clothing and shelter. The prisoners get them. The only way the masterless worker can get these necessities is by some illegal method. They commit some crime, and get jailed. Then food, clothing, shelter and a job are open before them. Is it any wonder that crimes are increasing? The very methods Reaume is adopting to benefit the criminals are producing criminals by the score. Yet Reaume, by some, is thought to have some brains.

This is the routine of the prison farm at Guelph. The men rise at 5 o'clock in the morning, breakfast, attend roll call, and scatter to the fields. At noon the shrill whistle of Sergeant Lyons, who is in charge under Warden Gilmour, calls them in to dinner. An hour later they resume work until the 6 o'clock call for supper. From 7 o'clock to 9 o'clock are hours for recreation. At the latter hour the evening roll-call takes place and the men file away to bed. Sunday is a day of service and rest. How nice that is. The routine of the wage slave is being practised on the prison farm. The mediaeval system of prison conduct is giving way to twentieth century wage slave conduct. And it all takes place under the eyes of the authorities. And this is capitalist reform.

Editorials from Cotton's Hustlers

ARE WE FREE?

We very often hear the statement boastfully made that this is a free country, yet nevertheless, in spite of this frequently declared fact, every man, no matter what may be his standing in the intellectual scale (provided he be not a simpleton) is aware of the fact that his exercise of liberty and freedom is seriously limited by circumstances over which he, as an individual, has very little or no control.

The present unsatisfactory condition of individual liberty is undoubtedly due to the fact that although the endeavors of past generations toward the solution of the social problem have resulted in constitutional declarations of individual liberty, nevertheless the social problem has remained purely an economic one for the simple reason that all privileges rest upon economic supports.

This apparent impotency of constitutional decrees might lead some of the wise ones to say, "has the struggle of our forefathers to secure the boon of constitutional liberty been in vain?" Not at all. All this was but a means to an end. But the end is not yet. It has to yet be achieved. While vast combinations of capital, formed into trusts and other conditions of monopoly are rapidly placing the wealth and resources of the country in the hands of the few; while the vast majority of productive laborers have not at any time much over a week between them and starvation, it is a moot question that we, as intelligent citizens, began to ask ourselves the question, "Is this the glorious result for which our fathers strove?"

In the philosophy of Democracy we have a medicine that can cure our ills. We have here a deliverer that can right our wrongs. The past few years have wrought a revolution in the industrial world which is of vital importance to every man. An industry is the channel through which the means of life must flow, it behooves us as intelligent men to keep it from obstruction if we would reap results of peace and freedom.

It is rapidly becoming patent to the mind of every thinking man that under our present system of operation the laborer is robbed of the produce of his labor and compelled to toil for a bare living; while owing to the injustice of the system, his oppressors are rolling in wealth and magnificence.

It is evident that any effective protest against the injustice of this system must come from the laborer himself. He must through political organization exert his influence upon the powers that be and with the mighty club of an enlightened franchise make the political gong resound with giant blows for freedom.

The development of the human intellect has awakened in the breast of man sentiments of equality that can never be realized under existing conditions of society. The question is a simple one—"are you going to assist in a reconstruction of society in greater consistency with those rights or are you going to lie down on the job?"

PHIL LEEDER.
McIntosh Mills, Ont.

At the prison farm at Guelph the prisoners are being freed from the jail garb. They are being dressed as ordinary wage plugs. The guard with rifle and the turnkey are not in evidence. Therefore it is said that Hanna trusts the prisoners. How Hanna must smile at the glibness of the public. What need of guards in this day? The telephone and telegraph are guards enough. Where can the prisoners escape to? Not to the States. The escaped prisoner will be sent back to Canada as an undesirable person. The whole of Canada is a jail for the prisoner if he tries to escape. Every policeman, detective, government agent, will be out to nab the fleeing one and will only be too delighted to act as jailer to the prisoner when his brief day of freedom is up. You turn a plug horse out of its stall into a barnyard with a gate open into the back pasture and the plug horse will not run into the pasture if it is harnessing time. It knows that it can be caught in the pasture and does not waste its strength in useless effort. The same with the prisoners at Guelph.

Capitalism is a dividing up system. It takes away the earnings of the energetic and active and gives them to the idle, vicious and lazy. Capitalism is robbery and should be abolished.

Rent, interest and profit, behold the three thieves.

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