

Getton's Weekly

50c A YEAR IN CANADA—TWO FOR \$1.00

Devoted to the Propagation of the Principles of
International Socialism

\$1.10 PER YEAR IN UNITED STATES

COWANSVILLE, P. Q., THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1909

CLEAR THE WAY FOR THE CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH

VOL. XXXVIII No. 42

THE HOLLER AGAINST SOCIALISM

Socialism will not work. You can hear this yip coming from all the corners of Canada. There is not a paper so big but that cannot tell its readers what a horror socialism will be. There is not a paper so small but that its editor thinks he can squeeze a few brilliant thoughts out of the thing he calls his brain against socialism. Little Nova Scotia papers run to the defence of capitalism. Montreal papers take a swipe at the thing. They are all (with a few noble exceptions) standing up and singing in nasal tones about the blessing of capitalism while capitalism is rotting to its downfall.

There is corruption in our legislation. There is corruption in our commerce. There is corruption in our civic administrations. There is corruption in our national life. The slimy trail of capitalism has invaded the homes and rendered the atmosphere putrid. Men have to bribe their way for positions on the police force. Girls in departmental stores must walk the streets. Crimes of the rich go unpunished. Crimes of the poor are settled by the heavy hand of the law. If you are rich and crafty you can break all the laws of God and man and escape the clutches of the law. Occasionally some fool who thinks he is a financier gets caught and the police howl in triumph. If he had not been a fool he would not have been caught.

The same papers that are howling against socialism show in their every page of the corruption and downfall of capitalism. The crimes recorded. The immoralities exposed by our respectable capitalist press is enough to turn a decent man or woman sick with disgust and hatred of the whole system. Yet but a small corner of the rottenness alone is raised. To expose but a little of what we know would make the postal department take away our mailing privileges.

There is not a newspaper reporter in Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg or Vancouver who could not tell tales of outrages, oppression and sneaking crafty schemes worked by capitalism and capitalists against women, the public and the laws. They dare not talk, for the jail awaits those who dare tell the truth. Moreover proprietors of the newspapers have a habit of sacking the reporters who tell the truth. Capitalism must be maintained by lies and the reporters are hired to maintain it.

Let the press yell all it wants to. The workers must overthrow this present system. Until they do they will suffer. They will have to spend their lives in a mess of slime which capitalism declares their rightful heritage.

CONVERSION

Early Christianity, so the records declare, laid great stress upon conversion. A man had to recognize his lost condition before he could become awakened to the necessities of action and to the benefits that could be derived from joining the Christian organization.

So to-day, the wage worker must see clearly the position in which he is, before he can see the remedy and the way of escape. The wage worker is a slave. Many of them do not realize this. They laugh. Nevertheless, the man who labors for the profit of another at the command of another is a slave.

In slave days there were laws for the protection and comfort of the slave. The chattel slave was a beast of burden and as such human legislators passed laws with regard to his provender and to his care in time of sickness.

The modern wage slave does not have the protection of such laws. He is a slave without a master until he hunts one up. He must accept the hard conditions imposed by the boss. He must enter into competition with other masterless slaves and the one who will accept the hardest terms, who will live in the poorest shack on the least and coarsest food, who will agree to work the longest, will get a master. The other slaves, having no master, must go without a shack to live in, or food to eat.

This is slavery. It is a crueler, more unjust slavery than the old chattel slavery. The masters find it more

profitable. If the wage slave becomes sick he is sacked. When he gets old he is thrown on the human scrap heap and he will be lucky if he can get himself jailed without hard labor in order to obtain free food, lodging and medical attendance.

This may be called the lost condition of the human wage slave. The wage slave who does not realize his lost condition is hopeless. He will strive to do his best by his boss and get sacked for his pains. He will chase the phantom of riches which will in nine hundred and ninety-nine times out of a hundred escape his grasp. His children and wife will suffer and he himself will break down and die while still young or drag out a useless existence on charity during a useless old age.

The worker who realizes his helpless condition and lost estate will seek the remedy. He will turn to socialism and study its doctrine and a great light will flood the grey matter in his brain. He will know the truth and join the army that is leading the campaign for the emancipation of the workers. When a knowledge of socialism and what it stands for enters his heart he will be filled with the missionary zeal of the early Christians. He will go to his death for the cause of human freedom and human happiness as did the early Christians. And if the time should ever come when it is necessary to wrest the power away from corruption legislatures and corrupt capitalist tyrannies by force of arms he will go forth to the fight for his home and for humanity with a clear consciousness of the right and nobility of the cause for which he fights.

CAPITALISM IN FRANCE

Socialism is a failure. Have you not heard this? Does not the daily press inform you of this fact? Capitalism is the only thing that was ever made for the benefit of man.

Unhappily the facts do not accord with the capitalist theorists. In France socialism has made giant strides. The capitalists are frightened and want to be good and show that their system is workable. But even when they are on their good behavior the spectacle is ghastly.

Exposures have recently been made as to the state of the French navy. Of the seven hundred millions spent during the last ten years a quarter has been absolutely wasted. The money has been spent to help the capitalists in selling rotten material to the government. In spite of the huge expenses there is now no coal nor ammunition in reserve. The ships have an unhappy faculty of blowing up or running on reefs.

Wherever you find capitalism there you find corruption. The scandals of capitalist governments have been revolting. France lost the Franco-Prussian war because of the huge stealings of the capitalists of that date. Russia lost the Japanese battles because of the corruption of conditions existing among the wealthy contractors. Paris, the gay Mecca of the gilded parasites, is one huge sink of corrupt iniquities due to the inequalities of conditions and the parasitic pleasure seeking of those who live on the labor of others.

French workers are preparing the revolution. They are becoming more powerful. Occasionally they try their strength with the plutocratic controllers of the means of life. At every attempt their power becomes more apparent and the rulers tremble.

In Canada the workers are beginning to sit up and take notice. They are getting tired of doing all the work and letting a few lunk heads take all the fruits. When a few more of them get a little wiser there will be things doing in this fair Canada of ours.

A child does not know what is good for it and must be taught. In the same way the workers must teach the idlers how much better it would be for them to live under socialism where they would be compelled to do something useful.

There is no love in the capitalist system of competition. It must disappear before humanity can come to its own.

A PURCHASED PRESS

Recently the American magazines indulged in a series of muckraking articles. These have ceased in their virulent form. They continue in a weak manner. But the things now exposed are the things everybody knows. Thus Everybody's goes in for muckraking the New York stock exchange, when this exchange has been the subject of investigation by a state commission. The American Magazine gives articles on the San Francisco exposures which are old and known to all.

The reason for this sudden change is that the magazines have to depend on advertisements for revenue and the big businesses would not advertise in muckraking sheets. Hence the muckrakes ceased to operate and magazines revel in ads.

In Canada rents are going up in our cities. Do the daily papers raise a cry against the extortion of landlords? Not at all. They describe how prosperous the city is growing. A glance at the houses to rent and lots and houses for sale columns will show the reason for this quiet. Then the newspapers will raise a great cry about some poor starving child and the average man will praise the paper for its goodness.

Conditions in many of the department stores are harsh and unhealthy. Women are forced into prostitution because of the beggarly pittance they get. Do the daily papers raise any outcry over these conditions. Not a yip. Turn to the advertising columns and see the flaunting advertisements of department stores and the explanation is simple.

Recently an imperial press conference met in London. The whole thing was more or less of a fake. A decent press representative who has any regard for his independence would consider himself demeaned by joining the deliberations of the conference. The newspaper will rave over imperialism in London and will assist in riveting the shackles of slavery on the weak and miserable at home.

AN APPROACHING CRISIS

Society has been drifting towards a crisis. With the development of the capitalist system the classes of society have been reshaping themselves and have been growing more antagonistic. On the one hand are those who draw revenues simply because they hold bits of paper with peculiar characters traced on them. The owners of the means of production have become fewer and more powerful. On the other hand are the exploited who do the world's work when they are given an opportunity and who starve when the lords of life shut them out from the mills.

In the early days before the capitalists of Canada had waxed fat and arrogant by means of special privileges from corrupt legislations and by the general trend of the capitalist system, the master class were more thoughtful and more human toward their employers. Then the worker who showed ambition could get promotion. The masters looked after the welfare of their wage slaves to a certain extent. Even recently in Cobalt, before the big mines made their owners multimillionaires, the miners were treated with some consideration. Since the mines began to pay, the men who do the work have found by bitter experience that capitalists who are powerful have little regard for those who make the wealth for them.

All through industry the class struggle is growing more intense and more bitter. Canadian judges interpret Canadian laws in such a manner as to aid the rich against the poor, the exploiters against the exploited. The workers will not stand the conditions thrust upon them forever. A crisis is approaching; let the capitalists beware.

The trade commissioner for Canada in Mexico declares that the Canadian manufacturers are anemic and do not hustle for Mexican trade like the Americans do. There is still good juicy pickings on Canadian toilers. Hence the Canadian manufacturers do not have to hunt the lean carcasses of the Mexicans as do their American rivals.

DEMOCRACY

You workers may think you are enjoying the benefits of democracy because once in five years one of your bosses comes around to you and asks you to vote for him to be your representative in Parliament. You swell your chests out and look upon yourselves as the rulers of Canada. Once in four or five years you get a chance to march up to a box and put two little lines on a piece of paper and drop it into the hands of a Liberal or a Grit agent. Because you do this you are a democrat.

For twelve hundred days of the four years you hump your back at the bidding of your boss which you have no self by your unpaid labor. That is providing you have a boss. If you have not a boss you hump the streets all the harder to see if you cannot find one to whom you can sell yourself for as much as he wants to take of your labor. And you think you are self-governing people.

You workers are wise people. No doubt wisdom lies with you and will die with you. You think you are learning history and wisdom and truth when some paid spell binder talks to you from a platform of what the boss who wants to pry himself into Ottawa is doing for the country. We have listened to the guff and know that you are dead easy.

Do your representatives tell you that they have cut down your hours of work from ten to six hours? Does the spell binder tell you that your representatives have made the bosses hand over the factories and the railroads for you to run and direct for the benefit of the workers. Not a bit of it. They tell you how many bushels of wheat you don't eat. It goes to England. You lick your chops but never wonder why you do not get more to eat. They tell you how valuable land is getting. You listen in wrapped astonishment and never think that it is the increased rent that is squeezed out of you that makes the land more valuable. You are easy.

Go on supporting the old system. Be good to your bosses and let them make all they money they want out of you. They like it. But don't complain if your children cry because of hunger, don't complain if you get thrown out of a job and you have to get your food by your daughters' dishonor.

Sure you are democrats and have the power and run this old Canada of ours. Do not the men who make the laws against you tell you so? Do not your bosses who rob you tell you so? And you believe the guff they give.

TUBERCULOSIS

There is a great stir against tuberculosis over the American continent. This disease, it is declared, must be stamped out. Statistics are presented showing how the ravages of the disease are affecting the nations of the world. The capitalist papers are filled with brilliant essays against this plague. Doctors are awaking the people to its deadly effects. And still the disease becomes more dread and deadly.

The reason is simple. The nations of the world as far as legislation is concerned worship at the shrine of capitalism. Rent, interest and profits must be protected. Men must be allowed to grow rich out of the robbery of those who toil. As a natural consequence there is a wild scramble for positions of ease and luxury which results in the living conditions of the workers becoming productive of disease.

There is a very simple remedy for the abolition of tuberculosis. Let the slums be abolished. Let the men who control factories and mills and homes get to work at something useful. Let the workers get the full value of their labor. Let it be declared a crime for one man or woman to make another man toll for the privilege of sheltering himself in a home. Let rent be abolished. Then men could afford to live in healthy homes. Let the workers control their own mills instead of working for a lot of useless drones. Then the factories would become healthy places to work in. The owners of the factories would provide far different working conditions did they have to work in their own establishments themselves. Let the workers get all they earn and let them have homes where they need not worry

about the coming of the landlord for the monthly rent. Then worry would disappear. The men with their pay could buy good food and fresh non-tuberculous milk for their children. With their crushing of the triple-headed monster of rent, interest and profits and with a sane system of co-operative democratic management of industries tuberculosis would disappear from the face of the earth.

Will the societies that are being organized for the suppression of tuberculosis advocate the radical measures which will be necessary for the wiping out of the disease. Not on your life. They will peak around the slums and say "How dreadful. People should really not be so slovenly." They will give plenty of advice that the workers cannot follow owing to their having been robbed through the capitalist system. The doctors will give a lot of advice and hope for rich clients. Milk companies will put up good milk in nice little bottles at prohibitive prices. And the landlords will continue to raise the rents, the capitalists will continue to squeeze the workers and compel them to live in slums not fit for a pig, and the tuberculosis agitators will go to the robbers and ask them out of their charity to give a few dollars of the stolen money to employ teachers to show the workers how to live in an impossible manner on the pay they get.

POLICE REWARDS

The doctor is a noble creature but very often he makes pills for sale and not for use. A good deal of the work of doctors is useless. The doctors work for pay and the more work he can make himself the better he will be rewarded. Very often the advocate can make more fees by piling up useless costs. The procedures are useless but as he gets paid for doing them he does them.

In every profession, with the development of knowledge and with the discovery of simpler methods of doing things, there comes a time when the professional man must make work for himself to get a living wage. The profession is becoming obsolete and pettifogging arises.

The same thing can be seen with the police. Our whole idea of criminology is undergoing a revolution. Men no longer believe in the inherent badness of men. Police are appointed to keep order and to make arrests of vicious persons who are committing vicious acts. The police force is founded on the belief that man is inherently bad and must be kept repressed. But truant officers are being appointed for juveniles. Suspended sentences are coming into vogue. The whole tendency is to reclaim rather than to punish and society is becoming convinced that society is to blame rather than the individual criminal for the crimes committed.

With this view prevailing the policemen are finding their jobs slipping away from them. Consequently they have to fake up charges and crimes to let the plutocrats and governing powers know that they are still needed. This is at the bottom of most of the police activity in the American cities. Innocent persons are arrested and the police themselves make fake plots in order to get credit. The so-called anarchistic troubles in Chicago in 1886 were faked by the police. A policeman in Rome, Italy, recently discovered two bombs which were supposed to have been prepared for Edward and Roosevelt. On a rigid examination it was discovered that the policeman had himself prepared the bombs.

Even in Montreal the policemen will stir up rioting in order to have a chance to exercise their authority and do something so as to make the public think they are earning their pay.

The capitalist system is full of shams and hypocrisies. The idle and the useless draw the revenues while the useful workers get starvation wages or starve without work.

The trusts are invading the retail store business and ousting the small merchants. If the country merchants have any sense they will be fighting for socialism along with the expropriated proletariat.

THE KEY TO SOCIALISM

Many persons hold confused notions with regard to the aims and objects of socialism. One professor has declared that socialism is either robbery or religion. Many persons confuse socialism with the moral reform movement. Non-socialists are bewildered by the high idealism wrapped up in the socialist philosophy which is combined with an apparently utter disregard for property rights. The explanation is simple.

Socialism is not a moral reform movement. It is not a religious movement. It is not a movement of organized theft. Socialism has for its aims and object the raising of a slave class to power. There have been many classes in the past who have gained control and oppressed others. Socialism aims at raising the last class of oppressed people, the actual workers, to power.

The raising of a slave class. This aim is neither moral nor immoral. It has nothing to do with the moral questions propounded from pulpits and blessed by popes, prelates, rulers and financiers. The workers are slaves. The workers are handing themselves together in the socialist party to achieve their freedom. The ruling classes oppose this movement. This brings the question down to a practical warfare, political, educational, economic and brutal. The slaves are prepared to take advantage of all means which will promise ultimate success. Their aim is the deliberate overthrow of the power of the financiers, land-owners, mine-owners, stock jobbers and the whole host of predatory exploiters and their useless parasites. The wealthy consider this aim to be sheer robbery. The slaves realize, however, that this so-called robbery must take place before their liberty is achieved.

The aim is the overthrow of the plutocracy. The method is moral and noble and partakes of an altruistic crusade on the part of the members. No slave class can rise to power through corruption. The oppressed must be wary and keen of intellect. They must be bound together in trust and faith, the one toward the other. They must be strong morally, mentally and physically, or else their cause will fail. Just as corrupted timorous and mutinous armies cannot win victory, a slave class with the terrible uphill fight it has to wage cannot win victory unless it has the numbers, the faculty for combination and a disregard on the part of the members for personal safety and personal aggrandizement. The workers of the world are uniting in moral valor and are leading themselves to victory over a corrupt and corrupting enemy.

To many the rise of the workers, the wage slaves, to victory is a new tyranny. The earth has experienced the tyrannies of the patrician Romans, the feudal lords and the modern capitalists. Under the domination of all these classes there have been tyrannies. Why, therefore, argue the non-socialists, should there not be tyranny when the workers themselves get the power? As the workers are the ones who do the work, when the actual laborers become the rulers there will be left no classes which they can enslave and tyrannize over. The workers are the last of the slave classes. When they control they can only become tyrants by enslaving a part of themselves. Should this happen it will simply mean that socialism will not have as yet triumphed. The fight will still be long to free the workers from the tyranny imposed upon them by their former fellow-workers.

Socialism then means the rise of the last slave class, the overthrow of the last and worse of tyrannies, the triumph of the brotherhood of man, based on the principle of equal service with equal privileges.

Canada built the C. P. R. and gave it to the capitalists. Now the workers have to work like niggers to make a living on the railway while the owners travel in Europe.

Senator LaFollette declares that Taft has entered into an alliance with Aldrich to defeat the income tax. Metoo Taft is as great a fizzle as was Roosevelt.