

The High Cost of Living

"You Socialists are crazy likes. You say that profit comes out of labor. You say that the masters make the profits and that the workers are not interested in the cost of living. Look at the shoe trust. Shoes are going up in price and the workers have to pay more for the shoes and the trust gets big profits out of the pay envelopes of the workers. Come and help us fight the shoe combine, the meat combine, and the other combines that are making the cost of living soar. You won't? Well, you are foolish."

Thus say reformers. Thus say the people who are fighting the trusts. Those of the bourgeoisie who are being pinched by the high cost of living want the Socialists to help them fight their battles. The Socialists are fighting along other lines, and with reason.

The wages of the workers always hover round the cost of living. There is little margin left for the workers after they have paid the cost of their food, clothing and shelter. We see workers who have worked all their lives without the means of subsistence in their old age. Wages are determined by the cost of living. Recently the cost of living has gone up. The workers have been demanding bigger pay. And the Boards of Conciliation appointed by the Department of Labor have been deciding in the men's favor in labor disputes. This is due to no philanthropy nor to a desire to do justice to the men. The Boards have recognized that if the same wages were paid as formerly, the high cost of living would give the workers a wage below the subsistence level, thus making them inefficient and unable to produce surplus values for the profit lords. A horse must be fed to do good work. So must a man. It does not pay the masters to give a worker so little pay that he cannot buy sufficient food for himself. Thus the recent advances in wages were given because of the advancing cost of living.

When the free trade orators were agitating for the repeal of the corn laws of England, they used the argument that free corn from the United States would reduce the cost of living. A reduced cost of living for the workers would mean that wages would fall as the workers could live on less wage. The rising capitalist class saw the point, the corn laws were repealed, the landlords lost a great part of their revenues, and the capitalists got cheaper wage slaves and more profits. They absorbed much of the profits that was formerly going to the landlords.

Suppose the price of shoes went up? Suppose that the leather trust gets a grip on the market and boosts the price of shoes? What will happen. The workers must have shoes. The shoes cost more. Wages must go up to cover this increased cost. Wage slaves all over Canada will have to have more wages. The profits of the capitalists in other lines will be reduced in order that the profits of the capitalists engaged in the shoe trade may be inordinately large. The other capitalists, seeing these big profits, will fight the shoe trust in order to get cheaper shoes for the workers that wages may be reduced.

This very fight is going on against railroads in Canada and the United States. The railroads have been making inordinately large profits. These large profits fall, not on the workers who get but a subsistence wage, but upon the labor skimmers in other industries. So the Manufacturers' Association are fighting the railroads in order to get cheaper transportation rates.

The cost of living has gone up. Meats cost more. Shoes cost more. Clothing costs more. Rents cost more. The workers have had to have more wages. If the cost of living goes down, wages will fall because under capitalism, the labor skimmers skin the workers of all but the necessities of life.

The Socialists are not to be led aside by any false move for the fighting of combines and for the reduction in the cost of living. As long as the wage workers have to sell their labor power on the open market, just so long will they produce great wealth and get out of life a dog's living. The Socialists are fighting for the working class control of the government so that the workers may get control of the machinery of production and distribution. They are out to expropriate the expropriators of labor and to put labor into full control of the wealth their hands and heads have produced.

It is announced that the British Columbia government will have a surplus of \$2,750,000 this year. This will not be applied to putting labor into control of the wealth it produces. That would put the labor skimmers out of business, and McBride is a particular friend of these gentlemen. It is only labor itself that will conquer its own freedom.

All printing sent out from Cotton's Job Department bears the union label. If you are a user of printing, send for samples.

Laurier and Borden both are anxious to do the bidding of those who hold labor in bondage. They differ only as to the frills that will accompany.

The patriotism of the Socialist who opposes the waste of war and the waste of competition, and strives for the development of free workers in a free democracy is far superior to the patriotism of the politicians and capitalists who howl for an army and a navy and let loose the horrors of war in order that they may get fat army contracts.

Carl Malange, a prisoner who was sent to work on the prison farm at Guelph, Ont., without pay, did not like the way the province was exploiting him. He ran away. On Oct. 27th, Judge Chadwick at Guelph condemned the prisoner to another year for escaping. The wage worker has the right of striking. The prison slave must work or be punished. That is the reason the politicians are setting the prisoners to work.

A consumer exchange has been formed in the north end of Montreal to distribute goods. The members claim that the cost of distributing produce in New York city is 60 per cent of the price received by the producers and they want to save this to the consumers of Montreal. If the consumers exchange succeeds, then the little retailers will be hit hard. Many of them will be squeezed out and become unemployed and unemployable. They will be thrown on the wage market to reduce the price of wages by competition. Thus reforms under capitalism produce disasters. It will be only when the means of life are socially controlled and socially distributed for the benefit of all the people that the ills of capitalism will cease.

SOCIALIST WORKER IN TOWN
The following is from the columns of the Herald, Owen Sound, Ont.

The town had the doubtful honor this week of being visited by Mr. Lorne Cunningham, Provincial Organizer of the Socialist Party of Canada, whose idea in including Owen Sound among his list of stopping-off places was apparently for the purpose of stirring up some kind of a disturbance. Cunningham, it appears, is a representative of Cotton's Weekly, a socialistic and anarchistic publication which goes to press in Cowansville, Quebec. This paper is full of nothing but complaints and grumbings against those in authority, and the whole gist of its reading matter is to the effect that the mob should rule, and that all men should be equal. Mr. Cunningham who is one of the exponents of this doctrine visited the local factories and at noon hour told the employees of each place that a skin game was being played on them every day in the year, and that the time had come for them to begin to understand the true relations between capital and labor.

He also held out on the street corner in the evenings, and in a loud voice proclaimed to those who cared to listen to him, the evils of "wage slavery" and the oppression of the masses. The speaker could do some loud shouting and managed to hold the attention of the crowd, but on Tuesday evening, Chief McAuley and P. C. Foster took a hand in the game by rudely approaching the stranger in the midst of his narration, and hinting to him in a gentle way that if he did not betake himself from the corner, he would be arrested. Even though he is a Socialist, the speaker took the hint and moved, but not before he had spoken a few more words on the British Freedom which prohibited a man from airing his views in public. The police, or as Cunningham called them, "another class of wage slaves," put an effective stop to his howling, but what they should have done was to give him a rap on the head and put him to sleep in the local cooler, where his arduous would have a chance to ebb. Although the law decrees that a man cannot stand on the public corner in this way and draw a crowd, it allows him to speak in a hall as long as he says nothing against the crown. The place, however, for such agitators is behind the bars, as there is enough trouble and strife enough now without having strangers come around to foment it.

Owen Sound is the place where Organizer Cunningham watched the C. P. R. wage slaves do dangerous work for seventeen cents an hour.

Comrade Cunningham must have stirred the plates when their organ declares that he should be hit over the head with the policeman's club. The capitalists cannot argue with their brains. They have to argue with a wooden stick. The Herald gives the case away when it advocates the smashing of the brains of a workman who is making other workmen think.

What Socialists Have Done

They have grown from a little band of idealists half a century ago into an army of 25,000,000 persons today. They have increased their international voting strength nearly three hundred fold within forty years—from 30,000 in 1867 to 8,803,000 in 1907.

They have become a recognized factor in the public life of 25 modern nations.

They have elected nearly 500 representatives into the national legislatures of various countries and placed 12,000 more into municipal offices.

They have built up political parties that are more democratic and less corrupt than any ever organized by business men.

They have founded a powerful press and circulated millions of pamphlets and leaflets.

They have produced a scientific and philosophical literature that commands the respect of scholars everywhere.

They have won over to their side many of the foremost thinkers, writers, scientists, orators, labor leaders and dramatists of the old world and the new.

They have exercised a deep influence on present-day thought and action.

They have helped the trade unions fight their battles for higher wages, shorter hours and better conditions.

They have done much to stimulate the demand for public ownership.

They have forced conservative governments to make important concessions to the working class and keep good their promises of reform.

They have won old age pensions for the workers in England, France, Belgium, Germany and Australia.

They have compelled the German government to adopt a scheme for insuring practically the entire mass of German workers against accident, sickness, invalidity and death.

They have abolished the slums from German cities by pulling down the rookeries and building model tenements in their stead.

They have introduced the feeding of hungry children in the schools of France, Belgium, Italy and Norway.

They have secured the passage of acts in England, Belgium, France, Finland, Denmark, Italy and Holland that ensure every worker substantial compensation from the employer for injuries received while at work without his having to fight for same through the courts.

They have done much to curb the evil of child labor—to limit the hours of labor in certain industries—to secure for certain classes of workers a higher wage—to enforce clean, wholesome, sanitary conditions in all sorts of industrial establishments—to protect trade union funds from damage suits—to make life a little more worth while to those who toil.

These are things they have SUCCEEDED in accomplishing here and now.

They have not accomplished all they want to accomplish, but the fact that they have accomplished this much in spite of the bitterest opposition, in spite, too, of their being everywhere in the minority, shows that they are hard fighters as well as dreamers, that they are practical statesmen as well as clever theorists.

But these achievements are a mere earnest of what the Socialists hope to accomplish in the near future.

They are sweeping forward to greater victories. As their power grows, so will their usefulness.

Read Robert Hunter's "Socialists at Work." This book may be obtained from any public library.

SOCIALISM

Socialism is a working class movement that seeks to establish a working class administration of the government with the end in view of promoting working class interests (1) by enacting and enforcing labor laws, and (2) by bringing all industry in time under the democracy management of those who work through public ownership.

Socialism may be described as universal public ownership plus working class ownership of the government.

Though Socialism necessarily implies public ownership, public ownership is not necessarily Socialism.

Government ownership of railways may be no better than private ownership of railways for the workers. If the profits of a government owned railway go to reduce taxes instead of increase wages, if the employees are given no voice in the framing of the regulations they must obey, if profit is the first consideration and the welfare of the common people ignored, then the workers gain nothing by the transfer of the title deeds. The business men may get cheaper rates and have fewer taxes to pay, but that is not the aim of Socialism. Socialism is essentially working class in nature. Its object is to increase the comforts of the toiler and to ensure him the full value of his services to society.

W. R. S.
Any Sub Cards laying around the house? Why not put them at work, instead of moping away in a corner. Nail down the 10,000.

A Living Tomb

Where Light and Sound Never Enter and Fog is Foul.

In the middle of the River Neva, where it flows out of Lake Ladoga, there lies a tiny island surrounded on three sides by the turbulent waters of the river hemmed in upon the fourth by the cold and stormy lake. Upon this island stands a very ancient fortress enclosed by high walls more than twenty feet in thickness. This is the fortress of Schlüsselburg.

Day and night sentinels relieved every two hours pace around the top of these walls, keeping a vigilant lookout on every hand. No one from within the fortress, not even the soldiers or gendarmes, is allowed to communicate with the people who dwell upon the banks of the river. If the unwary fisherman chances to drift in his boat too near the walls of the fortress, says McClure's, he is greeted by the shout of a sentinel, aiming his rifle:

"Away! Or I shoot!"

Not even the Dead Sea in the deserts of Asia is so utterly isolated and cut off from the living world as is this fortress of Schlüsselburg, which lies within forty miles of St. Petersburg.

They are very ancient, the high walls of the fortress. In many places they are cracked from old age, and in the cracks little trees have taken root. They look sullen and ominously silent, as if they hid dark and gruesome secrets. And in truth in the whole world there are no other walls that have witnessed so many tragedies as those of the fortress of Schlüsselburg.

The regime and the aspect of the prison were carefully thought out and planned, being, as the Ministers visiting the Schlüsselburg repeatedly declared to the prisoners, intended to demonstrate to them that it was destined to be their grave. The cells were constructed in such a manner as constantly to remind the prisoners of a tomb. The stone floors were painted black and the walls dark gray.

The window panes were opaque, so that no ray of sun ever penetrated within the cells and no trace of color from without could be caught by the prisoners. The iron bedstead was turned up by day and chained against the wall, and only a little stool, also fastened in its place, allowed the prisoners an occasional rest from the incessant stride backward and forward across the floor of the cell.

This pacing back and forth was in fact the only diversion permitted to the prisoners. No books were given to them except the Bible, which they had already learned from cover to cover in the fortress of Saint Peter and Paul, no work for their hands, no color for their eyes, no sound for their ears.

Cut off from the living world, buried in the black stone cells, clothed in the dingy prison garb, with one sleeve black, the other yellow, they strode to and fro from corner to corner of their cages. Their food was abominable; bread, half raw, made of rotten flour, and a plate of hot water in which floated a few shreds of meat or the traces of an onion.

—McClure's Magazine.

CHIPS

Dividends represent wealth produced by labor and enjoyed by idlers.

Slavery is dependence on another for the means of subsistence.

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

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

Governor Johnson of Minnesota divided society into two classes. Those who have more appetite than dinners and those who have more dinners than appetite.

The Intercolonial Railway, though government owned, is just as capitalistic in its treatment of employees as the G. T. R., for the simple reason that the Canadian government itself is controlled by capitalists.

The daily newspapers and the big magazines are owned by capitalists, subsidized by capitalist advertisers and conducted along capitalist lines in the employment of wage labor. That is why they always defend capitalist institutions.

Industrial Combination

Information is constantly being asked for on Industrial Unionism. This Unionist Combination of Books will supply it at small cost. Every awakened wage-earner should be conversant with the different phases of Unionism, and be equipped for argument with the force and power given by knowledge. All these books are pertinent to the man under the machine.

1. INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM, by Trintmann.
2. REVOLUTIONARY UNIONISM, by Debs.
3. YOU RAILROAD MEN, by Debs.
4. CLASS UNIONISM, by Debs.
5. CRAFT UNIONISM, by Debs.
6. INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM, by Debs.
7. METHODS OF ACQUIRING NATIONAL POSSESSION OF OUR INDUSTRIES, by Richardson.
8. REVOLUTION, by London.
9. YOU AND YOUR JOB, by Sandberg.
10. THE MAN UNDER THE MACHINE, by Hinton.

These books were formerly sold at five cents per copy, but you can have the ten now for 25 cents. Send a postal note for 25 cents to Cotton's Book Department and get this Unionist combination.

3,804 persons were killed by the U. S. railroads last year and 82,374 were injured. There were 5,861 collisions and 5,910 derailments. But the railroads were very profitable, bringing in revenues of hundreds of millions of dollars to their parasite owners.

Canadian political conditions are in upheaval. Laurier is going to his oblivion. The country is heartily sick of the present Ottawa gag. And the Conservative politicians are all bewildered at the modern spirit. Borden wants to serve the plutocrats honestly but the plutocrats do not want that kind of service. They want crooked service. Borden does not know how to serve the people. The Conservatives are divided among themselves. This is the time for the development of a great Socialist movement. Both old political parties are bankrupt so far as platforms are concerned. There is no reason why the Socialist agitation should not shake Canada from Atlantic to Pacific.

The western farmers are planning a monster trip to Ottawa in December. Over seven hundred organizations of farmers will be represented from the west. These were voters who gave Laurier such a rotten time while out west. And they are following him up. The farmers are agitated now and they are demanding things. But Laurier will not give them what they want. He is too much bound up with promises to the labor skimmers. Let the working farmers join the Socialist party and elect Socialists to stop the robbery of the workers. Then the farmers will be freed from heavy toil on poor pay.

The Edmonton, Alta., penitentiary is situated on a coal mine. The convicts are set to work mining coal. Warden McCauley declares that the convicts mine almost as much coal as if they were receiving top notch wages for their labor. Our convicts lead a hell of a life. They are shut out from sight. They are sent down into the bowels of the earth during the day. They are made to work at high pressure. If they do not work, they have the hose turned on them, or are pounded, or are put on bread and water, or get the oregon boot. The horrors of chattel slavery are rife in the penitentiaries of Canada.

THE U. S. ELECTIONS

The reports of the U. S. elections are slowly coming in. The capitalist papers do not give the Socialist returns, consequently we have to wait for the report from Socialist sources which are slower.

Some of the reports are known. Victor Berger goes to the U. S. Congress from Milwaukee, the first Socialist that ever broke into that body. Hereafter there will be a watchdog in the house that will bark when the thieves are getting away with the plunder.

The first reports of the total vote gives 850,000 Socialist votes. In 1908 the vote for Debs was 424,000. Thus the vote looks as though it had doubled. However this report may be modified by later returns.

In New York State Charles Edward Russell polled 60,000 votes for governor. He outdistanced the Hearst ticket and came third on the list. The vote has doubled in New York state since 1908. In Connecticut Robert Hunter polled ten thousand votes. Peach polled 4,800 for governor in the last election and the Debs vote in 1908 was 5,113. Hunter's vote was 10,707 so the vote has more than doubled. In California the vote for J. Stitt Wilson is said to be 50,000. His vote was heavy in Los Angeles and San Francisco. And thus it goes. An increased vote is registered all along the line.

For local legislatures the first reports give twenty or thirty Socialist representatives. Milwaukee sends ten or eleven to the local legislature. Massachusetts sends one. It looks as though two have been sent to the Pennsylvania legislature. Maurer was elected from Reading, much to the surprise of the old politicians. Philadelphia piled up a vote of ten thousand.

The Socialists of the United States are jubilant and have taken off their coats and gone to work on the 1912 campaign.

A COMPARISON

Let us compare the earth to a garden, the wealth of the world to a large melon, the classes in modern society to four men.

The worker is the man who tills the garden, the landlord is the man who owns the garden, the capitalist is the man who owns the spade with which the gardener works, and the financier is the man who lends the money to the capitalist.

The worker ploughs the ground, plants the seed, tills the soil, tends the plant, and through his care and effort a beautiful large water melon has been wrested from the womb of mother nature.

But that water melon he must divide with others, so much so that he has only about a third for himself. But if he owns the land, owns the money, owns the spade, then all would belong to him.

\$10.00 will send 100 copies of Cotton's for three months to 100 different addresses in Canada or the British Isles.

A Break Down

No's 113 and 114 are being issued together, owing to a breakdown on the press on Tuesday, Nov. 8th.

After about one-quarter of last week's issue was run off, a cog on the large drive shaft underneath the press went smash. This necessitated an entire new casting, which was not in place till Monday, Nov. 14th.

In the meantime a 4 page a-column "Accident Edition" was printed on a job press and mailed to all subscribers in Canada, stating the reason for delay of regular issue.

Our paper press is very old, and worn, and the strain of the present editions is beginning to tell. A new press will have to come somehow in the near future if we are to successfully carry the message of Freedom.

However, comrades, keep up the hustling for 20,000. Make or break.

MAKE YOUR OWN MORAL

Once upon a Time there Lived an Innocent and Idle Young Female. As her Pa Robbed the Workers at the Pay Window and thus Furnished the Idle Young Female with the Where-withall to Live a Life of Ease, this Young Person found Time Hanging Heavy on her Hands. Being Bored, and Feeling the Pangs of Ennui, she Looked around for Something to Tickle her Jaded Interest in Life. Soon She spied the Working Class. (Notice it was the Working Class.) Feeling Sure that the Lower Classes would offer a Belated Amusement, and Noticing that its Members often Suffered Travail and Misery, the Idle Young Person Promptly Hypnotized Herself into a State of Maudlin Sympathy for aid Interest in the Poor Creatures who often had No Pie for Supper.

So She Pulled Papa's Leg for a few of the Workers' Dollars and with them Hired a Professional Reformer to Enjoy a Meal Ticket while Fusing with the Workers in the Guise of Charity. Also and Likewise, the Young Person, aye, even Her Dainty Self, Condescended to Show Herself in the Tonnage of a French Motor Car. Smiling Sweetly while She Advised the Mob to Vote for the Co-operative Commonwealth.

Meanwhile the Fair Maiden's Dad Increased the Hours in the Working Day, and when the Slaves Rebelled, the Idle Maiden was Much Hurt at the Lack of Gratitude in the Lower Classes.—Industrial Worker.

THE SMITH AND THE KING.

A Smith upon a summer's day Did call upon a King, The King exclaimed, "The Queen's away."

"Car I do anything?" "I pray you can," the Smith replied, "I want a bit of bread."

"Why?" cried the King. The fellow sighed, "I'm hungry, sire," he said.

"Dear me! I'll call my Chancellor, He understands such things; Your claims I cannot cancel, or deem them fit themes for Kings."

"Sir Chancellor, why here's a wretch Starving—like rats or mice!" The Chancellor replied, "I'll fetch The First Lord in a trice."

The First Lord came and by his look You might have guessed he'd shirk; Said he, Your Majesty's mistook, This is the Chief Clerk's work."

The Chief Clerk said the case was bad, But quite beyond his power, Seeing it was the Steward had The keys of cake and flour.

The steward sobbed: "The keys I've lost, Alas but in a span I'll call the Smith. Why Holy Ghost Here is the very man."

"Hurrah! Hurrah!" they loudly cried, "How cleverly we've done it! We've solved this question deep and wide, Well nigh ere we'd begun it."

"Thanks!" said the Smith; "O fools and vile, Go rot upon the shelf! The next time I am starving I'll Take care to help myself."

Edward Carpenter.

Socialists agree that under the Co-operative Commonwealth everyone must work. Why not make everyone of those Sub Cards work? They're only happy when carrying the message.

The Banner Collection

HAVE you started on the study of Socialism yet? Good propaganda is made only by study. Study in order to better convince the other fellow. The Banner Collection of Books are the very best obtainable for the beginner in the study of Socialism. Socialism is explained in a simple and interesting manner. The books are neatly bound in paper, and can be carried in the pocket without any inconvenience. Here is the list:

1. EASY LESSONS IN SOCIALISM—Leflingwell. 5c
2. SOCIALIST CATECHISM—Chiss. 5c
3. PARABLES OF THE WATER TANK—Belmont. 5c
4. MENSHIE ENGLAND—Hatchedford. 10c
5. WHAT'S SO AND WHAT ISN'T—Work. 10c
6. THE SOCIALISTS. Who They Are, and What They Stand For—Savage. 10c
7. Socialism, What It Is and What It Does to Accomplish—Leflingwell. 10c

A Postal Note for 50 Cents will take the whole Bunch. There is no better investment for the New Socialist. Seven Books for 50 Cents from Cotton's Book Department. Ask for the Banner Collection.