

INSANITY AND PAUPERISM

Becoming a Greater Burden every day in Montreal

The following article is taken from the Montreal Star, and is a striking indictment of the capitalist system:

A report has been completed at the City Hall by Mr. Bienvenue, who is head of the License Department, and who is secretary of the Civic Charities Committee, in regard to pauperism, insanity and uncared-for children in Montreal.

The report in part says:

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

"The number of uncared-for juveniles whom the city was compelled to take charge of, in order to prevent their becoming vagrants or starving to death, shows a considerable increase. This is a statement which sums up the situation with reference to the industrial schools in 1908. The application granted were 476 against 283, in 1907, an apparent increase of 193, but as 87 more children were recommended in 1908 than in 1907, the difference between the two years is really 106 new cases.

"Such a material increase would leave the impression, either that the cases were generally more urgent in 1908 or that the sub-committee having supervision over the commitments of uncared-for juveniles was less particular in its consideration of the applications. But, when it is seen that the applications themselves were 178 more in 1908 than in 1907, it must be concluded that the increase is not only due to a want of control, but to the fact that a greater number of families were in need of assistance during the year.

"Although the applications were more numerous in 1908 than 1907, viz, 178 more, the sub-committee refused twice the number of applications, in 1908, that it did in 1907, viz, 148 against 74. The proportion is certainly remarkable. It shows that the control over the commitments of uncared-for juveniles, which is of so material importance to the city's finances, is still very effective.

ASYLUMS FOR THE INSANE

The number of insane paupers committed at the city's expense is increasing every year. There will probably be no change in the situation until the causes of insanity have disappeared, for the increase is not due to a want of control over the commitments of the patients, but to the progress of the disease itself.

"In every country, the world over, great anxiety is felt at the frightful ravages caused by insanity. It is sufficient to mention that in the State of New York alone the increase in the number of cases has been from 500 to 1,000 per cent, for some years past in order to illustrate that Montreal is not an exception with respect to the number of insane patients who must be committed to asylums by the public authorities.

"Last year 318 new patients were committed at the city's expense, which was 55 more than in 1907. This amounts to 11 per month more than three years ago.

"The costs of maintenance of these patients added to those incurred for the patients already committed bring up to over \$50,000 the sum which the city had to pay to the Government for its share of the care of insane, in 1908.

"This large sum represents only half of the costs of maintenance of the Montreal patients, and the cost of maintenance of the insane, throughout the province, has come to be a burden of \$400,000 for the Provincial Treasury.

DEPORTING THE INSANE

"The Dominion Immigration Act, under which the deportation of the insane may be made within two years from the date of their arrival into the country, was enacted in 1906 and amended in 1907. It was only in 1908 that it must be considered to have been put to a practical test. During that year, it was made possible to deport or send back to their own country, through the Immigration Department, eleven insane patients.

"From information furnished by the Charity Organization Society, whose self-imposed task is to specially investigate all cases of poverty reported to its office, and to see that assistance be given to the needy, it is found that more applications for relief were made in 1908 than during the preceding years, owing to the business depression of 1907; but these conditions in their opinion, are

only temporary. The number of cases attended to by the Society showed an increase of 3,552 over 1907.

"From this, it may be inferred that the applications for the relief made at the City Hall must also have increased in number, and, in fact, from 86 that they were, in 1907, they have gone up to 274, on 1908, an increase of 188.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK DONE.

"To sum up this report, there is given a comparative statement of the work done by the Municipal Assistance Bureau in 1907 and in 1908. It will be seen that this work is greatly on the increase:

	1907	1908
Applications for Industrial Schools.....	421	686
Applications for lunatic asylums.....	263	332
Applications for relief to homeless.....	86	274
Applications for incurables.....	13	25
Applications for maternity.....	2	2

Total..... 785 1,319

An increase of 534 over 1907.

The number of investigations made by the department's investigation officer, in cases other than those of mendicancy, were 869, in 1908, against 591, in 1907, viz., 278 more.

—Montreal Star.

Revolutionary Paragraphs

By Will R. Shier.

A strong revolutionary movement that challenges the right of the master class to the ownership of the means of life will frighten the conservative elements into granting more reforms than any of your mild-mannered, weak-kneed, white-livered, wobbling, ill-educated, hat-in-the-hand parties will in thrice the time.

It is not according to what we have been taught in Sunday school, but it is none the less true, that all government rests ultimately on force. If it were not for the police, the army, the prisons and other agencies of compulsion, law-making would be a pretty farce. In the past this citadel of strength has been held by master classes—by military cliques, castes, landed nobilities, ecclesiastical orders and capitalist cliques—who have used their power to exploit labor and keep the masses in subjection. And so it will always be until the workers study, organize and fight in their own interests.

We men who toil must cease to prostrate ourselves before the "rights of property." We must realize that there is only one right, namely, pleasure, only one wrong, namely, pain. Capitalism is right for those who profit by slavery. For those who don't, it is a colossal wrong. It is wrong, damnable wrong, for those who most submitted to unrequited toil, to poverty, to disease, to degradation, to death. If the "rights of poverty" stand between the people and happiness, then the rights of property must be swept aside. An enlightened proletariat will recognize only one right, the right to enjoy life to the full. In this they will have learned a useful lesson from their masters.

In one of the Hindu sacred books, the Bhagavad Gita, there is a passage which says that "one only receives what he dares to demand." And we might add that it is useless to demand what you have not the power to take. The fellows who are afraid to ask for more than half a loaf usually only get a quarter, for example, our good friends, the trade unionists. A party that can be kicked with will not gain nearly as much for labor as a party that stands for all the world and the fullness thereof. And herein lies a reason why a vote for Socialism is never lost. Though the socialist party has only a small representation in parliament, or no representation at all, the fact that this party of revolution grows apace strikes uneasiness into the hearts of the conservative classes and leads them to throw sops to the workers in order to allay the discontent that is drawing them into the ranks of the Social Democracy.

POPE GETTING SCARED

Rome, Oct. 3.—The Pope is much dissatisfied with the result of the recent progress of Italian teachers, in which Socialist ideas prevailed.

He intends to appeal soon through the Bishops to Catholic teachers to direct their efforts more actively toward fighting the teaching of Socialist ideas, because they threaten to destroy orthodox religion and the capitalist state.

Spread the light of Socialism. Cotton's is a good medium.

AIR SHOOTERS and CREAM PUFFS

It is a settled policy of Cotton's Weekly not to publish articles derogatory to Comrades. We have an article attacking Will Crooks. We have turned the article down. We are glad to get articles from comrades that attack the horrors of capitalism. We will not publish articles attacking comrades.

As last week a reference crept in re a Montreal comrade in Toronto, we publish the two following articles to give the other side. Comrade Wayman is a fighter and a revolutionary. He has probably suffered as much for his love of Socialism as any other comrade in Canada. The publication of the following articles are nothing but his just due.

THE MONTREAL "AIR SHOOTER."

Reading a criticism in the Western Clarion by Comrade Wrigley and a criticism by Comrade Gribble in Cotton's Weekly re the speaker Toronto Local had from Montreal (which was Comrade Wayman) I think it will be fair to the readers of these papers to hear what one has to say who heard the speaker speak, as they have already read comments by two comrades who never heard him speak.

Comrade Wayman was working at the Toronto Exhibition and being around the meeting, some of the comrades asked him to speak and I am of the opinion and many others, (not sentimentalists) that it was the best speech, by far, we have had on the soap box this year. Comrade Wayman outlined the class struggle as well as ever I heard it and did not mince words. Altogether this comrade spoke eight times on the box and despite the criticisms about him, I can assure Comrade Wayman by the comrades I know, that whenever he comes back to Toronto that he will receive a hearty welcome and that the soap box will be there whenever he likes. It seems strange that Comrade Wrigley should write such an insulting letter to the Clarion, especially when he never heard him. But that is usually what comes of second hand thoughts, anyone spinning a yarn with a prejudiced mind can do more harm in five minutes than the average man can do in a life time and though Comrade Wayman may not see eye to eye in economics with some of the Toronto comrades it does not do the Toronto comrades much good to prate over their "superior" intellect, and cheap sarcasm is the last resource of ignorance. I think had Comrade Gribble heard Wayman he would have been satisfied that he was dealing out the goods. But perhaps the writer is a "sentimentalist" and no judge until he reads more. Here's wishing you, Comrade Wayman, the best of respects, and may you continue educating the working class along the same lines to their historic mission of freeing themselves from slavery and then, no more "Cream Puff Air Shooters" will be required. Yours in revolt.

ALEX. LYON.

THE PARABLE OF THE BIT OF CREAM PUFF

By M. WAYMAN

A certain man from Montreal who belonged to the "Imperfects" went into a far province where abode the "Immaculates" and he dwelt there for a month. And certain of the Immaculates besought him that he might speak in that city. "For," said they, "although we be perfect and our city immaculate, yet there is a fraction of the people abiding herein who are no better than thou." And the imperfect looked upon the multitude and beheld he found that the fraction was slightly over ninety-nine per cent, and he marvelled at so much error prevailing in such a perfect city and so he consented to speak and admonish them. And his heart was filled with compassion for them for he said "they are even as I am, untaught and unthinking." And he would not call them liars and wage plugs, etc., even as one of the red-haired Immaculates had done. "I must get them to listen before I can teach them." So he gave them the following bit of cream puff:

"My fellow toilers, ye have much to be thankful for. Ye have not the same worries as your bosses. Ye would fain fill your bellies with the food that your boss does eat, but no man will give it to you, pay from the rise of the sun to the setting thereof, his life is one of uncertainty and worry. When he rises in the morn, he must perforce ring the bell

for his shaving water and then he has the trouble of choosing between many changes of raiment, and to walk down stairs to the dining-room and along a long hall to the reception room and another walk to his library to read his mail, and to choose between his carriage and pair and automobile; and then the bewildering variety of dishes to choose between at dinner, whether it be a monkey banquet, a dinner at the club, or in one of his homes, and the knowledge that ye are always on the verge of striking, or his stocks may drop in price, thereby reducing his wealth from ten millions to nine and three quarter millions, and then the time hanging on his hands because he has drunk all that is drinkable, travelled everywhere that is travelable, bought all that is purchasable and life has lost its savor, and e'er he can sleep he must choose between green and blue pyjamas, and then the finding of no bed soft enough to produce sleep for his wine sotted brain. Why, see ye my toiling brethren. Early in the morning an alarm wakes you and ye can lean out of bed to stop it. Ye turn the other side to wake the wife and then light the gas stove to boil the kettle, wash your hands at the tap, pull your trousers from the bottom of the bed, and ye have not changed your position one iota. And do ye not sleep in the same shirt as ye toil in, and do ye not the same work today as yesterday and the prospect of the same tomorrow if the boss will let you, and do ye not swallow the same food today as yesterday. Verily, my brethren your life is simple, compact and monotonous, but it brings to you quickly a restful death. And though your body shiver with cold here, ye shall have a warm hereafter. So sayeth your master's black-coated hirings. For ye are never satisfied, ye are like unto two small boys that carried the little old woman's basket and the smarter of them so leaned the basket that the contents and weight thereof fell upon the arms of the witless one and when the work was done she called the clever lad and said, "Here are some plums and some nuts as a reward for your services, share them with thy fellow." And he placed the nuts in one pocket and the plums in the other and going to his mate he said "Now which half chooseth thou, the outer or the inner." And the witless one said, "the outer." And the other pulled out the nuts and gave him the husks. And when they were through, he said, "now which chooseth thou again for I am fair unto thee." And the other said, "this time I'll have the inner half," and the clever one divided the plums, giving the stones to his helper. So it be with you, ye have done the toil and ye get the husks and stones. How long will ye be getting wise and cease to share thy earnings with the boss? While thy nose is at the grindstone he rifles thy pockets. Whilst thou toilst continuous, he surfeits with pleasure. Read I beg thee of the socialist papers and throw the scales of prejudice from thine eyes."

And so he finished. And while he was speaking many stood and listened. In fact, a multitude had gathered around him as he spoke from the altitude of an O'Keefe's beer box, and they smiled and said, "verily, he speaks well." But the language did not suit one of the immaculates who spoke after, and though the red hair bristled as he spoke, the crowd dispersed with a rapidity that bordered upon marvellousness. This surely vexed the immaculate one and turning to the imperfect sojourner, he said in anger, "They will not listen to me after that stuff." And he proceeded to spill his vinegar upon the head of the imperfect one. And it came to pass that when the immaculates met they accused the imperfect one of speaking without showing a card and further with putting on his hat when he went into the street; and dissension arose amongst the immaculates and two of them were for banishing the arrival. But the others fell on his neck and kissed him, calling him comrade and his heart went with them and he spoke again at their request, nay, even nine more times, and they said when he had gathered a big crowd "we will take a collection." And they gained in wealth thereby. And he objected to being made a mountebank and then the two got busy and numbered him amongst the transgressors and ignorant and uttered dire threats. And the two were not satisfied, but caused false accusations to be written concerning him and wrote to the magnetic uncle about him and he got a thrashing he little deserved, and made up his mind never again to show his countenance amongst either the red or green immaculates.

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