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W. U. COTTON, Editor and Prop.

# Cotton's Weekly

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This is No. 62 COWANSVILLE, P. Q., CANADA, NOV. 18, 1909 Sub Price 50c a Year 25c for 6 Months 10c for 3 months Trial

## STREET SPEAKING

The idea of the capitalists is that the streets should be reserved for traffic. In Montreal there is a by-law against blocking the streets. A capitalist council has legislated in the interests of capitalists traffic, and a capitalist legislature has appointed capitalist judges to enforce the capitalist laws. The streets are not only for traffic. They are for the convenience of the citizens of Montreal. No doubt the capitalists want the streets free on ordinary occasions in order that their traffic slaves may come and go quickly. But on occasions when a capitalist henchman is to be honored for his services to his capitalist masters, the streets are allowed to be blocked. Thus, when Laurier visits the city, processions are formed and the streets are blocked and the police are employed to turn traffic away from the blocked streets. The socialists of Montreal have conquered the right of street speaking, but that right is as yet in a very precarious condition. The police seize the slightest excuse for scattering street gatherings which are not for the benefit of the capitalists. The master class know that the slaves will revolt if given half a show. The police are therefore instructed to break up street meetings under the sacred name of freedom of traffic. The streets of Montreal are for the citizens of Montreal. If two thousand citizens want to congregate and block a quiet street for a few minutes, it is an act of tyranny upon the part of the civic government to disperse that meeting, because perchance a slow moving coal cart might amble down that street in preference to some other street equally as convenient to reach its destination. The streets of Montreal should be for the citizens of Montreal. The socialists have done a noble work in fighting for the right of free speech on the public squares and street corners.

**THE ARREST OF FILLMORE**

In Spokane, Washington, William Howard Taft spoke to forty thousand people on the streets of the city. William Jennings Bryan on another occasion addressed a street gathering of five thousand people. When some street speakers recently tried to address small crowds the speakers were immediately arrested for obstructing the streets. There is a by-law in Spokane forbidding street speaking which is put in force against those speakers alone who do not represent the dominant class. At the other side of the continent, in St. John, N. B., the Salvation Army is allowed to hold street meetings. Last Thursday, Roscoe A. Fillmore began to speak on the streets of that city immediately after the Salvation Army had finished their harangues. The police of the city listened for a few minutes, thinking that Fillmore was announcing a Salvation Army meeting. When they discovered by the address that he was propounding the theories of socialism he was at once told that he could not speak on the streets and had to move on. When he continued to speak he was arrested. This shows the class character of our police system. Speech is free on the streets so long as the sentiments expressed are satisfactory to the present system of government. When sentiments of humanity and liberty and justice are propounded the speakers are arrested. It is a case of speech being free only so long as the idea is bound. But police rule must give way before the rising tide of modern thought. The battle for free speech is being fought out in every state and province of the United States and Canada. Fillmore is one of the fighters.

In a recent advertisement of a paper-cutter appeared the following phrase: "This safety device (to prevent the cutting off of human fingers) is patented by us and can be found on no other cutting machine." Under capitalism the safety of a man's hand is turned into a profit making business. Under socialism when the element of profit is eliminated all the protection devices will be used for humanity and not for dividends. It is not a man's fault if he is a drunkard or is poor; he either has not the moral courage or the inclination to acquire wealth and retain it.

## INJUNCTIONS AND JAILS

In the United States the injunction is becoming antiquated and the master class is adopting the direct action of jailing working men and working women without shadow of excuse. The American constitution guarantees the right of assembly, the right of free speech, and the right of free press. It also guarantees the right of trial by jury. The Supreme Court has been given the right of interpreting the Constitution and under that right the Supreme Court has interpreted the Constitution out of existence. The injunction has been the great weapon. A court in time of strike would order the strikers not to assemble and not to utter the word scab in the presence of strike breakers. It would enjoin the labor press from publishing information. Such injunctions are unconstitutional. Nevertheless, the police and militia and federal army would be called out to enforce the injunctions and those who would not obey the injunctions would be sentenced without trial by jury for contempt of court. The American labor leaders and workers, when they saw the courts were stealing their liberties, fought back. It has been the plutocracy and the illegal courts which have precipitated the civil labor wars in Colorado and elsewhere. The injunction has become so threadbare and so disreputable that it is no longer effective. Bill Haywood and Fred Warren and other socialists and unionists snap their fingers at the paper declares of the capitalist courts. The plutocracy has therefore been forced to adopt the tactics of direct jailing. When Taft was down South, John Murray, a socialist, was kidnapped and flung into jail without warrant and without reason. He was released without explanation. DeLara, a Mexican refugee and educated socialist, has been flung into jail and is going to be sent back to Mexico to be shot by butcher Diaz, on the charge of being an alien anarchist. In Washington state, street corner orators are being arrested by the hundreds. In Spokane, Washington, the Industrial Workers of the World have been putting up a fight for free speech. As soon as a soap box mounted a box to speak, the police would nab him and hustle him to jail. Scores have been arrested and the fight is still on. Industrial unionists are hurrying to Spokane to speak and get arrested. It is doubtful whether the jailing tactics will save the plutocracy. In the United States, the capitalist system is the most advanced of any country and therefore nearest its downfall. The revolutionized workers are on the verge of an outbreak that may make the conflagration of the Civil War pale into insignificance. A great No-Tip hotel has been started in London. Tips are not allowed and it is proving a success. This is simply the organization of business on a business basis. The tipping system has to go because in it there is an element of uncertainty and that uncertainty is an eyecore to the business instincts of the capitalist. The workers of Cumberland, N. S., the county in which Springhill is situated are putting up a labor candidate in the person of Adolph F. Landry for the Nova Scotia legislature. A labor candidate is a good thing as such candidates teach the workers their class interests. If the labor man is a socialist all the better. Edward Ginn of Boston announced that he was going to leave a million dollars to education when he died and the tax collectors got after him to find out why he was not paying taxes on that million while alive. Capitalism is rotten. Even philanthropists are crooked. Capitalism makes them so. The capitalists of Canada are "investing" their swag in the slave states of Mexico. The Canadian capitalist is just as hungry for the spoils of slave labor as the European or American. Many very nice people attribute the poverty of the workingman to the liquor habit; still they vote to maintain the profit in the liquor business.

## THE ARTISAN

In former times the workman owned his own tools with which he produced the necessities of life. The shoemaker owned his last and awl and other tools necessary to make shoes. The small printer owned primitive presses with which he turned out small papers. The transporter of goods owned his horse and wagon to transport the goods made. The weaver and spinner owned the loom and spinning wheel. The worker owned the tools with which he worked and got all there was to be got from the product of his labor. But the giant machine came into being. The awl and last went. The primitive printing press went. The teamster was replaced by the railway and the engine. The hand loom disappeared before the power loom. The new machinery was no longer capable of individual ownership in the old sense. A modern printing establishment costs hundreds of thousands of dollars. A railway costs a hundred thousand dollars a mile to build and equip. The cotton mill is far beyond the pocket of the average man to acquire. The huge machines replaced the small tools. The small tools were owned by the workers. The big machines were owned by the capitalists. The old worker owning his tools, got the full return of his toil in primitive society where there was not slavery. With the giant machines the worker no longer got the full reward of his labor. He had to surrender part of the product of his toil to the owners of the new machinery. With the evolution of industry the artisans were completely driven from their independent position and had to seek work from the machine owners. The machine owners therefore had the whip hand and drove a hard bargain. They took from the wage worker all the result of toil and gave in return a wage that would just keep the worker alive. At the present time the machine owners through their ownership of the machines are taking from the worker four-fifths of what they produce. New occasions teach new duties. But these duties are learned slowly. The workers have endeavored to right themselves by organizing in craft unions and by raising wages. But with the raise in wages the machine owners raised the price of the products of the machines and the workers were no better off than before. The workers are now advancing by returning to an old idea. They are seeing that just as the old artisan owned the small tools and was independent, so the modern workers must own the giant machines in order to be free and to get the full return of their labor. They are crowding into the socialist ranks and are devising ways and means for the proletarian control of the machinery of production. Paid in Advance Every copy of Cotton's Weekly is paid for before it leaves this office. If you get Cotton's through the mail with a colored address label on it, numbered, your subscription has been paid by some friend who wishes you to look into the truths of Socialism. You need not hesitate to take Cotton's from the post office as no bill will be rendered, and the paper will be promptly discontinued when the subscription expires. The plutocracy of Canada has been telling how the civilian Italians cheered the Czar at Racconigi. This is false as official civilians were not allowed within a mile of the meeting place. Here is what the London Daily Chronicle has to say of the meeting: "The immense precautions already taken for the Tsar's advent were further increased as the historic hour drew near. The authorities entered the Racconigi shops at 10 o'clock yesterday morning, summarily ordering all the customers to clear out and the iron shutterwork to be lowered. All the doors and windows were sealed. The townsfolk had to quit their dwellings, and were escorted to a field outside the town where they were edged behind a mighty phalanx of soldiery."

Doctor Salter, socialist candidate for Bermondsey, England, was defeated by the Tory Candidate. Three causes tended towards his defeat. He was an ardent vivisectionist. He was also given to quoting the bible. The Labor Party of Great Britain is in alliance with the Liberal party and has not become clearcut and revolutionary.

## SOCIALIZATION

There are many persons who do not see how socialism is going to come about. Even when it has come they do not see how socialism will be workable. They consider that socialism is a scheme and that it is against human nature. They think that men will not submit to it. Here is where history shows that socialism is possible and is bound to come about. The giant machine has made it necessary for men to work together. Mankind is acquiring a new habit, a habit forced upon it by changing modes of production. In the country districts and where machinery is not used to any great extent the work is still individual. The farmer goes out with a hoe and hoes his corn in the spring. Or he hitches his horse in front of a weeder and he and his horse work together. The day laborer goes into the village and digs a ditch with a hand shovel. The work is individual and the villagers, judging the world to be but their village life only enlarged, gravely shake their heads and say that socialism is unworkable. But in the cities and industrial centres, even out in the wilderness where the railway lines are being pushed forth, there is none of this individual labor. The workers move to the clang of machinery. Each moves as the machine moves. The machines have forced upon mankind social action, precise movement, the organization of industry. In former ages communism was practicable and this communism no doubt is what Christ taught. But with the steel age communism is supplemented by socialism. The machine man is more productive and powerful than the individual man. Mankind therefore have to become machine men to survive in the struggle for existence. The machine man is necessarily the socialized man. It is the machine age that is producing the socialization of humanity. THE ELECTION OF LANGLOIS Francois Langlois, Labor Candidate, has been elected to the Quebec Legislature from the St. Sauveur district, Quebec. The workingmen of Quebec have been a thorn in the side of the capitalists of the Province. They have always demanded that labor be well paid. So much so that the people of Quebec have complained that the dock laborers drove business away from Quebec to Montreal. Recently the shoe firms with factories in the Ancient Capital gave out the statement that the shops would be moved to Montreal owing to the exorbitant demands of the workers. Now the workers have elected a laboring man to the Quebec Legislature. This is good news indeed. While it would be better did Langlois have a clear knowledge of socialist economics nevertheless, we must not forget the difference between the French and the English temperament. The French are more fiery and more revolutionary than are the English. Langlois will be revolutionary because it is the nature of the Gaul to be such. The nationalists backed Langlois and this was used by the Liberals against him in the election. It was said that the race cry was being raised. But if socialism stands for freedom, the greatest possible freedom attainable under a well managed industrial organization, why should not the nationalists want French manners and customs and laws fitting the French temperament? The socialists support the Indians in their desire for home rule for India. They support the nationalist aspirations of the Egyptians. Why should the nationalists of the province of Quebec not have a right to their national foibles? The election of Langlois marks an epoch in the politics of Quebec. The French of this province are forsaking their church. They are becoming modernized. They have their free thought clubs. These for the upper classes. But Langlois is the first symptom of labor coming to its own. The American Federation of Labor has declared war on the U. S. Steel Corporation. In the battle to come labor will be forced to adopt many tactics, new on this continent, but which proved more or less successful in Europe.

## LABOR AND THE STEEL TRUST

The American Federation of Labor at Toronto has resolved to fight the steel trust. The U. S. Steel Corporation is one of the most bitter opponents of organized labor on the continent. It has steadily persisted in a policy of disrupting the unions. It is engaged now in a gigantic effort to break the unions on the great lakes. It has disrupted the unions in the steel mills. It is out to crush organized labor altogether. The American Federation of Labor under Gompers, as conservative an organization as ever existed from a workingman's point of view, is going to fight back. The mere fact that it is going to fight will teach the Federation many lessons which it must learn before it can be considered to be in the same fighting class with the revolutionary unions of Europe. In the first place it will have to learn that the old craft unionism cannot meet the modern battle. The steel trust is a vast corporation engaged in many trades. It mines coal and iron. It runs railways. It makes steel. It builds ships. It runs vessels on the great lakes. It builds cities like Gary, Indiana. It employs men of all trades. Men of all trades, therefore, must unite into one union to fight it. The miners and trainmen and lake workers and bricklayers and shipbuilders must unite in one organization to fight the one boss. The craft unions through which all the separate workers of the various trades try to fight for their interests separately from the mass of the workers cannot cope with the trust. Napoleon wanted only one army to smash two armies if he could get at the two armies at different times. So the steel trust can smash the various trades unions if it is allowed to deal with the individual trade unions one at a time. In the second place the Federation of Labor will have to learn to go into politics. Gompers' plan of labor rewarding its friends and punishing its enemies must be abandoned. Labor must have no friends in politics upon which it has to rely. Labor must go into politics itself and be independent of friends and enemies. Labor must look to itself for its own legislation in the interests of labor. This is the lesson the European workers have long since learned. When the hosts of organized labor of the United States cease to be divided and are become united into one vast organization on the industrial field and when they case to vote for its bosses, and have learned to vote for labor representatives then the laborers will be on the road to industrial and political power. Until the American Federation learns these two things it will continue to fight with antiquated weapons and will continue to suffer the blows of adverse fortune. Its members will be subject to poverty in employment and starvation in unemployment. Let the laborers grasp the weapons which are proving effective in other countries. The Union Label Cotton's Weekly would carry the union label, if there was a typographical union in the Eastern Townships. We have not enough employees to form a union, so we are forced to wait till such times as an organizer of the I. T. U. gets through this district and brings the printers up to the mark. New Zealand is borrowing ten million dollars to pay for a Dreadnaught battleship. Laurier wants Canada to go into debt for the same purpose. Laurier is a great friend of the capitalists who want to lend money and sell ships to Canada. Under capitalism the capitalists find army and navy contracts exceedingly profitable. Therefore nations are urged to fight each other that the capitalists may have profit. Under socialism there will be no profit in building warships. Consequently they will not be built. Judge Choquet in Montreal sentenced a store robber to five years in penitentiary. Under capitalism men are forced to steal in order to live. Capitalist laws then deprive the victim of capitalist economics of his liberty. Under socialism thieving will become rare as the means of life will be open to all. The capitalists want to be charitable to the workers. The workers reply, "Curse your charity. We want justice."

## FIGHT FOR POSSESSION

The socialist movement aims at giving to the workers the machinery and means of production at which the worker must work in order to produce the necessities of life. The mines, mills, forests and lands must be put into the possession and under the control of the men and women who do the work. At present one set of men own the machinery of production and another set of men do the work. The parasite class, by the mere ownership of the machines of production can force the workers to divide up with the idle. The parliaments of the world, the police, the army, the navy, the courts and the publicity agents are under the control and move at the command of the owners of the means of production, and not at the command of the workers. The result is that laws are made for the sake of profit and not for the sake of the welfare of the useful classes of society. The courts and judges are the personal possession of the master class. The judges order the payment of rent, interest and profit to the master class. The police and army are instruments for enforcing the orders of the capitalist class. Against this combination the workers have a hard time in their struggle for possession. The master class tell the workers that they can own the machinery of production if they will save their money and buy the capitalist class out. This method is impossible. The workers get in wages only enough to keep themselves alive. If the ordinary day laborer on the C. P. R. system were to save his wages to buy out his portion of the ownership of the C. P. R., he would have to work eighteen years and not spend a cent in order to acquire the necessary amount. The capitalist class are perfectly aware that the purchase scheme is an impossible one for the workers. There remains the method of confiscation. The capitalist class control the machinery of parliament and have made that machinery so cumbersome and unwieldy as to give the workers little show for confiscating the machinery of production from the present owners. In the United States revolutionary unionism is coming rapidly to the front. The mass action of the workers on the industrial plane won out at McKee's Rocks. The Western Federation of Miners are industrial unionists. In Canada the labor movement is beginning to develop. It just depends upon the workers themselves how soon they will be prepared to declare a lock out against the bosses. The German authorities have unearthed a lot of illegal graft in the navy. A million and a half dollars have been taken by these illegal grafters. The Canadian newspapers have been full of horror at the discovery. The Canadian newspapers have nothing but praise for the government grafters whose operations have been legalized, the financiers who lend on interest. Lord Dundonald has a scheme in his head. He is going to have Great Britain dump her unemployed upon Canadian farm colonies where they can raise wheat. According to capitalist ideas this will relieve the congestion in Great Britain and will fill the void spaces of Canada. But this does not relieve the situation from the unemployed point of view. The labor markets of the world are glutted with men seeking work and to shift sections of the unemployed from one country to another simply changes the locality of the unemployed. Revolution does not mean armed uprisings, assassinations, street riots, blowing up of buildings, though these often accompany reforms and reactionary measures. Revolution means the attainment of political power by an hitherto subject class and their use of the governmental machinery to advance its own interests. Our courts are capitalist courts. They are institutions to enforce the robbery of the workers. Why should we reverence them? Since the McKee's Rocks strike the industrial union idea among socialists has received a great boost. Salvation cannot be individual. It must be social.