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RENT, INTEREST AND PROFIT

Why cannot the worker enjoy the full product of his labor? Because of the payment of rent, interest and profit. The machinery of production is owned by the capitalist class. The homes of the workers are rented to a great extent. The worker is an expropriated laborer with nothing but the labor power of his body to sell. The worker sells his labor power to a boss for what he can get. He can just get enough to keep him going and to raise a family on. Sometimes he cannot get that. The unmarried man can work for less than the married. The woman can work for less than the man. The child can work for less than the woman. Workers compete for jobs and the cheapest gets the job.

The worker sells his power to the boss. The other workers do the same thing. The workers are set to work to produce the necessities and conveniences of life. The workers produce shoes and clothing and buildings and many other things. But the workers do not own what they produce. The capitalist class own the mills of production and the produce of the labor of the workers.

The capitalist class therefore have the power over the workers. The workers must sell their labor to the capitalists and buy from the capitalists what that labor produced. Were the workers put into control of the raw material and of the machinery of production, then the capitalists would not have any power. The workers would produce for themselves what they themselves have produced.

This, however, would do away with rent, interest and profit. The workers producing for themselves, there would be no profit for the idlers. The workers owning the buildings they built, there would be no rent to pay. And the workers owning the machinery of production and operating it, there would be no interest to pay in the shape of dividends on stock or interest on bonds.

The power of the capitalists lies in the private ownership of the machinery of production and distribution. Deprive them of that ownership and control and their power to toll the labor of the useful workers would cease.

Socialism aims at the abolition of rent, interest and profit. It does not aim at doing away with the profits of the banks so that other labor skimmers may get more profit. It does not aim at confiscating the railroads and giving transportation at the labor cost thereof in order that mill owners and mine owners may get bigger profits. It does not aim at the expropriation of the mines and mills and leaving the transportation agencies under the control of private monopolists to make bigger profits. It aims at the abolition of all rent, all interest and all profit. The industrial capitalists would be pleased to see the workers take up the question of single tax, or nationalization of the land. But the Socialists will not be sidetracked. They stick to their immediate demand for the complete cessation of the robbery of the workers in all its ramifications.

Suppose you became frugal and industrious. Suppose you did live on less than you do now. Suppose you worked harder than you do now and spent less. What would happen? Your masters would rob you of more than they do now. Then either the masters would spend more on their luxuries and vices or there would be more unemployed to hunt for jobs and lower wages. For the things you produce must be sold. They can only be sold to the workers or the parasites. If you workers won't buy then the parasites must or the market becomes glutted. The parasites are always looking for a greater chance to rob you. And so they put out the idea that you workers would be happier if you only would live cheaper and work harder. They know they lie. Or else they are fools.

Whether Independent Labor Parties are formed or not, the workers will have to unite and overthrow capitalism. Independent Labor Parties are sometimes formed to keep the workers sidetracked from Socialism. The bosses prefer I. L. P.s to revolutionary Socialist parties. But Socialism is bound to triumph. It is just a question of how long before Socialism will come.

The workers have nothing to hope for from the bosses except slavery.

The workers want the full product of their labor. The capitalists can have the rest.

Laurier has fastened his fangs into Canada and she will bleed to the tune of twenty million dollars for murder ships.

The capitalists declare that capitalists are not robbers. How then, if the capitalists are not robbers, can the capitalists live without performing any useful work?

We have Societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals. And we have Y. M. C. S.s for the workers. What the workers want is not kindness but the full product of their toil.

Laurier is going to tour the west in a special train. When you wage plugs catch sight of that special train you can just console yourself with the thought that your class is paying the bill that his nibs may endeavor to persuade you to continue bowing your backs to slavery.

In the days of slavery a slave who was particularly sycophantic and who looked after his master's interest would frequently be raised to a position of trust. The slave would be praised. Today in the same way a wage slave who is particularly faithful to the interests of his boss and sides against his fellow slaves will be praised by the boss and may be put where there will be a few more spondulies in his pay envelope. The masters are only too glad to find a wage slave who will side with the plunderers against the plundered.

The workers build the mills and the bosses own them. The workers build the theatres and the bosses sit in the fine seats. The workers make expensive cigars and the bosses smoke them. The workers build fine houses and the bosses live in them. That is nice for the bosses. As for the workers why they can live in shacks which the bosses did not build and pay the bosses rent for so doing. Why should they not live in shacks. The workers are cattle who won't use their brains and such cattle are made to work for their masters.

After the French Revolution the monarchs of Europe formed a Holy Alliance for the preservation of peace. The rulers of each nation agreed to help the other nations in the time of trouble with their subjects. It was an alliance of peace and order, and repression. Today the rulers of the nations are organizing peace alliances. Great Britain, Russia and France have united in such an alliance. And it is through this alliance that the Russian autocracy is able to maintain its rule. France and Great Britain lend money to Russia with which to maintain its army and crush the liberties of the Russians and destroy the democratic institutions of Finland.

The present squabble in Europe is over Persia. Russia and Great Britain have united to turn Persia into a wage slave community and to give the Russian and British labor skimmers a chance to absorb the surplus values of the Persian wage slaves. The German labor skimmers do not like this arrangement one little bit. They want part of the swag. So the German Kaiser, obedient to his masters the capitalists of Germany, is vigorously protesting. As for the Persian labor skimmers, they do not possess battle ships nor millions of soldiers, so they must sit by with envious glances while the unpaid labor of the Persian workers is absorbed by Europeans.

Capitalism has seized upon India. The Indian nationalists want India for the Indians. They want the parasites to be native Indians instead of foreign Britishers. But the foreign Britishers do not want to lose the revenues they are sucking from Indian labor. Consequently they prepare guns and train soldiers and lecture Indians upon their ingratitude. Every lover of freedom will hope that India will obtain self government and nationalism. It is far easier for the expropriated wage slaves of India to conquer their own parasites by representative institutions than to conquer the British parasites by violence and maintain their position by violence and deny the Indians the right of governing themselves.

EDUCATION

When once a workingman becomes acquainted with the Socialist philosophy and Socialist economics there is no changing him. He becomes class conscious. He sees that he is robbed. He can lay his finger on the robbery and show what class gets it. Filled with the revolutionary doctrines of Socialism he becomes steadfast and immovable in his political outlook. No red herring drawn across the trail will lead him out of the way. Religious appeals will not move him from his knowledge of economic determinism. He will know that, whatever may be the future state and his relation thereto, whatever may be his duty of brotherly love, his class is being robbed and that his wife and children are denied many things they should have because the capitalist class is taking the larger part of his earnings. The most sacred relations of life, therefore, the protection of his wife and children, will make him strain every effort to bring into existence the co-operative commonwealth.

The appeal of patriotism will not move him. He knows that the pride of country in these days of international syndicates for the exploitation of the working classes of all countries is a sham and a delusion. Frontiers have disappeared with the steamship, the railway train, the telegraph, the automobile and the airship. More and more vast masses of countryless workers are being shifted from country to country at the dictate of the international bankers and industrial capitalists. The pride of native land is pathetic in an Italian forced to leave his country because of inability to get a job, denied the right to work by the Italian exploiters, and forced to Canada to be captured as a slave by the C. P. R. octopus.

The appeal to the brotherhood of man will not move him. He will yield to none in his loyalty to progress and his desire to better the conditions of humanity. And because he does desire the brotherhood of man he opposes the capitalist class that lives on the labor of slaves. No mawkish sentiment will cause him to strike a bargain of tolerance with the thieves who are plundering him and his. He will demand the cessation of the legalized plunder before he will admit to the fraternity of the industrial democracy the men who now compose the capitalist class.

When once the wage slave is educated he becomes revolutionary. As long as the capitalist class can keep the workers in ignorance and chasing side issues such as the initiative and referendum, or the eight hour day, the capitalists will be glad. For they know that these, although when conquered an advance, are but the outposts of the entrenched fortress of privilege, the heart of which is the system of wage slavery.

But when the wage slaves waken to Socialism, when some revolutionary has instructed them in the knowledge of capitalist exploitation, the capitalists can rest assured that only the capture of the entrenched fortress and the demolition thereof will satisfy the wage slave. Therefore entrenched privilege does not want the wage slave to be educated in the doctrines of Socialism. And because the bosses do not want Socialism the workers can rest assured that it is the thing for them.

A Socialist has been asked how I would better the present banking system in Canada. That is like asking the question, how would the Socialist improve the capitalist system. There is only one answer. Abolish it. The Canadian banking system is a part of the capitalist system. It robs the workers along with all the other capitalist institutions. But to cut down the profits of the banks would only make the profits of the employers of labor greater. The main problem for the workers is the problem of wage slavery. The worker is a slave. His master robs him. Maybe the master, if he is a small employer of labor, gets little of the results of the robbery because the banks and the landlords take it away from him as soon as he gets it. The bank problem is a problem for the employers of labor. Not for the laborers except indirectly. The aim of the workers will be the capturing of the machinery of production and distribution. The banks, as part of the machinery of distribution and exchange, will be conquered along with the rest. The aim of Socialism is the capturing of the machinery of government for the abolishing of rent, interest and profit.

Sweetsburg, P. Q., is a little local village. It is composed of nothing but lawyers and court officials, a hotel, postoffice and a couple of stores. It is what it is simply because it is the judicial centre of the District of Bedford composed of fifty thousand people. This little village is putting in a system of waterworks. It is borrowing seven thousand dollars. The question has been frequently propounded by the local lights of Sweetsburg how Sweetsburg would acquire a waterworks system under Socialism. In all probability under Socialism Sweetsburg would not have any waterworks. Sweetsburg is composed mostly of lawyers. These get their revenues from deciding squabbles between owners of little properties. The useful workers support the lawyers when two farmers get squabbling, and indirectly when some company sues somebody else. Under Socialism there would be practically no legal squabbles. The abolition of private property would give men nothing to squabble about and the lawyers would get no funds for giving legal advice and talking to a judge about these squabbles. Sweetsburg, therefore, would be dead. The lawyers would be waterworks. But the workers who pay the lawyers for the water works and pay interest thereon, would have more funds, and would have better and more comfortable homes. Socialism will revolutionize industry. It will benefit the useful workers, not the parasites. The lawyer, therefore, under Socialism will have to become a useful worker to enjoy the benefits of the social industry.

A Commission of Conservation is at work in Canada. The object of the Commission is to devise ways and means to conserve the natural resources of Canada. The little reformers will sigh with relief to know that this Commission has undertaken its labors and has issued its first report. Now will Canada be protected. Now will the naughty exploiters of lumber and water powers be good. Not at all. The Commission has been appointed for the purpose of helping the capitalists in exploiting more sanely. Even the capitalists recognize that it is folly to cut off all the timber without making provision for a new growth. The Commission of Conservation is simply a capitalist organization for the purpose of husbanding the resources of Canada that the income of the capitalist may be more steady and permanent. The Canadian laborer will be exploited as much as ever. Wage slavery is not abolished and the Conservation of natural resources by the capitalists simply means that the capitalists want to have a better chance to exploit the wage slaves by setting them to work on reforested areas. In other words the aim of the Commission will be the conservation of the natural resources for the exploitation of the wage slaves.

This is the age of Independent Labor Parties in the Anglo Saxon countries. Great Britain has one. Australia has one. Gompers is organizing one in the United States. And in Nova Scotia and Manitoba Independent Labor Parties are coming into the field. Labor Parties, however, must be full of revolutionary Socialism to amount to anything. Otherwise they will hinder the advance of the working class instead of aiding the workers. The Independent Labor Party in Nova Scotia, the home of the Provincial Workmen's Association, may play the same part in the political advance of Nova Scotia labor that the P. W. A. has played in advance of the international trades unionism.

The markets of the orient are closing to western goods. Japan is producing for itself. China is building factories to supply her own wants. A fifty million dollar steel plant is going up in India. The east will supply the needs of the east. Then the west must absorb the products of western labor. This the west cannot do under capitalism unless the capitalist class become luxurious and prodigal beyond the wildest excesses of Rome. If the master class become so extravagant then they will become effeminate and will be deposed by the rising of the wage slave class. If the capitalist class contents itself with less display, then the unemployed problem will force the capitalist to abdicate.

The more the capitalist system develops the topheavier it becomes.

Has your last vote been cast for the henchmen of the class that robs you?

Every advance in the capitalist mode of production means an advance in the revolt of the wage slave.

The capitalist governments will give little reforms to the workingmen when they are afraid that the workingmen will take more.

The best educator the working plugs have is the capitalist system. It is teaching them to be Socialists. An empty belly and no job makes the plug do a lot of thinking.

Alberta must be pretty well touched with Socialism. A railroad steal was on and the horrid people would not let the gang get away with the plunder.

The capitalist politician dislikes the class conscious Socialist worker. There is no way the politician can get such a voter to support the capitalist rot foisted on a long suffering class of slaves.

As soon as Socialism becomes strong and powerful among the workers of Canada the sham opposition now existing between the two parties will disappear and they will unite to fight the working class triumph.

If you like to be robbed and have the capitalists take the greater part of what you produce away from you, you will be accommodated. The capitalists are perfectly contented to live off your labor.

Socialism will come. The capitalists have to fight each other for trade and the market. That makes them combine to eliminate competition. And when they combine the common people rise. The capitalist is in the beautiful position of seeing his own finish in the near future.

Let the trusts organize industry if they wish. Industry will have to be organized before Socialism will be put into practical application. The people have power to control. When the industries are organized then the expropriated workers can confiscate the trusts.

Mackenzie and Mann have refused fifty million dollars for the common stock they hold in the Canadian Northern Railway. This stock is all water. It is part of the profit accruing to these two capitalists. And this is only a little of what the Canadian workers are robbed of.

Do you read the little local papers? The little local papers are raising a howl about the retail mail order houses. The mail order houses are putting the country store keepers out of business. The local newspapers won't get any more local advertisements. But the country merchant does not want Socialism. And many little local papers have editors who think Socialism to be robbery and extortion. When they find their business gone, expropriated by the bigger corporation, they will see a great light and will want Socialism. Capitalism will teach them a lesson and make them want things changed.

Those who have eyes to see can see the break up of the capitalist system. No more are the capitalist minded on the aggressive. They are on the defensive. The capitalist system is admitted to be very imperfect. There are feverish efforts made to patch the old thing up that it may continue. Reforms are being granted. Old age pensions. Fair schedules on public buildings. Discouragement of assisted immigration. But these reforms only touch the fringe of the question. Socialism is the only remedy and many of the exploiters admit this in their own hearts.

King George the fifth is to patronize the races. Like his old pa. And King George the fifth is going to keep up numerous palaces and spend large revenues on parasite servants. Just like his pa. And he is going to have manufactured for him a reputation for statesmanship. Just like his pa. And the workers are going to be skinned and women are going to be forced into prostitution and the unemployed are going to starve and the parasites are going to live in luxury under George the fifth. Just as they did under his pa. That is if labor does not wake up and do things.

NOVA SCOTIA SOCIALISM

The workers of Springhill, N. S., have put the labor party out of business in that constituency. Amherst also joins in the operation. At a recent convention at Maccan the delegates affirmed their adherence to the Socialist Platform and decided to run two candidates for the coming provincial elections.

What happened in British Columbia is happening in Nova Scotia. The oppression of the bosses is producing a beautiful type of revolutionary Socialism.

In British Columbia Dunsmuir would not stand for unionism. Wherever unionism raised its head Dunsmuir would take a swipe at the hateful organization of the working class and put it out of business. As he controlled about everything in sight in certain sections of the province his word was law. For the wage slave must work and when one man controls all the jobs the wage slave must not belong to anything the boss does not like.

Dunsmuir's hammering at the unions made the wage plugs think. And the first thing Dunsmuir knew was that Hawthornthwaite was returned to the B. C. Legislature as a straight revolutionary Socialist.

Dunsmuir has done a lot for Socialism. He has put his own party out of business. For the Socialist agitation, once started, has increased in momentum. So much so that at the last elections in the province the Liberal voters voted the Conservative ticket in order to keep the reds out of power. That explains the Conservative landslide. The two old parties united and voted the Conservative ticket, so that now the Socialists, although they have but three members actually sitting, are the only opposition, apart from one lone Liberal member who lives by himself, and goes into a room by himself when he wants to hold a party caucus meeting. In British Columbia the Socialists have forced the two old parties into one and they are going to hold them there.

In Nova Scotia the same process is going on. In Cumberland county the Cumberland Railway and Coal company have been paying beggar wages. The men struck. Scabs have been imported and the capitalist courts, as usual, have granted an injunction against picketing. The company has been playing the same game in Springhill that Dunsmuir played in British Columbia and with the same result. The Springhill boys have turned down their thumbs for the death of the independent labor party in that constituency. The capitalist papers declare that some of the workers are disgusted with Socialism and will not support the Socialist candidates. As ever the capitalist press tries to belog the real state of affairs.

From the region controlled by the Nova Scotia Coal Company comes the same tidings. One worker writes that the strike has afforded a grand school for education. It has created a feeling of solidarity and class consciousness among the workers. They now realize many things which otherwise would have taken years of education and agitation to have beaten into their heads. They saw six hundred and twenty-five special constables appointed by the Municipal Council to break the strike. They saw the militia called out to shoot the strikers down. They were forbidden to walk peaceably on the public highway. They were arrested on many charges and sentenced to imprisonment ranging from thirty days to four years. They have seen their wives and children fired out on the streets by the county Sheriff in storms that an animal could not live in for any length of time. Women with babes at their breast and invalids who had been bedridden for years were turned out to the mercy of the raging skies. They have seen their innocent comrades beaten, clubbed, dragged to jail, and even shot, and the company thugs who committed the outrages were exonerated by the courts. They saw their members for the local house and their member for the dominion house sit idly by and they now realize what the laws are made for and whom and what they protect.

The workers of Nova Scotia are learning their lesson in bitter sorrow and tears and it is producing a fine type of uncompromising Socialism.

The capitalists are legalized robbers. They steal what rightfully belongs to the workers and the workers are getting on to the robbery.