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Cotton's Weekly

50c A YEAR IN CANADA—TWO FOR \$1.00

Devoted to the Propagation of the Principles of
International Socialism

\$1.10 PER YEAR IN UNITED STATES

COWANSVILLE, P. Q., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1909

CLEAR THE WAY FOR THE CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH

VOL. XXXVIII No. 54

RAISING THEIR OWN PAY

The Japanese members of Parliament are raising their own salaries. A few years ago the Canadian members of parliament raised their salaries from fifteen hundred dollars to twenty-five hundred. Last year the members of the Quebec Legislature raised their pay from eight hundred dollars to fifteen hundred dollars. Many workmen would like to have the opportunity of raising their own pay checks but that is a privilege reserved only for the plutocrats and their henchmen. When a trust raises prices for an article which people must use and at the same time cut their wage bills by reducing the amount of their worker's pay checks or sacking some of their hands the members of that trust raise their own pay checks, and get bigger revenues for doing absolutely nothing. Of course this process is concealed under the terms, interest on investment, "earning" power of the property, return of good times, etc. The operation is pure labor stealing and all students of economics know it. The henchmen of the plutocrats are returned to Ottawa or Tokyo or Quebec to lick the boots of the capitalists, catch on to the trick and raise their own pay. The plutocrats say nothing because they have to allow the politicians some rope or they would squel. When socialism comes labor stealing will be abolished. The workmen who like to be plundered and hunt for a job can cling to capitalism if he wants to. This is a free country within limits and there is no law against a workman being a fool.

VANISHING JOBS

The Montreal Street Railway wants to haul freight. It is doing so at present to a limited extent. The Montreal Street Railway also wants to remove the snow in winter from the streets along which its ears pass. The Street Railway can handle the freight with less labor than can teams of horses. Because the workers will be thrown out of employment if the Street Railway carries the freight and handles the snow, the workmen object and want antiquated methods continued. The labor thieves, who own express wagons, are also fighting for the continuance of the old methods. They do not want to see their profits disappear. The fight of the workmen and of the express owners is doomed to defeat. Their mode of transportation has become socially unnecessary. The express owners are going to be wiped out of business and their employees will lose their jobs. Under Capitalism the workers will hunt the streets looking for jobs which they can't find. Let the workmen and the little capitalists who run express services realize their only hope of salvation is the public ownership of the Street Railway property with the men who do the work running it in the interests of themselves. The Montreal Street Railway Company has by their methods of doing business taken away the jobs from many cab drivers and it is about to take the jobs away from many snow shovelers, freight handlers and teamsters. Let these men whose jobs have been taken away from them organize themselves politically under the red banner of socialism and take away from the Street Railway Company all its property and run it for the benefit of all who will work. Capitalism is rushing to its downfall. Modern methods of carrying on business is throwing thousands of men out of work. Capitalism with its hunt for profit cannot solve the problem of unemployment, it produces it. Socialism with its principles of production for use and not for profit is the only remedy.

S. H. Blake of Ontario, has been breaking into print with a howl against modern theological professors. He declares that they are devils disguised as angels of light. He wants the people to go back to the ideas of our forefathers. If Blake will guarantee to bring back the economic conditions, we will guarantee to bring back the religion of the past. If Blake cannot do this, let him stop his antiquated yelping about treason and blasphemy and let him get busy shaping the religious ideas according to which men may live in this second century of the capitalist era.

The socialists have just gained a sweeping victory in the nineteenth district of Saxony, Germany, where the social democrat George Schoplin won out with 21,178 votes against 9,368 votes cast for Vorwerk, his opponent.

Chinese pigs have been sold in London for ten cents a pound, while the English pigs were selling at thirteen cents. It matters little to the British unemployed whether pork sells at ten or thirteen cents. Under capitalism they are forced to starve in the midst of plenty.

Judge Cannon, who has just finished the investigation into Montreal municipal corruption, declares that there was purjury on every hand. Capitalism breeds thieves and liars and capitalist courts cannot stop the capitalist liars from lying by merely making them take an oath.

More than four million unionists were represented at the recent international labor conference at Paris. America was not represented. In fact, the European labor leaders laughed at Sam Gompers, who was present as a spectator, with his ideas of the friendship of labor and capital.

It looks as though the British general elections would be pulled off this fall. The Liberals want the workmen to support them because of the Budget. The Budget is a tame affair for starving people. Yet you can never tell what fools the people who do the work can make of themselves.

Samuel Gompers, President of American Federation of Labor, is in Italy and is to be received by government officials at Rome. The labor organizations of Italy are fighting the government, but it is the nature of Sam to long more for the company of the foes of labor than for the company of its friends.

Rudolph Spreckels has withdrawn from the Good Government League of San Francisco. That city has recently been discovering its own wickedness and Spreckels was the chief backer to put good men into office and stop the graft. Now the Democrats have captured his Good Government League and he has got out in disgust. Thus endeth reform agitations.

Russia is massing a great army in Siberia. Great Britain has been lending large sums to the Russian government which will eventually be lost through the bankruptcy of the Russian government. British financiers are frightened at the idea of British money to feed starving Britishers and are delighted at the idea of British money for Russian soldiers to kill Japanese and Chinese.

Santos Dumont, the aviator, has declared that all his patents and models are open to the public to use as they see fit. Dumont wants to advance science and generously allows the public free use of his ideas. Santos Dumont has many wage-slaves toiling for him in South America and can afford to be generous. The average inventor generally starves while the plutocrats capture his patent for their own profit.

A Montreal department store has been sold to a company for a million and a half dollars. The little city trader who is without stored up labor power to back him and who has to get credit and pay interest cannot compete with such large and economical concerns. These big departmental stores will eventually be put out of business by greater combinations and will finally disappear in their shape of retail concerns.

J. P. Morgan, Jr., has been elected to the board of the New York National City Bank in the place of Harriman. This means that the Morgan and Standard Oil interests have combined to plunder the public. The trustification of industries and finance is going on. The only remedy is to confiscate the trusts for the benefit of the people.

MILITARY TRAINING

ROSCOE A. FILLMORE

The Board of Education for New Brunswick has introduced military training in the Provincial Normal School and purposes to extend the system to all the public schools. Nova Scotia has already adopted the scheme and our jingo press is devoting yards of space to eulogies of the "dear old flag."

Fellow workers, the capitalist system is fast rotting. It is falling of its own weight. Had the masters been wiser they could have averted the coming catastrophe. There was a time not so long ago when a beveloned feudalism such as W. J. Ghent describes could have been introduced. And the crisis could have been postponed indefinitely. There was a time when the Oligarchy of London's dreams could have been realized. That time is now past.

The masters are beginning to realize this, dimly at present, but none the less surely and they are preparing. They are throwing off the guise of benevolence and philanthropy and showing the cloven hoof. The promptitude with which the troops were despatched to Cape Breton a few weeks ago in spite of the protests of the local authorities goes far towards proving this. The brutality of the state militia, and constabulary of Pennsylvania in quelling the strikers at McKee's Rocks, New Castle and Butler; the battle between strikers and police at Fort William; the battles between military and strikers in Sweden and the Barcelona revolt all go to show that the wolves are gradually throwing off their sheep's clothing and will in future depend upon the power of might to uphold their "rights."

And we who have followed the socialist movement for the past few years and noted the trend of events, we who have studied history and know that no ruling class in the past has ever given up to another class without a struggle are glad to see the masters throw off their disguise and stand on the right of power. We know that the present ruling class is stronger than any other in history. It has countless millions of wealth and vast armies and navies at its command. And be not deceived my comrades, it will use every weapon without mercy. The screws are being tightened down. Only a few days ago Comrade O'Brien was "soaked" for talking Socialism on the street. The lines are being drawn. The fight is on, and it will continue until one or the other of the opposing armies is wiped out. So it up to us to make sure that the other fellow gets the wiping.

Yes, we are glad to see the masters come out plainly and use force in order to hold their jobs. Society, ever since the breaking up of primitive communism, has been divided into two hostile camps, the haves and the have-nots or the rulers and ruled. There have been various other sub-divisions but these two classes stand forth as the principles in this age-long battle for supremacy. For thousands of years we of the working-class (the have nots) have been the underdogs. We have been robbed and soaked right and left.

At one time we were slaves, chattels, bought and sold at the block. The masters hired priests, philosophers, intellectual prostitutes to teach us that society could not exist should we attain our freedom. And millions listened, believed and were content. But there were a few kickers. They were tortured and slaughtered by the minions of the masters. For always under the hypocritical cloak of philanthropy there existed the cold steel. Always the masters were prepared to use force when their preaching proved vain.

The time came when chattel slavery gave way to something new because a change in the form of ownership of the slaves was in the interests of the masters. Changed conditions made the introduction of feudalism unavoidable. And again under the clerk of philanthropy the rulers held us down for centuries. We were priest-ridden and taught that providence willed that there should always be a slave class. Again there were kickers but the majority accepted the same old theology and were content. And always under

the priestly cloak was disguised the spear. So long as the serfs were content the spear was not used. But when theology and cajolery failed to keep the masses in subjection the cloven hoof of the tyrant appeared.

And so it goes on down through the ages. And today a similar state of affairs exists. The working class, the lineal descendant of the chattel and feudal serf of long ago is still underneath. For years the gatling and maxim guns, cloaked as before by the robes of priests, preachers and philosophers, have held us down. There have been isolated revolts from time to time and on such occasions the robes have been withdrawn for a time but only to be replaced when the trouble was crushed out. We have been submissive for ages but the "last straw" has at last been heaped on. And we have awakened. Tonight we are marching sixteen millions strong. We are flouting the red flag of the Social Revolution in the very faces of the masters. And they begin to throw off the cloak. They begin to show their teeth.

The fight today resolves itself into a physical battle for supremacy. The priest is beginning to lose his influence and the gatling is being exposed. Armies and navies are being steadily increased and now comes, military instruction in the public schools. We are not surprised. We know what it means.

Our enemies accuse us of teaching class hatred and many of us waste valuable time contradicting such statements. And all the time the robes are being withdrawn and the scarlet coats of the hired assassins begin to be exposed.

Comrades, a time is coming that will try men's souls. And it's up to us to state the facts plainly and invite the working class to co-operate with us in smashing the present slavery. We must be prepared to meet the capitalist class with its own weapons. Ballots opposed to ballots. Bullets to bullets if necessary. This is a fight to a finish. There can be no quarter granted nor accepted. So let's put the agony onto 'em for as Comrade Gribble says "The hotter war the sooner peace."

WHISKY GOING

In New York the wine and beer dealers are reported to have entered on a crusade against the dives. Capitalism is full of hypocrisy and this is one of its hypocrisies. Imagine the liquor dealers quarreling with their best customers. The liquor dealers are out after dividends and these capitalists find that where whisky labor thieves work the respectable labor thieves get small pickings consequently the liquor dealers are being put out of business. Hypocritical as ever, the bourgeoisie are claiming that they are putting the saloons out of business because saloons are wicked and against God. The liquor dealers deceive themselves into believe that the prohibitionists are working from purely moral principles. The whisky sellers therefore put up a lying scheme to keep their trade. The fight is purely economic and the saloon being bad for the business for the other labor thieves, it has got to go. Of course there are some moralists who fight the saloon because of its evil effects. These have been with us for a century but they had no influence until the big labor thieves came to the conclusion that the whisky dealers were bad for profits.

The Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of Empire now being held at Sydney, N. S. W., have put themselves on record as wanting state owned Imperial cables. Heneker Eaton and many others protest against the exactions of the cable ring. They want these monopolists put out of business and it looks as if they would succeed. The expropriators are being expropriated.

Japan in 1908, made two hundred and sixty million pounds of paper. The Anti-Japanese agitation on the part of the California exploiters was due to the fact that Japan could print, ship and lay down in San Francisco duty paid California school text books cheaper than the plain paper cost in California. If America may bankrupt Europe, Japan may bankrupt America.

The capitalist system originated from past historical conditions and is a passing phase of the economic struggle. It is bound to pass into something else.

The middle class is being eliminated. The result is the passing of their mode of worship. Ministers must preach labor ideals instead of bourgeois ideals if they wish to continue to perform religious functions.

Timothy Healy, the Irish Nationalist M. P., got mad in the House of Commons at Westminster and wanted to fight another M. P. with his fists. Healy shows the spirit of patriotism which Beresford and Strathcona are fostering on Canada. If your enemy does not please you, just punch him.

The plundered workers have to live in unhealthy surroundings and their children die from preventable diseases. Let the laboring men and women organize themselves for the purpose of getting the full return of their labor. The socialist movement when it triumphs will do away with the preventable death of children.

Doctor Carl Peters, Germany's famous African explorer, predicts an Anglo-German war. Both German and English exploiters need foreign markets for their surplus goods and the foreign markets are failing. The two countries therefore, if capitalism is to be maintained, must fight each other like two dogs over a stale bone.

There were a hundred and twenty deaths in Montreal for the week ending September 11th. Of these seventy-four were children under five years of age. These deaths of children did not take place among the labor plunderers but among the plundered. The wealth of the workers goes to the parasites. The parasites hire nurses and doctors to look after their children—when they have any.

Prospectors are trekking freely into Quebec. The northern wilds are rich in gold and silver. But the prospectors will get little to reward them. The laborers under capitalism never do. Even if a laboring prospector discovers a lead he will have to sell cheap to the company promoting sharks. The chances are that he will be swindled by some hocus pocus game out of the silver lead entirely.

The Swedish government will shortly submit a bill to abolish titles of nobility. This is mere wishwash sentiment which will not deceive the striking workmen. The strikers of Sweden are out after economic freedom and will not take any interest in a little bill to prevent a man being called a nobleman while he still is left the ownership of the means of production and the power to rob the producers.

It is reported that railroad employees are to erect a monument to E. H. Harriman by taxing themselves twenty-five cents apiece to provide the funds. If this be true the poor railway dupes are minus brain power. But perhaps the robber barons are going to put pressure on their wage slaves to make them pony up. The men who control the jobs can sack the employees who will not submit to "giving" money to build Harriman a monument.

Premier Stolypin, of Russian atrocities fame, has become merciful. He has sent a circular to the governors of the provinces asking them kindly not to shoot so many of the inhabitants. Russia may have a foreign war again soon. A special to the Toronto Mail and Empire states that the Novoe Vremya, the semi official organ of the Czar's government, sees a war between Russia and Germany over the spoils of Manchuria. The inhabitants of Russia can be kept for food for powder in the coming war to greater advantage than to be shot at home by sportive governors.

DUCAL HOLDINGS

The following are some of the land holdings of some of the Dukes of Great Britain. Duke of Sutherland, 1,358,600 acres; Duke of Richmond, 286,500; Duke of Devonshire, 186,000; Duke of Portland, 183,200; Duke of Melrose, 115,000; Marquis of Bute, 117,000; Duke of Manchester, 70,000; Duke of Westminster, 39,600, (600 acres in the heart of London.) Eight landlords own a third of the land of Great Britain. Twenty-five hundred of them own one-half of the land. Such statistics as these show up the economic bondage in which the British workers live to the landlords. Asquith wants to tax the landlords and naturally they squeal. Although they own the land it does not signify that they get revenue from it. Thus the Duke of Manchester is always hard up. The interest lords absorb his revenues. The Duke of Hamilton is hard up. His father backed a Spanish Pretender who did not succeed and his estates are mortgaged for all they are worth. The landlords object to being plucked in order to save the hides of their financiers and the profit mongers of industrial concerns. The Liberals back of Asquith back the fight against the landlords because they do not want to divide up the plunder stolen from the workers. The labor members back the liberals up because they want to do away with the landlords as a partial instalment of the coming of labor to its own. They will go after the lords of interest and profit, later. That is what they say but they had better get a hustle on. The capitalist system is tumbling about our ears even now.

BOURGEOIS WESTMOUNT

The members of the municipal council of Westmount, a suburb of Montreal, are indignant at the actions of the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Co. Alderman Jones declares that the Power Company is trying to throttle Westmount. Westmount is the home of the bourgeoisie of Montreal. It is Middle Class with all the middle class narrowness of moral, and mental outlook. It is religious and uncharitable. It is straightlaced and illogical. It prides itself on its goodness and condemns Montreal for its wickedness. Montreal is wicked because Montreal wage slaves have to provide the nice little homes of the little bourgeois dwellers of goody goody Westmount. But Westmount cannot altogether escape the modern tendencies. Into its paradise of self-satisfied smirkiness steps the octopus, the Montreal Heat and Power Co. The Westmounters want to lay gas mains and get gas from the octopus. The octopus says it will not furnish gas to any pipes not laid by itself. Wherefore the Westmounters squeal and moan over modern business iniquities. Westmount is typical of the middle class that is being squeezed out. Westmounters don't want Socialism. They hold socialism to be perfectly ridiculous and immoral and thieving, a demagogic doctrine for the lazy and unfit, a doctrine abhorred of God. Let the Westmounters live a little longer and they will be glad to shelter themselves under any doctrine that will give them a fighting chance to get next food for their empty bellies.

Plank No. 2, of the platform of the American Socialist Party formerly read as follows; "the collective ownership of railroads, telegraphs, telephones, steam boat lines and all other means of social transportation and communication, and all land." A referendum of the party was recently held upon the question of the advisability of striking out the words "and all land." The words were struck out by a vote of 5,382 as against 3,117.

More than a hundred and fifty thousand men are still striking in Sweden. The strike is in its seventh week and is likely to be successful. Traffic on the railways is but twenty per cent of the ordinary volume. Soldiers and policemen are contributing to the strike fund. So desperate have grown the employers that they have called upon the government to use force to break the strike. However the government is frightened, and the strike will succeed.