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Charlie Hays and His Strike-breakers Have Boosted

THE CAUSE OF SOCIALISM IN CANADA

BASIS OF SETTLEMENT

The Grand Trunk strike of conductors and trainmen is ended. The basis of the settlement is that the company will put back the striking men as soon as possible, other than those who have been guilty of acts of violence or disorderly conduct. The company will put into effect from May 1st 1910 the rates dated July 18th, 1910, it being understood that those shall, in no instance effect a reduction in any existing rate. The company will, on Jan. 1, 1912, make effective in train and yard service on the G. T. R. the rates of pay and rules contained in the schedule or agreement on that date in effect on the lines of the Canadian Pacific east of Fort William.

The men struck for immediate application of the standard rates of pay on eastern lines. Then kept on striking to have all strikers reinstated and to have the pension rights of the strikers remain in force. The company offered an eighteen per cent present rise with reductions in certain cases, and the application of the standard rates in 1913.

According to the settlement the company does not agree to reinstate the strikers nor to give them their pensions. But the standard rates of pay will be paid one year sooner than the railway offered to pay them before the strike.

It is estimated that the strike cost the men directly in pay the sum of $163,750. It cost the railroad directly $1,182,585. The company figures that the demand of the men would have cost them $1,620,759 more than it will have to pay under the settlement and the officials declare that the railway is better off by half a million than if the strike had not taken place through the yielding of the company. This is erroneous. There has been a disorganization of business which will cost much business. The G. T. runs through competing territory in many places and its rivals have not been slow to seize the foolishness of the Grand Trunk in paralyzing its service to spite its employees. Moreover there were many special police to be employed. Then there was much damage done to trains and rolling stock through unskilled handling. Then there is the flash light that has been thrown on the company and its greed, that has put it in bad odor with the people. Charlie Hays will yet get a good wigging from the parasites for whom he is engaged to dig surplus value out of the Grand Trunk employees.

A cotton merger capitalized at twenty million dollars is the latest in the United States. Cotton has been one of the staples in the manufacture and sale of which competition has run riot. The result is that cotton mills are duplicated. There is a feverish rush for manufacturing cotton at one time, and mills shut down by the score at another time. The cotton speculator has endeavored to get rich quick in the fluctuations of the market. Now this is all to be altered. Co-operation and capitalist combination is to replace the haphazard methods heretofore existing. This is as it should be. Competition is wasteful. But the benefits under capitalism will go to the capitalists. It will only be the application of Socialist principles that the benefits will inure to the toilers.

The Thibetans are restless and the British government has collected a force on the Indian frontier to invade Thibet if the Indian government considers it necessary. The Earl of Crew, British Colonial Secretary, officially declares that if the force enters Thibet it will be withdrawn as soon as conditions permit. This means that the force will remain there until forced to retire by some foreign foe, internal rebellion or abject submission of the Thibetans. The British gave the same assurances with regard to Egypt twenty years ago and are still in Egypt and are flogging and shooting Egyptians for taking steps to compel Great Britain to live up to her pledged word. It is the capitalist system which is at fault. Lord Rotheschilde declared that the interests of Great Britain in Egypt were simply those of a bondholder. The bond holding interests have increased and with the increase has come harsher Egyptian oppression. It may be that the same process will take place in Thibet.

The individual liberty of the capitalist means license to take unto himself the social labor produce of others.

There is competition among capitalists. The weaker capitalists go to the wall. Capitalism is as bad for many capitalists as it is for many workers.

So far the dividends paid from Cobalt mines amount to twenty million dollars. More dividends are wanted. Dividends are based on the difference between wages paid and the selling price of silver. Consequently Canadians are not wanted and Poles and Italians are advertised for. The Canadian workers walk the streets until they are garnered in by Reaume's police under the vagrancy law and set to work in the black fly belts.

The police of Calcutta are hunting for arms in the residences of the natives. Forty-five natives are on trial for seditious conspiracy in the Howrah case. In another case thirteen are on trial. The Indians are getting tired of being bled by foreign parasites. The capitalist system has struck the penninsula and the Indian capitalists want to suck Indian labor themselves. Great Britain's work is about over in that part of the world.

The rates of pay in the Canadian Navy is being fixed. A captain will get thirteen dollars and a half a day. The gunners will get two dollars and a half. The able seamen seventy cents. The ordinary seamen fifty cents. This pay is wasted. The men employed are employed on works of destruction. The money is being flung into the sea. This money could be spent in old pensions. It could be spent in providing better homes for the workers. But no. Laurier wants murder ships. He has fixed his old heart on murder ships. And he will have murder ships. For Laurier is a supporter of the capitalist system and forces men into the ways of death.

Socialism means the brotherhood of man. But this brotherhood cannot be ushered in as long as one class does the work and another class takes the profits. The profit class must be abolished. Consequently Socialism appears to the profit class in the light of robbery and confiscation. The members of this class see that their present incomes will vanish and they fear to be flung into the ranks of the wage workers. They cannot see that with the abolition of their present incomes will also go wage slavery which produces those incomes and that, when Socialism abolishes their incomes, it will offer them a chance to perform useful labor service to humanity and will give them a reward commensurate with their labor.

It turns out that the Illinois Central Railway Company has been done out of a million dollars and a half through graft. Officials of the Illinois Central would send cars to be repaired to a car company. The cars did not need repairs and would not be repaired. They would be charged up with having been repaired by the car company. Cars were repaired with material taken from the Illinois Central lines and the material woud be charged up against the Railway Company. Thus the the owners of the car company got a big graft out of these crooked dealings. Graft takes place under the capitalist system whether the organizations are public or private. The remedy is not government ownership but Socialism.

The Montreal Witness has discovered that there is growing up a class of unemployables in that city. The Witness wanted work done and tried to hire the loafers. The loafers said they wanted work at their trade as snow shovellers. Whereupon the Witness bewails the loafing habit. It interviewed the charitable agencies and they said they had all the work necessary to employ the idlers but the idlers were not content to work hard for small wages. You see the scheme is to work the unemployed into jobs at small pay thus crowding out the better paid workers and making them unemployed. Thank God the loafers of Montreal have sense enough not to swallow the bait held out to them by the charitable organizations of hard work and poor pay.

THE LESSON OF THE STRIKE

There is much dissatisfaction among the men over the settlement of the strike. They looked to the union, their economic organization, to protect them. And many of them find themselves left in the lurch. The company does not agree to reinstate the strikers. It agrees to reinstate them only as soon as possible. There is no definition of what that expression means. The company claims that it is impossible for them to discharge the strikerbreakers who have proved to be efficient. Therefore it will be quite a long time, perhaps never, before the company will consider it possible to reinstate many of the strikers. Then the company did not agree to give back the old runs to the old conductors and many of them, placed on poorer runs, feel aggrieved. Then the company did not agree to renew the pension rights of the employees and the older men may be injured by the loss of a pension in their old age. All these things create dissatisfaction.

Huxley declared that we must sit down before a fact like little children. We must study it without any reconceived notions. We must be prepared to follow it wherever it may lead. This we must do with regard to the recent strike and its settlement.

There is a class war on in Canada. It is a hard, harsh saying, but we must face the fact like men. It will not vanish simply because we turn our backs to it and wont recognize it. This class war arises from the ownership of the means of production at which other men must work. There is a constant struggle between the capitalist owners and the expropriated laborers over who shall get the benefit of the toil of the workers. The capitalists unite in large companies to beat the workers. The workers unite in their unions to get the best of their masters.

In all wars THE INDIVIDUAL MUST SUFFER. When Switzerland was fighting Austria for her freedom in the middle ages, the Swiss patriots went forth to die for their native land. They died; but their land was freed. When strikers march forth to war on their masters by means of the strike, there is bound to be suffering. And some of them, through whose efforts their class has been raised, may suffer the black list and penury. But their class has been raised. Just as the death of the Swiss patriots brought freedom to the weak hearted slavish ones who inhabited Switzerland, so the heroism of the striking trainmen HAS BROUGHT BIGGER PAY TO THE SCABS WHO HAVE TAKEN THEIR PLACE.

Had the trainmen not struck the pay would not have been raised; nor would scabs have been employed; nor would the strikers be out of work. The class war has brought suffering to the class-patriots, and that suffering has benefited the economic position of the scabs.

To the simple trades unionist this is inexplicable. This result seems to be the reversal of all principles of justice. Yet this denial of justice, this topsy turvy state of affairs, will last just as long as the capitalist system lasts.

As long as you workers allow the railroads to be run for dividends, you will have to fight for all your class gets. And the bolder you are in the fight for better conditions for your class, the harsher will be the treatment of your bosses towards you. You will be blacklisted. And even if your struggles win your class better conditions, you will see the benefit of your efforts reaped by those who would betray you in the struggle.

But when you rise in your might, confiscate the machinery of production, and run industry for yourselves, then there will be no need of striking. There will be no scabs to take your jobs because it will be to the interest of no class to replace you by men who will work for less reward. The class war will be abolished and your period of economic bondage will have vanished for ever.

Socialism does not aim at changing human nature. It aims at making conditions of labor such as to give the best in human nature a chance to develop.

Socialism is reasonable; capitalism unreasonable.

PENSIONS

There have been much talk about Grand Trunk pensions. The Grand Trunk officials have been slobbering over themselves about the generosity of the company to the men. There have been old age pensions. The company, out of the full loving and generous hearts of its parasite owners, has granted unto its dear and faithful workers old age pensions. This is the yarn spun by the publicity agents of the company.

But, even the company officials admit that the company is not generous without a string attached to the alleged gift to the men. The dear workers must take what pay is handed out to them without raising a disturbance. If the men strike because they are getting only two thirds the wages that other railroads pay, then the dear workers lose their pension rights.

Moreover, when the question is looked into, it is seen that the company is not generous at all. It is found that the company has been working a skin game under the guise of generosity.

It is reported that the old age pension scheme of the Grand Trunk is to be dropped, BECAUSE THE MEN WHO HAVE LOST THEIR PENSION RIGHTS REFUSE FURTHER TO PAY INTO THE PENSION FUND OF THE COMPANY.

The scheme has been for the company to contribute to the fund of the workers on the road. THE WORKMEN DO THE MOST OF THE MOST OF THE CONTRIBUTING. When the workers strike THEY LOSE WHAT THEY THEMSELVES HAVE PAID TOWARDS KEEPING THEMSELVES IN THEIR OLD AGE.

The history of this pension scheme is an interesting one. It will enlighten some of these workers who believe in the generosity of their bosses and that their bosses want to do their workers a kindness.

Eight or ten years ago the Grand Trunk Railway Company compelled all its employees, when they entered the company's service, to sign a contract according to which the company would not be responsible in damages for any accident that might befall the workers while on duty. The workers who did not sign this contract got no job. The workers, driven by economic necessity, signed the agreement.

But the courts upset the contract. A case taken to the Privy Council of England by the widow of a worker who was killed in an accident, was decided against the company in favor of the widow and children of the victim. It was held that it was against good morals and the rights of a worker to have to bear the results of an accident due to the fault of the company. It is such decisions as these that makes me say that our Canadian laws and judges are better than the American where the workers are absolutely at the mercy of corrupt judges run by corrupt corporations. Our Canadian courts do throw around the expropriated wage slave some poor protection that operates once in a great while.

The company, not being able to kill a worker through negligence and then turn the widow and children adrift without a cent of damages, tried to get around the decision by making the workers themselves bear the great brunt of the misfortunes that fall upon the railroad workers. It organized an accident and insurance scheme, contributed forty thousand dollars to it, and then made every railway worker, whether he wanted to or not, pay into the accident and insurance fund. The casual worker who was employed a few weeks in summer in the car shops had his wages docked for this fund. If he got sacked or quit before he came to the pension age he got nothing. The railway threw the burden of taking care of the killed and damaged workers upon this society mainly supported by the compulsory contributions of the men. This is the glorious, generous pension scheme of the Grand Trunk. The men pay in and get nothing if they strike. This pension is to be abolished. The company is throwing aside the scheme. It is being abolished BECAUSE IT IS NO LONGER USEFUL TO THE GRAND TRUNK EXPLOITERS IN THEIR WAR AGAINST THEIR EMPLOYEES.

The men who have been taken back refuse to pay longer into the fund. Therefore the company will have to bear the whole burden of the accidents. Moreover the Workmen's Compensation Act, passed by the Province of Quebec in 1909 and which came into operation in January 1910, provides that in case of accidents, such insurance schemes as that of the Grand Trunk shall not relieve the company of liability, except to the extent of the contribution of the company. It is therefore impossible, within Quebec, for the Grand Trunk to get itself out of liability by thrusting the insurance upon compulsory levies taken out of the pay envelopes of its employees.

So you see the true inwardness of the pension scheme of the Grand Trunk. How does it look to you now? Do you longer believe that your bosses are looking after your welfare?

The remedy? Capture the political power. You have the numbers, you can do it. Then take the four feet of your bosses out of the public trough, and make them disgorge what they have stolen from you. You will find, if you do this, that you, the workers of Canada, will be the owners of railways and other means of production, and that the revenues now going in dividends will be added to your present earnings in the shape of Social reward for your Social labor.

The car men on the Canadian Northern Railway are on strike in Winnipeg. A fire originated in the yards and twenty cars were burned. The railway officials consider that the strikers started the fire. The loss was seventy-five thousand dollars. The incident is illuminating as to the motives actuating men under capitalism. The economic motive is recognized. The men are not interested in preserving the property of their masters. Rather they are interested in seeing it destroyed. There will be more jobs and there will be fewer car men hunting jobs. But under Socialism where the railroads are socially owned the more property destroyed the harder the workers will have to work. Then instead of workers endeavoring to destroy property they will do their utmost to save property. Socialism will do away with incendiarism, strikes, class wars, poverty, prostitution, and the other ills which can be traced directly to the competition and strife engendered by the capitalist mode of operating industries.

D. D. Mann, of the Canadian Northern Railway Company, has been in close confabulation with Premier McBride of British Columbia over the construction of railways on Vancouver Island. Under capitalism Premiers exist to give away valuable franchises to railroads and to pay the private railway companies from six to twenty thousand dollars a mile for accepting the franchise and building the roads. The workers, as usual, do all the work. British Columbia has had a very bad attack of capitalist politicians, capitalist exploitation, and wage slavery. Wherefore the workers of British Columbia are revolutionized. Mann and McBride can plan a couple of years or so still. But the social revolution will obliterate Mann and hand over the railroads to the social organism to be.

The Ontario government has been at work to reduce the price of school books. The result has been an enormous reduction in the price of the official school books. The combined price of sixteen books has been reduced from $4.12 to $2.71. That much profit has been squeezed out of the parasites who formegly took profits out of school books. The workers are getting no less pay. Does not that teach a lesson to you? Can you not see that if a capitalist government can reduce the price of books that much a Socialist government could, without lowering wages, cut the price of all commodities over half? But you evidently like to be robbed. You like to see men who do nothing have a good time and enjoy large houses, automobiles and ocean voyages. You love to do the work in the day time and get chucked into a back street at night. It is simply because you will not use the brain that nature has given you that you suffer this treatment. The moment you think for yourself that moment you can begin to help change conditions.

OH, FOOLISH MEN

Lorne Cunningham, Socialist Organizer, visited Lindsay, Ont., where there were about eighty striking Grand Trunk workers. He arrived during the strike and wanted to address the strikers at a meeting. The strikers were afraid to listen because they did not know whether the union officials would stand for their attending a political meeting and listening to a political speaker. These same men were to attend a meeting addressed by two ministers of the Gospel and by Colonal Sam Hughes, Member of Parliament for the electoral district of Victoria and Haliburton, and one of the legalized butchers of Canada.

Lorne Cunningham came with a message of economic emancipation. He came with the story of the world wide revolt of the workers. He came to explain to the striking workers how to win their battles, how to conquer for themselves relief from the eternal strife of the workers against the parasites. The men, frightened at the thought, were afraid to listen.

These strikers ceased work, lost their pension rights, and underwent much suffering, and yet closed their ears to the man who came to explain a better way of fighting.

The men were afraid to attend a political meeting. Their bosses have them hypnotized. Their bosses are hogs with all four feet in the public trough. Their bosses are getting millions from the elected representatives of the people. Their masters are playing the game of politics all the time. And the men are afraid to attend a political meeting where they would learn how to play the game of politics for themselves.

But it was all right to be ready to go and hear Sam Hughes, a party politician whose voice is ever raised on behalf of arms and strife. Sam Hughes the man who would call out the troops and shoot the workers in times when the class struggle becomes acute. The man who rushed to South Africa at the bidding of the Diamond Kings to shoot the Boers who were defending their native land against extraneous robbers. The man of big words and bloody thoughts. It was all right to be ready to go and listen to Sam Hughes. But they were afraid to listen to a man who was ready to help them.

Thus it is through the ages. The Jewish workers hearkened to the High Priests against the Man who desired to defend them against exploitation. Ever the poor fools of the common people have listened to the siren voices of the destroyers and turned a deaf ear to the voices of those who called them to think for themselves and to free themselves from the chains of bondage of the plundering classes.

But Lindsay is an anachronism. The work of the martyrs has been done. The common people are learning wisdom. Christ, Luther, Marx, Ferrer have not lived and died in vain. The mass of the people are awakening. And the trainmen in Lindsay, Ont., who are frightened to hear the glad tidings of a possible emancipation, are the exception among workers of today, not the rule.

One thousand four hundred and eighty school teachers of Nova Scotia took the military or physical training provided by the Canadian Department of Militia, under instructors furnished by the Department. The capitalist system is based on force and bolstered by war. It is a great scheme to get the teachers of the young to become interested in force and army and the war spirit. Nova Scotia is a great field for coal mines. There the bosses need the military to quell the revolt of the wage slaves. So the mental trainers of the young are instructed by the Militia Department in the ways of strife. The politicians know whom they serve and know what is necessary to keep the capitalist system going.

Charlie Hays is looked upon as a stubborn man. It is just his type that brow beats labor, robs them beyond the standard set by other labor thieves and puts the flaming passion of revolutionary ideals into the hearts of the workers. Go on, Charlie. Keep up your gait and you will have every man working under you a red hot Socialist.