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WOMAN'S RIGHTS

The Rev. E. I. Hart, B.A., Pastor of the Dominion Methodist Church, Montreal, on November 10th, preached a sermon on woman's rights. Socialists will agree to every proposition laid down by the Rev. Mr. Hart. The enemies of Socialism slander it. They declare that Socialism aims at breaking down the marriage tie, destroying the home and creating a condition of free love in the sense of free lust. Because we advocate those things which would give to women rights they should have, we are howled at by ignorant priests and low-down lying scoundrels who go round in expensive clothes and spend more in one day than the useful producers receive for a month of hard labor.

Mr. Hart lays down four rights which every woman should have. "The first right of every woman is the right to her own person." Socialists are fully agreed that this is what every woman should have. For this reason we are spoken ill of by foul-thinking people. We are said to want to break down the marriage tie. If the husband did not have the right to rule over his wife he would break loose on earth, and we Socialists, therefore, want hell loose. That is the kind of silly arguments used. Tyrants who let hell loose on earth snarl at Socialists who wish to chain hell down. Mr. Hart quotes a case at the Yorkshire, England, Winter Assizes not so very long ago. A man was charged with knocking his wife down with his fist and striking her with a poker until the blood flowed from her ears, because she had gone to a place of amusement without asking leave. Mr. Justice Day, in addressing the jury, said that our common law made provision for the chastisement, and it was a waste of time to bring the case before the jury. The jury found in consequence that the man acted within his rights and the prisoner was discharged. That is our glorious law, the sacred marital rights which Socialism would abolish. The sooner Socialism gives woman the right to her own person, the better it will be for the home, love, marriage, religion. Socialism will not destroy these things. Socialism will produce conditions under which these things will flourish more than ever.

"A second right that women should enjoy is the right to an equal moral standard with men." Every Socialist will agree with the Rev. Mr. Hart. In England a man can divorce his wife for one case of infidelity. The wife can divorce her husband and not for a single instance of infidelity. Both must be combined. We all know the double standard of morals in our Canadian cities which makes women of the red light districts outcasts, the prey of every corrupt policeman, of charlatans, doctors, and buccannery. Future historians will make the men who patronize the red light districts—respectable citizens, pillars of the churches, prominent politicians, and leaders in every walk of life. These are the conditions of capitalism. Because Socialists protest, we are discredited, immoral agitators. Future historians will marvel at the stupidity of the oppressed people of today in opposing the Socialist movement.

"A third right that women should have is the right to an equal wage standard with men," says the Rev. Mr. Hart. And so say Socialists. He points out the fearful pressure brought upon women by low wages, particularly in England, where women work in the fields for a shilling a day, in the Cradley forging works, making heavy chains for four shillings a week, in Nottingham, carrying loads of wire on an equal footing with stoves where it is dried, for eight shillings a week. This is in glorious old England, our motherland, where the parasites are gross, selfish, corrupt, brutish, immoral, oppressive and richer than the dreams of avarice. The poor fellow who is sent into whose rotten maw Boden is pouring millions of the money of Canada for ships to protect the brute rulers in their brutishness. Because Socialists protest, we are "unpatriotic," and many other things. O Canada!

"A fourth right of women is the right to a voice in the framing and administering of the laws by which she is governed." Thus speaks the Rev. Mr. Hart, and every Socialist agrees. In the Social Democratic Party women are on an equal footing with men. They have an equal vote. In neither the Tory nor the Liberal party is this the case. Were women granted the franchise, many things would be different. They would see to it that we had better homes, cleaner cities, less corrupt officials, more protection for women and children. The national life would be on a higher plane.

Socialists go a step farther than the Rev. Mr. Hart did in his sermon. They add that woman should have the enjoyment of the full social value of the wealth she creates. This, of course, is absolutely impossible until the revolution is accomplished. Such sermons as that of the Rev. Mr. Hart go a long way to raise the church in the opinion of many to whom it was getting to be a stench in their nostrils.

MUCH SOUND AND LITTLE SENSE

And, down in the sphere below, the evil increases, the workmen agonize with hunger and exasperation, while above them an enormous foot of systems are bandied about, and well meaning persons exhaust themselves in attempting to apply ridiculously inadequate remedies. There is much stir without any progress, all the while bewildering what precedes great catastrophes.—Emile Zola.

The Canadian Pacific Railway was built with the money of the people of Canada. It was given over to a group of men who do nothing useful for a living. They were to own the road and get dividends, but when they had got so much after those who operated the road had been paid wages, they were to reduce the railway charges for freight and passenger service. That time has come, but the rates have not been reduced. The reason given is that if the C. P. R. reduced rates the other railways could not compete, their parasite owners could not get revenues, and so the C. P. R. parasites continue to be big hogs, giving as their excuse the altruistic motive of protecting the smaller hogs. This is the glorious capitalist system which the big hogs say is the best ever.

BENEVOLENT POSTAL SYSTEM

The rural postal system is being established in many sections. Rural routes are laid out. Some favored farmers will be able to have their mail placed in a box on a post in their front yard, provided they live on the favored roads.

This great triumph of modern civilization, it is alleged, will cost the farmer nothing. All he will have to do will be to pay three dollars for a government postal box, set it on a post, and get his mail free forever after.

This is the story put out by the postal department. Pelletier wants to make a name for himself. Our Postmaster General wants to be praised by the roadside farmer. The capitalist press has been praising this system of his until recently. Now you do not hear so much about his generosity.

For the newspapers have found out that Pelletier is going to make them pay for the farmer's free mail delivery in such a way as to compel them to raise their subscription prices. After all, the farmers themselves will pay through the nose for the benevolent generosity of Mr. Pelletier our Postmaster-General.

Hitherto newspapers have been delivered by the postal system for one-fourth of a cent a pound. This rate has been so cheap that newspapers have been able to spread themselves into the country regions. Montreal daily newspapers in Cowansville cost only a dollar a year. The lonely farmer can pay his dollar and be put into touch with the city life. The low postal rate has made possible the wide expansion of current news among the lonely people.

Coincident with the setting up of numerous rural mail routes, comes the announcement that newspapers are to be made pay a cent a pound postage. This is an increase of three hundred per cent upon the old charge. Upon such papers as the Montreal Star the increased postal rate will amount to a dollar a year for each subscriber.

The new postal rates will mean the disappearance of the cheap Canadian daily. The lonely farmer, where he now pays one dollar a year, will have to pay two dollars a year. The village worker, who does not get the benefit of the rural route, will have to pay double for his daily paper. Many of the workers will find the item a heavy burden. They will cease to subscribe. To the Montreal Star the added postal rates will mean an added postal bill of \$40,000 a year. Even to a small weekly paper like Cotton's Weekly the additional postage will amount to \$650 per year.

The government at Ottawa can give thirty millions to protect the parasites of Great Britain. It can give millions to private railways. It can snatch a newspaper out of the hands of the country slaves and farmers while claiming to be granting them a great boon.

The national government at Ottawa is rotten. It is in the hands of big business. The poor fellow who is sent into whose rotten maw Boden is pouring millions of the money of Canada for ships to protect the brute rulers in their brutishness. Because Socialists protest, we are "unpatriotic," and many other things. O Canada!

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Cotton's Weekly

W. U. COTTON, B.A., B.C.L., Editor ESTABLISHED DEC. 5th, 1908 H. A. WEBB, Gen. Mgr.

Published Every Week at Cowansville, P. Q., Canada Thursday, Dec. 5th, 1912

The Porcupine Miners' Strike

Folly of the Masters Hastens the Revolution

The incidents connected with the strike of the Porcupine, Ont., miners illustrate the class nature of society, and on which side the daily press is. With the exception of Pearl Lake, Schumacher and Three Nations mines, the miners walked out when the mine managers announced a reduction in wages and in some cases an increase in hours. The three mines still working signed up with the union.

The reason why the lengthened hours and reduced pay were announced was to put the Porcupine miners on the same basis as the Cobalt ones. Hitherto the Porcupine district has been far from a railroad. Living expenses were high, prospectors many and miners few. To attract miners the pay had to be higher than in Cobalt. Now that the country has become more settled and the government of the master class situated at Toronto has improved the means of communication "to benefit all the people," the mine managers at once attempt to reduce the wages paid labor power. The cost of living has gone down, and it being thought there were more slaves upon the market bidding against each other for the opportunity of being robbed, the employing class at once attempt to reduce the standard of living of the working class. Under class ownership of the means of production, improved highways, and cheaper food do not benefit the workers. They benefit the masters by allowing them to pay less wages. The workers get a living wage. All the rest goes to the ruling class.

The press is on the side of the masters. There are many blind pigs in the region. These sell alcoholic beverages illegally. The government agents permit the illegal dispensing of whiskey because there is a profit in it. The Cobalt miners' strike of November 16th declared that Inspector Blackwell had closed the blind pigs during the strike. This is not true. The miners themselves called upon the sellers and ordered them to close down. They did. The workers were left to their own devices. The Nugget declares the strike is assuming vicious tendencies. It is but on the part of the Thiel detectives hired by the mine owners. The paper declared that Thiel detective P. Akin was hit over the head by a blackjack in the hands of a group of seven who boarded the train before it reached South Porcupine. He was hit over the head by the fist of a passenger whom he had insulted, who knew nothing of the strike. Many other lies of a like nature are published, not only in Cobalt, but in Toronto and elsewhere, in which the truth is perverted to make labor appear to be blackguardly, boozey and murderous.

Hollinger is one of the mines affected. It can declare a dividend of three per cent for four weeks, a rate of 36 per cent upon the cost of the stock. Thiel detectives and other creatures \$600 per day, but it cannot pay the men the wages it could before it was as prosperous as it is now.

The miners are slaves. They cannot go into the mines save at the wages and under the conditions imposed by the masters. They must starve themselves to even try and hold the same pay as formerly. If they get rowdy at all, the troops are called out, civil law is suspended and the wealth producers are shot down. The get their own way. They are not rowdy. At Cumberland, B. C., where a coal strike is on, the Provincial Government has appointed one hundred special provincial police to patrol the town, the whole district is being patrolled night and day, and the central government of the province has suspended all the local authorities while the strike lasts, and has appointed a special prosecutor to railroad to jail any worker who impinges in the slightest against the laws made by the politicians of the masters against the workers.

Were present conditions to continue, there would be bloodshed. Persecuted workers would assassinate our financiers, politicians and labor suckers. There would be blind class hatred which, God knows, the master class has done their very best to inaugurate by the mill bosses. Scores of workers are flung into jail. Women are beaten up. At once the I.W.O. of Prince Rupert sends out the notice, "Send all funds you can to the Central Committee, Matilda Rabinowitz, O. Box 455, Little Falls, N.Y. Never mind us. They need it more than we." The W. F. M. backs up the Porcupine strike. The Montreal Trades and Labor Council backs up the strike of the cap-makers on Notre Dame Street, (where also the police are active on the side of the masters). Thus labor stands solidly together.

Have a care, you labor thieves who live fat on the toil and sweat of the only useful class of society. Your wives and daughters dress sumptuously. They hobnob with royalty. Your coffers are full. But we, the united working class, are organizing. Our vision is clear. The trickeries by which you oppress us. Slowly we come, but tremendously. Your days are numbered. We do not want your lives. We are long-suffering and patient. We will win. Have a care, perhaps the patience of ages will become fierce rage. Do not press too hard.

We come, by tens, by hundreds, by thousands, by millions. You, the oppressing parasite class, will be forced to do your share. The detectives and gunmen you hire are being chalked up against you. For every blow you deal a worker you make a dozen blind fools, you parasites of the Hollinger, you parasites of the Dome, you parasites of the Pender plant, you parasites of the Dunsmuir coal mines, you parasites of the whole of Canada. Your folly hastens the revolution. It is well.

THE MONEY TRUST

Recently a deputation representing the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada waited upon the Minister of Labor, T. W. Crothers, and the Premier, R. L. Borden. James Simpson of Toronto pointed out that a great financial trust was being formed in Canada. Whereas a number of years ago there were fifty banks, now there were only half that number. He called upon the premier to introduce legislation granting cheap, effective and simple facilities for forming co-operative societies. Borden promised his careful consideration, but would pledge nothing. Borden draws \$8,000 a year from his bank stock holdings. Will he be likely to do anything in a legislative way to hurt his own private income? Will he be likely to grant to co-operative societies anything which will hurt the banks?

Simpson spoke about the formation of a great financial trust. He considered the reduction of the banks to be in this direction. It is. But the money trust can work through the banks without amalgamation. The Canadian Bankers' Association is already in the field, welding the banks into one corporation.

On November 14th the annual banquet of this association was held in Toronto at the York Club. At the meeting of the Association in the Bank of Commerce Chamber in the afternoon, the following officers were elected:

Hon. Presidents—George Hague, Montreal; Sir Edward Clouston, and Sir Edmund Walker.

President—D. R. Wilkie, General Manager Imperial Bank.

Vice-Presidents—George Burn, Ottawa; Alex. Laird, Bank of Commerce; E. L. Pease, Royal Bank; H. B. Meredith, Bank of Montreal.

Council—E. H. Helden, General Manager Merchants' Bank; T. Bienvenu, Provincial Bank; R. B. Stevenson, Quebec Bank; T. P. How, Bank of Toronto; Jas. Elliott, Montreal; N. Lavoie, La Banque Nationale; G. P. Schofield, Standard Bank; C. A. Bogert, Dominion Bank; G. H. Balfour, Union Bank; W. D. Ross, Metropolitan Bank; H. A. Richardson, Bank of Nova Scotia; B. Mackenzie, British North America; Jas. Turner, Bank of Hamilton; Col. James Mason, Home Bank.

Secretary-Treasurer (re-elected)—John Knight, Montreal.

These men sit in council upon financial affairs. Their banks represent credit lines of a billion dollars. We need not look to the States for a money trust, or any other kind of trust. We are loaded with them in Canada. However, we do not want to bust them. We want to socialize them for the common good.

A minister once said to me, "We are all trying to do good, to improve humanity. Why separate yourselves from us?" Why have a Socialist party? This minister does not understand economics nor politics. There are two classes in society, the working class and the capitalist class. There are subdivisions of these, but they fall into one or the other of the groups. The capitalist class consume the greater part of the wealth created without producing anything. The working class produce all the wealth and consume only a small fraction of the wealth they create. They consume just enough to live on. The workers are robbed. The capitalists are robbers. This minister would have us live altogether, form no party, and strive to do good generally, the robbed and the robbers working together to the same end. This is just like it would be if a set of respectable thieves and burglars were picking the pockets of the people and entering their homes to steal, then going to church and giving of their plunder to help support the minister. We would laugh if such a minister should advise the people to unite with the burglars in peace and unite with them to do good to humanity in general. Yet that is just what this minister advised, and what very many Christian ministers throughout Canada advise. The alleged ministers of Christ throughout Canada need not wonder why they, as a class, are falling into great disrepute with the workingmen.

If you are a Christian and wish to help your minister purify private and public life, join the Socialists and help to overthrow the master class.

The seed you sow will bear good fruit. You may talk to a man for months and he will not become a socialist. But the seed has been sown. Although it lies as dead, when a strike takes place, or when the boss kicks his worker out of the job he has been holding down, or when the mortgage on the farm has been foreclosed, then the man sees the point. He becomes a socialist. He wishes to change the system. Another rebel has been added to our ranks. Had you not spoken to that man, had you left him alone, he would not know the remedy when he gets crushed by the weight of the exploiters.

THE LYING PRESS

An attack of hysterics has swept over the Canadian daily papers.

Throughout Canada, Liberal and Conservative alike, the daily papers are screaming war at us.

In big headlines they tell us of the approaching conflict in Europe. According to them, a universal conflict is at hand.

The same lie has been worked in every country in Europe during the past few years. When the international financial-vultures wished to get a bigger grip upon a nation through war loans, the bought press have raised the war bogey. In the United States the press trumpeted the yellow lie that the Japs were seizing Magdalena Bay in Lower California. This lie was issued when the armor plate and shipbuilding sharks were endeavoring to persuade the government of that country to lay down six new dreadnaughts. They did not succeed.

When the building program of Great Britain was inaugurated, the press foamed and went mad over the German war bogey.

Why is all this clatter of war news now spread broadcast throughout Canada? The answer is simple. Borden and all his gang of robbers at Ottawa are going to hand over millions of dollars to the shipbuilding and armor plate thieves in England. To make the robbed people of Canada quiescent, the war scare is blared forth. We are young at the game. We are backwoods. We are like the country jays gone to New York. The jays who are the workers and producers of Europe see through and laugh at, we as a nation swallow whole. We are the easiest jays the plunderers of Great Britain have run across for a long time. A dukeling slipped over to us at \$45,000 per year, please pay, c. o. d., sets us up. A pat in the pocket, Borden's back, and hey presto, thirty-five millions out of Canada's pocket.

Surely we are the cheap jays, the easy marks, the sport of the international come-ons.

There is many a preacher of the Gospel who would like to come out for Socialism, but cannot. He is in bondage. He must preach that which he would not to get his food, clothing and shelter for himself and wife at the hands of the labor skinner. If you wish to help these ministers, if you wish to free them and make them men indeed, get into the ranks of those who rebel against the class nature of society and help us cast off the rule of the cold-blooded thieves.

The memoirs of Sir Richard Cartwright which have just been published have created a feeling of consternation among the capitalists and other anti-socialists. Cartwright speaks plainly about events. He tells of the corruptions of the day. He says that Sir A. Macdonald lowered the tone of political life in Canada from which it has never recovered. Sir John used any methods to gain his ends. He put millions to railways. He put through the protective system, which rests its life on the formation of Canadian trusts. Sir Richard adds that he had known public life in his early days as he got to know it later on he would not have been so harsh on Sir John. This means nothing else but that corruption and rottenness at the foundation of our political life, the capitalists buy what they want politically. They bribe the laws they want into being. No one with the desire of cleaning up the public life of Canada can vote either Liberal or Conservative. They will vote Socialist.

MAN NO FALLEN ANGEL

It is useless to think of man as a fallen angel. If the fallacies of absolute morality are to be admitted in the discussion at all, he must be considered rather as an obstinate and selfish devil; who is being slowly forced by the iron, tyranny of Nature to recognize that in disregarding his neighbor's happiness he is taking the surest way to sacrifice his own.—G. Bernard Shaw.

THE CHRISTMAS SUB. Dear Comrades,—The members of our local here are going to give a year's subscription to Cotton's Weekly, present to their friends. One or more, they will follow later. Also they wish to intimate to you that it would be advisable to make a special note of it in your paper, and urge other locals and comrades to do the same. Truly a great Christmas present, and one which will increase in value as the year goes by.—Yours in the revolution—R. P. Niagara Falls, Ont.

Many of the readers of Cotton's take capitalist papers. When you subscribe it would be well for you to ask the paper to give more articles and news to Socialism. Economic determinism is at work in the newspaper offices as elsewhere. If the owners see cash coming in with request for a certain kind of news, they will give more of it.

THE SERBIAN PIG

We have read of the bravery of the Servians in the war against Turkey. We have read of the terrible atrocities committed by the Turks against Christians in Macedonia. Some Canadians may be foolish enough to think that the Servians have joined in the war on religious grounds. It may be thought that a passion for humanity and a desire to protect the children of the true God from the Mohammedans animate the Servians so they give themselves to the slaughter for the sake of a glorious cause. Let us not deceive ourselves. There is a cause for which the Servians die, but it is not for the sake of religion. They die in the cause of the Servian pig.

Let us turn to page 687 of Volume 24 of the Encyclopedia Britannica, and there we will read, "Relatively to its population, Serbia possesses a greater number of sheep (3,160,000 in 1905) and pigs (908,000 in 1905) than any country in Europe. Large herds of swine fatten, in summer and autumn, on the beechmast and acorns of the forest, returning in winter to the lowlands. The Servian pig is pure white or black, but other breeds, notably the Berkshire and Yorkshire, are kept. Despite American competition and Austro-Hungarian tariffs, the export of swine remains the principal branch of Servian commerce."

There you have the cause of the deaths of the Servians at the hands of the Turks. There you have the reason d'être for the fierce assaults upon Monastir. There you have the cause of the Servian's defiance of Austria when Austria forbids the Servian demand for a port on the Adriatic.

Servia exports hogs. She now exports them at a great disadvantage. Austria takes some, but there is the high duty on foodstuffs imposed by the agrarian nobles of the Empire. Roumania, Bulgaria and Turkey are all agricultural countries like Servia herself. Hence Servia desires a port where ships can come and carry the Servian pig to grace the Christmas board of the English labor skinner, or feed the slaves in the mines of Nova Scotia.

Wars are founded upon material considerations. The Crusades of the middle ages were kept up, not so much by Christian enthusiasm as by the hope of plunder from the fabulously wealthy East on the part of the noble and Christian robber barons of Europe. The anti-Semitism of France and Russia is not due to any religious animosity, but because the Jew can outshine the Christian parasite thus rendering the Christian parasite poor. In both cases, however, the cloak of religion was flung over the greed, and the Christian adherents went forth to rob in the sacred name of religion. In Servia now, the cloak of religion is flung over a war fought about the question of the export of hogs.

There is religion. There are religious motives. There is the longing in all of us for a future life better than this. This is well. But when the labor skinner of Canada, and their religious henchmen, are attacking Socialism, we can rest assured that such henchmen have an economic motive.

When the fat plute or his henchmen denounce Socialism in the name of religion, remember the Servian hog.

We are apt to think the United States is more rotten than is Great Britain. We read of the divorce suits across the border, while we hear nothing of the British ones. We read of American scandals and not of the British scandals. We see exposures of the private life of the American financiers and politicians, and never a word against the morals of the British financiers and politicians. This is not on account of the superior morals of the British politicians and financiers. It is a question of law. In the United States the truth of a scandal can be pleaded in extenuation of its publication and in justification thereof if it is in the public interest. In Great Britain the libel laws are different. You cannot plead the truth as an extenuation. There the capitalist judges the private life of a politician or a financier as his private business with which the public have nothing to do. So if a newspaper publishes the small misdeeds of a fairly decent man, the fairly decent man can get small damages. If the paper publishes the rotten record of a scoundrel, the scoundrel can get big damages. So the newspapers dare publish nothing. They dare not even publish the proceedings of a divorce court. The evidence may be true and given under oath in a public court, nevertheless the newspapers can be sued for helping spread the details and bringing the parties into wider disrepute. The Britishers have a reputation for superior morality because the capitalist judges sit upon the stench and prevent the public knowing it is there. No wonder the lords and dukes and eminent financiers consider that the British law is the best on earth.

HUMOROUS SITUATIONS

There are many funny things happening in Canada which ought to be given publicity. When a Socialist tackles a staid old Conservative for his sub, when a red interviews a rabid Liberal, humorous situations are apt to arise. If any such have happened in your experience, why not send the account to Cotton's? Write briefly and on a separate sheet of paper. Let us have a little fun to relieve the stress of the fight.

The ballot is the only tool that the worker has never learned to use to the accomplishment of great things.