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25 CENTS FOR 40 WEEKS

This is No. 245

W. U. COTTON, S.A., P.C.I., Managing Editor ESTABLISHED DEC. 28th, 1905

Published Every Week at Cowansville, P. Q., Canada Thursday, May 22nd, 1913

\$1.00 Pays for a Four-Year's Subscription in Canada or England

This paper is not published for Profit. It is published by Co-operative Effort as an advocate of the Co-operative Commonwealth. It is the only Canadian Weekly Paper at the low Subscription Price of 25 CENTS FOR 40 WEEKS.

In clubs of four or more, Single Yearly subscriptions 60c.

Total Number of Subscribers for week of May 15th 28,392

Number of New Subs. 852

Number of Expiring Subs. 813

GAIN FOR WEEK 39

Total Edition Last week 30,000

MUNICIPAL MEAT AND POTATOES

A couple of months ago, before the Canadian Club, of Toronto, Mr. C. C. James, C.M.G., raised the question whether milk, bread and potatoes, as well as water and light, should not be provided by the municipalities on the co-operative plan in order to reduce the cost of living.

No doubt the employing class will adopt this plan in a few years.

This seems a strange prediction now, yet it is the logical unfolding of the present system. Ten years ago old age pensions and workmen's compensation acts and insurance against unemployment and the minimum wage agitation seemed beyond the hope of realization. Yet the capitalist class have adopted these schemes, not in the interest of their employers, but in their own interest. Municipal milk, bread and potatoes will be adopted also in the interest of the employing class. In many German cities municipal meat markets and fish markets have been inaugurated.

A little reasoning will show how the master class will benefit. The workers produce all the wealth. The master class take all the wealth produced by the workers away from them, leaving them in wages only a bare living.

The cost of living governs wages. The lower the cost of living can be made, the more surplus profits there will be for the masters.

Today milk and bread and potatoes are sold by small retailers, with much duplication of effort, and waste through small scale operation.

If the town or city took over these operations, and sold milk, bread and potatoes at cost, the cost of living would sink, wages could be lowered, and the waste and profit now going to the small dealers could then be absorbed by the big employers of labor.

We hope the service will be municipalized. Not that we hope for any improvement in the condition of the working class therefrom, but in order that the reactionary little dealers who are a worry to themselves and a nuisance to the community in which they operate, may be forced out of their parasite niches in the capitalist mode of production and forced into the ranks of the wage workers. This development is bound to come, and the sooner it comes the quicker will the big capitalists grow in unearned revenues, the more will the ranks of the wage workers be increased and the sooner the whole system will become too topheavy to endure.

THEY KNOW

The capitalist class know the true position of labor.

We hear their politicians telling what wonderful prosperity the workers have in Canada, and they say it is due to them and their laws.

They know this is not so. They know that Canada is a young country and that the land has been free and the workers could escape to a certain extent from wage slavery into self employment as a farmer. Consequently wages have been comparatively high.

When this chance to escape wage slavery is closed what will happen? The capitalists know. The following is an extract from an editorial in the Toronto Globe of May 2nd:

"But there will come a time. We are hastening toward it with feverish eagerness. All the opportunities for self-employment will be closed. The westward wave of population will break on the coast. Then there will be abundance of 'labor' so cheap that we will be at our wit's end to know what to do with it or how to get rid of it. Labor cannot be kept in cold-storage from times of abundance awaiting times of scarcity."

The capitalist class are looking for that day with great eagerness. Then they will break your unions.

Do you want to descend to the scale of living the capitalists are preparing for you? There is only one way of escape. That is to control the means of your employment. If you leave the capitalists in control of the mines, factories, mills, railways, and go seek jobs from them, there will be so many of you seeking jobs that you will have to work for starvation wages.

Unless you are prepared to confiscate the means of production and distribution away from the non-producers and own them yourselves collectively.

The Duke of Connaught says he never spent a happier year and a half than during his regime in Canada. And it's good betting that he never did. Everything that money could buy was squandered in his half, all the todayism and flunkys of the old land and then a little was bestowed on the old duke, and everything that mortal man could crave for was his, and he did not have to even ask for it. Besides drawing a fat salary from Canadians, he received an enormous gift from Great Britain each year simply because he happened to be of royal blood. Why wouldn't he be happy? As long as the capitalists can keep royalty sitting on the backs of a subservient people they care not whether the workers are happy or otherwise. The real useful worker is supposed to be happy on about one, five-hundredth part of what the noble duke clawed out each year.

The hopes of the workers under capitalism are nothing but pipe dreams.

Socialism is no Utopian scheme. The masters wish it were.

Comrades, it is my firm belief that you and I shall see the full fruition of our present endeavors.

Growing Socialism means the nearing of the day when the idle capitalist will be a fellow worker.

The word charity originally meant brotherly love. See how capitalism has debased the use of the word.

With the growth of the Socialists in Canada, the plutocrat is beginning to feel like a hen with the pip.

Of course the capitalists are interested in the working class. Is not a teamster interested in his draught horses?

The world is trembling startled upon the splendid visions of freedom seen through the eyes of the awakened workers.

The capitalist class get away with at least \$600,000,000 unearned revenues each year from the producing class of Canada. Some graft, is it not?

Sydney, Nova Scotia, is to have a labor temple. It is time the trampled workers of Cape Breton had a rallying centre against their conscienceless masters.

An occasional workingman may rise to the rank of a capitalist, but the working class remain slaves. Socialism will benefit all the working class by doing away with the slavery they suffer.

Hon. Geo. P. Graham, speaking in Parliament, some weeks ago, attributed the war scares to the armament makers who were looking for large war contracts. Recent revelations by the Socialists of Germany have confirmed this opinion.

Clarence Darrow, the Chicago lawyer, who has been the advocate of labor in its court trials in the U.S., is completely broke. His fortune of \$150,000 has been swallowed up in the trials forced upon him and growing out of the McNamara cases.

The retail grocers of Ontario are asking the help of the wholesalers to fight the co-operative stores. In a meeting in Toronto they censured the wholesale houses for supplying such concerns. If the retail grocer is as efficient as the co-operative he need have no fear. If he is not, his days are numbered.

Suppose the laws allowed burglars to enter your house and steal something out of it each day. Would you not call the laws criminal? Yet the capitalist system is based on laws which allow the capitalist class to rob the working class daily of a great part of the wealth the workers produce. Why not change the laws?

Bob Rogers, Minister of Public Works, has been known to blow in five hundred dollars for a little feed at the Chateau Laurier. This is more than the average worker gets for three hundred long days of toil. Bob looks after the interests of the working class like the seller of mutton looks after the interests of sheep.

The Canadian Canning Company, which is established on the Fraser River, B.C., is discharging their Chinamen and importing Scotch girls from Eymouth, Berwickshire, to do the work. No. The Canning Company is not suddenly struck with the desire to aid the white race. They figure that the Scotch girls will turn out more cans for less pay than the Chinese will.

A burglar wants an honest pal in his business. When the two of them have made a haul the burglar wants a pal who will divide honest and according to agreement. We hear the capitalist sheets talking about getting honest politicians into the House of Commons. What they mean is the same thing as the burglar's honest pal, — a politician who will divy up the legalized plunder of the capitalist class honest like with the capitalists.

A new organization to promote immigration and care for immigrants is being created by some of the "best people" in Canada and England. This statement was made by Mr. Thomas Howell, Commissioner of Immigration and Colonization of the Canadian Northern Railway. The "best people" no doubt are the millionaire C. N. R. crowd who send the immigrants to lousy bunkhouses and bad food, and other like labor skinners.

The painters have been on strike in Winnipeg and picketed the shops of the master painters. Now the master painters are suing the painters for \$25,000 damages done their business. This comes from the capitalist law made by the politicians elected by the working class vote. When the producing class use their votes in their own interest, they can control the laws, the judges, the police. They can take and run industry for themselves, and will not have to strike for a mere raise in pay. They will own them and get the full social value of what they produce.

No man can go through the world without sometimes being termed as a fool. The name may bring honor or it may bring disgrace; it all depends upon the worth and worthiness of the man who speaks it. In trying to better the living conditions of the workers socialists are often called fools. But they care not, as they know their cause is just, and is the only remedy for the existing evils under the miserable capitalist system.

TWO PICTURES

Canada as Viewed by the Duke of Connaught, Who Rides on the Backs of the Slaves, and by a Slave who is Ridden

The Duke of Connaught came to Canada as Governor General. He receives \$45,000 per year to act in that capacity. From Great Britain he draws \$125,000 per year for being the brother of the late King Edward the Seventh.

The Duke of Connaught has travelled throughout Canada. He has enjoyed special trains and private cars. He has had the best land afforded spread for his pleasure. Obsequious servants have done his bidding.

He had journeyed throughout Canada and has received the elaborately prepared enthusiasm which the capitalist class know how to give their political representatives. The Duke got a little extra enthusiasm staged for him because he is a prince of the blood royal.

The Duke has been over to London. On April 25th he was the guest of the Canadian Club in London, Shaughnessy of the C. P. R. was there. Mackenzie of the C.N.R. was there. Practically all the Canadians of note who live off the sweat of Canadian slaves were present. The Duke was welcomed with great enthusiasm. He felt deeply touched. In his speech he said in part:

"I don't know a prouder position for any Englishman to hold than His Majesty's representative as Governor-General of Canada. When my late brother asked me to accept this high position, the offer of which was renewed after his death by our present gracious sovereign, I felt a great doubt whether I could do justice to so high a position. I had no doubt I should be the friend of Canadians today as I was forty-three years ago, gentlemen," he continued. "Since I have been in Canada during the last year and a half I have felt more and more that I have been able to gain the affection of the whole Canadian people." (Cheers). "I am sure you will believe me when I say I never spent a happier year and a half."

Speaking of his tour of the Dominion he said, "To those Englishmen who have not been there, I say the sooner they go the better. It is moving with leaps and bounds."

His royal highness paid a tribute to the enterprise of the Canadian railroads, but expressed the hope that the government will see its way to promote great highways as well. He also expressed deep gratitude for the sympathy shown the duchess, "who on two occasions has been at death's door. She, as well as myself, has become very much attached to Canada. We have made a very happy home there, and our only hope is that if her health permits we may be back and spend another year in your midst." (Cheers).

The bitter cry of the western farmers against the exactions of the C. P. R. reached not the ears of the noble duke. But he received the flattering applause of that prince of labor oppressors, Wm. Mackenzie, and the duke was touched.

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The misery of the Cumberland strikers is unknown to him. The sweated slums of our cities troubles him not. The dreary mass of humans upon whose blood and sinew the parasite capitalists live in splendor is a thing he is unmindful of. But his heart is touched when he is given the sweet incense of praise from the useless consumers of the upsurging revenues of the slave class.

And the Duke responds. The Canadian exploiters' want more slaves. Therefore he urges Englishmen to hasten to Canada. What does it matter if their namesless graves will dot our railway lines? What does it matter if such slaves walk hungry and wretched the streets of Vancouver or fester in the growing slums of Halifax or St. John. The masters want more human flesh to feed into the mill of their profit mills, and the price of the blood royal uses the glamor of his name to draw them to their unescapable misery.

As a Slave Sees Canada

Contrast the tale of the Duke of Connaught with the story of a slave in Galt, Ontario. The following letter shows how the slaves are treated. While the Duke and his upholders are egging the slaves of Britain with false pretences to migrate to Canada, the following bitter cry wells up from the torture writhing heart of one of the deceived immigrants.

Canada Worse Than Britain

Galt, Ont., May 3, 1913

Dear Comrade Editor—Will you please publish in your next issue of your valuable paper in large type, and in a prominent place, the following letter, as I have been informed the local paper will not insert anything reflecting on the fair name of Galt, or the so-called Manchester of Canada. I am a new comer from the old land. The first thing on arriving here, myself and wife commenced house hunting. What an experience! Place after place we tried several houses (better name would be shacks). \$14, \$16, \$18 a month was asked for these places that were absolutely swarming with bugs. My

wife said we had better move, as we had struck some slum. On making enquiries we found this to be a common thing. Ye gods, and this in glorious, glorious Canada! Why, the slums of London, Glasgow, Manchester and Liverpool are a paradise to some of these awful places in Galt. Scores of far better houses have been condemned as unfit for human habitation in the old country. We were astonished to find three and four families living in nine roomed houses, or else taking roomers or boarders. We thought this was a strange way of living, but were told that the scarcity of houses was the cause, and this would soon be remedied, as houses were being rushed up.

Well, after a few days of search we managed to get rooms. That is the name here, but I should call them stables, as I have seen horses better housed. I can assure you, we had some lively nights—bugs, bugs galore. Mentioned this to a friend, who simply said, "Oh, you get used to that kind of thing in Canada." He also told me about a family living in a tent some time ago. Mr. Editor, a tent would be preferable, as it would be clean.

I asked to be directed to the sanitary inspector. To my astonishment I was informed they had none, and this in glorious Canada, and the Manchester of Canada, too. What a libel on the fair name of Manchester, England.

I now commenced looking for work. Place after place offered me at \$1.60 or \$1.65 a day. I could hardly believe I was in Canada. I thought from the wages offered I must be in England again.

Mr. Editor, it seems there are hundreds of married men with families in Galt working for \$1.60 to \$1.70 a day. No wonder they take in roomers or boarders or else live in stables. They have to, or could not live. Bad as old England is called, working people have a private house to themselves, and with all conveniences. You have no privacy here. Sanitary arrangements are fierce, garbage thrown on the river bank or anywhere else.

I well remember a short time ago Kier Hardie returning home. He said "No man in Canada should have less than \$3 a day." He was not believed by a large number of people in England because of being a Socialist. But I can assure you a large number of my friends will know the awful conditions in Canada as fast as a letter can cross the water. I also find women working for 80, 85 and 90 cents a day. Why, they are worse off than the London shirtmakers. Wonderful! Glorious Canada! You hear the ministers denouncing in awful tones the white slave traffic. Why, you see the cause here; remove the cause, and the effect will disappear. I heard about a reverend gentleman working day and night for local option, and his cry was, "Save the boys." You very same reverend gentleman, dare you work day and night for the betterment of the workers? If you dare, denounce these terrible conditions and save the families.

I have not yet heard a minister of any denomination from the \$3,000 a year pension downwards, speak on the terrible state of affairs in Galt. Mr. Minister, you know I speak the truth; these conditions are right under your eyes; dare you be a man and denounce them, or are you afraid of your job, like the poor wage slave? Of course, the minister lives in a fine, large house, and has a big salary. Working men and women, does he care for you? No, no, or else things would be exposed in Galt. People say this is one of the best towns in Canada; then God help them that live in the worst.

O for a Tom Mann, or some of the splendid Belgian leaders to be in this town for a week. What a wonderful change there would be!

Workers, all workers, why put up with these conditions? Organize for a general strike; not one trade or factory, but all trades and factories; whether a union man or not, strike, strike, strike, and demand that no man be paid less than \$2.25 a day and no woman less than \$2 a week. You can do it. Stand together, all workers.

Remember, only one third of the workers in Belgium were union members, but they stood shoulder to shoulder, as workers, a living example to the world. I say again, strike strike all together, and the day is ours. Socialist and labor papers in all parts of the world please copy, and let the truth be known everywhere. Apologizing for taking up so much of your valuable space, and thanking you for publication — A DISGUSTED CHIRPER.

Slaves! Be Men!

I call you slaves, to a mustering of your class. I preach the necessity of your unity. Cease to look to the Duke as a friend of yours. Cease to look upon the thieves as your friends. They are your foes.

Be men! Resolve to be free. Listen not to the clammy voices of dukes, kings, princes, capitalists, or their hired speech bulls who are paid to lead you to political destruction.

Join your class. For the sake of your wives and children, for the sake of the homes your masters deny you, revolt.

Let the sound of your gathering on

the political field ring terror in the ears of your masters.

The time is now to act. Resolve that never again from your district the slimy agents of capitalism shall go to your legislature or to the Dominion parliament.

The voice of labor's world protest rings in your ears. Send the glad news across continent and ocean, "We come. We come."

Woodrow Wilson's radicalism is a fraud, just as Roosevelt's has been. In spite of his sham fight against trusts, against Tammany, against Colonel Harvey and other champions of privilege, he is himself a blood relation of men in the closest touch with Wall Street. Tammany Hall picked him as Presidential nominee, and then made a sham fight on him at the Baltimore convention of the Democratic party, in order to fool the voters. His whole Cabinet is made up of safe and sane Democrats who can be trusted to obey the party whip, and this whip will be handled mercilessly by Champ Clark and Oscar Underwood at the command of Tammany Hall and Bourbon Democracy. Bryan has long ceased to be considered a danger by these elements, as his elevation to the Secretaryship of State amply proves. History loves to play its little jokes. "The Great Commoner" as political agents of business imperialism at the time when this imperialism is in its heyday is one of the best jokes ever played by American history.—Ernest Untermyer.

A comrade who is an Orangeman, has become disgusted with that organization. He writes, "The Orange Sentinel never tires of telling its readers that the Roman Catholic Church is a political organization, but it does not tell its readers that the Orange Association is one of the most corrupt political organizations in existence, for through the medium of the Sentinel they endeavor to corrupt the minds of the workers, and thereby gain their votes. The conclusion I have come to is that the men at the head of the organization can see their doom approaching as capitalists, and they take this means to head off the overthrow of capitalism. They are trying to make the Protestant worker think he has a grievance against his Catholic brother. While the robbed workers are set by the ears and are divided the one against the other, the masters are picking the plums of office and making laws whereby the capitalists may more effectively rob the working class."

A comrade of Midland, Ont., wants us to show the slaves how they are skinned by the Canada Iron Corporation there. This company got a bonus of \$50,000, and exemption from taxes, and in return it imports the cheapest labor it can find and houses it in hovels hardly fit for pigs. They are ashamed of these hovels, and hide them in the woods back of the smelters. Mr. Bennett, M.P., is the lawyer for the company. The workers gave Bennett their votes to send him to Ottawa to help make the laws, and in his private life, Bennett is the attorney of labor skinning corporations like the Canada Iron Corporation. Workers, how can you expect to have anything but rotten laws against you, and judges who are your enemies, when you send the agents of your masters to Parliament to make the laws that rule you?

A comrade of Celista, B.C., writes, "We are a lot of poor ranchers trying for years to obtain title to our land, some of us as long as ten years and so far we have found the lumber barons' influence in both our Liberal and Conservative governments has been too strong for us." In British Columbia the land speculators can get title to thousands of acres, but the homesteader cannot. This is the kind of treatment the producing class gets under capitalism. Does capitalism not break up the home?

A comrade of Inverness, N. S., writes that the workers there are very backward. The masters know this, and are glad. They can exploit them mercilessly, and the workers will not kick. A new spirit must come to Inverness, the spirit of freedom. Let it shine out of your eyes, workers. Let it ring in your footsteps. Stand solidly, and the example of your unity will be a light to rouse the slaves of Eastern Nova Scotia.

You often hear it sneeringly remarked to Socialists, "Why don't you divide up with the bums, seeing you want to help them?" Socialists do not want to divide up, and they are not particularly anxious to help bums to money they will only waste. What Socialists want is for the working class themselves to get the social equivalent of the wealth they produce. This is not helping bums, and it is not dividing up.

If a man with a little money becomes a Socialist, many ignorant persons are surprised that he does not give it away. Yet when Borden says the Empire needs protection and wants to spend \$35,000,000 on the navy, we don't hear any one going round surprised that Borden does not take a part of his quarter million dollars and contribute it to the building of battleships? Why?

Two men, William Sydenham, and a Pole whose name is not known, were killed in the construction camp at Enterprise, Ont., near Kingston. When I was in Kingston, comrades told me it was common for the fragments of men to be brought to Kingston. No mention was made of it. They were only workmen.

A SENSIBLE PARTY

Honest now, what do you think of the House of Commons at Ottawa? Is not your opinion a rather low one of that supposedly august body?

Yet that body makes the laws which our courts of justice enforce. You hear of graft and corruption, and you believe the stories you hear.

If the House of Commons is not worthy your respect, how can you respect the results of that body's deliberations?

The individual members may be fairly decent men, but collectively you think little of them. Have you ever stopped to think why?

You see, the members are elected CORRUPTLY. There is hardly a member gets in except by buying votes.

When votes are bought, they are not bought by honest men. They are bought by crooked men.

Those crooked men who put up the money to buy the votes, have bought the voters and the members of Parliament are their purchased agents. THEY HAVE BOUGHT THE PRIVILEGE OF DICTATING THE LAWS THAT ARE TO BE PASSED.

So when you read of what goes on at Ottawa, you are reading of what the selfish, moneyed interests are having done to advance the wealth of the selfish moneyed interests.

Of course you will not be told bluntly and truthfully what is being done. It will have patriotic wrappings around it, and the "public welfare" will be much talked about.

The Socialists have separated themselves out. They oppose the selfish moneyed interests, the seekers after rent, interest and profit.

They will not be bribed, and they will not bribe.

They aim at the overthrow of the laws which make it possible for men to live in splendor out of the labor of others because the laws are made in their favor.

Are they not a sensible party? If they are, then why not join them?

CAPITALISTS FIGHT CORRUPTION

But capitalists do not like to pay money for votes. So we have movements among the capitalists like H. B. Ames, M. P., to do away with paying money for votes.

Why pay money when you do not have to? If the capitalist class can fool the working class to vote for them without bribing, the capitalists are just so much in.

So they wrap their crooked deals and their legislation in pretty wrappings called patriotism or public welfare or some like name and show it to the working class, and as the wrappings look nice the workers vote for the men who engineer the crooked deals.

This is just like buying "punk" canned goods because the wrappers are pretty. The housekeeper who knows good goods will not be deceived by the wrapper a second time.

But suppose that housekeeper has never known anything else? Suppose she has always bought punk canned goods and her neighbors likewise. She will think that the rotten stuff is o. k.

That is the way with the working class. They have had crooked deals pulled off on them so long that few of them know what a real straight deal is like. They cannot experience it, they can only imagine it. The mass go on voting for the prettily wrapped up robbery and suffer industrial tyranny and do not realize it.

The class conscious minority, the Socialists, know the crooked deals, and tell the workers not to be deceived by words and blare and froth delivered by the politicians of their masters.

The buncombe is getting so bad that the workers cannot stand it and are turning to listen to their more enlightened fellow workers.

And this, comrades, presages the doom of crooked deals in pretty wrappings put over on the working class.

A friend of a Socialist, observing that he wore a Socialist button above the Oddfellows' pin on the lapel of his coat, asked him why he placed the Socialist button uppermost. The Socialist replied to his friend by saying that the Socialist party stood for the brotherhood of the workers of the world—a party that is out to do away with a system that makes mankind selfish and grasping. While the Oddfellows stand for brotherhood of a few of the better class of workers of the American continent who expect the capitalists and the workers to meet together, they forget their vows and protestations, and fail each other as brothers. If he had to choose between the Oddfellows' pin and the Socialist button, he would discard the former before the latter.

When a mere handful of men in each community can impose unjust conditions, misery, slavery, prostitution, slums and crime and vice upon the majority it is time that condition was forever abolished. This is what Socialism aims to do, and this is the reason why the capitalists fight Socialism. The lower the workers are pushed in the social scale the higher will rise the capitalists. Arise ye workers, get that fighting smile.

Great Britain wants all the colonies to come right up and assist her in building a large navy to protect the capitalists of the empire; while the Socialists want the workers of the entire world to unite into one party to throw off the capitalist parasites of the world from the backs of the workers.