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W. U. COTTON, Editor

Cotton's Weekly

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This is No. 106

COWANSVILLE, P. Q., CANADA, SEPTEMBER 22, 1910

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THE CASE OF FEDERENKO

Once more the bloody hands of that arch criminal, Czar Nicholas of Russia, are reaching across the waters to clutch at the throat of a refugee.

Sarvo Federenko, a Russian, who escaped from Russia to Canada, has been arrested at North Winnipeg by the Winnipeg police on a charge of murder, arson and robbery, and a demand has been made to send him to Russia to be tried.

Have you heard of the conditions established by the Little Father of all the Russias in his dominions?

Do you know that he has turned loose upon the people the Black Hundreds to rob, rape and kill?

Have you heard of the secret spies whose duty and profit it is to betray the lovers of freedom into the clutches of the executioners of the Little Father?

Have you heard of the tortures that take place in the Russian prisons?

Have you heard of the universal system of trafficking in prisoners' flesh, that if the prisoners possess funds they can escape though guilty, but if they are penniless they are starved and flogged and tortured?

Have you heard of the Russian prison conditions where men rot and die from overcrowded conditions, fever infected dungeons and rotten food?

Have you heard of the comb of Siev that is used as a torture instrument that shreds human flesh into ribbons?

Do you know that extradition laws require that faith be observed and that the prisoners surrendered shall have a fair and impartial trial?

Do you know that prisoners surrendered to the Little Father have no trials but farcical condemnations?

Were Federenko guilty as hell it would be a blot on the justice and freedom loving spirit of Canada to surrender him to the bloodhounds of Russia to be tortured and rot in their prisons.

But his offence, if any there be, is a political one?

Do you think the Little Father of all the Russias cares a damn for the murder, robbery and arson of a private individual committed against other private individuals?

The Little Father cares not at all. Has he not turned the brutal soldiery loose so that no woman's honor in Russia is safe, and no woman's life nor man's life is safe?

Has he not turned the Black Hundreds loose to murder, to commit arson and to rob?

Were Federenko guilty of the crimes alleged against private individuals would laugh and let him go.

If Federenko be guilty of any crimes they are such crimes as any man of spirit would commit to get rid of the damnable rulership of Russia.

No. If Federenko be guilty of any crimes the crimes were political, and as such the Canadian flag should protect him and wrap him safe from clutching hands and vengeful wrath of the Czar.

The Governor of Moscow has written a book in which he relates how he was ordered by the Czar to get funds from the citizens of Moscow by any methods he could. For the Governor of Moscow to get funds by pillage was government. For the citizens of Moscow to recover their stolen property was robbery.

For a citizen to protect his home against the Czar's brutes and to protect the honor of his women even to the killing of soldiers, is murder.

Citizens of Canada. Shall we surrender Federenko to the Czar? Shall we let the folds of our Russian flag be stained by the tyrannies of the Czar?

In Russia little children of eight years of age have been hanged for distributing Socialist literature.

United States surrendered a prisoner to the good faith of the Little Father. He was to have a fair trial.

As the American agent handed the prisoner over to the Russian agent on Russian soil, the Russian agent drew his sword and slashed off the prisoner's hands before the horrified gaze of the American.

Shall we surrender Federenko, innocent or guilty?

No. A thousand times no.

You judge, whoever you be, who are trying Federenko on extradition proceedings, if there is a spark of manhood in you you will let Feder-

enko go free. You will not surrender him to Russian brutality.

And if you come to the decision that he must go back, according to the damnable provisions of our extradition treaty with Russia, then you will resign your judgeship before you will pronounce sentence of torture and Russian tyranny upon him, if there beats in you a heart of humanity.

The world of labor is protesting. On Sunday, September 4th, the Grand Theatre of Winnipeg was packed to the doors by labor protesting against the extradition of Federenko.

In Montreal the Socialist Locals have protested against this invasion of Canada by Russian agents.

Throughout Canada there will be protests.

Our government officials and judges care not for freedom. Otherwise there would be no extradition treaties with the Little Father.

But our government officials and judges will heed the voice of labor if it protests sufficiently.

And upon the protest of labor depends the freedom of Federenko.

FORGET IS NEXT

Lieut. Colonel Rodolphe Forget is to do the Pellatt stunt. Pellatt has taken the Queen's Own Rifles to London. Forget is to take a Montreal regiment to Paris. The capitalist papers are full of praises for these labor skimmers who take soldiers across the waters to foreign countries. Neither Pellatt nor Forget possess an atom of patriotism. They are capitalists purely and simply.

Pellatt is engaged in stealing labor blind. Forget is doing the same thing. Pellatt is English and lives in Toronto. Forget is French and lives in Montreal. Both want to get the big labor thieves of Europe interested in Canadian skinning operations. The labor thieves realize that they must maintain their domination by force. Pellatt, therefore, takes a bunch of bayonet stickers to London as an advertisement of himself and his schemes. The British plute press is plastering him with praise, and the British capitalists will open their strong boxes and pour their capital into erecting large slave pens in Canada under the guidance of Pellatt.

Forget is taking his bayonet stickers to Paris to get the French labor thieves interested in his schemes. Forget is interested in the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company, the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Company, the Canadian General Electric Company, Toronto Railway Company, Canada Cement and many other concerns. The totting of the legalized butchers of Canada, after the fashion of a travelling monkey show, to the international money markets of the world is simply an advertisement on the part of Canada's prominent labor skimmers. There is nothing patriotic about it.

Socialists are blamed for being revolutionists and for preaching the overthrow of the present system. If there ever comes a bloody civil war in Canada over the possession of the means of production, it will not be the Socialists who are to blame but the capitalists. Goldwin Smith was one of the noted moralists of the capitalist class. Even he recognized this to be a fact. In his younger days he published a book called "Three English Statesmen." It appeared in 1863. This is a paragraph from that book. "The chief authors of revolutions have been, not the chimerical and intemperate friends of progress, but the blind obstructors of progress; those who, in defiance of nature, struggle to avert the inevitable future, to recall the irrevocable past; who chafe to fury by damming its course the river which would otherwise flow calmly between its banks, which has ever flowed, and which, do what they will, must flow forever."

The Dominion Trades and Labor Congress meets at Port Arthur, and the National Trades and Labor Congress meets in Montreal. Rival organizations are formed, and the bosses rub their hands in glee in the hopes that competition and rivalry between the two organizations will disrupt the solidarity of the workers. But the bosses have not much to be thankful for. Both organizations are organizing the workers and will ooze into one that will put the parasites out of business.

NINE MILLION INVESTORS

The plute press is declaring that there are nine million investors in France, that there are ten million electors of whom nine million have savings invested in mutual benefit societies, in banks and securities, in land and in unimproved property.

The idea of circulating these figures is to show the Canadian and American wage plugs that the capitalist system is all right and that if anything is wrong, the wrong lies with the shiftless Canadian workers.

There are said to be three kinds of lies, lies, double distilled lies, and statistics.

Nine million investors in France seems a lot. Yet the tale of investors in Canada could be made as great in proportion if we only want to try.

There are many union men in Canada. These union men pay funds into the treasuries of their unions. Some of these funds are large. The union men own these funds which represent their "savings." Many unions have sick and death benefits. These are also "savings."

There are co-operative societies in Canada which own stores. The members of these societies have "invested their savings" in real estate.

Thousands of Canadians are paying twenty-five cents a week to the Canadian government in the new old age pension scheme. These are also "investors."

The people of Canada own millions of dollars of post-offices and canals and railway lines. The people of the separate provinces own millions of dollars in provincial buildings and public works. The people of the cities own millions of dollars in real estate, and municipal enterprises. These things belong to all the people. The people are the joint owners and therefore the joint "investors." Reck on these up and you will see how many investors there are in Canada.

When the report goes forth that there are nine million investors in France, we can be pretty sure that the impression sought to be conveyed is an erroneous one. There are the big financiers who have tens of millions of dollars. Then there are the small investors who have a few francs paid towards a burial fee. Both of these, according to a capitalist reckoner, will be reckoned as investors.

The multimillionaires takes millions in toll out of the people. The little investor is robbed of from a half to three quarters of what he produces. The small investor joins in the game of robbery and gets a few francs a year as rent, interest, or profit, in addition to his wages or earnings. He is robbed and gets back little.

The idea of the Canadian press in declaring that there are nine million investors in France is to convey the impression that there is an opportunity for every Canadian to rise under the present system of robbery. The desire is to blind the minds of the wage workers to the fact that they are robbed of the greater part of what they produce, and to set them to work to sweat and save in order to get back a little of what they are robbed of, instead of uniting to overthrow the capitalist system and to get all they earn.

As to the true conditions in France, Comrade Robert Hunter gave a few of them in a recent article. He described that world of workers who rise at five o'clock in the morning and patter in their wooden shoes to their daily tasks while the world of the boulevards is yet asleep.

There are over a million Socialist voters in France. The Premier Briand still claims to be a Socialist.

I remember the world of contrasts I saw in France in 1905. I remember the sight of a woman eating her dinner on a street car in Montpellier. She was a scrub woman evidently. In Montpellier the street car fare is two cents. That is why she rode instead of walked to her work for the afternoon. Her dinner consisted of a hunk of bread and a piece of cheese the size of a bean. She would take a big mouthful of bread and give a lick with her tongue at the cheese. I do not know what her wages were, but the wages of farm laborers were about seventy cents a day and the cost of living was far higher for food than it was in Canada. The waiter at one of the cafes told me that the pay of the waiters depended entirely on tips. The tips were pooled and each waiter got his share. He said

that his wages averaged forty cents a day. He got nothing from the proprietor of the cafe for serving the customers. The owner of the building in which this cafe was situated received six thousand dollars a year rent for the ground floor in which the cafe was situated. In Montpellier the people use candles mostly. The owner of the candlemaking establishment in Montpellier died a millionaire.

The French proletariat are passionate lovers of freedom. The French peasants are touched deeply with Socialism. The ancestors of the French workers went through the Revolution of 1789 that was stifled by Napoleon and the bourgeoisie. The desire for economic liberty is not dead among the laboring French.

SOCIALISM

In an article in the Century Magazine for April, 1910, there is an article pretending to show why Socialism is impracticable. The wealth in the United States is given as follows:

Railways	\$16,617,544,827
Farm-lands	16,614,647,491
City lands	20,000,000,000
Manufacturing Capital	12,686,265,673
Bank capital & surplus	3,638,927,240
Telegraphs & Telephones	619,429,800

Total \$70,225,860,031

The writer of this article declares that Socialism is impracticable because the American government would have to pay \$70,000,000,000 and the interest on this sum would amount to over \$2,000,000,000. Socialism is impracticable, because \$2,000,000,000 a year in interest would break the American government and cause it to go into bankruptcy. The aim of Socialism is to abolish rent, interest and profit. The aim of Socialism is to invest the means of production in the collective ownership of the workers, and to give to each the full social value of his labor product. The Century Magazine is erroneous in considering that the aim of Socialism is to continue the payment of interest through the state machinery. Under Socialism the \$2,000,000,000 would not be paid.

Says W. L. Scott, President of the Children's Aid Society, Ottawa. "What are the parents rights compared to that of the children—the right to a fair chance? What chance has the daughter of a prostitute, or the son of a thief? Why should they, without their understanding and consent, be committed to a life of degradation?" While questions are being asked let us ask questions. Why should there be prostitutes? Why in this fair earth that can produce in abundance the means of life, should there be women condemned to sell their bodies to obtain food, clothing, and shelter? Why should there be thieves who are forced to break the laws in order to live? Why cannot men co-operate to furnish to all the necessities of life? Are men so frightened of Socialism that they live like competitive brutes and force women to harlotry and men to crime in order that the Socialist system may not be introduced?

A seventy-five million dollar street light and power merger is now being arranged in Montreal. Rodolphe Forget, M.P., is in the thick of it. There will be a merger of the present companies. Much water will be added to the already watered stock of the companies. Then Rodolphe will tote a bunch of bayonet stickers over to Paris as an advertisement of himself, get the French plutes interested in himself and his schemes, unload the watered stock on the Frenchmen, then use his position as Member of Parliament to prevent any reduction in charges for a light, heat, power and traffic services because of the French "innocent investors." Is not Roddy's scheme plain as the nose on your face? But the Socialists are abroad in Canada with an increasing demand for the abolition of all rent, interest and profit.

Of seven thousand children cared for by the Children's Aid Society of Ontario during the past sixteen years, ninety-eight per cent have turned out well. This shows that conditions form character and that the Socialist contention that the necessities of life should be made for use and not for profit would be of immense advantage to humanity if carried into practice.

DECOUX ACQUITTED COMPANY CENSURED

The following verdict was rendered on Friday, September 9th, at Macleod, Alta., in the Decoux case:

We find the prisoner not guilty. We recommend as a rider to our verdict that the attention of the Alberta Government be called to this case, and that it be requested to take immediate steps to have proper inspection made frequently and efficiently, as the evidence in this case shows gross carelessness by the mine management in matters pertaining to the safety of the lives of the workmen; and we recommend that properly certified and capable men be in charge and on the ground during all the working hours.

The authorities who were doing the bidding of the capitalist masters were not at all pleased at the wide publicity given to this worker's imprisonment and treatment.

The prosecution absolutely refused bail. Why bail should have been refused is not known. Here is a man declared innocent who has been locked up in jail for over a month in a dirty cell among bed bugs. He was innocent. Yet he was snatched from his home and denied his liberty. He was perfectly willing to give bail so that he might be at liberty. But the authorities said no, and an innocent worker was kept locked up in jail at the bidding of the plunderers of labor.

When are you workers going to waken up? You are wakening. But you wake, oh so slowly.

You wakened sufficiently to make the henchmen of the master class waken in the Decoux case. Their intention was at first to keep this worker locked up until the regular criminal term, months away. They heeded the voice of protesting labor sufficiently to hasten the trial which allowed Decoux to go free without blame, and which brought censure to the exploiting company.

When labor thoroughly awakes the plunderers will be abolished as such and converted into useful workers.

Galveston has a Board of Control. Montreal has a Board of Control. This is a system of Government which has recently been introduced by the capitalist class to protect their profits. When Galveston was swept by the tidal wave in 1900 the price of city bonds fell to sixty cents on the dollar. The squeeze of the capitalist class was threatened with destruction. So the business men seized hold of the city, established a Board of Control, cut down the wage bills, reduced the expenditure, and brought about many economies in the management of the city in order that the city bonds and the interest thereon might be paid. The Galveston Board of Control was a move to protect the unearned interests of the labor skimmers. In Montreal a Board of Control has been established. The debt of Montreal per capita is one of the heaviest on the continent. On this debt according to the capitalist ethics, interest must be paid. One million two hundred dollars each year are paid over to the capitalist labor skimmers as interest on the municipal debt. To pay this takes a lot of scheming. The old politicians were running things in such a manner as to endanger the payment of this huge sum each year to those who do nothing to earn it. So a Board of Control was instituted. The Quebec government changed the form of city administration so as to concentrate power in the hands of four Controllers and a Mayor. These get ten thousand dollars a year each for their services. They must work to earn their money. They must manage the city finances as to pay one million two hundred thousand dollars each year to the idlers. Their fifty thousand dollars salaries do not come out of this sum. It is tacked on to the people to pay. The above is the reason why the Board of Control was established. But Socialism will do away with rent, interest and profit. The one million two hundred thousand dollars under Socialism will not be paid. That sum will be added to the incomes of the useful workers, or spent in maintaining the aged and infirm. Socialism stands for skinning the many for the benefit of the few.

Socialism will restore the machinery of production to the class that built it, the laboring class.

"If we wish to empty our prisons we must stop the criminal stream at its source," says W. L. Scott, President of the Children's Aid Society, Ottawa. Correct. Let us abolish the capitalist system.

According to the census statistics the average value of the occupied farm lands of Canada for each occupier is \$5,000. Say Mr. Farmer, are you worth \$5,000 clear? That is what the census says you should have.

According to reports in the plute press the Trades and Labor Congress at Port Arthur declared against going into politics as an independent party. Now if those pesky Socialists could only be kept quiet the labor thieves would settle down to skin the workers in peace.

The Edison storage battery will work a revolution in the means of transportation. The propulsion charges are a cent a mile. This will displace the horse to a great extent and do away with many tasks which now absorb the labor of wage slaves. The revolution in the means of production is making the profit system unworkable.

The coal areas belonging to the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company in Cape Breton contain 2,556,900,000 tons of coal. Socialism says that this coal should be mined by the workers for the workers. Capitalism says that this coal shall be mined by the workers for the benefit of the labor skimmers. Which sounds the most reasonable and most pleasant to you, Mr. Worker?

The Dominion Parliament is expected to assemble on Thursday, November the 11th. The political henchmen of the labor thieves, both Grit and Tory, will gather and give to the exploiters whatever happens to be lying around loose, which the exploiters want. The only hope for the workers to ever get what is coming to them is the election of revolutionary Socialists pledged to put the labor skimmers out of business.

In the last Wilshire's Magazine is an article, "Can Capitalism come back?" The prosperity that was to return so shortly has not materialized. According to Wilshire it will never return as long as the profit system is maintained. For the means of production have become so multiplied and capacious that it is no longer possible to sell all the people to work at wage slavery and hold the goods produced for sale at a profit.

There have been twenty-two persons killed by the street railway of Montreal this year. The coroner's jury in every case has declared that the railway company is blameless. According to Quebec law the coroner's jury is chosen by the court officials from persons who happen to be standing around in the crowd at the hour set for the inquest. There is a shrewd suspicion that the persons picked on the juries to decide these deaths are paid detectives in the employ of the street railway company. Twenty-two murders committed without blame being attached to the company responsible is what we can expect under this system of robbery, where the legislatures, laws and courts are run in the interests of profit against humanity.

There has been a scandal in the government printing bureau at Ottawa. A million dollars have been stolen in fraudulent contracts. We hear little of this scandal in the daily press. The reason is simple. Laurier and the Liberal government stand for graft. They are the henchmen of those who live by the labor of others. The Canadian government is run to make the tasks of the workers heavier that the profit lords may have more millions to revel in. The million dollars stolen from the printing bureau is a mere incident. Those who got the graft merely neglected to have their graft legalized by an Act of Parliament. We cannot expect the plute press to raise a howl against those who stand in with the government to rob the useful workers, when they neglect such a little thing as to have their thefts legalized.