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## PARLIAMENT

Parliament has met again. The members and senators are gathered together principally to earn their salaries or to protect their private interests and in return to wag their tongues and give the people a lot of talk in return for the money they get.

Before taking up the questions agitating Parliament it is well to discover a little about Parliament, what the members stand for and in what manner they represent the will of the people.

Parliament is composed of two houses, the House of Commons and the Senate, which together, with the king, makes up the legislative power. These three compose parliament.

The king is a relic of barbarous England. The people do not choose him. He just happens. Whoever happens to be the first born child of the reigning king born to some daughter of a parasite king of some other country whom the reigning king takes to be his queen and goes through a lot of court mummeries before the Archbishop of Canterbury, this child is the future king. So you see how little the people have in the choice of the head of the state. However, over in England, the king is pretty well tamed. He is more of a costly ornament than anything else. He must do the will of his constitutional advisers. George has got it into his head that he wants to be really of some influence and power in his kingdom. George will wake up like King Manuel if he monkeys with the constitutional limitations. As George Bernard Shaw says, the English people are a revolutionary lot and have a habit of cutting off the heads of their kings when the kings become too intermeddling.

The King in Canada is represented by the Governor-General. At present this gentleman is Earl Grey. He is appointed by the king over in England. Our present governor general need not be considered. He has turned himself into the errand boy of the exploiting capitalists. He is loud for the navy. He wants a big army. He trots off to the West Indies to investigate the opportunities for more trade. And at Rideau Hall he holds a semi-royal court where the daughters of our more successful labor skinnners can see society and spend the money their papas have received from the unpaid labor of the workers.

The Senate of Canada is composed of some eighty odd senators. They are chosen by Laurier and the cabinet ministers. They represent certain districts and must possess real estate of at least four thousand dollars, clear above all encumbrances, in the district which they represent. They are appointed for life, and draw \$2,500 a year for interfering and making trouble generally. When the Liberals were in opposition they were loud for Senate reform. When they got to power they were still loud for reform. But a lot of decayed Conservative politicians who had been holding down Senate seats happened to die, Liberals were appointed to succeed them and the Senate became overwhelmingly Liberal. So Laurier does not want Senate reform. But Borden, who hopes to become Premier soon, is calling for Senate reform. He sees the almost solid Liberal Senate and he does not want his activities interfered with by a lot of garrulous old men who think that the world is like it was fifty years ago when they got their ideas of life.

But kindly death will leave Senate seats vacant and Borden too will drop his reform schemes for the Senate.

The next body and the most influential is the House of Commons.

The sessional trunk is to be abolished at Ottawa. Every Christmas each M. P. was furnished a fine trunk full of stationary, penknives, etc. This came out of the government revenues. This graft has been cut off. You see the M. P.'s have been faithful unto their masters, the exploiters of Canadian labor. And they get the usual kick that comes to the faithful wage slave, a cutting off of income.

Collier's Weekly has been awarded \$50,000 damages against C. W. Post of the Postum Cereal Food Company. Post published an advertisement in sixty papers declaring that the reason Collier's Weekly was attacked was because he refused to advertise in the sheet. Collier's will get the \$50,000 damages. It will be paid out of the swag Post gets out of his wage slaves.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

The House of Commons is composed of two hundred and twenty-one members elected from two hundred and twenty-one constituencies. If ever a body was created to conceal the will of the people, that body is the body of Parliament.

The fundamental basis of the idea of Parliament is that it is a representative body. You elect a man to go to Ottawa to represent your country. You can hold no control over him. He goes to Ottawa for four or five years and votes as he pleases. He has full power to vote any way he pleases, and his vote is supposed to be your vote. You surrender yourself absolutely into his power.

James H. Maurer, Socialist elect from Reading, Pa., to the Pennsylvania legislature, promised during his election campaign to vote in the assembly according as the Socialists of Reading wanted him to. The Republican politicians are taking an action to unseat him because he bound himself beforehand as to the manner he would vote. The theory is that he represents the county, and he must keep himself free to represent that county and not bind himself to vote according as any section of his voters want him to vote.

In England it has been held that no M. P. can look to a society to pay him a salary while in Parliament. He represents a county and, although the society that pays him is composed of the voters who elected him, such as a trade union society, nevertheless he represents the county and must be bound by no ties to any section of that county in such a manner as to influence his vote. This is what is meant by a free and independent parliament which the glib politicians are so fond of talking about. This is a parliament that is free and independent from the voters who voted it into power.

In Canada the House of Commons is elected in such a way as practically to defeat the will of the people. In every constituency each candidate must put up a deposit of two hundred dollars before he can run. If he does not get half as many votes as the successful candidate, the government takes the two hundred dollars. If he gets half as many votes, then the two hundred dollars is returned.

As there are two hundred and twenty-one constituencies the party that runs a candidate in every county must deposit \$44,200. Imagine the Socialist Party, or the Labor Party of Canada, raising that sum from the exploited slaves of the labor thieves! This deposit is the law because our representatives do not want the people to rule. The labor skinnners find no difficulty in raising this sum and much more. And they control parliament.

But with these handicaps, the votes of the people are counted in such a peculiar manner that the popular will is not even imperfectly impressed.

At the election in October, 1908, there were 1,173,000 votes cast altogether. There were elected from the various constituencies 131 Liberals, 86 Conservatives and 3 Independents. The popular majority of the Liberals was but 31,544. The popular majority of the Liberals was a little over two and a half per cent. The representative majority of the Liberals is over sixty-five per cent. Even admitting that the people voted as they wanted to we can come to no other conclusion than that the voters sized up the Laurier gang and resolved to trust them mightily little, and in the shuffle of constituencies they have turned the Liberals loose to riot in the jam cupboard.

Yet this is not all. The popular majority of the Liberals in the Province of Quebec in 1908 was 33,496. The rest of Canada was slightly against Laurierism. Recently in one of the strongest Liberal Quebec constituencies, Drummond-Arthabaska, the Liberal majority was smashed to pieces in the recent by-election. There is muttering all through the province. So the Liberal government, having lost Quebec, cannot be said to have the confidence of the people in any shape, way or form.

But what does that matter to the Laurier gang? They have power. They have the handling of large slices of the public wealth to the labor skinnners. They have two more years of power before them. So they serve the labor thieves with a will and heed not the cry for justice of the oppressed.

And as a matter of fact, neither do the Conservative members. Socialism is more than a beautiful dream. It is a political force that is soon to triumph.

## HOW IT WORKS

Parliament works in a peculiar way. The men and women who toil are forgotten. The voters are neglected. In future years, when liberty shall come, and when justice shall be the lot of those who labor, the anti-quarian will search through the reports of the debates of the House of Commons and will turn away in disgust at the piffle, idiocy, and selfishness that breathes through the reports.

Laurier gets up and declares something. Then Borden will get up and tear what Laurier said to pieces. A Conservative makes a statement, then a Liberal member will rise and rip holes through what the Conservative declared.

The members of parliament do not rely upon the people. They do not care what the people think save as the rising wrath of the robbed and plundered workers sounds in their ears. No. They are engaged in a Chinese game of wordy warfare. The Liberal thinks he has won a big victory if he can discredit a Conservative member, and the Conservative member thinks he is a great reasoner if he can say something which disproves a statement of a Liberal member. This is what is known as party government.

But the workers of Canada, let them be robbed. Not one member at Ottawa opens his mouth and rises as a defender of those who produce wealth. Occasionally some sentimental representative will wonder whether the burden of wage slavery is galling the shoulders, of the wages slaves in spots. If so be the harness needs readjusting. But that is all.

When will the toilers of Canada arouse in their might and put the fear of a revolted proletariat into the hearts of the time serving politicians at Ottawa? Shall labor forever be harnessed to the chariots of the labor thieves? Shall the workers forever toil and see the wealth they produce be enjoyed by those who labor not save for their own luxury?

Parliament is a machine that works grinding out laws to bind the workers to slavery. From the king on the throne to the last least member that squats his carcass on the Commons' benches, the whole body is so adjusted as to prevent labor coming to its own.

There are the undemocratic elections and the autocratic representative institutions of the House of Commons that gives wealth to those who earn it not through the robbery of the workers. There is the Senate which the workers cannot reach. The very qualification of Senator puts the position beyond the reach of those who toil. And the Senators are appointed for life. They can throw out any bill. Then there is the king whose consent must be obtained. He is a permanent parasite and is forever striving to make reactionary legislation easy and democratic legislation hard.

It is against this three fold banded agency of reaction that the workers of Canada must strive on their road up from slavery to freedom. Truly the way of escape from bondage is difficult unto the slave classes of Canada.

Australia has its trouble with the opium evil. The prohibition of the traffic has resulted in the formation of syndicates and the bribery of officials for the sale of the drug. Large quantities are run through the customs. In India the evil is growing and Canada is fighting to maintain a people uncursed by the poison. China is endeavoring to free herself from the curse. And Great Britain is responsible for the terrible inroads of the opium habit among the peoples. In the forties of the past century China endeavored to stop the traffic. But Great Britain fought two wars against China and forced the Indian opium upon the Chinese by force of arms. British traders were interested in the poppy culture. British ship owners were interested in the carrying trade between India and China. British merchants possessed property rights in opium supplies stored in China. And to protect these property rights Britain fought China. The evil of the opium habit can be directly traced to the profit mongery of the capitalists of England. Is there not a lesson in this for our imperialists who chant the might of the British Empire?

This is the machine age. The machines have become so productive that holding of commodities for sale for profit is becoming impossible.

## BILLS INTRODUCED

Every year sees a number of bills introduced which do not become law. They are buried beneath the weight of the red tape of Parliament. Reporters refer to the bills killed as "the slaughter of the innocents." So the fact that a bill is introduced, is no sign that it will pass. Even if it passes the House of Commons it may be killed in the Senate. This is what happened to the Co-operative Bill last year. There were many people in Canada who wanted this bill to pass. The M. P. therefore let it pass the House of Commons. It was killed in the Senate. Thus the M. P. before their constituencies can declare that they voted for the co-operative bill but that the antiquated Senate would not allow it to pass. This is one of the reasons why the Senate is tolerated. It can do the dirty work, the members can lay the blame on the Senators, and the electors will thus be led to think that their M. P. are good fellows who want popular laws to pass.

The usual grist of bills have been introduced into the House of Commons. The first ten are as follows:

1. Bill introduced by Laurier re Oath of Office. This is a mere formal bill introduced each session to show that the House of Commons is supreme. It is one of the little hypocrisies that the capitalist parliament indulges in.

2. Bill introduced by E. A. Lancaster, lawyer and Tory M. P. for Lincoln, Ont. This bill provides that whenever a person is killed by a railway, a coronor's jury must be held at once. Lancaster says nothing of allowing the labor skinnners to draw fifty millions net profits out of the private operation of transportation.

3. This is Alphonse Verville's celebrated bill providing that eight hours be the maximum day for laborers in any government work, or work for the Dominion government contracted out. Wages not to be cut for the shorter day. Bill not to apply to purchases made in the open market, to work on military or naval matters in time of war, to contracts for the transmission of intelligence, to contracts for transportation by land or water, to agricultural work. Thus this bill has been shorn by the plute politicians, Verville consenting, of much of its effectiveness. Verville knows not revolutionary philosophy. Therefore the plute henchmen gathered at Ottawa can play tag with his little measures.

4. Bill introduced by Meggie Martin, Grit M. P. for St. Mary's division of Montreal. This bill provides that on all railways pay of workers cannot be withheld in whole or in part for any reason whatsoever and that the pay to railway workers must be paid at least fortnightly. This is a good bill so far as it goes. It renders the fodder of the railway workers more certain. Even horses when worked get their rations. But railway workers frequently are prevented from getting their pay which means shortage of fodder for the wage mules. Martin, a cigar manufacturer of Montreal, wants the wage slaves to get their slaves pay. He, too, says not a word against the slavery practised upon the railway workers and other workers of Canada.

5. Bill introduced by Joseph Demers, Grit M. P. for St. Johns, P. Q. This bill is to amend the Bank Act by allowing government inspectors to inspect the banks. At present the banks of Canada go pop quite frequently, much to the misery of would be labor skinnners, both big and little. The inspection of banks is good. But it would not stop the robbery of the workers one little bit. Nor would it stop the juicy graft of the banks. All this little measure would do would be to see that the bank owning labor skinnners were not skunked by smart Aleck bank managers and insiders.

6. Bill introduced by Henry Horton Miller, Grit M. P. for South Grey, Ont. This bill provides that an overdue mortgage can be paid if the debtor will pass the House. The little farmers are being squeezed out. Their yelp is rising to heaven. If the squeezing process can be dragged out a little, why, capitalism will last that much longer. So the plute henchmen are passing this bill. Aylesworth, our friend the Minister of Justice, who let Candy swing, who wanted to see Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone swing, and who is deciding whether he can with safety allow Fedorenko to be torn by the claws of Russia, is against the bill as it might interfere with vested rights based on contracts. Aylesworth is nothing but an

animated parchment deed walking round.

7. Bill introduced by Samuel Sharpe, Tory M. P. from North Ontario. Bill to amend the companies act. Provides for the publishing of the names of all shareholders of a company, of the capital stock, of what the stock was given for, of how much water there is in the concerns and other like information. Sharpe has the publicity thought tickling his brain. He is trying on Canada what Roosevelt and Taft hailed as a great advance. Make the corporations disclose their stock juggling affairs to the public. But Sharpe says nothing against wage slavery. To him, law as he is, the wage slaves are nothing but wage slaves. The workers are made to be worked. But the possessing class needs more information about investment matters. That is, the labor skinnners should have a chance to find out how much each company is skinning their wage slaves of.

8. Bill introduced by Sharpe again. Provides that express companies who have money that they have not delivered shall return the same to the government who will deliver the money to those entitled to it if found.

9. Bill introduced by F. B. Carvell, Grit M. P. for Carleton, N. B. Provides that potatoes when sold by the barrel shall be sold in barrels which contain one hundred and sixty pounds. Now potato dealers buy potatoes from the farmers on a basis of 160 pounds to the barrel and sell them on a basis of 140 lbs. to the barrel. Here would be a little profit or graft cut off from the dealers. Economic interest having been hit we may expect to see if the bill passes, some small potato dealers squealing like sixty and investigating Socialism.

10. Bill introduced by W. L. King, Minister of Labor, from Waterloo North. Prohibits the manufacture and importation of matches made with white phosphorus. This legislation is long overdue. In Europe such manufacturers have long been prohibited. White phosphorus gives the workers phosphy jaw. The teeth rot. The gums rot, the jaws rot. And the worker dies of slow rot. I remember seeing these matches with "E. B. Eddy, Hull," stamped on the boxes. Just recently the president of the E. B. Eddy Match Co. was elected to be president of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. He was highly praised in all the plute papers. His energy and enthusiasm was greatly applauded. I could not rejoice. For behind the success of the company I saw the rotting bodies of the workers. King has introduced his bill to do away with white phosphorus. For this much, thanks, King. But why, if you represent labor, do you not rise and declare for the freeing of the wage slaves of Canada? Shall we be overmuch pleased with you, King, if out of common humanity, you stop the rotting of working women in one trade while the chains of slavery gall the limbs of tens of thousands?

These are the first ten bills introduced. Many of them will not pass. Bills 3, 4, and 10 are of interest to labor. They are measly little measures compared with the wrongs the workers endure. Yet they would help labor somewhat. So watch your M. P. record on these bills and let him know that you are watching his vote.

Now comes the news that typhoid fever, scarlet fever and small pox are raging in the lumber camps north of Hull and up the Gatineau river. The lumber camps of Canada are run for profit. Men are separated from their wives. Many of them are prevented from marrying. They are worked hard and their camps are run as the lumber merchants, the multimillionaires of Ottawa and elsewhere desire. Thus disease stalks through them, and wild men, brutal from a winter's loneliness, are turned loose into the cities to become intoxicated with the glitter of the underworld and the fire in their veins that leaps at the contact of the shame of our cities. Capitalism has no remedy. Socialism will be the only thing that will give lumber workers as well as city workers a chance to lead sane, healthy, normal cleanly lives.

The interprovincial transportation of opium will be prohibited in China in 1911 and the planting of the seed and smoking will be prohibited in 1912. This would have been done fifty, or sixty years ago were it not for the opium wars waged by Great Britain against China. British capitalism has much to answer for.

## NATIONALISM

Nationalism is a reactionary movement that looks like an advance. Nationalism opposes the navy, not because Nationalism is in favor of democracy and Socialism but because it is in favor of reaction and feudalism. Nationalism is the name applied to the party in Quebec headed by Bourassa. It is the party that in the counties of Drummond and Arthabaska returned Gilbert to the House of Commons.

Nationalism is a combined movement of the French nationality with the Catholic hierarchy. The Catholic church has been encouraging the national movement in order to play up on the race feeling for the aggrandizement of the church.

The navy is essentially a capitalist concern. It is run for graft, murder, imperialism, profits and the suppression of democracy. It is an instrument of capitalist domination.

In the province of Quebec the Catholic Church is still powerful. It still gets its tithes. It still is the centre of the life of the parish communities as it was two hundred years ago. It bases its power upon land taxation and dogmatic thunder.

Capitalism is anti-feudal. Therefore in Quebec it is anti-Catholic. In Montreal of a total valuation of \$435,562,138 real estate, \$107,527,842 is exempt from taxation. The great part of this is property belonging to the Catholic authorities and the Catholic church.

Capitalism casts its greedy eye upon this exempt ecclesiastical property and longs to tax it to help support the capitalist state.

Catholicism is retreating before capitalism. It is making its stand in Quebec. Nationalities are breaking down before the international movement of the peoples owing to the solvent effects of fluid capital upon race entities through emigration. Nationalism is making a stand in Quebec.

Thus Catholicism unites with nationality in Quebec to make a stand for reaction. And that stand is against the navy. Socialists also stand against the navy. Nationalism takes its stand from reasons of reaction while Socialism takes its stand for progress.

Thus the past and the future unite to fight dominant capitalism. And here comes in a curious byplay. All through Canada the capitalist sheets are attacking nationalism. They are not saying a word against Socialism. Nationalism is widely advertised. Socialism is little discussed with regard to the navy question. The reason is simple. Dominant capitalism can easily and without fear attack its beaten enemy, feudalism. It dare not advertise its coming triumphant opponent Socialism, nor throw down the gauntlet of battle to it in the open.

The search for profits results in consolidation of plants to reduce expenses. Reduction of expenses means the sacking of commercial travellers, clerks, skilled mechanics, and workers in general. Sacking of the workers cuts off the wages of many people. Cutting off wages means a lessening of the purchasing power of the public. Lessening of the purchase power of the public means that the trusts cannot sell as many goods. Thus the capitalist in their search for profits cut off their noses to spite their faces. Yet the capitalists tell us that they are wise beings and we need them to run the business of Canada. What foolishness.

Now comes the capitalist report that the British workers are waking up, that they are tired of the domination of the Socialists and that they are going to shake themselves loose. This is a mighty good report, coming from a capitalist source. Whenever Socialism becomes active then the plute organs kill it off in their columns. When the plute papers spread such a report we can be sure that the Socialists are winning.

The Cumberland Railway and Coal Company has disposed of its property at Springhill, N. S. to the Dominion Steel interests. Thus does capitalist concentration proceed apace. The Steel interests paid \$1,460,000 for the property. So the steel trust of Nova Scotia considers it has a good labor skinning proposition and hopes to break the strike of the Springhill boys so that the skinning process can begin.

The capitalist class is frequently told to do this or do that to save itself. It matters not what the capitalist class does. It is face to face with its own funeral.

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