

Cotton's Weekly

50c A YEAR IN CANADA—TWO FOR \$1.00

Devoted to the Propagation of the Principles of
International Socialism

\$1.10 PER YEAR IN UNITED STATES

COWANSVILLE, P. Q., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1909

CLEAR THE WAY FOR THE CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH

VOL. XXXVIII No. 55

THE WANDERLUST

GERALD DESMOND

All thro' the years that are past and gone,

Since I was a child,

The wanderlust has spurred me on,

I have heard the call of the wild.

Today I rest, but not for long,

Travel soon I must.

The distance sings its luring song;

I feel the wanderlust.

'Tis may be drop of gypsy blood

Somehow has come to me;

To beckon over fell and flood,

To call o'er land and sea.

May be from old Phoenician sprung,

A reckless, roving strain

Of impulse, down the ages flung,

In me crops up again.

May be some Viking staunch and stout,

Rover of ancient days,

Through me still sends his spirit out

To tread life's devious ways.

I only know that, south or north,

After the sun's decline,

Whatever stars may glitter forth,

I hail old friends of mine.

I've roved beneath the northern lights

In lands of ice and snow,

I've slept where tropic fireflies light

The jungle with their glow.

The white cliffs fade, I feel no grief,

What tho they fade away?

I'll see the peak of Teneriffe;

I've friends in Table Bay.

I know Australia's sunny shore,

I've tramped Canadian snow;

The iron coast of Labrador,

Rich plains of Mexico,

From Biscay thro' the narrow straits,

Where Gibraltar stands,

To where voluptuous Naples waits—

Smiling with outstretched hands.

And on and on. It's now Port Said;

Colombo springs in sight;

The twinkling lights of Adelaide

Are showing in the night.

And on and on, the swift miles glide,

The swift hours fade and die;

O'er Sydney harbor, Austral pride,

The southern cross swings high.

'Tis good and yet I cannot stay—

Fresh scenes, fresh faces wait.

A few short weeks and then away—

Hey for the Golden Gate,

Then all aboard; the clanging bells,

Swift wheels which grind away,

Chicago's good, but fare her well,

I'm off to old Broadway.

'Tis stale! 'Tis dull! What's there to

choose?

There's better things by far.

I'll see the girls in Vera Cruz,

The boys in Panama,

I'll rest a while, but not for long;

The wanderlust spurs still,

Hey for the rolling Amazon,

The forests of Brazil.

Heigho! Heigho! I've seen them all,

I've travelled far and wide,

Yet still to me the voices call,

I'm still unsatisfied.

I'm resting now, but not for long,

Travel soon I must,—

The distance sings its luring song.

I feel the wanderlust.

The official valuation of the real

estate of Montreal is \$330,600,201. As

the population is less than four

hundred thousand and the valuation of

the property is low it results that there is

one thousand dollars of real estate for

every man, woman and child of the

population. Taking the ordinary family

as being composed of five persons

there is five thousand dollars of real

estate for every family. Think on that

you working plucks who sweat to pay

rent to men and women who do not do

one stroke of work to earn a living.

You men have built the houses and

others possess. Under socialism every

family will have the right of habitation

in a home without having to pay rent,

interest or profit to the labor thieves.

Now comes the rumor of an amalga-

mation of all the coal and iron compan-

ies of Canada with a capitalization of a

hundred and twenty-five millions. This

is all in line with the socialist doctrine.

The capitalists are consolidating and

organizing industry and the socialists

will expropriate.

The German International Metal Workers Association has decided to contribute \$125,000 to assist the Swedish strikers.

The Chicago juries have been packed and bribed for many years past. "Jury fixing" is a part of the necessary evils of capitalism.

In twelve months crude rubber has jumped from 87c to \$2.10. The Liverpool crowd have cornered the raw material. Everything that man needs getting cornered these days.

The British Tories are trying to befog the people with tariff reform. The Tories are such back numbers that they think protection is a remedy for unemployment.

Samuel B. Lingle, a Chicago landlord, likes to have children in his flats. Most landlords do not. Under socialism it won't matter whether a landlord likes children or not as there will be no such things as landlords.

Barcelona is still in unrest, and causing great anxiety to the master class. The social revolution is about to break forth in Europe and the international capitalists are watching the danger spots in great fear.

The Fulton-Hudson celebration is on in New York and the police have been arresting all unemployed who are penniless and the judges have been jailing them for six months. Our capitalist civilization is hell for the poor.

The Jews have experienced another outbreak against them at Kiev, Russia. The Russian authorities at first denied that there had been any trouble. Later they admitted that there had been "slight disorder." What really occurred was a massacre.

Major Stevens of Montreal, in speaking for the Board of Control, declared that through their votes the workingmen are masters. If the workingmen will only wake up to this fact, and to their own interest, socialism will get a quick boost into actuality.

A long account appears in the capitalist press about Turkish brutality. The capitalist press is silent on American, Canadian and Mexican brutality. The master class gets dividends by such brutality and in the eyes of a flunkie press, such brutality is good.

"The Socialist Sea Scouts" are spreading the doctrine of socialism among the sailors of the world. James F. Davidson, able seaman aboard the Anchor Line S.S., is the leader of the movement. "The Red Flag" is now being sung in many a fore-castle.

Rosebery has deserted the Liberals and gone over to the Tories. The Budget was too much for his capitalist nerves. The Budget is a tame affair, but it is the thin edge of the onerous wedge that will split the British political parties into socialist and anti-social groups.

A report comes from Port Arthur of a rich silver find with ore running twenty thousand ounces to the ton. With all these rich silver finds, silver will have to be trusted or else the market will be smashed. In either case, there is a hard time coming for the miners.

The Missouri-Kansas and Texas Railway Company are suing the American government for sixty-one million dollars. The Railroad claims that the government has agreed to give it every alternative section of land along its lines in the Indian territory and Kansas.

The sixty-one million dollars is the value of the land they did not get. The more of such kind of suits the capitalists can bring against the government, the better. The more suits, the quicker the people will wake up to the fact that they are robbed.

A POSITIVE PHILOSOPHY

GERALD DESMOND

(The writer wishes to make it clear to all the opinions as expressed in the latter half of this article are not intended to be taken as the expression of the socialist party or any section of its members. The socialist party, being a purely political party, has no views on death at all. The writer's monistic beliefs and teachings belong to himself personally.)

A few weeks ago a correspondent of Cotton's asked for some positive teaching in regard to life and death. He said, and I think wisely, that a purely negative teaching of philosophy is not sufficient. I myself am not satisfied with pure negation. On the other hand, I affirm, with confidence being sure of the weight of the evidence at my command, a very positive teaching and philosophy in regard to both these matters. My view point of life is always and ever that of the absolute ly convinced, class-conscious, socialist. My view-point of death that of the equally straight forward materialist monist.

What is the distinctive philosophy of life of the class-conscious socialist? Briefly, in its main points, it is this:—We regard society, not a fixed thing, but as subject, like all others, to the laws of evolution. We regard the present forms of production, government, etc., not as things that always were, but as having sprung from other forms preceding them. We regard all history since the dawn of civilization as being, in the last analysis, the history of class struggles. We divide society at present into two classes—the exploiters and the exploited—the proletariat and the bourgeoisie. We regard all members of the former class as comrades in misfortune and all members of the latter as enemies both on the political and industrial field. We regard all pleasant incidents of life as happening in spite of the present system and the bourgeoisie. We regard all unpleasant incidents, poverty, etc., as springing, not from the inherent depravity of human nature, but from the environment which the present system of production, the capitalist system, surrounds us with and for which its upholders are responsible. We hold that all, or nearly all, of these unpleasant incidents are preventable and should be met, not with resignation nor accepted peacefully as the Divine Will nor as the work of the devil, but should be rebelled against and the full and complete responsibility for their occurrence placed upon the present system and all who deliberately and with knowledge uphold that system.

Our philosophy is therefore, not one of passive endurance, but of active resistance. Our friends, the proletariat; our enemies the plutocracy. Our hope for the future lies in the overthrow of the present ruling class and the bringing about of proletarian supremacy. This we regard both as our individual life work and the work and historic mission of our class. So much for life and for the class-conscious, proletarian teaching in regard to it; a teaching and a philosophy in accord with which we consistent ones endeavor to regulate our every action and take our view-point on every question of life.

DEATH

An individual's attitude in regard to death is naturally determined by his answers to the following questions:—What is the nature and origin of matter? In what relation does man stand to all other existent things? What is the relation between life and death? Does present individual existence imply eternal individual existence, or in other words, individual immortality?

My teaching and belief in regard to those things is, as before said, that of the materialist monist. In regard to matter I accept the scientific law of substance, which declares it to be immortal, persistently recurring or indestructible. There could be no "creation" of matter. Neither could there be any annihilation. The sum of the matter which fills infinite space is unchangeable and cannot be destroyed (E. Haeckel's Riddle of the Universe). I do not, as a natural consequence, be-

lieve in an individual God (the Mozaic Jehova or any other) who did, or could, or can create matter, nor as having the power to eliminate the minutest molecule of matter from space. Consequently, the Biblical and all other accounts of creation are false and opposed to all reason and present scientific knowledge.

As to the relation of man to all other things, having eliminated creation and the creator or creators, I naturally enough do not look at man as a distinct individual creation, but simply as the most highly developed form of the animal kingdom, namely:—the primates. I believe the said superior development to have been the result of slow evolutionary processes and changes. Man, therefore, is akin to all nature and a part of nature and is himself immortal because being a part of the great mass of existent matter he is subject to the law of substance and cannot be annihilated. Death, therefore, is a time to be regarded, or looked forward to not with fear or terror, but with calm assurance and confidence—a time when the individual life need neither fear a grisly hell nor buoy itself up with the vain hope of a heaven of problematic pleasurable, but can, it's appointed work done, drop back into the great sum total of existent matter and life (for all matter is life) from which it came.

FABIANS AND REVOLUTIONISTS

W. R. SHER

Between the Fabians and Revolutionists there is considerable difference over tactics. The Fabians seek to realize their ideal by a process of reform, that is, by appealing to the sentiment and enlightened self-interest of the class in power. Hence their propaganda is conducted chiefly among the well-to-do. Theirs is the policy of permeation. They expect, too, that the transition from Capitalism to Socialism will be very slow, that it will be accomplished piecemeal by carrying first one reform, then another. The Revolutionists, on the contrary, expect the great change to be more or less rapid in character. They insist, too, that it will be brought about, not by the upper or middle classes, but by these who, to quote their own words, "have nothing to lose but their chains, and a world to gain." Hence their propaganda is confined to the working class, to the wage-workers, the farmers, the independent artisans, the small shopkeepers, whom they seek to organize into a party of their own for the conquest of the governing powers and the socialization of the means of wealth production by the expropriation of the master class. They hope to carry out their program, not by winning the good-will of those in power, but by fighting them. The Barons of the middle ages had to fight the monarchy in order to preserve their privileges and curb the abuses of one-man rule. The mercantile and manufacturing classes had to fight the landed nobility in order to gain their "rights." The New England colonies had to fight in order to secure their freedom. And the emancipation of the southern slaves was effected only after a prolonged and determined fight with the slave-holders. Likewise, the emancipation of the proletariat will be accomplished only by fighting those who profit by the degradation of labor.

In 1906, the nine great nations of the world spent over a billion and a half dollars on their army and navy.

The total revenue of the twenty-seven dukes of Great Britain is less than ten million dollars a year. Andrew Carnegie has an income half as great again as the twenty-seven dukes. Astor beats them. Rockefeller could buy the lot out four times over. The parasites of commerce are greater than the parasites of land. As the people are rising against parasitism of all kinds the parasites of British industry have resolved to throw over the landlords to keep the people quiet. The Labor members eyes snap at the thought of the temporary feast but the socialist members do not forget that the biggest robbers are escaping.

CHIPS FROM A BLOCK-HEAD

It is the agitators who make the world more forward

Society can only be adequately reformed by revolutionizing it.

Darkness cannot be dispelled by denunciation. It can only be dispelled by light.

Parliamentary action is always political but political action is not always parliamentary.

Abusive language neither establishes an argument nor promotes harmony within our ranks.

If you are not active in the cause of Socialism, then you are passive in the cause of Capitalism.

There is only one "step" in the direction of Socialism, and that is the conquest of the governing powers by the working class.

The problem is not low wages, nor long hours, nor child labor, nor intemperance, nor militarism, nor free-trade, nor prostitution, but capitalism. W. R. SHER.

The love of money is the root of all evil. Capitalism raises the love of money into a cult.

Those who are socialists have the fire of a great cause burning in their hearts. They see the world in a new light.

Some of the big Cobalt silver mines are being amalgamated. This means reduced expenses and a more sustained market.

The big capitalist is crooked. The newspapers may declare he is straight but they lie. He cannot be straight and be a big capitalist.

The churches have been captured by capitalism. The decent people get out of the churches as a result. This is the reason why people do not go to church.

There is no sign of an agreement in the Sydney strike. The troops are asking for winter quarters and the struggle looks as though it would last all winter. Houses for the strikers are being built.

It is understood that the British Columbia elections will be pulled off this winter at the end of November. The Socialists of the province have been preparing for the fight for some time past.

The employer wants to make large profits off wageslaves. His wageslaves want to get big wages out of the employer. The wageslave will eventually stop the haggling over wages by kicking the employers out of the shops. They can do this whenever they get sense enough to vote themselves into the places where laws are made.

A capitalist goes to Ottawa or to the local legislators and makes lines to line his pockets. He can do this because his pals are with him in power. A socialist wageslave can go to Ottawa and empty the pockets of the labor thieves just as soon as his fellow wageslaves send enough socialists to represent them.

In the United States is an organization called the National Civic Federation. Its object is to bring labor and capital into harmony so that the thieves may continue to plunder labor with the consent and blessing of the laborers. Gompers is a member of this organization which shows that Gompers is either a fool or a traitor to labor. This organization is trying to stem the tide of socialism but its talk is hopeless. Socialism is a philosophy growing out of the economic conditions of capitalism which is bound to find more adherents daily as the conditions under capitalism grow more rotten.

THE SQUEEZING PROCESS

A drug trust has been formed in New York and the Standard Oil crowd are said to be back of the combine. Henry H. Flagler, John D. Rockefeller, and other big Standard Oil men are known to be heavily interested in the large drug corporation now doing business in New York. Recently representatives of the United Drug Consumers' Company have been visiting the retail druggists in Manhattan and the Bronx trying to buy out the little fellows. When one hundred retail stores have been acquired the United Drug Consumers Company will start business. The cigar stores have been combined and the drug stores are being combined and the general retail stores are being amalgamated. This is the beginning of the process to squeeze the retailers out of business. When the various trusts have captured the various retail stores the various retail trusts will merge into one trust. Then the smaller retail stores will be shut up. That will remove the cost of duplicate clerks and rent bills and insurance charges and taxes. Then the retail stores will be closed altogether and the goods will be sold by the sample. The process of trustification cannot be stopped. Competition is useless and has to go. There must result either socialism or industrial despotism.

THE BRITISH SITUATION

Elections are probably near in Great Britain. The budget has frightened the Lords. It is not what the budget contains but what it threatens that makes them frightened. During the past century the fight has been between feudalism and capitalism, between the power of land and the power of commerce. In France the fight started in 1789 and ended with the complete triumph of the bourgeoisie. There was the restoration of the monarchy but the work of the revolutionists could never be undone. The power of the French nobles was completely broken. The land was divided into small lots and remains so till this day. This left the bourgeoisie in complete control and as a result the fight in France today is the most revolutionary. The proletariat is not confused with two enemies, the land and purse, but only the enemy of the purse faces them.

In Germany the feudal power was never broken. So we see today the German empire controlled by feudal landlords. The bankers and manufacturers did not succeed in throwing off the feudal tolls. The result is that the socialist movement in Germany is facing a feudal power on the political field rather than an industrial one.

In Great Britain the power of the Lords was curtailed but never broken. The Lords retained their land and the power of veto on all bills. When the Tories triumphed in the House of Commons the Lords showed their claws. The Lords were interested in land while the Liberals were interested in commerce. Consequently when the Tories were in power they had a knack of passing factory acts which benefited the workers of the cities and hampered the profits of the bourgeoisie plunderers.

The Liberals are in power and are attacking the pocketbooks of the the Lords. This is the continuation of the fight of capitalism against feudalism. The Lords call the budget confiscatory. Yet they know they are doomed. The bourgeoisie are going to finish them off and this is the beginning.

But the peculiar thing is that the Laborites are backing the Liberals in the fight instead of looking after their own interests. The Liberals have inveighed the Laborites into being allies. The fight is not a labor fight but a fight between rival bands of plunderers. The socialists of Great Britain are doing all they can to point this out to the labor members but there are none so blind as those who will not see.

The class struggle is a fact, not a theory.