

Total No. of Subs for
Issue of May 19th
8,097
Total Edition
Last Week... **9,000**
W. H. COTTON, Editor

Cotton's Weekly

NOTE: THE RED ADDRESS
LABEL on your Paper
If it is **No. 90**
Your subscription expires Next
Issue. You should renew at least
two weeks before your subscription
expires so that you will not miss any
numbers.
H. A. WEBB, BUSINESS MANAGER

This is No. 89

COWANSVILLE, P. Q., CANADA, MAY 26, 1910

Sub Price 50c a Year—25c for 6 months

THE AMERICAN SYSTEM

The system of government under which the United States citizens live is so complex, so foolish and irrational that it is a wonder that they have stood for it so long.

We who live in Canada can hardly understand the difficulties which lie in the way of the American Socialists. The Americans do not have government. They have anarchy.

The American people boast of their liberties. The American people have few liberties. Canada possesses representative institutions. The American people do not.

To explain the system of government to the south of us we must go back to the formation of the United States of America.

When the thirteen colonies revolted from Great Britain and achieved their independence, the quarrel was over taxation. At that time there were thirteen colonies along the eastern coast of America, each separate and each being ruled from Great Britain.

The labor skinner native to the American soil found their operations severely hindered by dictation from the king of Great Britain and his advisers. The native labor skinner therefore revolted, called themselves patriots and threw off the yoke of Great Britain.

The chief labor skinner of the thirteen colonies thought it was good to unite together into one body. But they did not like the idea of making this central body too powerful. So they formed a federation as it were. This federation was called the United States of America. It was formed in 1776.

The thirteen colonies thereupon called themselves states. The various leaders did not consider that they had given up the individual rights of the states. They considered that each state was free and sovereign and independent. They considered that the federal organization which they had created at Washington was little more than a sort of central advisory board. They considered the various state governments to be supreme and the central government to be subordinate and secondary. This was and is known as the theory of state rights and state sovereignty.

If you once grasp this idea you have got the central idea round which the internal history of America has swung.

The American civil war was fought over this question. It was called the war of secession. When the Southern states found their system of chattel slavery threatened by the system of wage slavery in the north they declared they would withdraw from the American Union. They took the position that, as the free and sovereign states of the south had entered an agreement which did not limit their sovereignty, they could put an end to that agreement. The north took the opposite view and the question was, as usual, settled by force.

When a mob rose about fifteen years ago and killed a lot of Italians in a southern state, the Italian government made representations to the Washington government to punish the perpetrators of the outrage. The Washington government declared they could do nothing as the punishment of crime lay with the individual states. The authorities of the state in which the crime had been committed refused to act and the Washington authorities settled the matter by paying large sums of money to the relatives of the victims.

There are things so simple that people cannot believe them. There are things so patent that it is thought foolish to believe them. Why not let our minds guide us? Why not let us be reasonable and declare what we feel to be the truth? We know that men are forced to do many things which they do not like to do. Business compels them to do these things. Then why not arrange our system of laws and business dealings so men will not be forced to do what they know will injure their rivals? What is government for but to be used in order that men may not be forced to do injury to their fellowmen? Let us replace competition with co-operation. Let us change the system which makes one man's gain another man's loss. Let us work for the co-operative commonwealth wherein the labor of the individual will benefit society as well as himself.

In Canada the courts are subject to government. In the United States the governments are subject to the courts.

The revolt of the wage slaves is the most hopeful sign of the times.

The Czar of Russia will attend Edward's funeral. The murderer of all the Russians will find a chill welcome from the people of England.

Socialism does not want to divide up. Socialism wants to prevent the dividing up which now goes on between the workers and the non workers.

Socialism will come through human endeavor, and the human endeavor will be exerted because humanity will not be able to live under the outworn capitalist system.

When Napoleon the first was given the suggestion that he might rule France after the fashion of the English king he replied that he had no desire to become the prize pig of the nation. Napoleon wanted to rule, not to be a show-puppet.

The high cost of living and the low wages will produce bread riots. Bread riots can be put down by bayonets. Therefore the standing army of Canada is being put on an efficient basis. The workers must learn to starve in peace.

Socialism will enable everyone to own a comfortable and healthful home, substantial, beautiful and attractive furnishings for his home, and all of the things which are necessary for expanding culture and a wholesome, healthful life.

Socialism furnishes the desirable middle ground between these two extremes, the golden mean, the happy medium, the condition wherein there will be luxury and poverty for none, but plenty for all, and the amplest opportunity for physical, mental, moral and spiritual development.

In every country the problems the Socialists have to face are different owing to different forms of government and of capitalist control. The main question of the abolition of wage slavery is the same. But the working out thereof will be different. France has not the same problems to face as Russia. The British Socialists have not the same problems that the Germans have. In the same way the problems to be faced by Canadian Socialists are different from those of the United States. Canadian Socialists have been trying to draw lessons from the Canadian battle for the battles of the American fight. The present issue is devoted to showing that Canada has not the same problems to face as have the United States.

Thieves are human beings. They have their joys and sorrows. They have their toothaches and pains. They want comforting and home life. But society frowns upon thieves. Society punishes them. They are locked up in big prisons and penitentiaries. The victims they have robbed want to see what they call justice done and do their best to convict. Humanity is forgotten. Human longings are neglected. Instead of home life the thief gets cold walls and poor fare of prison. The capitalist is also a thief. He steals labor from the laborer. He does not steal gold or paper money. He steals life itself. But he is not punished. He is legalized. He is regarded as the greatest benefactor the world has produced. Servants bow down to him. Kings give him decorations. And his victims, the workers, he has robbed, frequently hurrah for him and send him to Ottawa to make laws whereby he can steal more muscle, bone, life from his employees. Have you been one of those workers who have cheered for your boss on election day? If you have, wake up and get next the game of robbery that is being played upon you.

J. Mahlon Barnes, U. S. National Secretary of the S. P. declares that, "The feasible and most economical form of propaganda for this national office to conduct in the future is a systematical distribution of literature. For the same amount of money which the national office is obliged to spend to maintain national organizers in the field millions of pieces of literature could be furnished locally at the mere cost of shipment."

PAPINEAU AND MACKENZIE

Won for Canada Political Liberties which the United States has yet to Conquer

FEDERAL POWERS

The central government at Washington, which began so weakly, has gradually arrogated to itself more and more power. The states reserved to themselves all the powers not specially given to the central government. It has been a peculiar history which tells of the gradual extension of the central powers. This extension of powers has been brought about partly by the interpretation of the American written Constitution which has been hammered out by the Supreme Court and partly by brute force. For force is always the final arbiter when the decision is disputed.

Each state is in theory free and equal with every other state and supreme in its own dominions. Each state, therefore, possesses a state militia. This militia is an armed body of men. The men are in reality regular soldiers. They are raised and maintained for the keeping of peace within the confines of the state. We in Canada have nothing like these state troops.

But the federal government at Washington also maintains an army. This is the national army. This army cannot invade the territory of a state without being called upon by the governor to put down an insurrection.

But in the Pullman strike in Chicago, President Cleveland rushed national troops to Chicago to put down the strike over the protest and against the order of Governor Altgeld of Illinois, the state in which Chicago is situated.

In the Cripple Creek strike in Colorado it was the federal troops who committed the outrages upon the strikers and their families. Bill Haywood in that time of strife caused himself to be arrested by the state authorities for protection against federal troops. He was locked up in the Denver prison and was guarded by state troops against being captured by federal troops. Could you imagine in Canada, a company of Ontario militia guarding a prisoner against being captured by Dominion troops? The division of powers in the United States produces anarchy not government.

The Supreme Court has been instrumental in giving great power to the central government. In the early days it was thought that the Washington government could not borrow money on the credit of the nation. The Supreme Court said it could. It was considered doubtful whether the central government could impose a protective duty round the federated states. The supreme court said it could. It was thought that each state could impose protective duties itself against the other states. The general protective powers of the Washington government prevented this.

When recently the Philippine Islands were annexed it was considered doubtful whether the federal government, representing a federation of free and sovereign states, could hold subject colonies like the Philippines. The Supreme Court said it could. There are many other decisions from the Supreme Court giving more and more power to the central government, such as the power to establish banks etc.

The explanation is that the president of the United States appoints the supreme court judges and his puppets give the decisions their master wants. They eat out of the hand that gives them their jobs.

Humanity will be benefited by the substitution of Socialism for capitalism. Yet the burden of the fight for the institution of Socialism will fall on the workers. The wage slave must free himself and by so doing he will free humanity.

Why should the death of one man make such a commotion while the deaths of hundreds of thousands are barely mentioned? Was King Edward so preeminent in goodness that his death should overshadow the deaths of hundreds of thousands of others? Or is the mourning for the dead king a refined sort of snobbery?

DIVISION OF POWER

Not only is there division of power between the central government and the separate states, but the central government is divided. The Americans think their government represents democracy. As a matter of fact it represents the form of British government as it existed in 1774 when King George the third occupied the British throne and was making such a mess of things. The American form of government has stood still since then. The British government and the governments of the colonies under it have advanced along lines of democracy. There is ahead of the American people many of the political battles through which the British people passed in establishing the present form of highly imperfect democracy now in Canada and Great Britain.

In the days of George the third, there was the house of lords, powerful, arrogant and vicious. This is copied in the American Constitution by the Senate, a body of men, vicious, powerful and arrogant. The Senators are safe except against a revolution in the ideas of the whole nation.

George the third appointed his Cabinet Ministers. The House of Commons had nothing to do with the appointment thereof. The Members of Parliament could be as hostile as possible to the cabinet ministers, yet they could do little. The king appointed them, and they did not need to be endorsed by Parliament. That is the state of affairs in the United States. The President picks his Cabinet Ministers, or Secretaries. They do not need to be Members of either Senate or Congress. They do not need to be endorsed by Congress.

They are picked at the mere whim of the President. In Great Britain this no longer happens. The Cabinet Ministers must enjoy the support and confidence of the majority of the House of Parliament. If they lose that majority the Cabinet resigns. The Prime Minister also resigns. The government changes. The king is a mere figurehead and does not count. For this reason the debates in the House of Parliament are eagerly read. For the representatives of the people control. The Members of the House of Commons make and unmake the cabinet.

The President also chooses the Supreme Court judges and the Supreme Court decides the question of the Constitution. The Constitution is the fetish of the American people. And the Supreme Court judges are the great high priests appointed to interpret this strange document. And their decision is law.

When the thirteen colonies united, the American Constitution was drawn up. This is the document which defines the respective powers of state federation. It declares the form of government, sets out the powers of the various officers, and lays down rules to be obeyed. And the Supreme Court is given the function of interpreting this document. From its interpretation there is no appeal. The Constitution can only be changed by such a cumbersome method that few changes, and those of only minor importance, have ever been made.

The American people are governed by a document almost a hundred and thirty years old. The document is interpreted by nine men who are appointed by the President who is elected for four years in an indirect manner and at such expense to the President that only a multimillionaire or a corrupt briber who is willing to sell the nation to its plunderers can ever hope to be elected.

This corrupt President appoints corrupt and reactionary Supreme Court judges to interpret the American Constitution in a corrupt and partial manner to betray the American nation to its boodlers.

The American people are powerless to change the system save by a revolution.

Theodore Roosevelt refused to call on the President of the Swiss Republic. There is too much democracy in Switzerland to suit Teddy.

Why pay rent when you can have Socialism?

Socialism will not destroy the home. Socialism will free the home from rent bills. Socialism will provide homes, not take them away.

There are many men who believe in Socialism but will not give utterance to that belief for fear of being laughed at. The moral coward has been with us ever since civilization began.

The king can do no wrong is one of the constitutional maxims. Our constitution is a mass of shams and our politicians bow down and worship it. The reason is that it pays the politicians.

Capitalism provides by law that people shall not murder, nor steal, nor cheat, nor fight, nor adulterate, etc., etc. But the environment is such that they keep right on doing these things.

Political democracy was a great advance over absolutism. And industrial democracy will be as great an advance over political democracy as political democracy was over absolutism.

The wage slave problem takes on different complexions in different countries. The Canadian Socialist movement must tackle the wage slavery problem as it exists with the weapons Canadian institutions give them.

The economic conditions now prevailing make the environment of the average man such that he is condemned to mentally, morally and spiritually starve himself in order to escape physical starvation. He is compelled to scramble furiously for money enough to provide a bare existence for himself and family.

In Great Britain the theory is that Parliament is supreme and can do anything save turn a man into a woman or a woman into a man. The present struggle which Parliament is undertaking to abolish the House of Lords, shows how supreme Parliament is. In the United States the written constitution rules and is interpreted by the Supreme Court judges. The problems, therefore, of the American Socialists and their polemics against their government are not applicable to Canadian or British conditions. We must fight out our own problems in our own way according as our Canadian conditions dictate.

The workingmen die by the thousand. They are poisoned in the match factories. They die in the pottery manufactories. They are killed by fire damp in the mines. They are blown to atoms in the powder mills. They are electrocuted by live wires. They are crushed by the ear wheels. They die from preventable accidents. Little mourning there is for them. They are nothing but wage slaves. Other working cattle can take their places. Their children are yet their full stature be grown replace the murdered sires. No word of protest is raised. But a king dies. A man who has enjoyed all the luxuries this world can give, passes away. Wealth and position and long years have been his portion. Sunlight and travel and rare and costly wines he has enjoyed to the full. He has drunk of the pleasures of life to the dregs and the workingmen have paid for it. This old king dies and the workers are told they must mourn. Why should they mourn? Is the Christian religion true and was the king a Christian. Has he gone into the abode of the blessed dead? Then why should the workers mourn or anyone mourn? Has a righteous judge condemned him to herd with the goats? Then why should the workers whine at the just decision of an All Wise Judge? What have the workers to do with the king? He is not of their class. Let those who feel their power shaken mourn for his death. Let the workers fix their attention upon their own sad lot. If democracy means anything it means that men should stand equal in the eyes of the law and equal in opportunity. This sentimental mourning for one who is declared to be mightier than the common herd will not be limited by any true democrat.

CANADA AND THE U. S.

In Canada the House of Commons chooses the Cabinet Ministers and Prime Minister. In the U. S., the House of Congress appoints nothing. The President is elected at enormous expense and chooses his Secretaries.

In Canada the Cabinet falls as soon as the House of Parliament refuses to support it. In the U. S. the President and Cabinet last for four years however the House of Congress may vote against them.

In Canada the House of Commons can make such laws as it will subject to the supervision of the British Parliament, and the Canadian Senate which is appointed by the Canadian House of Commons. In the U. S. the government and the people are fettered to an antiquated document interpreted by a bunch of legal sharks.

Canada has representative institutions. The U. S. has not.

In Canada the representatives of the people can make laws, and govern those who execute those laws and control the judges who interpret those laws.

In the U. S. Congress cannot make what laws it likes, does not control those who execute what laws they do make, and have no control over the judges who interpret the American Constitution in what way they like.

The American people do not possess political liberty, cannot make what laws they like, are shot by troops over whom they have no control and are bound hand and foot to the financiers and exploiters who dictate the decisions of the Supreme Court judges and order the President to call out the troops against the people who protest against the decisions of their puppet judges.

Against this mass of corruption Fred D. Warren and the Appeal to Reason have been fighting. Like David before Goliath, Warren looks small. But he has chosen certain smooth pebbles, which look harmless, and has hurled them at the head of corruption and they are finding their mark. Fred D. Warren will yet have the pleasure of cutting off the head of the giant of corruption he has killed.

Every little while you see the workers striking for higher pay. They want more money. The expense of living has gone up, or the bosses are making more money, and the workers think they ought to have more. So they strike or arbitrate and sometimes wages go up. Then the employers declare that they must raise the price of their goods to meet the increased labor bill. Prices go up and the workers get more wages and spend more and they are just where they were before they struck, or even worse off. This view will meet with some objection on the ground that the medium of exchange represents value and that value cannot be manipulated. But the Canadian money of today is mostly wind. It is not based on gold. The paper bills with which the workers get paid are simply so much printed paper, and this paper can be put on the market as the masters see fit. So the medium of exchange is not limited but very elastic, and the masters can pay their workers fifty per cent more, charge fifty per cent more for their goods, and increase the circulating medium by fifty per cent so that every thing is just where it was before the change took place. The explanation is that wages never rise much above the living line. The rest goes to the bosses. When the workers want more the bosses give them more and then charge them more and the workers have been chasing themselves round a circle. The only way the workers can escape is to free themselves from the power of the masters by overthrowing wage slavery. When you workers get gumption enough to expropriate the machinery of production and take all that is coming to you, then you need not worry over the fall or rise in wages. You will be your own masters. You will control your own work and you will get all that is coming to you.

Parliament has dissolved. The Members have retired from Ottawa. There is rest for many of the representatives of the people. But the Socialist campaign never pauses nor rests. It cannot because capitalism never pauses nor rests. The wage slave is kept in his subjection. The slave driver still speeds up his victims. Life is being crushed out of the workers. Therefore the battle for liberty continues and will never cease till the freedom of the worker is accomplished and wage slavery is abolished.