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Cotton's Weekly

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Established Dec. 3rd, 1908
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Published Every Week at Cowansville, P. Q., Canada Thursday, Nov. 27th, 1912

This paper is not published for profit. It is published by co-operative effort as an advocate of the co-operative commonwealth. Last week we sent the following number of copies

30,046

Vanishing Jobs

The Pennsylvania Railway is displacing firemen by mechanical stokers.
The Canadian Pacific Railway is displacing its telegraph operators by substituting telephones for the telegraph in despatching its trains.

The bottleblowers have been hard hit by a bottling machine.

The traction plow in the west has driven a hundred thousand people off the farms in Ontario.

Everywhere machinery is displacing labor. It is estimated that by machinery one worker can now do the labor of twenty workers with hand tools.

Yet the labor of the workers is not lightened. It is true that some workers have the eight hour day, but the speeding up system takes every ounce of energy out of these workers. They produce to the limit of their capacity.

Machines do the work of twenty workers for every worker employed and machines are becoming more powerful and more productive.

What is the result?

The result is permanent unemployment for many men. It means shorter periods of work for those employed and longer periods of idleness when they are hunting a job.

It means breadlines. It means poverty and slums. It means great luxury for the owners of capital. It means human lives cheapened in a disgraceful manner. It means prostitution spreading wider and wider. It means murder and dope fiends. It means human wrecks and fatbelled savage judges.

This is what the present system means. These conditions will continue as long as the workers allow the shirkers to own the machines which displace human labor.

If the workers owned the machines, then the working class would own collectively enough machine power for each man's labor to do the work of twenty men.

And each worker getting the full social value of his labor, aided by machinery, would have an income equal to twenty workers with hand tools.

This is what Socialism offers the workers. Under Socialism the more the workers produced, the better off they would be. Poverty would become unknown. Prostitution would cease. Tuberculosis and disease would vanish, for all would have good homes, plenty of warm dry clothing, and good food in abundance with plenty of leisure to enjoy the fresh air.

This is what we offer the working class if they will but bring it about for themselves.

We do not want to tyrannize. We do not want to run things. We want the working class to democratically manage their own affairs and enjoy the rewards of their labor.

Because we advocate this, the Catholic church lines up against us. Their priests go abroad telling that we want to break up the home, introduce free love, abolish religion, and tyrannize.

The Catholic priests lie.

We are misrepresented, lied about, cursed, and contemptuously treated. And many workers, ignorant that we stand for their interests and their interests alone, listen to the liars and vote for the shirkers to continue to own the machinery and all the produce the workers produce save a bare living wage.

However, we have truth on our side. We have the welfare of humanity with us, and our ranks grow from day to day.

The liars are finding the lies sticking in their own throats.

Mr. Capitalist. The international army of awakened workers are on to your cheap John, robbing, inhuman ways.

We serve notice upon you that your days are numbered.

It is about time you were pushed off the earth.

A Friend of Labor

A couple of years ago the Gouin government of Quebec passed a workmen's compensation act with a great flare of trumpets.

Gouin was showing his love for the poor downtrodden workers.

Now comes R. L. Calder, who, at the behest of the Builders' Exchange, Montreal, lets the cat out of the bag.

He declares the Workmen's Compensation Act benefits the capitalist, and not the worker.

In the Quebec law we never recognized the fellow-servant risk.

In our law if a worker was injured by the carelessness of a fellow worker, the boss was responsible.

Says Calder, "The Workmen's Compensation Act has sensibly improved the position of the employer, while it leaves the worker's case practically as it was before the enactment, save that the quantum of damages is very small."

If you want to find a fine friend of the working class politically, the kind that smiles lovingly at you while he runs a knife under your fifth rib, just pick a capitalist politician like Gouin.

The government at Ottawa has issued an order that newspapers and publications shall not print advertisements larger than one page. The owners of the big blanket sheets stuffed to the muzzle with ads are putting up a great howl. These papers are fattening off big business, and do not like the short arm jab the government hands them. Under Socialism ads would cease; there would be no need for them, nor for the great majority of the rags which pose as "newspapers" today.

Thieves

Our prominent men are all thieves.
Sir William Van Horne is a thief.
Lord Strathcona is a thief.

Look at the prominent men in your own city, town or village. They are all thieves.

That financier who is lending money in your city? He is a thief.

That little picayune lumber who lends a few thousand dollars to a farmer and takes a mortgage; he is a thief.

That business man who runs a factory employing eighty or a hundred hands and pays them living wages. He is a thief.

R. L. Borden, our premier, owning bank stock and other stocks and drawing unearned revenues therefrom, he is a thief.

Sir Wilfred Laurier, drawing six thousand dollars a year unearned revenues from his investments is a thief.

The Hon. Geo. Perley, the millionaire lumberman in Borden's cabinet, is a thief.

The judges in our courts deciding the points of law and enforcing the giving of unearned revenues to our eminent Canadians are the servants of thieves.

These gentlemen do not have to go out and knock a citizen down with a club in order to get revenues.

They are better protected than that. They have had laws made giving them the ownership of Canada.

Their politicians have given them the railways, the mines, the forests, the mills, the factories.

They through their ownership get all the workers produce. The annual production of a million toilers is poured into their treasuries.

And the million workers get what the horses get, what the dogs get, what the cattle get, enough fodder and shelter to keep them fit to toil on.

The thieves have been legalized. Their stealings have been legitimated.

The Socialists propose to stop the stealings.

They propose that the million workers cease pouring the wealth created by their toil into the possession of as useless a bunch of grafting parasites as ever cursed the earth.

Thieves are not nice characters.

They are dishonest, malevolent, treacherous, selfish. They will smile and cringe and be ready to knife you if you will pay them.

Our Borden, Strathconas, millionaires, have the character of thieves. It makes no difference that they are protected by law, the character is there.

Humanity, under their rule, is suffering untold misery. When thieves run a community it suffers. The slums of Toronto show the character of our thieves. The prostitutes forced to the life by the oppression of the thieves, show their character. The diseases and overwork and worry of the great mass of the people show the character of our thieves.

He who votes Liberal and he who votes Tory are both enemies of the Canadian people.

They are traitors to humanity.

They are either thieves themselves or poor dupes who through brain fog or weak gray matter look upon thieves as good men.

The Socialist voter and worker, he alone is a true patriot, a lover of men, the protector of the family life, the friend of God.

Chateauguay Contested

Macdonald, Manitoba, had an election. The Conservatives won.

Macdonald was contested, and the Tory victor admitted he had been elected by bribery and corruption, and he was unseated.

In Chateauguay an election has been held for the Ottawa house, and a Tory won. The election, being contested on the usual grounds of bribery and corruption. No doubt the Tory candidate will be unseated.

In his Halifax platform Borden announced purity of elections as a plank, but then we must remember that platforms are made for politicians to get in on only.

Was Fisher's campaign in Chateauguay pure and undefiled? Not so you could notice it.

Both sides were corrupt.

There is a big struggle to get into the House of Parliament. Parliament makes the laws. The workers are robbed of over \$500 a year each of the wealth they create. This annual robbery from each worker makes a tremendous total. The laws parliament makes say how this wealth shall be distributed.

Laws can be passed raising freight rates to benefit the railway barons, or lowering freight rates to benefit the manufacturers. Laws can be passed giving millions in bonuses to steel plants, or passing high tariff laws which will allow certain industries to charge monopoly prices. There are hundreds of ways whereby parliament can redistribute the wealth arising from the plundering of the working class to the advantage or disadvantage of the various sections of the master class.

Wherefore various sections of the master class put up campaign funds to elect their particular legislators to Ottawa.

But although the capitalists are fighting over the division of the spoils which arise from labor skinning, they are all one upon the question of skinning the working class.

They quarrel among themselves, but their quarrels are of no advantage to the working class.

The Socialists propose that the process of robbing labor cease. At once the labor skinners turn upon the Socialists. Their legislators and police bulls refuse the Socialists the right of free speech. They lie about the Socialists. If possible they blacklist them.

Whether Morris gets in from Chateauguay, or Fisher the Liberal gets in matters not to the workers. Both are henchmen of the capitalist class.

Net profits of the Bank of Montreal this year are \$3,451,217. Prosperity is with your masters, that is why their organs shout prosperity. But prosperity is NOT with the working class.

The Bar in Quebec

For the first time in history in the speech from the throne at the opening of the Quebec legislature the liquor traffic was referred to as a "plague."

A Royal Commission has been investigating the working of the present license law whereby the liquor traffic has been operated by individual initiative for the motive of profit. The report is not yet made public, but it is said to be startling in its nature. Startling, not to Socialists who know the rottenness of trade carried on for profit, but startling to the ignorant and confiding mutts who look upon capitalist politicians and capitalist profit grabbers as the salt of the earth.

Enough has leaked out about the report to lead to the conclusion that the commission recommends that the present license law be abolished and the government operate the sale of liquor as a provincial monopoly.

No doubt the Retail Liquor Association of Quebec will raise a great howl, but we must not forget that the Gouin government is the executive committee of the capitalist class as a whole.

The capitalists employ workers. They work their workers to the last ounce of energy. Many workers seek stimulants to keep up their flagging labor power. They go to the local bar and load up on rotgut. The money they get from their masters to feed themselves and take care of their children—the young livestock of the grabbing owners of capital, is wasted on poison, and the saloon keeper, or the financial vultures who are draining him, rake in large profits to the detriment of the other sections of the capitalist class.

The worker is the goose that lays the golden eggs for the master class, and the saloon reduces his capacity to provide the golden shekels.

Wherefore the Quebec government is planning to make a state monopoly, sell pure goods, do away with the sociability of the saloon, and endeavor to break the working class of their booze habits.

This measure looks like benefiting the people. It looks like a great moral reform. It looks as though Gouin did not care to protect capital.

We know a country hotel which has three mortgages on it, one for nine thousand dollars, one for five thousand, and a third mortgage for six thousand dollars, twenty thousand dollars in all.

These mortgages pay six per cent, an interest charge of \$1,200 per annum. This interest money is paid out of the bar receipts.

If a state monopoly is established, these mortgages will be worth little more than waste paper. The "capital" of these booze financiers will be wiped out.

But the capital itself will not be wiped out, it will be diverted to other sections of the master class.

By establishing a government monopoly the province will get the profits which will reduce taxation charges, thus benefiting those capitalists who are taxed to maintain the provincial government.

And if the booze habits of the slave class are curtailed, the slaves will become stronger slaves and will create more surplus values for their masters to take in the shape of rent, interest and profit.

The working class will not benefit. The Gouin government is owned body, soul and breeches by the owners of capital, and Gouin's legislative measures will be for the advantage of those who plunder labor.

It is only when the workers themselves capture the political state away from the masters and kick the master class out of their ownership of the means of wealth production and distribution that the workers will be freed from slavery.

Penal Reform

The Hon. Mr. Doherty, Minister of Justice, is about to introduce legislation at Ottawa to reform the penitentiaries, of Canada.

It is announced that the treatment of our convicts is outrageous, and humane methods are to be introduced.

In other words, the convicts, instead of being idle, will be set to work producing wealth. Penitentiaries cost money to run. Herefore the capitalists have had to pay the upkeep out of taxation and this taxation reduced their net profits.

So the convicts are going to be made to work. They are going to be placed upon convict farms to raise crop to feed themselves and to feed the guards and penitentiary officials.

An attempt will also be made to sell the surplus, and thus make the convicts pay the whole bill.

The capitalist class do not give a hoot whether a convict is in torture, or not. But they exceedingly dislike to pay for his keep.

And the convicts have been increasing in numbers. The speeding up process and the growing army of unemployed force men into crime. The by-products of capitalism are expensive.

Prison reform is what the capitalists give us, and prison reform to them means that the prisoners pay their way.

Socialists offer a revolutionary alternative. They offer the working class the ownership of the earth. They offer them the full social value of their product.

This revolutionary offer of course means the elimination of the grinding capitalist class, and also the elimination of the creation of convicts through economic necessity.

Many wishy-washy, hypocritical legalized thieves tell us they are Socialists, and point to Doherty's reforms.

We simply laugh at them. We show their inner reasons to the wage workers. And the workers cease to be the tear fed dupes of their masters.

307,267 persons came to Canada during the six months ending October 31st last, an increase of twelve per cent over the corresponding period last year. Unemployment is rife throughout Canada. In Toronto it is estimated that ten thousand people are out of work, yet the immigrants come by the shipload. The master class is bound to overstock the labor market of Canada so human beings will be the cheapest thing purchasable.

Co-operation

Cooperation is receiving a boost these days in Canada.

The National Railway Association is the name of a new organization capitalized at \$5,000,000. The stock will all be owned by union men, and the goods will be sold to the stockholders at a discount of ten per cent., and if there is any surplus it will be divided among the working class workers.

Co-operation among the slaves in the purchasing of their supplies will not benefit the workers very much.

Wages are governed by the cost of living. When the cost of living is high wages will be high, when the cost of living is low, wages will be low.

When hard times come, wages are slashed if possible. With the workers buying co-operatively, the cost of living will be lowered and wages can be out in proportion.

In ancient Rome the slave workers used to eat in common. They would appoint one of their number to buy the food. In this way the cost of living to the slaves was lowered, and this benefited the slave owners, who gave the slaves money to buy their food with.

We are in receipt of the first number of "The Headlight," the official organ of the new society. It announces, among other things, its desire to be "to promote the practice of truthfulness, justice and economy, in production and exchange."

By conciliating the conflicting interests of the capitalist, the worker, and the purchaser, by an equitable division among them of the fund commonly called profit.

It raises highly the cooperative movement started by the bosses at Calumet, Mich. It says about this movement, (page 44) "The owners of these mines are not advertising themselves as philanthropists, but, at the same time, they are about as decent and broadminded a set of men as ever got hold of an enterprise of this character; and it is against their grain to raise the wages of the men merely for the sake of seeing them absorbed by the local storekeepers."

Calumet is cited as an instance of good brought about by co-operative stores. At the present time one of the fiercest labor wars in the history of the U. S. is raging at Calumet between these same benevolent mineowners and the miners.

The Calumet and Hecla mine on an original investment of \$1,200,000, has paid \$120,000 in dividends.

It is cutting down the help and speeding them up. It has installed the one-man drill whereby one miner operates a compressed air machine.

In the strike scabs and thugs have been imported, men, women and children have been shot up, and Calumet has become the devil's playground.

Canadian miners have been raising funds to help their fighting comrades of Calumet. At the Convention of the American Federation of Labor recently held all the funds in the mining section were turned over to the Calumet strikers.

There was a co-operative store all right, but the masters owned the government and they owned the mines and they had the miners at their mercy.

Co-operation to reduce the cost of living, when the cost of living governs the wages paid, will not benefit the working class.

The only benefit it will bring will be to crush out a few storekeepers, turn them into wage slaves, and thus increase the army of the expropriated slaves who must rise and throw off the master class.

At Thetford Mines, P.Q., is a co-operative credit society run by a Catholic priest.

Wages are low and by the co-operative credit system the pennies of the slaves can be pooled to help the particular slave who happens to have a hard time through sickness or the like.

The saving of the pennies allows the employers to pay less wages.

It is long as the profit system lasts, co-operation among the workers to reduce the cost of living will increase the annual revenues of the parasites who take all the workers produce beyond their bare living cost.

Social Unrest

Sir William Meredith has brought in his report on the Ontario Workmen's Compensation Act. Says the pompous old chap, "I do not doubt that the country whose legislature is quick to discern and prompt to remove injustice will enjoy, as it will deserve to do, the blessings of industrial peace and freedom from social unrest."

That sounds good and gummy. It sounds like a fat pulp talking out of a full stomach. There is a calm assumption that Ontario is one of these blessed countries.

An Eastern Townships slave driver went to Peterborough, Ont. He came back with a great light. He thought the E. T. slaves around Cowansville had been driven hard, but it was not a patching on the way the Ontario slaves were being driven.

Will Sir Wm. Meredith, Chief Justice of Ontario, kindly tell us where that blessed country is that is free from social unrest?

A hundred thousand Indians are on strike in Natal.

The Kaiser is sitting on the safety valve of the social revolution in Germany.

Hell has broken out in the U. S. at Calumet, Mich.; Wheatland, Cal.; and is smoldering wherever a slave bends his back to the lash of capital.

In his own province of Ontario Meredith will find the rumble of the coming revolution. But Meredith, calm in the economic certainty of a goodly income, talks words of rotund foolishness.

In England the heaving of Larkinism is rocking the master class to seasickness. Social unrest exists and will increase wherever a capitalist lands his marauding feet.

No reform can cause the unrest to lighten. The only hope is revolution.

Are you trying to wear your grandfather's political clothes?

Peace and War

The Socialists work for peace, our infamous patriots for war.

The Liberal government of Britain, which in 1906 went into power on the platform of "Peace and Retrenchment," have increased the expenditure on the navy during the past six years at the rate of \$20,000,000 per year.

Borden and Laurier are both anxious to hurry Canada into the military path.

The Borden government is increasing the military expenditure by millions of dollars. Legalized butchers are being placed in all industrial centres under the pretence of protecting Canada, but in reality to maim and slaughter Canadian workmen when they protest against their too heavy slavery.

Our Dominion government is run by as big a set of political highwaymen as ever climbed into a legislative body.

They are encouraging war preparations. They are egging on the British capitalists to hurl the British workers against the German workers.

If Borden and Laurier had their way, Canadian workers would be led to slaughter.

But the Socialists are abroad in the land. They are abroad in the world.

There are fifty millions of them, and they grow in numbers more than a million a year. The Socialists say "Stop!" to the warmad capitalists. The Socialists refuse to fight. They speak to their fellow workers and the anti-militarist spirit passes like a beam of light over the European countries.

The Socialists in Canada are against war. We tell Sam Hughes that he is a common murderer, a creature low down in the moral scale, delighting in blood and gaping wounds and hatred and enmity.

We refuse to let such a creature guide our conduct.

We tell R. L. Borden, the premier, the man placed in power at the command of the trusts and ghastly capitalist class that we refuse to obey any order that comes from the low creature he has placed at the head of the human butchers of Canada.

We stand for peace, unalterably for peace. We are the hope of peace, we are the blessing of Canada, we are the benediction of the family life. We oppose Hughes when he wants to tear the boy from the loving arms and aching heart of the mother to make him food for cannon.

Borden, Laurier, Hughes, you do not represent the moral sentiments of Canada. You were returned to power in a time of nightmare. You represent the tortured dreams of a sleeping people. The Socialists are the awakening of Canada from a horrible nightmare.

The Grasping Hand

Five hundred victims from the working class have perished in the storms of the upper great lakes in the last month. The greed of profits causes the steamship companies to run cargoes from Fort William and Port Arthur long after navigation is officially closed, and marine insurance runs out.

The companies play the great gambling game to the limit. They are forced to pay a higher rate of wages to the mariners than in the summer months in order to coax the men to man their boats. They probably conclude that if they are willing to risk their valuable ships, the sailors should be as equally willing to risk their lives.

But did one of the real owners of the ships perish with the workers? Not so far as can be ascertained. The owners are willing to risk their ships for the sake of the huge profits secured but when it comes to pooling their lives with the lives of the working class, they "pass" every time. They would much rather sit in their leather covered chairs and watch the bulletins concerning the arrival of their boats at the various ports on the way down.

The safety of the ships and their cargoes is the only matter which gives them any concern. If a man was washed overboard in a storm and a life preserver was thrown to him their thoughts would rest on the loss of the life preserver more than on the man.

But this season the grim reaper took men, boats and cargoes in his sweep, and the vessel combine is weeping salt tears for the loss of their profit-making machines.

A huge vessel is built by the companies and is called a "modern" product. "Modern" in vessel building means a larger hull, and carrying capacity utilized to the last inch. Safety is a minor consideration, which is surely shown by the fact that the great bulk of vessels destroyed in the recent storm were of the latest type, while the out-of-date, small old-timers weathered the storm in safety.

The harvest of death reaped from the working class both on land and sea for the sake of profits is growing larger each year. Capitalism and big business demand huge profits, and the slaughter of the workers is of no consideration in the frantic game of grab by transportation companies the world over.

The politicians at Ottawa know as much about railroad and marine transportation as a hen does of next year's calendar, yet you vote such people to power and they allow the hogs of commerce to sacrifice the lives of your class weekly, daily, hourly. Yet when voting time comes around again, you fall for their spellbinders and send the same class of mutts to power to do the will of the masters for another term. Who are the goats?

The recent disaster in the Welsh coal mines has added two hundred widows to the poverty of England. The toll of life taken for the sake of profits is increasing year by year.

The dog eat dog system of the capitalists finds its victims among the working class. They slave and toil and die for the sake of profits for the master, and their widows and children cry for bread in the gutter of the slums.