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Cotton's Weekly

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Another Socialist Killer

Two letters from Cornwall, Ont., arrived at Cotton's the same day, containing the report of a speech against Socialism delivered in that slave city of long hours and low wages. At the invitation of the Knights of Columbus, J. A. Tailleau delivered a lecture on "Socialism." The Cornwall Standard of January 8th considered this address so remarkable that it devoted over a column to reporting it. Let our readers take the lecture too seriously, we may state he is a student for the priesthood, and gets his intellectual pabulum from the Ottawa university.

Tailleau began by referring to the Socialist "disturber" who visited Cornwall a few years ago and got a cool reception. This refers to Comrade Cunningham, who was presented from speaking on Socialism by the chief police bull of swayed Cornwall. The masters did not want Socialism discussed as their workers might learn something of the horrible slavery they endure. And even now the memory rankles in the youthful breast of Tailleau.

Tailleau declared that thousands of street corner speakers were scattered throughout the American continent. Glad he recognizes that the movement is alive and vigorous. Of course Tailleau could not get away from the stereotyped phrases, so asserted that Socialism would destroy the existing natural order, religion, the family, the state, and in the end would strive to change the very nature of the individual himself.

Is it not a great idea, Tailleau, a student for the priesthood, a man who will never marry, one who will live an easy life, hearing the confessions of women in secret alone with them talking about all sorts of forbidden things, this unmarried fellow talking about Socialism breaking up the family? It is to laugh.

Socialism aims at giving the workers the full social value of the wealth they create. This so scares Tailleau that he sees blue ruin. What kind of religion will Socialism abolish? It will not abolish any religion which wants to see good homes, and well-clothed, happy, care free children. A religion that wants man to be free and happy and women to have comforts and no worries, that wants justice removed and life to be glorified for humanity, has no fear from Socialism. What kind of dark, dismal religion are you thinking of, Tailleau, that you are afraid it will be destroyed?

Tailleau is afraid Socialism will abolish religion, because religion to him, draws rich and poor together, and religion is based on authority. Hence Socialism will abolish religion.

Poor Tailleau. The little fellow should go somewhere where he can learn logic. The Quakers were very religious people, and yet would not tolerate authority. And as for drawing rich and poor together, why Socialism will draw them so tight together that the rich will cease to be rich and the poor will cease to be poor and they will become brothers.

Tailleau draws an awful picture of life under Socialism. Under Socialism, according to him, the state would dictate to a man what he should wear, what he should eat, where he should work, etc., and at the same time, Socialism will have abolished the state. Really the Ottawa college professors must be weak on common sense if that is the kind of logic they teach their students.

Tailleau is a fledgling hardly out of the nest. But he is a fine type of the anti-Socialist lecturer. He has got now so he can make himself passably ridiculous when speaking, and if he keeps on, he will be able to rival such anti-Socialist lecturers as Father Donnelly in absurd and illogical statements.

Degeneration

By Ralph Korngold.

A vender of picture frames, canvassing in the South, knocked on the door of a cotton-mill worker's cabin.

A haggard woman opened, but upon solicitation declined to buy a frame. The canvasser to encourage her, said that her neighbor had just bought one. He received this answer:

"Well, if I had thirteen children like that woman has, I, too, could afford to buy picture frames, but I have only four."

It is needless to say that the thirteen, as well as the four, worked in the cotton mill.

Here, then, is one place where Roosevelt's theory of anti-suicide can find defenders among the working class.

Here, where child labor is prevalent, children are an economic asset.

They count as so many horses or cows or pigs.

But think to what extent parents must have degenerated to be able to take that view of their own children.

Yet, this poor woman is not to blame. She is a victim of economic conditions and the environment they create.

The wages of adults are so small in the cotton mill districts of the South that there is a strong temptation to send children to work, especially when the opportunity is provided.

Furthermore, everybody in her neighborhood did the same. She herself had no doubt worked in the cotton mill when a little girl. It seemed to her the natural order of things.

But what do you think of a system which makes possible such monstrous conditions—which not only snatches the child from school, but actually kills the parent's love and makes them regard their off-spring as so many little animals born into the world to labor almost from the time they are old enough to toddle about?

And what do you think of a political party, calling itself the party of the common people, which puts its stamp of approval upon these conditions by persistently refusing to pass child labor laws for the protection of the children of the South?

Moral: Socialism will break up the home.

Toronto papers now admit 15,000 unemployed in Toronto and say the worst is yet to come. The 15,000 is a "Conservative estimate." The workers want work and cannot get it. They starve. The mills stand idle which the workers could use to produce wealth and thus abolish poverty. Capitalism, because profits are not in sight, sends tens of thousands of the workers into idleness and starvation. Under a sane system of collective ownership and production for use instead of for profit, the misery of unemployment would not exist.

Butchers Get More Pay

A Militia Gazette issued at Ottawa on January 3rd, announced a new scale of pay for officers of the active militia and privates when on active service as follows:—

Colonel or Lieutenant-Colonel \$5 per diem; Major, \$4 per diem; Captain, \$3 per diem; Lieutenant, (qualified or provisional), \$2 per diem; Paymaster and Quartermaster, \$3 per diem; adjutant, in addition to pay rank, 50 cents per diem; brigade, regimental or Staff Sergeant-Major, \$1.85 per diem; brigade, regimental or Staff Sergeant-Major, if warrant officer, \$2 per diem; brigade, regimental or Staff Sergeant-Quartermaster Sergeant \$1.60; orderly room sergeant, \$1.50; pay sergeant, \$1.50; squad, battery, \$1.60; squad, battery, troop or company, quartermaster sergeant, \$1.50; farrier sergeants, \$1.50; sergeants, \$1.60; corporal, \$1.10; bombardiers or second corporals, \$1.05 privates, gunners, sappers, drivers, batmen, etc., \$1.

When on temporary duty for more than seven days, outside camp, the following rates to cover all expenses are allowed:—

East of Port Arthur: Colonel or lieutenant-colonel, \$3; west of Port Arthur, \$3.50. East of Port Arthur, major, \$2.50; west of Port Arthur, \$3.

East of Port Arthur, captain or lieutenant, \$2.25; west of Port Arthur, \$2.75.

East of Port Arthur, warrant officer, \$1.75; west of Port Arthur, \$2.50.

East of Port Arthur, non-commissioned officers not below rank of sergeant, \$1.50; west of Port Arthur, \$2.25.

East of Port Arthur, rank and file, \$1.00; west of Port Arthur, \$1.75.

The Socialists preach economic determinism, which means that men are guided by their economic interests to a very large extent. Many persons in the pay of the master class hold up their hands in holy horror at the materialist Socialists for preaching such a doctrine. The master class put these holy howlers on the back for denouncing us, and at the same time the master class practise economic determinism.

We are coming on parlous times in Canada. In Regina the master exploiters are shaking in terror at what they consider the red terror of the unemployed who in that city refuse to die of starvation peacefully and without objection. The masters are calling frantically for troops and martial law.

In Saskatchewan, the farmers are banding together to fight the implement sharks. Collection agents have been beaten up and the fines of the assaults have been paid out of a common fund raised by the farmers. The implement barons no doubt will call for a squad of troops to accompany their collection agents when they visit their farmer victims.

The pay of the trooper has not been high. So the masters raise it. If they cannot get a trooper for \$1, why pay him \$1.75 and his keep. If this price will not attract a sufficient number of low creatures ready to shoot their fellow workers in time of strike, why pay \$2 or \$2.50.

As long as you workers vote for the soulless Borden and Lauriers, you can expect to get your bellies full of lead and nickel when you cry for bread.

The South African Crisis

During the Boer war, when victory perched on the arms of the British troops, many British workers went mad with joy. An orgy of celebration broke loose in London and other large centres. "We" had won. "Our" rights were now protected against the Boer transgressors. Many a British lad laid his bones on the African veldt for this victory. And the Diamond Syndicate and the Gold Ring rejoiced cynically.

Now the workers in United South Africa, that "another little patch of red," so jubilantly sung by the poet, are finding out what the British Tommies did for.

The railwaysmen struck against a reduction in wages. Premier Botha, one of the so-called rebels, is premier of South Africa and a tool of the Rand magnates whose schemes have drenched South Africa in blood.

When the railroad strike was pulled off, Botha called the militia out. These are the Boer farmers who were shot by the British for the sake of millionaire greed. The foolish farmers have responded.

With the calling out of the Boer militia, the workers have responded with a general strike. Botha has replied:

By declaring martial law.

By establishing a press censorship as strict as in war time.

By ordering all strikers to keep to their homes.

By ordering all strikers suspected of dynamiting to be shot on the spot.

By forbidding the strikers to be assisted by funds from other workers, or by supplies, or in any other manner.

By arresting the union officials and flinging them into jail.

By breaking up all meetings in union halls, with cannon directed at the doors of the union halls.

Botha has declared that when he gets through, there will be no more strikes in South Africa for a generation.

Do you remember how the Canadian contingents sailed to South Africa from our shores?

Do you remember seeing the Strathcona murderers parading our cities before going to Africa?

How many of you workers felt that Canada was doing something worth while.

This is the logical outcome.

It is to allow such dastardly outrages as Botha is perpetrating upon the workers of South Africa that Borden is howling for Canada to supply murder ships to the capitalists of Britain, and Laurier despatched troops to South Africa.

What is being meted to your fellow workers in Africa will be meted to you in Canada.

Botha is an "imperial" statesman, and so is Borden.

The workers have nothing to hope from their masters or the politicians of their masters.

The workers of the world must rely upon themselves for their own protection.

In Socialism is their only hope.

A correspondent writes that now they have a white B.C.—snow has fallen over the province.

Five Dollars a Day

Henry Ford, of the Ford Motor Company, Detroit, Mich., which employs 22,000 wage workers, has announced that commencing with January 12th of the present year, there will be put in force a profit sharing scheme. Hereafter every male worker over 22 years of age will be granted a minimum wage of \$5 per day of eight hours. It is expected that ten million dollars will be added to the wage bill the coming year.

The Ford Motor Company is the maker of a popular priced automobile, selling for about \$550 in the United States. This has brought the automobile within reach of many of the petty bourgeoisie and some hundreds of thousands of cars have been sold. Profits have been enormous, Henry Ford, who is a radical, declares that those who helped make his fortune should share in the benefits arising from the business.

At once the capitalist press has taken alarm. The Montreal Telegraph, edited by W. S. Fielding, former Liberal Minister of Finance, points out that the Ford Company has been the pioneer of the cheap automobile. Now that it is committed to heavy dividends and enormous wages, the other companies will see what tremendous profits there are in this line of production, the field will be invaded by other companies paying ordinary wages, and the Ford company will either have to curtail their wage payments and profits to meet the competition, or go out of business. Then there will be strikes and bitterness when the curtailing process is established.

This is the stock liberal argument about competition. Fielding has never outgrown the notions of petty production. He has never risen to modern viewpoints. We can rest assured that a keen business man like Ford, playing the capitalist game on the ground floor, knows what he is doing.

The Ford motor company will become the most efficient of any on the American continent. Already some thousands of workers have stood in line at the Detroit factory gates waiting for a job many hours. When told there were no jobs for them, they became enraged, surged into the grounds and hurled missiles at the windows and did other damage before the authorities quelled their baffled hopes now turned to anger. As it has been announced that those spending their wages contrary to the intentions of the profit-sharing trust will be eliminated, the Ford Company will soon have the pick of the workers of America. The most perfect slaves, mentally and physically, that a five dollar a day pay can attract will eventually be gathered together.

As Henry Ford has beaten all the capitalists of the U.S. in producing the cheapest car with efficiency, so he will beat all the capitalists of America in getting together the most perfect group of efficient wage workers.

High prices do not necessarily mean huge profits.

Cheap wages do not necessarily mean huge profits.

Huge profits frequently come from high wages and low-selling product.

Profits frequently come from the large output at a moderate price by high-priced workers with the aid of giant machinery, for which put here is an eager purchasing community.

However, a question arises which confounds the opponents of Socialism. If \$5 dollars a day of eight hours to workers will not destroy religion, break up the family and create immorality, how will Socialism, which aims to give the workers the equivalent social value of A.I., the wealth they create, produce such terrible conditions as our opponents say Socialism will?

Our opponents talk nonsense.

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Knighly Honors

Every New Year's day, a few Canadians, prominent in the political, judicial, or financial service of the parasitic capitalists of Canada, (or maybe they are labor skimmers themselves) are granted knightly honors by His Gracious Majesty, King George the Fifth.

When these honors are granted, the capitalist papers give the portraits of the happy recipients, tell of their services to the country—which means labor skimmers, and humbly genuflect before these gentlemen whom the king is delighted to honor. The king is held up to be the fountain of honor, from whose kingly recognition for merit the titles are presumed to flow.

Capitalism lives on shams, and this is one of the shams.

In old days, the king was great in power. He had to be cunning and strong, or else some rebellious noble would rise, hack off his head and himself assume the kingly dignity.

In those days it was great sport to be king. Now this has changed. Nascent capitalism clipped the king's power. Arrogant capitalism has made him a puppet.

A few years ago in Britain the House of Lords stood between the king and his House of Commons. This barrier has been rendered rotten and of little use.

The capitalist class run the elections, elect their henchmen to parliament, and the king is now largely a rubber stamp used to affirm the decisions and wishes of the Asquith cabinet. Should Asquith go to defeat the rubber stamp would be at the command of the Bonar Law cabinet and affirm its decisions and wishes.

Elections cost money. Campaign funds have to be raised. The capitalist class do not like to pay out money without some equivalent. It is true they have to maintain their class government, and must come forward with the money, but when an individual parasite pays over cold cash for the interest of the whole capitalist class, he wants some individual reward. So he bargles for a title—and gets it.

The Right Hon. P. E. Smith, a British Tory M.P., speaking to his constituents at Liverpool, declared that the Liberal Ministers had sold, degraded, and prostituted party honors with the openness of a tariff and an exhibition of price which had never been known in any civilized country to give a Sir here, a Baronetcy there, a Lordship to so-and-so in return for a cash contribution to the Liberal reptile fund according to a fixed tariff.

P. E. Smith, being a Tory, is provoked at the Liberals selling honors, but when the Tories were in power, the same scandals were aired over the granting of titles by the Tories for party funds.

Capitalism puts up all things for sale. Woman's honor, the daily toil of the wage slave, quarts of blood in hospitals. The selling of honors from the king is in perfect accord with the system which raises the cash nexus to the highest honors in the community.

Let it not be thought that this sale of honors is confined to Britain.

John H. Burnham, M.P. for Peterboro, Ont., will reintroduce his bill at Ottawa to abolish honorary titles in Canada. He would do away with the system whereby recommendations for knighthood are made by the Canadian cabinet. Burnham holds that if the King would honor anyone, let him do so on his own free will.

Foolish Burnham.

Does he not know that the capitalist government at Ottawa wants party funds? Does he not know that if the Canadian cabinet did not recommend prominent Canadians for knightly honors, the British Cabinet would?

Does he not know that the only difference would be that the cash for the recommendation would be paid to the British reptile political fund instead of to the Canadian political reptile fund?

And John H. Burnham should know that no Canadian politician will let a wad of campaign money get away from him simply as that.

Whenever we see a Sir, or a Lord granted to a Canadian, the question which arises in our curious mind, the question we would like to propound to the allegedly happy recipient of the honor is: "Now just how much cash did they separate from you for that title?"

The Spur

By Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

I asked the rock beside the road what joy existence lent.

It answered, "For a million years my heart has been content."

I asked the juggle-seeking swine, as rooting by he went.

"What is the key-note of your life?" He grunted out, "Content."

I asked a slave, who toiled and sang, just what his aching meant.

He plodded on his changeless way, and said, "I am content."

I asked a plutocrat of greed, on what his thoughts were bent.

He dinked the silver in his purse, and said, "I am content."

I asked the mighty forest tree from whence its force was sent.

Its thousand branches spake as one, and said, "From discontent."

I asked the message speeding on, by what great law was sent.

God's secret from the waves of space. It said, "From discontent."

I asked the marble, where the work of God and man were bent.

What brought the statue from the block. It answered, "Discontent."

I asked an Angel, looking down on earth with gaze intent.

How man should rise to larger growth. Quoth he, "Through discontent."

A vote for the two old parties can bring you nothing but continued poverty and misery.