

TILL WE WIN FIGHT ON

Enthusiasm Prevails. Striking Garment Workers of Toronto Upheld by Union

IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR FAIR TREATMENT

By Special Correspondent from Toronto.

Toronto is a city where patriotism and loyalty are published broadcast; where Imperialism is shouted from the housetops, and capitalism set on a pedestal. Is it any wonder that the workers are abjectly crawling at the feet of their masters for jobs and throwing all sense of decency to the winds in order to "keep in with the boss"? They are so blind to their own interests, so utterly ignorant of their value, that TORONTO TOILERS ARE LARGELY DISORGANIZED AND ARE CONSEQUENTLY AT THE MERCY OF THE CAPITALISTS AND THEIR SLAVE-DRIVERS.

Some few, comparatively speaking, are organized into Unions and are bravely fighting against great odds. Among these are the International Ladies Garment Workers. This union is staunchly supporting the strikers at Gordon Mackay's, 58 Front St. West. Cutters, finishers, pressers and operators are striving to obtain fair treatment in this factory. Who are more entitled to decency, to the sacredness of promises, to a life higher than a beast of burden, if not the working class? Do they not produce all wealth? Who sweats under the burden of world-production, if not the working class?

Certainly the masters, living in mansions of brick and stone, dining at tables well-supplied with good things, clothed in the best of materials and waited on by deft servants, do not seem to be suffering. They are not emaciated from hunger. They are not broken-down with excessive toil. They are not crowding the doors of hospitals, sanitariums, work-houses and asylums. The toilers, the owned, the sweated, the driven, the crushed, the oppressed of the world, these and these alone bear "the heat and burden of the day." Yet these are the ones who are insulted at the caprice of a master or his hired "boss," cheated at will, and blindfolded. Any sophistry, any deception, any lie, any broken promise can be crammed down the throat of a worker.

Ten weeks ago Baker, the manager of the "Puritan" cloak and skirt department in Gordon Mackay's, devised a scheme to rid the company of the Union men who came in there last fall. They were given a nine days' holiday with the hope that they'd come back separately to beg for the work that means food and clothing and shelter for their families. The men saw through Baker's little game and decided to wait out in a body.

In the meantime work was piling up inside and orders for goods became pressing. On the second day of the enforced "vacation" the manager sent for three men to come back up to the factory to make "specials." These men, true to their compact, refused to accept this "favor" as it could not be shared by all. Baker then asked for a committee from the union men. They promised a committee, representing cloak and skirt operators, finishers and pressers, who should arrange with the managers the prices to be paid. His little artifice was laid bare for as soon as prices were settled the men were called back to work before the nine days were up. The Union men had proved too sharp for the sharper.

The first week after their return to work all was quiet; but in the second week new methods of squeezing profits out of the operators and pressers were begun. Baker offered to have all the sleeves put in for the operators if they'd agree to do without the 5 cents per garment formerly paid them for binding. They were satisfied with what seemed a fair exchange. A week or two later a charge of 2 1/2 cents for a pair of sleeves was made. The loss of 5 cents for binding and this new charge made a difference of 7 1/2 cents per garment, or a loss of from \$1.20 to 50 cents a week in the pay envelopes.

Then the prices settled by manager and committee were tampered with. One garment's price had been set at 90 cents but when pay envelopes were opened the operators found they had only received 70 cents, a clear drop of 20 cents per garment. On the committee's requesting an explanation they were recommended to go to the infernal regions.

The Union did not want to call a strike as they are loyally supporting their Cleveland brothers. However, they were forced to by Baker's further injustice, this time to the pieces.

These latter had been on piece-work prices having been settled by pressers and Baker. One day he came to them and said that all must go on "week work." In answer to the very pertinent question, "How much will you give us?" a novel method was shown.

If a man earned \$16 he had to give in tags for \$18, or each man had to show \$2 worth more than he'd get per week. The puzzled pressers asked "How can we do this if we don't know the prices?" The manager again expressed his hatred for these Union men by, "Well if you don't like this place, go to hell."

This time he would listen to no committee from the operators—would have no dealings with them at all. So the Union was forced to call a strike. Forty-five men and girls have been out on strike for eight weeks.

The International Ladies Garment Workers' Union have two Locals in Toronto, No. 14 and 92. The united membership is over 100 and all of these are staunchly supporting the plucky men on strike. They have taxed themselves to support financially those workers not permitted to have even the semblance of freedom—men giving 50 cents a week and girls 25 cents. The moral support is equally helpful as evidenced by every mass meeting of the Union where enthusiasm reigns, and by the unflinching energy of the Executive Committee.

While it is very encouraging to see such unity among the Union workers we are disgusted to find that our Canadian girls are not unwilling to slave "faithfully" and "diligently" at the very work our Jewish comrades who are in the overwhelming majority in this Union would scorn to touch.

CANADIAN BIGOTRY

Hatred of Foreigners! No Chinese Needed. Strike broken by Girls.

In Toronto the robbed garment-workers, who could not obtain the fulfillment of a single promise, have struck in Gordon Mackay's. Many attempts have been made to have this strike settled, but there seems to be no "honor among thieves." Baker, the manager, breaks his word continually. He said to the committee that waited on him, that all workers would be taken back. This settlement was not satisfactory to the firm. Now, when another committee, composed of Norman Williams, President of the Trades and Labor Council, Justice of the Peace Cohen, and Harris went to the firm in an attempt to reach an amicable settlement, the firm's answer was, "Mr. Baker has all power to settle as he likes." Mr. Harris says he spoke to the firm and found them willing to settle the strike as they did not like the annoyance.

Mr. Baker, however, is not suffering any pecuniary loss. The strike is opportune for him in that his promise "to make good" this season need not be fulfilled now. Meantime the "Puritan Skirt" Factory of Gordon Mackay's is crippled in spite of the many advertisements in Toronto papers. One presser and a head-presser, four finishers and two operators have gone out. Not even ten coats can be put through some days. Baker can speculate with the firm's money for a time. Baker will soon go if he cannot grind out sufficient profits for his masters.

Who takes the place of the workers in this factory? In British Columbia, when miners rise up in rebellion against the shameful conditions, Chinese are brought into the mines. In this and other Western provinces, Japs, Hindoos, and Indians fill the places of the white toilers because they live on cheaper food and under such intolerable conditions no white people can stand it. Half-castes, ignorant, poverty-stricken and oppressed, slave in Southern mill-yards, plantation fields and swamps.

No nation is supposed to be so advanced as the British nation, no race so progressive as the white. BUT HERE IN TORONTO NO CHINESE, NO HINDOOS, NO JAPS, NO INDIANS, NO BLACKS, NO FOREIGNERS NEED BE IMPORTED. WHITE GIRLS AND MEN OF BRITISH BIRTH BREAK THE STRIKES. Capitalists need not take the trouble to send to other lands for scabs. WE HAVE THEM ALWAYS READY IN TORONTO. LOYAL, PATRIOTIC CANADIANS, ANXIOUS TO KEEP THEIR JOBS, REFUSE TO GO OUT WITH STRIKERS who are brave enough to struggle for human treatment. CANADIAN GIRLS ARE HANDED WORK THAT JEWISH GIRLS REFUSE TO DO. They are so selfish that they have refused the Union offers. This union realizes that as they are Jewish, racial and religious prejudices are animating the girls to take their places and to decline to go out on strike with Jews. In view of this fact, these Jewish unionists made a very fair offer of five dollars per week to single workers who would go on

strike with them, and ten dollars a week to any having someone to support. This was to be done until these operators and finishers found jobs, or till the strike was won, when these non-unionist girls would be taken back with the unionist strikers.

These girls have been approached by members of the Suffrage League and have been shown the injustice of their act in taking the places of these family men who cannot live on ten dollars per week, a wage that is considered exceptionally good by a single girl.

OH TORONTO WORKING WOMEN, WHY BE SO BLIND, SO SELFISH SO HEARTLESS! SHAME ON THE VAUNTED WARMTH OF WOMANLY HEARTS IF JEWISH WORKINGMEN CAN BE REPLACED BY CHEAP FEMALE LABOR!

ENTHUSIASM PREVAILS

Police Ready to Arrest Strikers on Short Notice.

On Tuesday night strike benefits were paid to the men and girls who

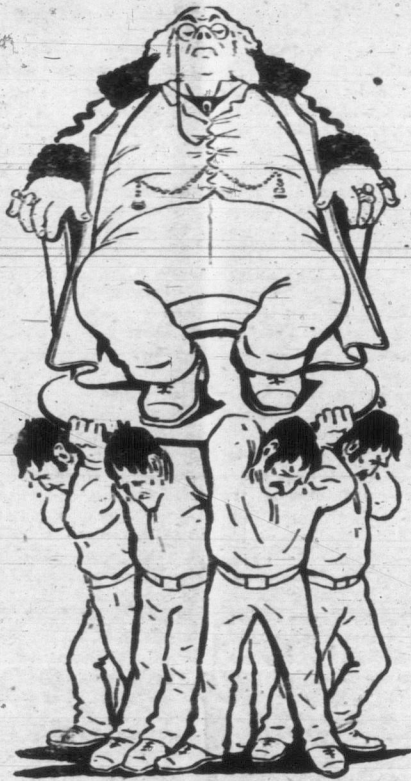
This firm has taken on new workers since, who insult the Union pickets, one even spitting in a picket's face. Strikers are discouraged in every way by the firm but are as sturdily firm as before. "Keep on! We'll help you!" is the cry of the Union.

Policemen treat pickets as though they were suspicious characters, addressing them like beasts, and following them across the roads to vacant spaces. Pickets are wise enough to be chary of making trouble.

Two trials will take place in September of Union men charged with assaulting scabs. Speedy arrests can be made of Unionists. When the company wants a warrant it is easy to get it even for someone they can't identify. When Vice-Chairman Berger was assaulted no warrant or summons could be obtained.

Two weeks ago officers accompanied a wounded scab to the Zion Hall and arrested two men he "thought" assaulted him. At the preliminary hearing of this case and at another one of alleged assault by strikers, witnesses disagreed and even the

CAPITAL AND LABOR



So long as they please
I will sit at my ease
And enjoy all the comfort wealth brings,
For, between you and me,
The \$\$\$ you see
Are really "Capital" things.
Just fancy, my boy,
The great ease I enjoy
Without effort at all on my part;
They are fools, I admit,
To serenely submit;
But then, they don't take it to heart!
If they did, I'm afraid—
Well, the least that is said
"Twill be all the better for me"
And so long as they bend
Their heads downward, my friend,
They'll never be able to see!

are out on strike at the Puritan Skirt Co., one of the departments of the Gordon Mackay Co., 58 Front St. W. All members of the Union are convinced of the righteousness of the fight and are keeping up the self-imposed tax of fifty cents per week for every man in the Union and twenty-five cents for every girl.

"Keep up the strike till we win" is their cry.

One might put all this enthusiastic generosity down to mere sympathy. You are mistaken if you do. This work is being carried on by class-conscious toilers who realize that SOLIDARITY MEANS SUCCESS and that a victory won by these fifty strikers means a victory for all.

Ex-Chairman S. Gordon is now Organizer for the Union and leads the strikers with firm determination that under his leadership no defeat will be experienced.

On July 18th the Gordon Mackay Co., was interviewed by a committee from the Trades and Labor Council. President Norman Williams and two of the Union Executive Committee made an attempt to reach a settlement.

The firm wants to keep all the scabs in their factory so that prices can be beaten down again after the strikers have gone back into the factory. Of course this clear-sighted Union refused to do this. Again they declared their steadfast determination to keep on in this brave struggle.

plaintiffs failed to identify the prisoners.

Speedy action can be taken for prosecution of Unionists but the Union can not get justice when hired slugs attack the strikers.

BRAVE UNIONISTS KEEP ON.

Two New Leaflets

Election on. Now is the time to push propaganda. Cotton's has just published "The True Purpose of the Boy Scout Movement," 4 pages 7 x 11 inches, splendid cartoon, with anti-military matter. "Get off Our Backs," with large illustration, same size, and "Socialism Defined," by Chas. Kerr. Biggest thing in leaflets yet done. Price, 25 cents per 100 copies; \$1.25 per 500 copies; \$2.25 per 1,000.

Sir Allan Aylesworth, Minister of Justice, is retiring from his job. He is deaf and suffers from neuralgia. He goes but the evil he did lives after him. The Appeal to Reason still has to pay a cent a copy postage in coming into Canada. Timothy Candy is dead. Let us hope that Canada will not be again disgraced by such a reactionary Minister of Justice.

A report declares that J. H. Ash-down, millionaire hardware merchant, will probably be the Liberal candidate in Winnipeg. The capitalists know how to rush to get hold of the political power so that laws may be passed lambasting labor. How they hope that the workingman will not learn the power that lies in political action.

MANIFESTO OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY

BERLIN LOCAL

TO THE WORKERS

With many of you this is the first manifesto of the SOCIALIST PARTY that has fallen into your hands. It may not please you, but we request that you CAREFULLY READ AND DIGEST IT. As we are living in an age where all things express themselves politically, it is the political situation we want you to WEIGH AND CONSIDER.

CLASSES

Society today is divided into TWO DISTINCT CLASSES. A minority property owning class (capitalists) and a majority propertyless slave class (workers.) He who owns, rules.

In every age the ruling class received their power through ownership. Chattel slavery—owners of chattel slaves. Feudalism—owners of land. Capitalism—owners of mills, mines, factories, railroads and the natural resources, in short, the means of wealth production.

Now you will begin to understand, why, we find SOCIETY DIVIDED INTO CLASSES. The owning class becoming ever fewer and more wealthy and therefore more powerful. The working class (manual and mental wage and salaried workers, farmers included) ever larger, greater in numbers.

The Capitalist Class are the RULING CLASS and as such mould the ideals of the people. They dictate the views, beliefs and moral standards of the general community; because they are able to control and direct all the agencies and instrumentalities by which public opinion is formed and expressed. They control the Schools, the Press and the Pulpit, the THREE principle avenues of moulding public opinion. PATRIOTISM, loyalty, flag worship and reverence for the powers that be, the safeguarding of vested rights, such as the so-called high ideals held up by our politicians, preachers, college professors and editors, all with the expressed purpose of prolonging your misery, with the capitalist as your master and you the slave class.

WEALTH PRODUCTION

Now, it is the working class alone that makes possible any form of human society, because it is solely by the labor of that class that the resources of the earth are converted into form suitable for the sustenance of human kind. It is the presence of this useful portion of human society that gives railroads, factories, mines, steamships, towns and cities all the boasted wealth of the world that is expressed in money, its Value. In spite of all this wealth produced, the WORKING CLASS IS PRACTICALLY WITHOUT WEALTH.

CAPITAL

These miserable conditions have grown up in the past one hundred and fifty years. Capital has come into existence. In a material sense CAPITAL PRODUCES NOTHING. Its sole function is to take the wealth produced by labor. To carry out this function the owners of capital need but to own the resources of the earth (land, forests, mines) and the instruments (factories, mills, railroads) by means of which labor converts those resources into shape suitable for the satisfaction of human needs.

The owners of capital, although not responsible for these conditions, have become PARASITIC. With no other form of ownership to conform to, they must of necessity sit upon the backs of the workers, until the working class get sense enough to hoist them.

RECIPROCITY NOT REAL ISSUE

The issue at stake during this election is plain. Shall capital continue to rule and labor remain enslaved or shall LABOR ASSERT THE RIGHT TO ITS PRODUCT and exploitation cease? This is the issue. Make no mistake about it. It will remain the issue until human slavery is forever abolished.

It is true that Reciprocity is made the issue in the impending election, but Reciprocity cannot affect the workers as long as they are subject to wages. RECIPROCITY IS AN ISSUE BETWEEN OWNERS OF CAPITAL. Of what importance to Canadian workers by what bunch of capitalists they are exploited? What matter though they be American, Canadian, German or French? A Chinaman can buy stocks on the market and reap the benefit of your toil, although he may not have seen the industry in which you slave.

If Reciprocity comes as in all probability it will, the scrap will be on between American and Canadian owners of capital and the strongest will survive. THE REAL ISSUE IS TO EXPLOIT CANADIAN LABOR, no matter of what nationality, creed or color. Wealth today is a social product, produced by the collective industry of labor and labor is exploited collectively by the collective owners of capital.

Fellow workers—do not permit yourselves to be SIDE-TRACKED on this Reciprocity cry. You are the property of your master as much as a chattel slave ever was.

Every worker who votes for a Conservative candidate, every worker who votes for a Liberal candidate, is casting a vote to prolong his misery and by his action declares to his master, that he is proud to be a slave.

TO CHANGE CONDITIONS

To change these conditions you must INVADE THE LEGISLATIVE HALLS. You must send members of your own class to represent your class interest. The Socialist Party is the ONLY PARTY that stands to abolish capital. We appeal to you to unite in a solid political party and by POLITICAL ACTION take possession of the government, abolish the capitalist system with its Interest, Rents and Profits and establish a Co-operative Commonwealth in which the whole means of production shall become the COLLECTIVE OR COMMON PROPERTY OF ALL THE PEOPLE each person having full and free access to them and receive in return the full social value of the product of his toil.

The ruling class have IMPOSED A FINE OF TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (they call it a deposit.) Failing to receive half as many votes as the winning candidate the deposit is forfeited. The Socialist Party in this electoral district have decided not to run a candidate at this election. Its mission is to educate the workers to a consciousness of their class position in society and point out the necessity of a political revolution as the only means of freeing themselves from the galling chains of wage slavery.

"Who would be free themselves must strike the blow." Every worker who desires to stand forth free, should GO TO THE POLLS on September 21st, and write "SOCIALISM" across his ballot, better to vote for what you want, even though you do not get it, than to vote for what you don't want and get it.

To understand the new science of sociology "Socialism" you must become a student. We invite you to our hall every second and forth Wednesday in each month, No. 9 Queen St. South, third floor. 8 p. m.

Subscribe for Cotton's Weekly, Cowansville, P. Q. 50c per year, 25c 6 months and Western Clarion. Monthly Magazine, Vancouver, B. C., 57c Homer-Richards Lane. \$1.00 per year.

The above Manifesto is being issued by Local Berlin for distribution in their constituency, and is good propaganda for Socialists in any constituency where a Socialist candidate is not running. It can be obtained from Cotton's Weekly as a neat 4-page pamphlet for \$1.50 per thousand; \$1.00 per 500. Name of local and date and place of meeting will be printed on the back.

Paid in Advance

This paper is paid for. If you have not subscribed, a friend has. No bill will be rendered, and the paper will be promptly discontinued when the subscription expires.

Eugene V. Debs is to speak in the high school auditorium, Niagara Falls, N. Y., on Wednesday, Oct. 11th.

Socialist candidates wanting lists of the post offices in their constituencies, can obtain same from Cotton's Weekly.

Say, do you really believe all that guff the Tories talk? And say, do you believe all that guff the Liberals talk?

OUR LEADER—100 Letterheads on good white bond, \$1.25; 50 for \$1.50 250 for \$1.50. This is first-class printing, and express prepaid to your place of business. Cotton's Co-operative Publishing Co., Inc., Cowansville, P.Q. Send line of samples on request.

COTTON'S WEEKLY is published in the interests of Socialism by Cotton's Co-operative Publishing Company, Inc., Cowansville, P. Q. W. E. Corcoran, General Manager and Editor. E. A. Wilson, Sec.-Treas. and Business Manager.