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This is No. 300

# Cotton's Weekly

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Established Dec. 3rd, 1908  
ROY WILSON, Associate Editor

Published Every Week at Cowansville, P. Q., Canada. Thursday, June 11th, 1914

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 printed and posted the following number of copies:-

18,600

## THE UNEMPLOYED

The unemployed are with us. The workers seek a job and cannot find it.

In Montreal, five thousand unemployed gathered on the Champs de Mars and demanded work. The committee of the unemployed visited the mayor and he referred them to the city council. They visited the city council. The councillors sat around the council board, fat and contented. They were respectable and prosperous. They sneered at the committee, sneered at the unemployed. And outside the unemployed stood, hungry and desperate. The look of despair was in their eyes. Instead of sneering the councillors should have been afraid. For hungry men are the greatest danger confronting the property-holding class of a city.

The city council turned down the unemployed, but took other action. The police are stopping the open air meetings of Socialists. The workers are listening too eagerly to the message of freedom.

In Winnipeg when the unemployed were turned away from the city employment bureau, they went to a vacant lot and held a meeting, members of the unemployed addressing their comrades. The police descended, rained blows on the heads of the unemployed, beat up Joseph Dudar, the speaker, and arrested three men, Dudar, Tyndkowski and Dymak, and charged them with unlawful assembly. These three men will be railroaded to jail by the jackal judges of Winnipeg unless mighty protests are raised.

An unemployed worker dropped off at Field, B.C. The police told him to jump the train for Calgary as there was plenty of work there. At Ogden, just outside of Calgary, eighty workers dropped off the train. The police were unable to handle more than six and these were arrested and let go again as the taxpayers do not care to feed the unemployed in jail.

Socialists say let the workers capture the political power. The Dominion government is pumping in the immigrants and dumping them into Winnipeg. They are to be the slaves of the owners of capital but no job is given them. Let the workers vote the ballot to capture the power, the Dominion government is passing a law raising the time limit for naturalization from three to five years. This is done to keep the immigrant slaves from voting.

The unemployed look for relief. Where shall they get it?

The Socialists of Montreal demanded that the city begin at once the construction of municipal houses.

The Trades and Labor Council of Winnipeg have telegraphed Premier Borden demanding that the government take steps to care for the unemployed.

In Great Britain the Independent Labor Party demands that each worker be guaranteed the right to work.

In the United States the Socialists demand that the government undertake reclamation works to relieve the unemployed.

What policy do the Socialists of Canada adopt with regard to the question? None, so far officially. We aim at the capture of the political power so as to put the capitalist class out of business. This is a grand aim and must not be lost sight of. But in the meantime the workers must live and they will turn to those who promise them immediate assistance, or bend their energies in that direction.

There is the fight for ultimate victory, and there is the day to day battle with the capitalist class for better conditions now, for relief from the galling misery.

If the Socialists would marshal the unemployed of the various cities, show the tremendous waste of energy, the suffering, and DEMAND relief, the capitalist politicians would have to get busy.

As it is, the unemployed suffer, the capitalist press refuse publicity in any adequate manner, and the capitalists continue to rule and deceive.

By active work now the Socialists can show the breakdown of capitalist rule and tear the mask of hypocrisy from the robbers and their political henchmen.

## MUST ACHIEVE THEIR OWN FREEDOM

When the Empress of Ireland went down, the papers were full of the awful wreck. When a mine blows up and kills hundreds of workers, the incident is soon buried. The exploiters travel by sea for pleasure and fear, for their own carcasses. This is a grand aim and must not be lost sight of. But in the meantime the workers must live and they will turn to those who promise them immediate assistance, or bend their energies in that direction.

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## The New Order Brings Pulsing Life

Can you draw enthusiasm from watching a dying person?

Can you know what life is liked by dissecting a corpse?

Can you have a life movement of revolt by dissecting capitalism or watching its death throes?

Karl Marx analyzed the capitalist system. He analysed it to a farcical end. He took the system all to pieces. He showed how it worked. He predicted its death. He declared that out of the old world come a new, a better system.

Marx did not give us pictures of the new state. He engaged in the class struggle. He fought the pretensions of the rulers of his day.

The new system of society is being born now. Every day the old system gets a new shock in some quarter. Every day the new system grows stronger. There is the abolition of the slums, pure milk crusades, strikes for shorter hours, city planning, increasing taxation of the rich, national ownership of natural monopolies like the railways, co-operative societies, unions demanding greater concessions from politicians, unemployed growing cold and invading the churches, the city halls and demanding work, workers unemployed refusing to scab on their employed brothers.

What are you doing? Are you in the dissection class analysing the corpse of capitalism? Are you watching the death throes of the old? Or are you taking part in the new? Are you melancholy through sitting at the bedside of old capitalism or are you joyful in the youth of the co-operative commonwealth? Are you mulling dry bones or is the pulsing life of the new order bringing great joy to you?

**FACING THE ISSUES.**

You, a Socialist, go forth to win the world to the new faith.

You give your time, your energy, your means to the movement. What do you accomplish?

You want the workers to unite for the overthrow of capitalism. You speak of robbery and the workers agree with you. They say the system is rotten and they ask you, "What do you Socialists intend to do?"

You tell them you want the workers to seize the whole political power so they may transform the private ownership of the means of production and distribution into the collective possession of the working class. You are told that is fine, but what are the steps you are going to take now. That is in the future. In the meantime the people want some relief. The workers cry out for redress and you point to ultimate triumph at some future date. You may be asked what will happen when the workers win, what steps will they take to put their political principles into operation, and you say that that will be decided by the workers then. We have heard Socialists say that very thing time and time again.

You appeal for votes and the votes you get are few. You see in a little country like Denmark with six millions of people a Socialist party with twenty-six thousand members and you see in Canada with eight millions of people a Social-Democratic party of four thousand members. No doubt you wonder why it is.

It is not the inability of the average Canadian Socialist speaker to point out the way, the steps of Socialism progress, the reason for the small membership and the few votes we get?

Is the average worker not wise in trusting a party which lays down a broad principle like collective ownership without specifying any steps to be taken to bring it about?

A party which would get the supreme political control merely upon the platform of vesting the ownership of industry in the collective working class would have no program to bring the desirable end about. In the struggle which would ensue to put this end into actual fact, there would be divisions and struggles.

Would it not be well to lay down now the steps to be taken to effect the revolutionary end?

**STEP-AT-A-TIME SOCIALISTS.**

We are perfectly well aware that in some quarters reforms are sneered at. The impossibility heaped contemptuously upon those Socialists who want to accomplish the revolution and are willing to proceed a step at a time.

We have been studying the question a long time. We have been observing and reading and studying results.

Many claim to be firm adherents of Marx. They call themselves Marxian Socialists and then turn down reforms. They say the capitalists will bring about reforms in their own interest. They say our business is to teach the workers. And reforms are left to one side completely in their scheme of propaganda.

Yet Marx in his Communist Manifesto has this to say:

"The proletariat will use its political supremacy to wrest, by degrees, all capital from the bourgeoisie, to centralize all instruments of production in the hands of the state, i. e., of the proletariat organized as the ruling class; and to increase the total of productive forces as rapidly as possible."

## Socialist Movement Prevents War

It is now possible to estimate the respective gains and losses in the French Elections. As we record last week, the Socialist Party has increased its strength from 67 to 101, the reactionary parties of the Centre and the Right have lost 36 seats, whilst the Radicals have held their own. A careful analysis shows that the advocates of the Three Years Military Service scheme have lost 50 seats, though it is doubtful whether the strength of the Socialists and Radicals is sufficiently great to secure an immediate amendment of the law.

In an article on the French elections in the Nation, the Liberal organ edited by Mr. H.W. Massingham, a notable tribute is paid to the influence the International Socialist movement brings to bear on the side of peace.

"To the foreign observer," says the writer, "the really dramatic issue is whether this growing Socialist force, united across frontiers, is at last within sight of forcing a permanent peace upon Europe by conveying pressure from within."

The hundred French Socialists join hands across the Alsatian frontier with the hundred and thirteen Germans. Formidable as their forces already are, they have the impetus which comes from the certainty of future growth. There is something of the stormy petrel in this movement which flies against the wind. Sweden is shaken by an alarm over Russian aggression which to us at least seems by no means unreasonable. But Socialism emerges from a "khaki" election the second strongest party in the country, with almost one-third of the Lower House behind it. Bulgaria, after a year of passion and glory and defeat, finds itself suddenly endowed with a Socialist Party as resolutely anti-militarist and relatively as strong as that of any other civilisation. The better the electoral system, the surer is its growth; as in Sweden and Bulgaria the adoption of proportional representation is certain to increase its forces.

The International Socialist movement, says the Nation, works formidably for peace in two ways. Whilst it is not yet strong enough to prevent the inflation of Budgets by militarism, it is almost everywhere strong enough to transfer the burden of taxation to the shoulders of the ruling classes. Without such a check, the Nation continues, the progress of militarism would be even more devastating than it is. Secondly, whilst the Socialist movement cannot yet prevent the growth of armaments, it does prevent their use.

We believe that the influence of Socialism is now so widespread as to be a check upon any war for any end and save a defence so legitimate and so inevitable that even a Socialist conscience would regretfully approve it. What the Swedish Socialists did to prevent war on Norway, the French and Germans would do for each other.

When Socialists are inclined to be pessimistic, let them take heart from the fact that their opponents acknowledge that already they have made themselves the guardians of the peace of Europe. We want a little more healthy pride in ourselves—British Labor Leader.

The workers get a bare wage. The surplus values created by them surge up to the master class. The masters squabble and fight among themselves to hoar these surplus values each for himself. In the fight some of the capitalists get squeezed out of the hog trough and have to go to work. These examples are held up to show the tremendous risk capitalists ran in managing industry. As the capitalists whine about the risk they undertake Socialists will relieve them of the risk by having the working class take over the management and ownership of industry.

## I See An Army

By Herbert Morrison.

I see an army.

For many years has it marched—its origin is obscured in the far, far distant past; nobody can say from when or where its march commenced; nobody knows who its first generals were. Many are the types of people who have gone to the making of its ranks; chattel slaves and philosophers, outlaws and clergymen, serfs and scientists, intellectuals and men who never went to school, skilled artisans and unskilled laborers, rough men and women, and women and men of culture, dramatists, artists and novelists—all of them have been and are in ranks of this army.

It is the army which never began; it is the army which never ends.

In all the countries of civilization and in all their cities, the soldiers of this army are to be found. They are to be found in all the fights waged for truth, and justice, and freedom; in all the struggles for peace and good will; in all the wars with poverty and destitution; in all the battles for beauty and spiritual elevation; in all the triumphs over tyrants and the power of darkness.

It is the army which never admits defeat, the army of tireless men and women—and even children! Despite obstacles, disappointments and temporary details, the heads of all the soldiers are turned toward the light with souls which are cheered with the optimism of the righteous.

I see an army. It is the army of Red Internationalism.

**The Ecstasy of Christ**

Adown the centuries there peals a voice  
From One who taught to those who will not  
"Curst are the rich, although the world  
is theirs!  
"Curst are the hypocrites of flaunting  
prayers!  
"Curst are the proud oppressors of the  
poor!  
Put up the sword, or with the sword be  
slain!  
Feed ye my lambs, oh, shepherds of my  
fold!  
Then came the tragedy on Calvary:  
Eclipse and darkness and the quaking earth  
While Pilate "washed his hands in innocence"  
Barabbas shook on high his robber-sword;  
And Roman captains boasted of "the Law."  
There yet survive a few who teach that creed  
"Curst are the men who steal the people's  
food!"  
Vain are the prayers of mouths that  
choke with gold!  
Be just, or all your laws are filthy rags;  
Draw not the sword on men who cry for  
bread!  
Scorn not the poor whom ye yourselves  
make poor!"  
And lo, the age-worn tragedy repeats!  
The preachers of that creed, in prison bonds  
Look thro' their wild-head bars with souls  
set free.  
While gross Barabbas of the Trust and Mart  
Feasts at the table of the false High Priest:  
And Pilate, crouching on the indignant seat,  
Shudders at tremblings of the Underworld."  
—F. TREGAR.

The French army has hundreds of ranking officers who are members of the Socialist party organization. At a banquet given in Paris recently by Socialist deputies, in the Chamber, upwards of 100 officers attended. The propaganda of peace is "vigorously received" even among those the capitalist class train for murder.

## No Legislation this Session

Organized and other labor throughout the Dominion will no doubt feel keenly the blow dealt them by the prolonged ill health of the Minister of Labor. According to a recent dispatch from Ottawa the health of the minister is such as to make it impossible for him to introduce any labor legislation this session. It may be the finger of providence pointing a warning to Labor to desist from the disgraceful unemployed riots and other demonstrations shameful to this fair Dominion and which have become only too common, when the only man in the country who has the power to mitigate things somewhat is hardly able to sit up and take a little nourishment. We can only trust for the speedy recovery of Mr. Crothers and fervently hope that, in the meantime, his salary will not be stopped. The following dispatches have not yet been received from Ottawa, and we take the liberty of anticipating them.

**ACCIDENT TO FINANCE MINISTER.**

While leaving his office at the parliament building today, Hon. Mr. White met with a painful, though not serious accident, through tripping over a bundle of decimal fractions, carelessly left on the floor by a clerk. Though as stated, the accident is not a serious one, Mr. White's physician has ordered complete rest for three months. This means of course that the bonuses, subsidies and guarantees of railway bonds cannot be put through this session, as the estimates, etc., for same are not in shape. William and Daniel, when acquainted with the news of the accident, were prostrated.

**MISHAP TO HON. SAM HUGHES MEANS DISBANDMENT OF MILITIA.**

An accident fraught perhaps with serious consequences to the country occurred last evening. Hon. Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia, while inspecting the local militia, was crushed between the front and rear ranks of "Z" Company, 23rd Fusiliers. The accident was due to a mistake in orders (the same kind of thing happened at Balaclava), and while no serious complications are anticipated, the hon. gentleman's medical advisers have insisted on at least two months' abstinence from the duties of his office. As the Colonel always strictly makes the estimates of his department his personal care it follows that until he is well again the militia supplies must be halted, and the defense of the country must be temporarily dissolved. In the meantime the Manufacturers' Association, it is expected, will organize a defensive force of their own.

**SEALING WAX IS COLD.**

The Secretary of State is suffering with writer's cramp. On account of the governor-generalship job becoming vacant at this time much inconvenience will be experienced because the pay cheque cannot come through. Nothing, however, will daunt the ardour of the new man and he will come over seaward rather than not be on hand when the whistle blows.

Grave fears are entertained of the health and staying powers of the watch dogs of the treasury. On the other hand Bill and Dan retain their ever increasing robustness, and the prospects of retaining that \$45,000,000 another week are of the "slimmest"—Winnipeg Voice.

An epidemic of burglaries has struck Westmount, a town bordering on Montreal where many of the capitalist class reside. Hungry men must eat and if the capitalists deny work and wages they must expect their homes to be burglarized. Burglary is a result of the capitalist system.

## EDUCATION

For sixty or seventy years the Socialists have been educating the public.

At first the process was slow. The handful of Socialists around Marx blazed the way. They were set upon by police spies. They were exiled. They were treated as enemies of society.

But because their ideas were right, the dynamic power contained in them worked in society, till now the Socialists are numbered by the tens of millions.

Even those who now oppose Socialism do so half heartedly. They hem and haw. They admit some things in Socialism to be good. And they wax eloquent against things which Socialists do not uphold, such as dividing up, breaking up the home, letting the lazy live off the active, etc.

The capitalists still thrive, carried along by the momentum developed in the system when the system was younger. But the education, the continual hammering, the billions of leaflets and papers distributed, the efforts put forth by Socialists, have created a profound change in the outlook of all nations.

The power to educate on the part of the few early Socialists was extremely limited. Now the education is carried on by thousands of lecturers and soapbox speeches every day. Tens of millions of Socialist pieces are circulated daily, and the volume of education grows day by day, month by month, year by year.

How can society escape such a tremendous educational campaign? It cannot.

The triumph of Socialism is inevitable. The revolution in Mexico is winning out.

For years the Socialist press of the United States has been exposing the misery of the exploitation of the peons.

It has been a fight for land. The landholders in Mexico are fewer than were the landholders in France before the French revolution.

The explosion had to come. The masters have tried to starve it. Diaz has to go. Madero had to go, and Huerta has to go.

The Socialist agitation has been so successful that President Wilson announces that no settlement will be satisfactory which does not give land to the peons.

When this has been accomplished the present revolution which is now more or less overshadowed will loom large. This will be the social revolution.

With the peons on the land, the mines, mills, factories, railways will still be in the hands of the capitalists. It is estimated that the land represents only one-ninth of the wealth of the country.

With the other eight-ninths in the hands of the capitalists, what chance will the peon owners have reaping the fruits of their labor? What chance will the Mexican wage workers have of independence and liberty?

After the feudal revolution comes the social revolution.

Mexico will step into the international arena with a Socialist party fighting the class fight. This party will grow more powerful until capitalism as well as feudalism is abolished.

**THE MASTERS' POWER**

The power of the capitalists appears great. They live in the finest of houses. The press and pulpit are their servants. Obedient legislators make the laws the capitalists desire. Army and courts and police enforce their decrees.

Those who are against them appear to be without power. It is for the masters to say when a worker shall work and when he shall be jobless.

Yet there is no cause to be downcast! The feudal noble appeared to be all powerful and he is dethroned. The slave holder appeared to have tremendous power. The slave who refused to obey was whipped. The slave who ran away was chased with bloodhounds. Yet the slave holder is no more.

The capitalists will be no more in a few years. Their power is crumbling. The spectre of Socialism haunts them. They know their fight to down the movement is doomed to failure.

The masters' power, buttressed by laws, courts, police, army, press, pulpit, is already on the decline. It is threatened and shaken. The hosts of labor press on. Jails may fill with the victims of capitalist rage, and the people sympathise with the jailed.

The henchmen at Ottawa are being more and more viewed in their true light. They are becoming objects of contempt rather than persons of repute. How different from a few years ago when the golden tongued Laurier could stampee an audience.

The bulk of the fight is over. It is now a question of the coalescence of the forces of revolution and the plucking of the fruit.

The city of Montreal is considering the manufacture by municipal enterprise of all the clothes required for its uniformed officials. The Garment Workers' Union is behind the move. Under present conditions profit, and not service rules. Clothes are contracted out. The employees are sped up and no account is taken of the wages paid. The city pays higher prices and the difference between the price paid and the cost of material and wages goes into the pockets of the useless exploiters. With the city doing its own contracting, the uniforms can be got cheaper while better wages can be paid with shorter hours for the garment workers. What could happen in this case could happen in all lines. With the profit squeezed out, the cost of living could be augmented. This is what the Socialists aim to accomplish. We can readily see why those who live on rent, interest and profit oppose Socialism, but no worker has any valid excuse for not working for the movement which will greatly improve his or her living conditions.

The Russian government took over the liquor traffic as a state monopoly. Drinking was encouraged as it meant big state revenues. The result has been the debauchery of the Russian people and the decline of the fighting power of the army as well as of the productive power of the nation. The rulers are now trying to undo the evil they have done. It is not well for any people to allow themselves to be ruled by a master class. This applies to Canada under the capitalist rule as well as to Russia under the rule of the bureaucrats.