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The Remedy for the High Cost of Living

"Why do you not tackle practical questions? Why don't you do something about the high cost of living?" This is the kind of question the Canadian Socialist has hurled at him.

We do not go in for the high cost of living because the high cost of living is part of the capitalist system. We are attacking the system. We are not dealing with the effects. We are dealing with the causes.

In Germany the Socialists have taken up the question of the high cost of living, and they have not been able to bring it down.

In New York the radicals took up the question and starved themselves and smashed meatshops, and the cost of living has not gone down.

In Montreal Alderman Blumenthal has taken up the question of the high cost of living. The Labor Party is petitioning the government to attack the "cold storage trust," and the "food trust." The cost of living in Montreal will not go down. It will go up.

The high cost of living is a sign of the corruption of the capitalist system. It speaks of extravagance among the upper classes. It speaks of the decadence of the old. It presages either the end of our civilization or the emerging of a newer system by the destruction of the old.

Let us consider three epochs of history.

Solomon

We have all heard of the reign of Solomon the Magnificent in Palestine. He built a "House of the Lord," with much forced labor. This is what he did partially. He garished the house with precious stones for beauty. He overlaid also the house, the beams, the posts, and the walls thereof, and the doors thereof, with gold. He made the most holy house and he overlaid it with fine gold. And he overlaid the upper chamber with fine gold. Moreover, he ornamented the temple with cherubim and an altar of brass and a molten sea of brass, and twelve oxen, and many other things. All the vessels for the temple were gold.

He built store cities and chariot cities and horsemen cities. Hiram brought him 460 talents of gold. The Queen of Sheba brought him 120. All the kings of Arabia and governors of the country brought gold and silver to Solomon. The servants of Solomon brought gold from Ophir. The weight of gold coming to Solomon in one year was 666 talents of gold. He made 200 targets of beaten gold. Also 300 shields in the same manner. He made a great throne of ivory, and covered it with gold. All his drinking vessels were of gold. In his palace at Lebanon all the vessels were of gold. None were of silver. He had forty thousand stalls for horses and chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen. In 2 Chronicles, chapter 9, verse 27, it is recorded, AND THE KING MADE SILVER IN JERUSALEM AS STONES.

Solomon the Magnificent created a great host of parasites. Over 130,000 men labored on his temple and palace. He sucked the labor power of his country and neighboring countries into unproductive channels. Gold and silver became abundant AND BECAME OF LITTLE WORTH. The cost of living rose tremendously. His magnificence was the ruin of his country. He outshone all the neighboring parasites. At his death the people were oppressed by the stamens of the race declined because too many parasites were riding on the backs of too few producers. In a little while the Israelites were conquered and carried into captivity. The causes which led to the high cost of living led to the overthrow of the nation.

Incidentally two accompanying conditions may be pointed out. Solomon firmly established a state priestcraft. He also loved many strange women. He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines.

Suleiman

Let us now look at the career of another Solomon, the Magnificent, Suleiman I, ruler of the Turkish empire from 1520 to 1566. The Turkish historian, Kutchi Bey, attributes the origin of the decline of the empire to the reign of this monarch known to history as "The Magnificent." There was a change in the land system. There was prodigious extravagance in expenditure, prodigious venality among the ruling classes, continual wars, large borrowing, heavy taxes, and individual confiscation to supply the wants of the rulers. Says the Encyclopedia Britannica, "The reign of Suleiman the Magnificent marked the zenith of the Ottoman power." The master class took too much from the producers. The parasites did not suck profit and leave a living. They sucked even the living away from the producers. Hence the working classes declined in vigor and the decay of the empire set in.

Incidentally it may be remarked that the same two conditions of priestcraft and the rule of women accompanied this reign. Says the Encyclopedia Britannica, Volume 26, page 53: "It is from the Suleiman time that historians date the rise of that occult influence of the harem which has so often thwarted the best efforts of Turkey's most enlightened statesmen. Suleiman's claims to renown as a legislator rest mainly on his organization of the Ulema, or clerical class, in its hierarchical order from the Sheikh-ul-Islam downwards." Here again the high cost of living in the midst of what was considered

to be great prosperity (great for the masters) led a nation to ruin.

Louis XIV.

The florescence of the feudal system occurred in France in the time of Louis XIV., who reigned from 1638 to 1715. It was a period of wonderful glory. Every noble in France had to live at Paris, or Versailles, which is twelve miles west of Paris.

Versailles was renowned through Europe. The bevelled glass for this palace was brought in ox carts from Italy. A forest was created by transplanting full grown trees. In the main fountain there are three jets of water one 60 and two others 50 feet high. According to the modern guide provided by Cook's agency, under Louis XIV the water for these fountains was pumped by hand. There is a canal 200 feet wide and one mile long. There is an orangery with a central gallery 507 feet long by 42 feet wide, with two side galleries 378 feet long. There are side palaces, colonnades, and many wonderful things. Louis destroyed the bills so that no one might know the cost. It is estimated to have cost \$100,000,000. Which would be equal to half a billion dollars or more now, considering the depreciation of the value of gold.

The master class revelled at Versailles. The common generals went out and fought battles with common soldiers following them. Money was like water with the masters. They sucked more than the surplus values from the producing workers. They did not leave enough for the producer to live on. Hence the cost of living rose. The magnificence of Louis XIV and his court sucked the life blood of France. It led direct to a starving population and the explosion of the French Revolution. The master class had once more ruined the society by which they lived.

Incidentally it may be remarked that Louis XIV was like Solomon and Suleiman with regard to priestcraft and women. The Encyclopedia Britannica, Volume 17, page 42, says of Louis, "His wife, Maria Theresa, bore him children, but there was no community of tastes between them, and the chief influence at court is to be found not in the queen but in the succession of avowed mistresses." In 1685 the Edict of Nantes, which had guaranteed the rights of the Protestants in France, was revoked, and the fires of priestly persecution broke out. At the close of Louis' life, he was totally under the rule of priestcraft.

Modern Times

"But," some may ask, "what has all this ancient history to do with today?" Do you not know that by studying the past we may learn useful lessons about the present?

It would be too tedious to trace the particular characteristics of modern decadence in all the civilized countries. Let us take a glance or two at Great Britain, the United States and Canada.

Never, in all these countries, was the cost of living higher. Never did the common people cry out in distress against the oppressive prices. Never was there so much wealth, extravagance and ostentation among the ruling classes as now.

We are in a period of racial decay. This will lead to the destruction of our civilization, or a revolution must break out and sweep the old away.

Great quantities of gold and silver have been discovered, and taken by the master class. Paper money has been floated and the currency has depreciated, just as the currency was made of little worth under Solomon, Suleiman and Louis. The revenues of the country have become congested in the hands of the ruling classes. They know not what to do with their great incomes. Hence they fling them away in extravagance.

Delhi Durbar spoke the congested state of the wealth of the country. The coronation spectacle, the chance of the capital of India, the turning of the Scottish lands into grouse moors and deer runs, the tremendous military and naval expenditures, all bespeak the congestion of the national revenues into the hands of the parasites. The low wages, the sweat-labored slaves, the great army of white slaves, the poor houses, all show the other side of the congested revenues. The producers lack while the masters have what they know not how to spend. The workers are bled white, while the masters are choked with wealth.

In America the case is the same as in Great Britain. Thomas W. Lawson, in Everybody's Magazine, predicts that a vast change must be brought about or there will be the blackest revolution known to history within eight years. He shows that by stock exchange schemes and watered stock, \$2,000,000,000 annually are being drained away from the producers to the parasites. This is in addition to what he calls "legitimate" rent, interest and profit.

In Canada, the displays connected with the Duke of Connaught are a sign of our national decadence. Sir Max Aitken is a sign of our decadence. The contribution to the imperial navy now proposed is a sign of our decadence. The new group of millionaires and multimillionaires is a sign. Our revenues are congested in the hands of extravagant parasites. The common people want the

necessities. They cannot buy as they have been accustomed to. The congestion of the revenues does not appear to them as a diminished revenue. It appears to them as the high cost of living. Just as silver was made as stones in Jerusalem, so in Canada the medium of exchange has been made of little worth.

The two conditions which accompanied Solomon, Suleiman and Louis, accompany modern capitalism. London, Washington and Ottawa are sinks of sexual iniquity. The corruption spreads to all our cities. At the same time priestcraft flourishes, encouraged and supported by the beneficiaries of our misery. The priest is turned loose upon a bewildered people. Have you not noticed the tremendous church congresses being held? Have you not heard about the tremendous sums given by your exploiters to the priestly caste of Britain, America and Canada? Have you not heard of Father Vaughan parading the land? Have you not seen revivalism commercialized and priestified? The same reasons which led Solomon, Suleiman and Louis to fasten the clutches of a master-class supporting priesthood upon the populace are leading our modern pirates and civilization-wreckers to turn loose upon a decaying people the harpies of priestcraft to prey upon a rotting humanity.

In Montreal, Alderman Blumenthal attacks the high cost of living. He speaks about a food trust. The Labor Party are being led by the nose into the morass of high cost of living politics. They are going to "beseech the government." The government is the instrument of the master class in whose hands are the national revenues are congested.

The remedy does not lie in attacking the high cost of living. That leads nowhere. The remedy lies in abolishing the master class. In allowing the wealth of the producers to go to the producers.

By so doing, by establishing production for use instead of for profit, the nation will be made whole again. For the useful members will get their just deserts. They will have sufficient revenues to live in comfort. The extravagant, flaunting, corrupting master class will find their powers for evil cut off at the root, when the congested revenues are switched away from them to the workers.

This is what Socialism aims to do. If you wish to heal society from its manifold ills, vote here is in our ranks, presenting a united front to the enemies of our Canadian manhood and womanhood who hypocritically mouth patriotic sentiments while destroying our virility.

The Socialists must not attack religion, in the false cry to a lot of gospel sharks. For there are gospel sharks as there are loan sharks. Dr. J. M. Gray, dean of the Moody Institute, which was founded for evangelistic purposes by Moody, declared at the Chicago Evangelists' conference on September 30th, "The present day evangelist becomes so tangled up with 'boosters' and hymn book propositions that they are simply a money-making business." Dr. F. Taylor, of the First Baptist Church, Indianapolis, declared that the methods of some successful evangelists were nothing but graft. "When I started out as an evangelist," said Taylor, "another evangelist invited me to come to his house. As he said 'to learn the tricks of the trade.' I have got 'skinned' a mile in taking an offering." These are the kind of gospel sharks who howl against Socialism. When you find a priest or a minister opposing Socialism, you have a perfect right to be suspicious of him.

Czar Whitney is at work upon the sanitation of the province. The province has been divided into districts, and a thorough survey is to be made. The human animals of the masters have been suffering a loss of labor power through ill health. This has been detrimental to the masters, hence the slaves are to be made more healthy. This is not done to benefit the human work animals; it is done solely to protect profits. But if the profit lords can persuade the slaves to still vote for Whitney because he is so "good" to labor, they will be exceedingly pleased. It will keep labor from using its voting power to abolish slavery.

Tom Crothers, Minister of Labor, has taken it upon himself to refuse the application of the Brotherhood of Railway Employees representing 5,000 C.P.R. workers for a board of investigation. Tom was the one who went around the country blating about the rights of labor. Tom is the handy man of the big corporations in labor disputes. They will let him blab a little to tickle the ears of the workers as long as he does what the big corporations want him to.

There will be what is known as a fighting session at Ottawa this winter. The Liberals are out and want to get back in. But the fighting session will not benefit the slaves. For both Laurier and Borden stand for the system which keeps the workers in slavery.

Cotton's Weekly is in existence for service and efficiency to the Socialist movement of Canada. Every Canadian Socialist should be using this service born of years of experience and co-operation.

The masters drive slaves and think they are leaders.

Capitalism did good work in the day of its prime. Now it stinks and should be buried.

One rebel is of greater moment to the progress of the race than a thousand peaceful slaves.

The little thieves fear the policeman; the big thieves fear Socialism.

The wage worker is a slave. Socialism would free the slave. Every wage worker should be a Socialist.

Horace Traubel says it is not the brains of the masters that keeps us in awe. It is what they say their brains are.

Borden is the agent of big business. Laurier was the agent of little business. Both are the enemies of the working class.

If you want reform, become a revolutionary Socialist. The threat of revolution will cause the exploiters to grant reform after reform.

How do you workmen like being the mudsills of the upper classes? You will continue to be mudsills as long as you allow the master class to write the laws.

The Manitoba Free Press wails over the low levels to which Manitoba politics have sunk. They have sunk to no lower levels than they have in all the provinces. In every province of Canada the exploiters are triumphant and their political agents will not hesitate to stoop to the lowest and vilest of tricks to keep the slaves in slavery.

The workers have voted for their masters in Europe, hence Great Britain is spending over \$200,000,000 a year on her navy, and Germany over \$100,000,000. Were the Socialists in control in both countries these enormous sums could be spent to wipe out slums, to stamp out tuberculosis, to abolish poverty and introduce a standard of high comfort into every home in the two realms. Capitalism makes for death, Socialism makes for life.

To many the social revolution appears to be far off. Yet it may come very quickly. Who would have thought the capitalist revolution would have swept over China in six months? Who would have thought that in 1858, when John Brown was hung, that chattel slavery would be abolished in 1865? Who would have thought in 1788 that the old order would disappear from France in 1792? The social revolution is near.

Sir James Whitney, premier of Ontario, has made an "appalling discovery." He has found that the Toronto Globe, which is partially owned by Rowell, leader of the opposition, and which is supporting the campaign to abolish the Ontario liquor bars, accepts liquor advertisements. We are not interested in this squabble except in showing up the hypocrisy of Whitney. Is it not appalling that Whitney, who wants the votes of the workers, will not grant them the eight hour day? Is it not appalling that Whitney's voters should keep on blindly voting for him when he does nothing to remove the parasites who fatten on their labor power?

The Austrian Minister of Education has yielded to the demand that women should be allowed higher education, but every woman so taking up higher education must take a course in "coquetry." An assual that reactionary organ, the Toronto Mail and Empire, sniggers over this and considers it a cute trick. It is about as reasonable a proposition as to compel every male student learning to be a doctor, lawyer or dentist, to learn how to raise parsley, celery and turnips. The woman who enters higher education is not likely to want to cook much, and if she does, she has sense enough to know how to do it without instruction provided by the ignorant Austrian Minister of Education.

The Socialists want the workers to unite upon the political field to capture the power and oust the master class from possession. The masters have political agents like Laurier and Borden and McBride and Gosin whose function it is to get the workers to vote for them for the sake of reforms. Capitalist reforms are always next to useless. You remember the great splurge made over the pensions granted by the Pennsylvania railway to its employees? You remember how the plate press gurgled and chortled over this tender care of the working class. Mrs. Brison, whose husband was killed in the employ of this railway, tried to kill herself in Chicago. She found it too much of a strain trying to maintain herself and four little children upon the 95 cents a week pension granted her by the Pennsylvania railway. Workers of the world, you have nothing to hope from your masters but exploitation and dirty treatment. Unite and take for yourselves the wealth you create.

IT'S PAID FOR.

If you receive Cotton's Weekly regularly and did not subscribe for it, it is paid for. You will receive no bill for subscription, and the paper automatically stops at the end of the time paid for.

A rebellious working class is the greatest hope for the future of civilization.

We have courts of law in Canada but no courts of justice.

THANKSGIVING DAY

Oh Be Joyful in the Lord. Never Mind the Parasites

R. Winn, Cowansville.

You have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe ye, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.—Haggai 1:4.

The government of Canada appoints a general day of thanksgiving in each year in which the populace are supposed to return thanks to the Lord for His beneficence, His bountiful blessings, and for His universal love, protection and care exercised over us all.

Workers attend churches where pulpits are decorated with huge sheaves of grain, symbolic of bountiful harvests, and prosperity of the country in general. Gobs of theological lore are hurled at the wage slaves eulogizing them to awaken to the fact that they should be eternally thankful for the blessed privilege of being able and strong enough to labor ten or more hours a day six days a week in order to keep body and soul together and a roof over the heads of their families. These orations all tend to befuddle the brain of the worker into the belief that he is a mighty lucky individual. Salve is rubbed on the sore spots, and with his accustomed meekness, inherited from centuries of tyranny and oppression, he toddles home imbued with the idea that he has a lot to be thankful for, though his comprehension of just what it is, may not be very clear.

However, he should be very thankful for many things which are taking place in the different provinces of this great Canada, where men are "free," work is plenty, and "anyone really looking for work can find it."

People of British Columbia should be thankful that Lord Joicy has purchased thousands of acres of land in that province, and will bring a lot of poverty-stricken Scotch crofters over to work on it for him, also for gracing the community with his illustrious presence the major part of each year; that Earl Grey still holds his shooting lodge there, with prospects of becoming a permanent resident when the workers kick him out of England. The fruit growers of the Okanagan Valley and other fertile tracts should be thankful that their choicest fruit brings nearly as much as the Vancouver and Victoria markets as inferior fruit coming from Seattle and other American points. The miners should be just tickled to death that they are permitted to delve in the earth for gold, silver and coal at a low wage, while their masters—loan around in plush covered chairs on the top of the earth counting dividends. Railroad workers should sing loud praises for the fact that the jails of B. C. are limited in number, as that is about the only reason they are out of them. Lousy bunk houses, embalmers, rotten eggs and maggoty bacon are all right for a railroad worker. It should gladden the heart of the common laborer that the Japs, Chinamen, and Hindoos are numerous enough to keep the bids for jobs down to a low ebb. The lumber hogs have not taken quite all the best trees of the forests, and the canneries, while wasting thousands of tons of edible fish annually, still control all the output of fish. Also hurrah for the fact that Mayor Finlay is still on the job; that the dives and other thins in British Columbia should cause the worker's heart to almost break with pleasure.

Slaves of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba should not grieve that the great trunk lines cutting through their provinces own the choicest tracts of land in the most favorable localities all along their routes; that an English lord has bought thousands of acres of land for farms and ranches; that graft and corruption are rampant in their politics; that the real estate shark pretty nearly owns them body and soul; that the mortgage jackal is narrowing his circle each month; that dozens of homesteaders whose lives are rendered unbearable by the terrible monotony of the prairie and the lonely life, coupled with the frantic uncertainty of ever getting anything for their hard work, commit suicide each year. Oh no. They should be really, truly thankful, for are they not the pioneers of the Great Golden West? Will not their names go down in history as the hardy men who paved the way for the parasite, and built the foundations of a great and glorious country?

The willing workers of Ontario should also shout for joy that they are permitted to reside in such a bountiful land. Broad fields covered with stubble, the crops of which were threshed and sold at a sacrifice almost as soon as cut to satisfy the rapacious greed of the landlord of their rented farms, or the holder of the mortgage on the farm they "own." Glee should fill their breasts when they contemplate the thousands of unemployed, willing slaves begging for a master; that jails, insane asylums, and "houses of refuge" are crowded to the doors in every county; that there are more slave pens

in that province than in all the rest of Canada; that manufacturers, doctors, lawyers, and wholesale and retail merchants' associations are all combined to squeeze the juice out of the slave; that James Pliny Whitney has surrounded himself with a coterie of capitalist henchmen who have builded themselves on a rock which will be hard to shake, and who has already stacked the cards against the worker; that there are dozens of company-owned and "one-man" towns in which the slave and his family are the absolute property of the master; that militia in every industrial centre is being augmented with many legalized butchers ready to rip, shoot, slay and slaughter the man who attempts to think for himself; that it is the mecca of thousands of British immigrants who each year are dumped on Canada's shores buoyed with the hope of a bright future, but find conditions little different than in the old land; that politicians are always on the lookout for "the sugar." All this and much more should sure bring the "Sunny Jim" to the mug of the man who works.

People in old Quebec might well jump for joy that they are living in the most backward province in all Canada; that their politicians are the very acme of incompetence and irresponsibility; that the general wages of the worker are at the zero point, with small hope of any remedial legislation; that the teachers of their children are paid "salaries" which would not tempt a Chinese coolie; that the loan shark and the mortgage hand abound here as elsewhere, seeking whom they may get the shackles on; that one half the province cannot understand the language of the other; that a large percentage of their laws are of the vintage of the 17th century; that their one big city of Montreal is looked on as "the dirtiest and most stagnant city in America"; that any movement for the uplift of the worker is frowned on by both pulpit and press. The future of the cause of Labor in this province is so bright and rosy-hued that the life of the toiler looks like just one merry-go-round of pleasure. Oh joy! Let's all give thanks.

New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island are fertile tracts of land in which are located abundance of nature's mineral deposits of all descriptions. Their waters abound with treasures of the sea, and their banks and safety deposit vaults abound with treasures fleeced from the worker by the grafting politician and the capitalist boss, who own all the tools of production from the pick that loosens the coal and ore in the mines to the boats of the fishermen who risk their lives for the uplift of the worker. The steel worker living in a numbered shack in a company-owned town, the coal miner diving in the stygian darkness of the earth, the fisherman working under conditions under which none but the fittest can survive, the farmer on his rented farm—all responding daily to the incessant call of "Pay, pay pay!" should be grateful for something, somewhere, at this season of the year. He should be thankful for—well—he's living, isn't he?

So let us all rejoice and be thankful—the Lord is our Shepherd, we shall not want.

The Countess of Chesterfield recently stated that 555 girls had been decoyed to Salt Lake City, Utah under guise of religion. Ten times that number and fifty times that number in Great Britain are decoyed into white slavery each year by the profit system. Her Grace has nothing to say about this. You see, Her Grace is one of the parasites benefitting by the system which produces prostitution. So she attacks the Mormons, which will not hurt the profits of her class, but will not attack prostitution, which is produced by the profits going to her class. The upper class reformers will shout for reform for heathen and Mormons. If the workers want to better their lot, they must throw off the master class from their backs.

The Canadian Northern Railway has purchased 1,176 more acres of land on the island of Montreal for \$2,320,040. This land in a few years will easily be worth fifty times this amount. Capitalism gives the big parasites the things people need to live by which the parasites can use to extort tremendous revenues from the people. Socialism would hold the things the people need to live for the benefit of the people themselves. The big parasites of course lie about what Socialism stands for. They set their paid agents to lie about it also. This is all the more reason why people who want to get at the truth should study the question.

According to the capitalist press, the West Virginia miners are to get a scale of 22 per cent. higher than the scale of the United Mine Workers as long as they keep out of the union. This shows how much the masters fear the united working class. They will do anything to keep them divided.

The great majority of the United States Socialists are glad the elections are over. The way is now cleared for beginning the 1916 campaign, and for doing great education and organizing work.