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THE GERMAN SITUATION

The German situation at present is of intense interest to every student of economic determinism.

Kaiser Wilhelm has called upon his subjects to make sacrifices for the maintenance of the Fatherland. An additional military burden is being placed upon the country. More forts, more guns, more regiments are to be created. The initial capital cost of the increase is $250,000,000. The common workers are at the subsistence level now. No fresh burdens can be placed upon them. Hence the Kaiser purposes a capital tax upon the rich. He proposes that the government levy a non-recurrent tax upon the total fortunes of the exploiters. The Kaiser himself will pay $1,800,000; the owners of the Krupp gun works will pay about $2,500,000, and other fortunes will pay in proportion.

There are two interesting features about this taxation. The first is the reasons why the Kaiser considers the tax necessary, and the second is the probable result.

Capitalism, to live, must reach out for an ever extending market. Capitalism gives the tools of production to the few, and to the laboring many it gives but a living wage. What the working class produce beyond a living wage goes to the owners of the means of production and distribution. These owners, however, cannot realize their profit, until they have sold the products of the workers.

When the product cannot be sold, commercial crises arrive, and those capitalists with a small capital are bankrupted and descend into the ranks of the wage workers. The small, independent producers are forced out of business and also descend into the ranks of the proletarians. When the crisis is over, the net result is that there are fewer and more powerful capitalists, and more wage workers. The greater number of wage workers produce more commodities to be sold to a smaller market, for the small capitalists, having been squeezed out, are now robbed producers instead of parasite consumers. Hence the progress of capitalism increases the production while at the same time it decreases the market. This is one of the inherent contradictions of the capitalist system.

To continue, the capitalist system must extend its markets. Hence the governments of all countries endeavor to export as much as possible. The home market continually contracting, the world market is invaded. But the world market itself is composed of the various capitalist countries and a few semi-barbarous regions which are rapidly becoming drawn into the capitalist mode of production. The world market is a myth.

Although a myth, it is used potently by the rulers to deceive the various peoples. Giant armies are created and navies built in order to "protect" or "create" the world market of the various capitalist countries. These armies and navies are kept in reality to force goods produced by one country into the overcrowded markets of another country. It cannot be done, but the home market is relieved by turning the productive forces into the wasteful labor of creating guns and forts, and feeding, clothing and sheltering non-productive armies.

This business, it is readily seen, is unprofitable if long carried on. Taxes, which come out of the ruling class, eat up the surplus values taken from the producing class. The idle parasites groan under the burden of the annual taxation.

At this point a very interesting stage indeed is reached. The military burdens no longer encroach upon the annual revenues only; they begin to encroach upon the capital of the parasite class. The tax becomes placed, not upon current revenue, but upon the gross capital itself.

The Kaiser, who is half wise, half foolish, sees this stage has come, and boldly announces the necessity of it. He calls upon the patriotic rich to make sacrifices, to reduce their capital in order to maintain the armed forces of the fatherland in such a manner as to be able to keep the fatherland in the forefront of the race for the myth of the "world markets." At once we are at the beginning of the second and more interesting phase.

Will the ruling class dig up? Will they part with their money or sell part of their estates or mortgage their factories?

It is doubtful. Economic determinism says no. It is against the teachings of history for a ruling class in the age of their approaching dissolution to make sacrifices. While the French peasants starved, the rulers made merry at Versailles. While Cyrus thundered at the gates, the Babylonian rulers held feasts.

If the German moneybags do not pay, the capitalist system approaches its downfall. If they do pay, they narrow their productive capital and their country becomes invaded by foreign capital and they lose their place in the fierce struggle at the front.

There is an old prophecy which says the Hohenzollerns will cease to rule Germany in 1913. Maybe the oligarchy will sacrifice William to their impotent rage. Whatever they do, the collapse of the capitalist system has been shown to be measurably nearer.

Joe Ettor was excluded from Canada. He came with a message to the working class that they are robbed, and this message could not be tolerated by the executive of the master class at Ottawa.

The life of the worker today is one long spree of misery.

"Only the rich can get justice, only the poor cannot escape it."—H. D. Lloyd.

The capitalist is just about as useful to humanity as a rat is in a grain bin.

The Canadian producer is against the Borden navy scheme—and against the Laurier navy scheme also.

The firemen on the American rail ways are finding that the increased cost of living eats up all the increase in wages they get. What else do they expect under the capitalist system?

"State ownership does not mean Socialism. The least democratic countries in the world have state coal mines and state railroads, but they have no ownership by the people."—Henry Demarest Lloyd.

Socialism is coming just as sure as rains come from the clouds. It is coming because men are what they are and the evil in the capitalist system now far outweighs the good that was in it.

If we rest we rust; if we trust we bust; therefore no rest, no trust, no bust. Don't let the capitalists catch the Socialists resting or trusting to the master's system changing itself, or we would surely bust. Get busy now.

"Take no thought of the morrow, what ye shall eat, drink, or what ye shall put on," said the Great Nazarene. The capitalist class enforce this rule upon the working class, by giving just enough wages to over today's living.

The police of Brantford, Ont., threatened to strike and now the city council is considering the advisability of increasing their pay. It will be bad for the plutes when the police and the soldiery feel their solidarity with labor and join in the general strike.

"Take no thought of tomorrow," preach the ministers, and then they connive to get a ministers' superannuation fund to keep them when they can no longer sell their labor power in the pulpit. If the ministers preach one thing and practice another, why do they consider Socialists irreligious when they study economic determinism and preach what the ministers practice?

The Asbestos Corporation wit mines at Thetford, P.Q., declares th net profits on its first year of operation are $150,304. This is equal t the annual income of 316 Canadian wage workers. No wonder the plute want the present system to continu when they can annex to their own benefit without work the average in come of hundreds of wage worker through one small company.

"You Socialists see no good in anything," is often said. That is where a mistake is made. The Socialists realize there is good even in the capitalist system. It was necessary to break up the feudal system, and it is necessary until the workers are educated to what Socialism really is. It is our duty to our fellow workers to show them what is wrong with the present system so they can know how to replace it with a better.

Miss Lillian Lenton, a British suffragist, is ill with septic pneumonia through being forcibly fed while in an English jail. The heroism of the women suffragists of Britain in their struggle for political equality with men will rank with the great events of history. However, in Montreal, there is a reptile cartoonist on the staff of the Montreal Star whose coarse brutality and stupid insults are taken for wit by Sir Hugh Graham. If Graham wishes his paper to retain even a little degree of respectability he should forbid A. G. Racy lampooning the noblest and truest members of the sex to which his mother belonged.

You create wealth. Your pay is about one-fourth of the daily wealth you create. Upon this one-fourth you can barely live. You can lay up nothing for your wife and children against the day of your death. When you die, the landlord will want his rent and the grocer will want his pay for provisions and the doctor will want his fees and your wife has nothing. She has to go out to work, your children must slave. But when the owner of the place you work in dies, his family suffers no want, because they live on what is stolen from you. Had you received the equivalent of the wealth you create your family would not want. Socialism will give you this. It will free your wife and children from ever facing want and misery.

In Indiana three traction engines hitched to fifty plows, ploughed an acre in four minutes and fifteen seconds. The farmer with his horse plow and his country yokel hireling can see his finish. The capitalists are going to take his farm away. They won't do this by force or seizing the title-deeds. They will outcompete him through the operation of machine farming and the horse-plow farmer won't be able to make a living.

SOCIALIST SONGS, WITH MUSIC. This collection includes all of Morris' greatest song poems, also the Marseillaise, the International, and other songs breathing the spirit of revolution, mostly set to familiar tunes. Attractive paper covers, 20 cents postpaid, or three copies for 25 cents. From Cotton's Book Department.

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The King and the Suffragists

Charles Edward Russell in the Coming Nation.

GOING THE LIMIT.

Gracious Kink George, I am pleased to observe, is likely to get himself in bad by butting into the suffragette issue—or as near to bad as any kink could be in the present maudlin state of British opinion regarding royalty.

When Mrs. Pankhurst made her Cardiff speech exulting in the blowing up of Lloyd George's house, the administration, having some symptoms of good sense, didn't want to prosecute her worth a cent. Their idea was to rattle around and make a noise and forget it, as usual, in which they were perfectly right.

But it seems that the gracious Queen Mary, who is a vigorous and pungent lady, knew better. She hunched the kink, who sent for the Home Secretary and gave him orders to go the limit and convict Mrs. Pankhurst. It is no secret in London that the gracious queen thinks all the militant suffragettes ought to be put to death anyway.

So the poor Secretary, who must have made a wry face when he found a place of solitude, had no choice but to obey. The kink had spoken, and that settled the matter.

Whereupon Mrs. Pankhurst was arrested.

The government already wishes it had never heard of her or her speech. Her trial has been put off as long as possible, and meantime the government has made haste to admit her to bail.

The fact is, the kink has plunged the government into a most embarrassing position. To proceed with the prosecution is to urge the doctrine of "accessory before the fact" in the most offensive form in which it has appeared in modern times, a form so offensive that the friends of free speech all over the world would be obliged to protest against it, and at the same time so manifestly preposterous that it would cover the government with ridicule.

The cabinet ministers must heartily wish that George would stick to his postage stamps.

Another disastrous phase of the grave blunder into which the kink has driven the administration is the fact that if Mrs. Pankhurst is ever tried on this charge it will be necessary to have endless publicity about the reasons that impel her and her associates to resort to violence in behalf of their cause.

Lloyd George, that smooth and cunning faker, doesn't want any of that.

He doesn't want any avoidable talk about the dirty trick he played on the suffragists, for one thing. And you can wager that he doesn't want attention called to the fact that these women are demanding a share in the government that governs them.

There is the fatal flaw in all the cases against these women and the real reason why their prosecutions languish in this remarkable manner. The monstrosity of the whole thing is too plainly revealed. Here are women protesting against the essential tyranny of being governed by a government in which they have no share. And here is the government demonstrating that these women are in fact governed and that government is in fact tyrannical by thrusting into jail the women that protest against it.

An object lesson like that would get through the thick skull even of a Winston Churchill. I know that is saying a great deal, but I believe it would. Of course, you might have to operate first. But it could be done.

We in this country need not be affected in any way by the constant assurances of the Associated Press that the violent tactics of the militant suffragists are alienating public sympathy and hurting the suffrage cause—any more than we need to pay any attention to the mush-heads over here that are overcome with horror at such things.

The Associated Press has been good enough to assure us every week for five years that the suffrage cause was losing ground in England. If this old painted liar and harlot had ever been right about the matter the suffrage cause would have been dead and buried long ago.

As to the horror of suffragette violence, that is all bunk. All the window smashing that there has been since the militants began and all the letter box burnings and all the rest put together would not make an act of violence as big as a pin point compared with the hourly violence of a government that governs without the consent of the governed.

Let them do away with that act of violence first if they don't want the others. Laws! Well, if our forefathers had had the respect for the laws that some of these old women in pants are now preaching we'd all be today the subjects of a mediaeval kindgom that has Lloyd George for a prime minister, and God knows there is nothing worse than that.

WHERE COURAGE FAILS.

There is plenty of humor in the English situation, though doubtless not for the poor cabinet ministers that must go about with heavy body guards to protect them from these terrible women.

The Public Prosecutor, in opening the case of the two women that are accused of firing the pavilion at Kew Gardens, made the solemn and terrific declaration that these women were liable to a sentence of penal servitude for life.

"Think of that!" said the chuckle-headed, "imprisonment for life!"

The next thing that was heard of these two women was that one had been released on nominal bail and the other had been allowed to depart quietly without any bail at all.

Some magistrate ass, hearing of this remarkable disposition of a case that began with so much noise and clamor, foamed at the mouth and announced that he would do many valorous things to discover why these malefactors had been treated with this amazing lenity. But I observe that somebody that was wise put the kibosh on him, too, before he had made another pass.

Brave, valiant, dauntless, stout-hearted public officers, no doubt, and devoted servants of his gracious majesty, but they don't care about mixing up with any more of this thing than they are obliged to.

A handful of weak women have terrorized the whole British government by merely demanding and insisting upon their rights. Marvelous and instructive spectacle. Don't miss any of it.

HALIFAX TRAMWAYS

The Halifax Herald is fighting against the new control of the Halifax Street Railway Company. A. E Robert, and the exploiters of the Montreal Tramways Limited, who capitalized their franchise in Montreal to the tune of tens of millions of dollars, are reaching out for the control of the Halifax street railway system.

Their emissaries are telling what wonderful amount of extensions and capital will come to Halifax through the new control. Their real aim is to control the road, get the legislature to consent to a reorganization scheme, and load the Tramway down with a dozen millions of dollars of watered stock.

The Halifax Herald protests. It warns the people to watch Premier Murray and the members in the Halifax legislature. Sir Frederick Borden, ex-Minister of the Militia, with the Tramways exploiters, as he owns the Gaspereau river power from which the energy for the new schemes is to be taken.

The Herald exclaims, "The people of Halifax, above all things, should watch Premier Murray, the member for Halifax, and, of course, the Nova Scotia legislature, and see for themselves whether these men are serving the people of Halifax and Nova Scotia or serving Sir Frederick Borden and Halifax's new masters by making it possible for them to switch a clean hundred thousand a year out of the pockets of unsophisticated Halifaxians."

This sounds radical, bold, socialistic. But it is only the wild shrieking of a capitalist sheet against one set of capitalists who are plannin to put a deal over on the rest of the master class.

Wages are governed by the cost o living. If the cost of living goes up, wages must follow.

The employers of wage worker want to keep the cost of living down so as to be able to pay low wages If the wage workers have the choice of paying high rents near their work, or high tramway fares to places a a distance from their work, their wages must cover this added cost. If they can get cheap fares to lower rents at a distance from their slave pens, their employers can pay lower wages.

Hence when the Robert gang capture the street railway, load it down with watered stock, and take an added one hundred thousand dollars year out of the people of Halifax, that hundred thousand dollars doe not come out of the producing class. It comes out of the other groups of labor skinners who find their wage bills higher and therefore their profits lower.

So the Herald rants and fumes, and as it is a Tory paper, while the Murray government is Liberal, it hints about graft. The Herald wants the Tories in office so it can get good big gobs of government printing pap.

Socialists smile at the howls of the Halifax Herald. They know no reforms will permanently benefit th producers. If one set of parasites climb on their backs, it means that another set of parasites have poorer pickings.

Rent, interest and profit must be abolished before the workers shall be free from their slavery. As long as the capitalists play see-saw on the backs of the workers, the workers will carry the useless creatures. It is a matter of little moment to them whether the railway crowd is up and the employing crowd is down, or the employing crowd is up and the railway crowd is down. They want both gangs off the board and the board itself raised off their backs so they can walk upright. The board will not be removed until the workers themselves hoist it.

Following the precedent of 1903, it is reported from Washington, U. S. A., the steel corporation is to offer its employes the privilege of subscribing to preferred and common shares on the basis of 109 dollars and 66 dollars respectively. The amount of stock held and that subscribed for by the employes working at from 15 to 17 cents per hour would make interesting reading. — International Labor Letter.

Always carry an extra copy of Cotton's in your pocket.

Spring a sub card on your workmate.

Everybody works but the capitalist. He's the wise guy, and you are the lobsters.

David killed the giant Goliath. The working class can kill the capitalist system by slinging their vote at it through the Socialist ballot.

The Canadian Senate is a legislative body where obsolete politicians are pensioned off for life, and is about as much use as a rotten egg is to a cook.

The net profits of the British Columbia Packers' Association last year were $437,493, equal to the yearly earnings of 921 Canadian slaves. It is a nice system for the plutes.

The farmers plant their potatoes in the ground where they will multiply. The capitalists do not plant their dollars in the ground. They plant them where the workers will multiply them without any labor from the capitalists.

The capitalist system is propped up by politicians, manufacturers, bankers, railroad magnates, combine rings and uneducated workers. The whole bunch stand for the robbery of the working class. Educate the producers and the system will peter out.

The capitalist class are the world's greatest brigands. They are robbing the workers of all they produce but a skimpy living. A mountain brigand takes a big chance of getting shot. The capitalist brigand takes his ease in the pleasantest manner that his pilferings can procure, and he takes it day after day in the very sight of those he robs.

How many million dollars is the Canadian Federal government giving to fight the white plague? Yet Borden and Laurier are scrapping over which set of parasites shall get their hands on $35,000,000 of public money to build unnecessary murder ships. Let the sick die and kill the living, for profits must be protected and the life of the producer is cheap. This is the policy of the politicians at Ottawa.

We hear much about the dead Christ, and little of the living Christ from the pulpit orators of today. It is safer thus. For nowadays the churches have been captured by the sons of mammon, and they wouldn't like it if preachers should preach about chasing the traders out of the churches and tanning the money changers. So the preachers make long prayers and tell how "un-Christian" Socialism is.

The workers have hell upon earth under capitalism and are promised heaven when they die. When the workers talk about bringing heaven nearer to earth for the masses by prying off the thieving, lying, brutal capitalist class, the capitalists howl aloud about the impiety of the working class and shoot a line of drool that is enough to sicken a self-respecting jackass. The drool does not sicken the capitalist. They thrive on it.

The net profits of the Canadian General Electric Company for 1912 were $1,555,361, a sum equal to the annual income of 3,274 Canadian workers. This company exploits slaves in Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Peterborough, Winnipeg, Vancouver, and other places. Those who receive the results of its legalized robbery of the working class think the present robber system very fine indeed, and they consider Socialists who protest discontented agitators who want to disturb the comfort of the "upper classes."

THIS IS ENCOURAGING

Occasionally we get letters like the following. They are a good tonic, and serve to inspire us to keep up our efforts unceasingly. May it serve a like purpose to our readers and hustlers scattered all over the Dominion.

Saskatchewan, Mch. 2, '13.

Dear Editor:

I have been a constant reader of your little paper for the past two years. Some old Socialist has been sending it to me. When it first began to come, we took it out of the office, just because it was handed out to us.

When we had read a few copies of it, we were sorry the paper was coming, and often we would not open the paper to look at it. It was either doomed for the waste paper basket or the stove.

Today that little "Cotton's Weekly" lays on the finest shelf in our home; and I hope that in the future I may be the cause of it finding a welcome in many homes. I have enclosed $1.00, for which please send your paper to the following list of four.

I think the A.B.C. of Socialism is very good, and would like to see it appear often in the paper. I am enclosing a clipping from a paper which might interest you. From a constant reader and a hard-shelled old Socialist.

C. A. GALLAGHER.

British Columbia has repealed the $3 poll tax which was formerly levied on the migratory workers. This tax McBride repeals for the benefit of the plunderers. They want labor power to flow freely to the slave pens, to the railway hells, to the mines with their dangers and to the lumber camps where they take all the money of the slaves for board, bunks, doctor fees and the like.

NAVY DEBATE AT OTTAWA

My, my, my. Have you heard the cat fight at Ottawa? Have you heard the awful noise of the yowlings of the M.P.'s? Paws have been raised in the air, but little real fur has flown. The noise has lasted, at the time of the present writing, for two solid weeks, day and night, with the exception of Sundays.

The fight arose in this way. The Tory government under Borden proposes to hand over $35,000,000 to the British labor skinners to build and equip three Dreadnoughts to form part of the British fleet until such time as the Canadian government saw fit to recall them to Canadian management.

The Liberal opposition under Laurier proposes to hand over something like the same amount to Canadian labor-skinners for them to build and equip war vessels in Canada and have them under Canadian control.

Those who understand Canadian political life realize that there can be no moral, nor patriotic, nor sentimental, nor honest principles dividing the two parties on this question.

The only questions involved concern the profit-interests of the thieving capitalist class, and the personal interests of the henchmen of the labor exploiters who infest the House of Commons

Why is it that the Liberals are resolved on stopping the Borden navy scheme and the Tories are determined to ram it through? We cannot imagine politicians of the Liberal stripe sitting up night after night and working their voices in great fatigue, and the Tories doing the same, except for some special reason

Bourassa appears to have hit on the real situation. He declares in his paper that if the Borden plans succeed, of the $35,000,000 going to the British battleship grafters, $3,000,000 will be turned back into the Tory political war chest with which to fight elections.

This explains the whole proceedings. The Liberal politicians know that if the Tories gather such a war fund, together with the other tribute which the party in power can gather, the Liberals will have no show at the next elections. For the electors of Canada have been sufficiently impregnated with the morality of their masters to seize every unearned dollar they can. The capitalist system with its glorifying of the commodity nature of all things, from the sermon of the minister to the bodies of women, has taught the voters that the best way they can use their vote is to sell it.

The Liberals propose to construct war vessels in Canada. Borden declares that these ships will cost enormously in Canada. If they do, all the better for the Liberal party and the capitalist labor skinners. We cannot imagine that the Liberal politicians, who are planning to spend $35,000,000 uselessly among Canadian labor skinners would do so without demanding a political war fund from those who would profit most from such expenditure.

The Liberals, therefore, like the Tories, are fighting for a campaign wad. The fight they lead in the open is largely a sham fight. Those producers who are excited by the present squabble between the two rival bands of political henchmen at Ottawa who represent two factions of labor-oppressing masters should calm themselves, for they are among the producers who will be skinned no matter which faction wins.

The net earnings for the Canadian Car and Foundry Company last year were $1,039,932. This is equal to the annual wage of 2,190 Canadian slaves. N. Curry is president of this company, and as a reward for his successful handling of the labor skinning proposition, the Borden executive committee of the master class called him to the Senate to help deliberate over the making of the laws to continue and perfect the system of wage slavery. The peculiar thing about the business is that many of the slaves at Amherst, N.S., Turcotte P.Q., and Brantford, Ont., who are robbed by the Canadian Car and Foundry Co., are pleased to see the labor skinner set over them in a position where he can help make laws against the working class. The full plant of the Canadian Car and Foundry Company was not in operation last year. Consequently the net earnings were small compared with what they will be for this year.

R. G. Miller, bookkeeper, employed by D. Matheson, contractor, of Vancouver, kept an account for his employer which he called the "B. and C. account." The B. and C. stood for Bribery and Corruption. Bribery and corruption are natural to the capitalist system. The working class produce all the wealth and get only a living wage. The rest goes to the parasite class as unearned revenues. Morally, the master class are no more entitled to these surplus values than the man in the moon. However, they have had laws passed legalizing their immoral gains. When persons are in a position to swing contracts to these legalized thieves, it is nothing but natural they should want a share. Hence legalized robbery must divide up with illegal grafters. Abolish the immoral system, and the bribe-taker, who is an illegal parasite on the legal parasite, will also vanish.

The Hillcrest Collieries, Ltd., show net profits of $100,100 on the year's business. This is equal to the average income of 211 Canadian workers. Nice system for those who rob the working class.

$1.00 will purchase four sub cards.