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THE FARMERS AT OTTAWA

On Friday, December the sixteenth, eight hundred and fifty delegate farmers, representing all the provinces of Canada except British Columbia and Prince Edward Island, gathered in the House of Commons and presented the demands of the agricultural interests of Canada. They demanded,

(1.) Reciprocal trade relations between Canada and the United States in agricultural and animal products, fuel, oil, cement, fish and lumber. Also free trade with Great Britain with in ten years and an immediate preferential tariff in favor of Britain of fifty per cent.

(2.) The construction and operation in perpetuity by the Dominion government under an independent commission, of the Hudson's Bay Railway and all terminal facilities connected therewith.

(3.) That legislation be passed providing cheap and efficient machinery for the incorporation of co-operative societies at the present session of Parliament.

(4.) That the new Bank Act be passed make provisions allowing the same to be amended at any time in any particular.

(5.) That government owned and government operated terminal elevators managed by commission be established at Port Arthur and Fort William, on the Pacific Coast, and on Hudson's Bay when necessary.

(6.) Government operated chilled meat industry.

These are the demands of the farmers' organizations. These demands have made the politicians uneasy. The manufacturers who live by protection are organizing a counter demonstration. The politics of Canada are being thrown into the melting pot.

To many the demands of the farmers appear to be revolutionary and to be in the interests of the people. For twenty years and more the farmers have been demanding the reduction of the tariff. Now they are strong enough to demand what they want. Whether they will get it depends on the strength of opposing economic interests.

The rise of a farmer class is interesting economic phenomena. But the granting of the demands of the farmers does not mean that the common people will come to their own. The rise of the farming interests means that economic exploitation based on land and farming implements wants more of the surplus values robbed from exploited workers that now go to the economic exploitation of city wage slaves and industrial establishments.

ARGUMENTS USED

The whole argument of the farmers' delegation was based upon capitalist arguments. There was not one Socialist argument used. The delegates appealed to the politicians not as an organization of toilers, but as an organization of capitalists. The same arguments that the capitalists used the farmers used.

The spokesman of the delegation pointed out that the farmers had to pay higher prices for commodities owing to the protection of the manufacturers. This is the argument used to combat the manufacturers.

"The argument is frequently made that the Government must maintain the present high customs duty in order to protect capital invested in manufacturing industries. In other words, capital invested in agriculture must, by statute, be compelled to pay tribute to capital invested in manufacturing industries. On what principle of justice can a Government give a man who invests \$100,000 in any industry, the privilege of levying a tax on ten men who invest \$10,000 each in land, to develop the natural wealth of the country?"

The farmers' delegation looked upon themselves as a bunch of capitalists. And they come to the politicians of the capitalists asking that the rights of their "invested capital" be protected.

In speaking to reporters the delegates declared they directly represented 30,000 farmers and indirectly 150,000 farmers. Each of these farmers, owning a half-section with buildings and implements, is worth \$10,

000. Therefore the delegates represented \$300,000,000 of capital directly and \$1,500,000,000 of capital indirectly. The farmers think this capital should have its rights looked after.

Capital is the means of wealth production. Wheat lands are capital. Now the possession of capital "invested" should, according to capitalist longings receive returns, in the shape of rent, interest and profit. At five per cent interest the \$1,500,000,000 of capital invested in the farm lands of the west should receive in returns \$75,000,000.

But Socialists know that all rent, interest and profit come from the unpaid labor of the workers. Therefore if the land possessors get \$75,000,000 a year and do nothing, it must necessarily result that workers produce \$75,000,000 worth of wealth which they do not get.

There are many who think that the delegation of farmers from the west means the coming of Socialism. It means no such thing. The delegation of the owning farmers of the west means the rise of the land capitalists in Canada whose economic interests are at variance with the industrial capitalists.

TRANSPORTATION

Capitalist wealth represents itself as a vast market, a heaped up wealth on the markets. Capitalism aims at setting expropriated workers to work producing commodities and throwing these commodities on the markets for sale, to be bought out of the wages of the wage slaves or out of the parasite profits of the exploiters.

Capitalism produces for profits. It throws its goods into the show windows of stores, into warehouses of the wholesalers, into the coal yards of the coal merchant and into the grain stores of the grain dealers.

These commodities cannot be disposed of until they are eventually sold, not to be resold for a profit, but to be sold finally for consumption by the "ultimate consumer." This ultimate consumer is very necessary for the capitalist to realize his profits. When the ultimate consumer does not materialize then every plute in Canada and many of them over in Europe look glum and sack their wage slaves.

Commodities must be sold to the ultimate consumer under capitalism. Therefore the capitalist owners of the means of wealth production want to get their goods before the eyes of the ultimate consumers with as little expense as possible.

The capitalist owners of the means of wealth production do not produce. They own. The wage slaves produce. The capitalist owners pay wages, sell and take the surplus values.

So the capitalist owners of the means of wealth production want the means of distribution to be socially owned and operated in a profitless manner. The capitalist owners of the means of wealth distribution, the owners of the railroads, want transportation rates to be high. Here comes the conflict between rival sets of labor skimmers. And in Canada the capitalist owners are winning against the capitalist distributors.

The farmers declared that every Board of Trade in the west also demanded the government control and operation of the Hudson's Bay Railway. The Board of Trade want trade routes to be operated at as low a cost as possible.

The demand of the farmers for government owned and operated transportation, terminal elevators and chilled meat means the triumph of the wealth production capitalists against the wealth distribution capitalists. But the actual workers will yet be in wage slavery and exploiting capitalism will yet be dominant in the nation.

Drunkness among the women of Toronto of the poorer classes" is increasing and the Globe suggests as a remedy that closer watch be kept on the liquor selling shops. The Globe, supporting capitalism as it does, will not suggest the cause and the remedy. Increasing capitalism increases poverty, weariness and slums. These create the craving for artificial stimulation and increased drunkness is the result. Abolish capitalism and the cause will be removed.

The science of Socialism explains the reasons of panics, poverty, overcrowding and misery.

CONCLUSION

There are many who will disagree with the above conclusions. They see the number of farmers represented. They know that the farmers many of them work with their hands and employ little help. Therefore the above conclusions appear to be erroneous.

The farmers complained of their hard lot and yet claimed that each of themselves had \$10,000 worth of property. Laurier, that cute old fox of the capitalist apologists, answered that if they had become worth \$1,500,000,000 in a few years that things were not so bad with them.

There are many farmers in the west who work their own farms. There are many farmers in the east who work their own farms. There are many who work their farms with the assistance of one hired hand. How then can the farmers be numbered with the exploiting capitalists?

The farmers claim to be worth hundreds of millions. Laurier then practically says, if you farmers are so rich what are you whining about?

From Swallowhurst, Alta., I have received the following letter, "We are stranded here in the Northwest having been fooled into coming here. We have a hard time to get along at all on a homestead. We have hard work to make a living. Often times we do not make a dollar."

A news despatch declares that Ringling Bros., the circus magnates, have acquired a tract of seventy thousand acres of land in Saskatchewan.

Lord Strathcona acquired land in the west for a mere nothing. He got railway shares for about the same price. He has grown wealthy beyond the dreams of avarice by just hanging on to the means of wealth production and distribution.

What is the conclusion? The working farmers are going to have a hard time of it. Those who can hang on to a half section will become wealthy, will have a chance to exploit others. Those who cannot hang on to their title deeds will have a chance to sell out at a small price, be foreclosed, and their possessions will go to swell the possessions of those who have hung on. For to him that hath shall be given and he that hath not from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have. This is the law of capitalist accumulation.

The agricultural wealth represented by the farmers delegation is said to be \$1,500,000,000. With the increase of population this will go up to ten and twenty billion dollars. This will go to those who hang on. Those who do not hang on will get skinned.

Moreover because of the big estates where grain and other crops are raised to sell, machine production will cause hard production to become so unprofitable as to force the farm owning, hard working, single handed farmer to go out of business.

The Ringling Bros. are buying seventy thousand acres. The parasite plunderers of Great Britain are buying large areas. The working farm owner will be a thing of the past.

The process of squeezing out the little farmers is already under way. The depopulation of rural Quebec is worrying the farm magazines. The depopulation of rural Ontario is also worrying the farm journals. The homesteaders in the northwest have hard work to hold on. For agriculture is in the grip of capitalist invasion, machine revolution, and on the verge of exploitation through expropriated wage slaves.

The farmers delegation to Ottawa may have some effect. Again it may not. Laurier was very noncommittal. Whether effective or not, the working farmers will either continue to get by the barest living on a farm to which they hold the title deeds. Or else they will be shaken out of possession and will have to join the army of the wage slaves.

Once among the wage slaves there is much hope for them. For there they will meet comrades in revolt against exploiting capitalists whether agricultural or industrial.

The stone age has gone. The hunting age has gone. The pastoral age has gone. The patrician age has gone. The feudal age has gone. The capitalist age is just packing up preparatory to going.

A fool can ask more questions than seven wise men can answer. Particularly if the fool happens to be a wise Socialist and the wise men happen to be capitalist fools.

FRED, D. WARREN

Fred D. Warren has been sent to jail. Warren is the editor of the Appeal to Reason, published at Girard, Kansas. This paper has a circulation of over half a million a week.

In 1906 Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone, officials of the United Mine Workers, were kidnapped in Colorado by Idaho police officials, hustled on board a special train and rushed out of the State of Colorado to Boise, Idaho, where they were tried on the charge of instigating the murder of ex-Governor Steunenburg.

These three union officials had been rushed out of Colorado without extradition proceedings. The defense claimed that these men had been unlawfully arrested. But the United States Supreme Court held that kidnapping labor leaders was no crime under Federal law.

This decision was manifestly a rotten one. The U. S. Supreme Court is chosen by corrupt American politicians. Naturally the judges composing that body are not too honest. They are mostly crooked corporation lawyers. The mine owners of Colorado wanted to murder Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone. Hence any decision that these mine owners wanted the U. S. Supreme Court was prepared to give.

The Appeal to Reason fought for the prisoners. Through the storm raised the prisoners were acquitted. Roosevelt was enraged at this result.

When the decision came that kidnapping was no crime, Warren resolved to find out whether the law was the same for the workers as for capitalists. Ex-Governor Taylor was wanted by the Kentucky authorities on the charge of murder. Warren offered a reward through the U. S. mails of one thousand dollars to anyone who would kidnap and return Taylor to the Kentucky authorities. Rewards for the capture of criminals are frequently issued in the States.

But Warren's reward was different. It was aimed against a capitalist politician. Hence, under an obscure section of the postal law, Warren was arrested for sending threatening literature through the mails and after two years delay he was convicted before a rotten judge as ever sat on a bench. Pollock. Warren appealed and the sentence was confirmed. He has to pay one thousand five hundred dollars penalty and to spend six months in jail at hard labor. He is going to jail and then appear on habeas corpus proceedings before the Supreme Court. This court has decided that it is no crime to kidnap labor leaders. Warren is curious to find out if they will hold it a crime to offer a reward for doing that which they have decided to be no crime.

This case has done much to strip courts of all dignity across the border. Americans are now talking of the "two law" decisions they have got. One decision for the capitalist and exactly the opposite decision for the workers.

Warren's case has made history. Roosevelt, who ordered Warren's prosecution has had added another nasty mess to his political history. And Taft with all his smile, finds the murmur of the people developing into an angry roar that does not bode well for his obese person.

The Kent, Ont., County Council has taken up the question of the inefficiency of the county constabulary, with a view to improving it. The present fee system is pronounced useless and expensive. An effort will be made to abolish it, and to appoint an officer for each township, under salary and with a permanent head office. The capitalists are great on talking about the benefits that arise from individual initiative and the necessity of holding out rewards in the way of money for the energetic. Now they find it does not pay with constables. The fee system means that the constables are paid for each arrest and for each mile travelled conveying a prisoner to jail, etc. This system makes constables hunt arrests like hungry dogs hunting bones. Innocent men are arrested. Even capitalist justice is swung by a few paltry dollars paid constables on the hunt for a living. Capitalists do not want constables to be paid for useless services. But capitalists want themselves paid for doing no services at all.

Rent, interest and profit is the three-fold god at whose shrine the capitalists worship.

The insurgents are still insuring in Mexico. Europe is not the only continent where the people have to fight their tyrants.

The plute and the tramp are of a nature all compact. They live by the labor of others. But the plute just hates a tramp, for the parasite tramp disgraces the parasite profit lord.

The workers must protect themselves on the political as well as on the industrial field. Socialism is the political defence while unionism is the industrial.

During October 115 workers were killed in Canada in industrial accidents and 275 seriously injured. The wage slaves get the short end of the revenues and the long end of the dangers of our modern industrial life.

It is said that Laurier will appeal to the Pope to stop the clerical agitation in Quebec against the navy. The Pope will hardly heed Laurier. He is supporting reaction in France, in Germany and in Spain. Will he break his record by supporting capitalist Laurier against the feudalist Church?

Under capitalism the energetic strive to become parasites. There are many energetic persons. Therefore there is a fierce struggle to get the soft life. The surplus value which can be robbed from the workers is limited in each age. Thus too many parasites cannot ride on the backs of the workers. A lot are all the time falling off. The parasites think they are doing a tremendous lot of useful work because they struggle with grim determination to hold on to their parasite positions.

Trackless street cars are now coming into vogue. A wire is strung overhead and the cars are run on ordinary roads. This does away with track hands and tracklayers. The wage slave is finding his jobs becoming more and more limited. His only hope is to capture the machines which have taken away the jobs. This is what the Socialists stand for, working class ownership and management of the means of production and distribution.

From March 31st to August 31st the immigrants to Canada numbered 180,330. These are the persons who have been wrenched loose from their old environment by economic pressure or the hope of a better living. Capitalism breaks down nationalities and raises the Asiatic question. Capitalism makes the races fluid. It produces an international army of wage slaves, which is disciplining itself to bring about the overthrow of capitalism.

Vladimir Poulsen, the inventor of Copenhagen declares that he has telephoned over 420 miles without wires and that he has maintained the communications uninterrupted for several days. We have wireless telegraphy. Now we will have wireless telephony and the workers on the telephone lines will find their jobs gone into the limbo of past things. Capitalism with its private ownership for profit is killing itself. Capitalism to maintain itself must provide the workers with a chance to earn a living. But capitalism has let loose the inventor to reduce work to the smallest possible amount. Thus the army of the workless continues to grow as the capitalists hail with joy reduced operating expenses of the plants.

Barcelona, Spain, is facing a crisis in the cotton industry. It possesses 19,925 spindles which employ 46,500 operatives. But capitalism has built too many spindles and Barcelona is feeling the effect. The mills must shut down unless something is done. So the manufacturers are appealing to the Spanish government for that universal remedy of the capitalist labor skimmers, a bonus from the public funds. Bonusing will not prevent capitalism dying any more than artificial respiration prevents death to the old. The machines of production are so productive that the capitalists are finding it harder and harder to make profits. The profit system will cease having finished its mission of revolutionizing industry.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES

F. D. Monk, Conservative Member of Parliament from Quebec, has introduced a bill entitled, "An Act respecting Co-operative Credit Societies. This is bill No. 11 of the House of Commons. Section five of this proposed act provides,

"Under this Act, societies may be incorporated having for their object or purpose the receiving of moneys on deposit from members and the making of loans to members with or without security, defined by the petition signed on application for incorporation."

According to Monk's bill, credit societies could be easily organized. At present the chartered banks of Canada practically have the monopoly of the business of dealing in credit. They monopolize the business of discount and of loan. Monk's bill would interfere with the revenues the banks enjoy.

At once E. B. Osler, Conservative member from Toronto West, opposed the bill. The bill would not protect the depositors. The dear people would be Sheldonized. And so on.

E. B. Osler is elected to protect the people. The Canadian "Who's Who" gives Edmund Boyd Osler's financial offices as follows: "President, Dominion Bank; director C. P. Ry; director, Toronto General Trust Co." It can easily be seen why E. B. Osler, M. P. does not want Monk's bill to pass. It would cut down the profits of the banks and Osler, in his capacity as private financier has interests different from those of many of his constituents who would benefit by cheap credit.

J. R. Stratton, Liberal M. P. for Peterborough West, also opposed Monk's measure. J. R. Stratton is given in "Who's Who" as being vice president of the Traders' Bank; president The Trust & Guarantee Company; the Dominion Permanent Loan Company, etc. J. R. Stratton is also interested in not allowing co-operative societies dealing in cheap credit. It would be bad for certain groups of labor skimmers.

There is a clause in the criminal code preventing Members of Parliament being personally interested in legislation that comes before the House. But that does not worry the M. Ps. For have we not company law and the fiction of artificial personalities? This theory is a fine one to keep M. P.'s from being injured by little laws.

A corporation is what is known as a person. Thus the Traders Bank in law is regarded as a separate person. So when the Traders Bank is interested in legislation it is considered that the artificial corporation alone is interested. The individual M. Ps. who happen to be large stock holders are not supposed to be interested. It is the corporation not the M. Ps. that is interested.

If an M. P. and five outsiders banded together to get legislation passed that would be of pecuniary interest to themselves, that is graft. But if the five persons are incorporated and get the same legislation passed, that is not graft. That is simply protecting vested interests.

Is it not peculiar that the common people will elect their plunderers to represent them at Ottawa? Is it not more peculiar that the wage slaves who are kept in bondage by the laws passed in the legislative bodies will elect their direct exploiters to keep making laws to keep the wage slaves in slavery?

I will be glad when the laboring men of Canada perceive that Members of Parliament will not vote themselves into poverty when they can vote themselves into riches, and that the only way for the laboring men of Canada to get legislation that will give the workers the wealth they create is to elect working class Members pledged to abolish the exploitation of the workers.

The Bank of Commerce cleared up \$1,800,000 net profits. That is the revenues that go to the non-workers after all expenses are paid. Is it not nice to have a system of wage slavery in existence which gives you, if you are an idler, such nice big revenues?

The capitalist politicians are trying all manner of palliatives to prevent the social ills that arise from capitalism. Their palliatives but prepare the way for the social revolution.

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