

## COMMENTS ON CURRENT EVENTS

Gustave Prager, Berlin.

Now that the McNamara case is attracting great attention, it is not to be wondered at that the "oracle" again speaks. The mighty "Teddy" warns the unions to move carefully. In an article written for the "Outlook," entitled "Murder is murder," Theodore Roosevelt says it is grossly improper to create prejudice against a corporation. He is kind enough this time to venture the opinion that these men are deserving of a fair trial, but the question of organized labor or of organized capital, or of the relations of either with the community at large, has nothing whatever to do with the issue. But the workers of America have not forgotten that Roosevelt denounced as guilty Moyer, Haywood, and Pettibone, before their case went to trial. And against them he coined his infamous phrase "undesirable citizens." The workers are getting mightily tired of Roosevelt's "buncombe" at \$1.00 per word.

The workers of France are a revolutionary lot. They have shown this on many occasions very recently. In their struggles they not so much strive for economic gains, as for political advantages. They are more concerned with changing the conditions of government than to slightly improve the conditions of their jobs. They use the means of sudden and of general strikes to embarrass the capitalist regime. As a recent news item puts it:

"The policy of French workers in fighting for better conditions, is not difficult to understand. It is to diminish the output, with the three-fold object:

1. First because small wages deserve small effort.
2. To make work for more hands.
3. To cripple and ultimately destroy capitalist industries and thus sooner pave the way for Socialism."

A great cry is raised in the daily press about Lloyd George's reforms in England, of his measures which mean drifting toward "state Socialism." As Cotton's recently pointed out, state ownership is far from the industrial democracy aimed at by socialists. It matters not, if a girl works for starvation wages for a private capitalist or for the government printing bureau at Ottawa. In either case the system forces many of them on the road of prostitution.

In the editorial columns of the Toronto "Globe," May 8th, we find the following illogical, foolish fling at Socialism:

"The police confiscated the Socialist banners in Montreal. But this has not weakened the Socialist faith in the wisdom of trusting all things to constituted authority." The workers are beginning to see, as this sample of editorial wisdom points out, that the modern state is the power in the hands of the few to bulldoze the many. The ruling class having at their beck and call the army and the navy and the policeman's club, it is not to be wondered at that "constituted authority" orders the police to confiscate the banners of those, who are arousing their fellow workers to an understanding of their position in society. The workers have no fear of "constituted authority" in the industrial democracy of the future.

The Stratford "Beacon" reports that at the recent meeting of the Synod of Hamilton and Lennox at Woodstock the complaint that ministers were poorly paid was repeated. The increased cost of living was dwelt upon. Says the Beacon: "The workman is worthy of his hire, and a man cannot be expected to preach good sermons if he is worrying about financial obligations and how to make ends meet. The minister has a physical side to him, which needs to be taken care of as well as the spiritual."

Let us agree to all that! But what about the mass of the toilers, who are up against the same problem in a more aggravated form! Can other workers do good work under present day conditions? And isn't it refreshing to have it admitted that even ministers of the gospel have a "physical" side. Why, they pointed at us the finger of scorn, because we are "materialists," when we maintain that the "bread and butter" question is a vital one. Well, as Ruskin said: "Whether there be one god or a hundred—the children must be fed!"

Capitalism gives little chance for reward for merit. It reduces the vast mass of workers to one dead level of wage slavery. Socialism will allow the wage slaves an opportunity for individual effort and improvement.

The capitalist class love the working class just as they love the sweet leg of a well cooked spring chicken which they are devouring.

The many toil and the few despoil.

The class war is on in Canada. It will end only by the abolition of the capitalist class.

Compromise with the capitalists? There can be no compromise with the class who live by the slavery of others.

The fight against slavery is on in Canada. Will YOU join in the fight for the abolition of slavery in Canada?

Canada is a land of slavery. The grim humor of the situation lies in the fact that the poor, fool slaves think they are free men.

The capitalists cry peace, peace to the sullen workers. But there can be no peace as long as the black flag of capitalist piracy floats aloft over the slave pens of Canada.

The revolutionary Socialist is the salt that is leavening the slave thoughts of the workers. The more of them we have and the more revolutionary they are the better it will be for humanity.

The Socialists make the workers discontented, is the lament of the plutocrats. We Socialists rejoice at the charge. For a contented wage slave is one of the poorest curses that nature ever shaped.

The big financiers prate of freedom under the Canadian flag. They do not know what freedom means. For freedom in their sight means license to them to fatten and rot on the wealth produced by hundreds of thousands of slaves.

There are many pious capitalists who would like to become Socialists, press Socialism to their bosom—in order to strangle the dam thing. But Socialism is beyond the power of the capitalists to kill. For it is cherished in the hearts of millions of slaves.

Socialism will abolish some homes. It will abolish the rented shack. It will abolish the homes where prostitutes live herded together. It will abolish the castle home of the multimillionaire. But from the ruins of squalid misery and overblown wealth will rise true homes of the people where labor can enjoy family life and children will be a blessing instead of a curse.

Just think of it! There are slaves in Canada who actually think it is noble to be a hard working, honest slave. They worship work and hope the boss will let them have a lot of it. The boss does as long as he can make a profit. Is it not tragic that the slaves should worship their slavery?

Capitalism forces an ever growing army of women into the ranks of prostitution and then the soft headed brainslaves of the capitalist exploiters urge the workers to fight Socialism as it will break up the home. Rot! The homes of millions are already broken up by the international capitalist class.

Yes. The capitalists would like the workers to be satisfied and contented. The capitalists would like the workers to be weak kneed slaves who thankfully take a job when the master class can make surplus profits out of them and to thankfully take the sack trusting to the good lord to care for them in the days when they are forced to hobo it and get garnered into the jails as tramps and set to work on Whitney's rockpiles and government roads.

The capitalists of Denmark have locked out forty thousand workers. The workers will now perform idle. They cannot produce wealth because the owners of the mills have declared that the workers shall no longer be allowed to enter the mills and work at the machines. Under Socialism the working class will own the mills and machines. There will be no capitalist class to prevent the workers from working. Will not Socialism be a glorious thing for the present wage slaves?

The depopulation of Scotland is now causing alarm. The blame for the stagnation in the population of Glasgow and Edinburgh is laid upon the great co-operative stores where a large proportion of the working people and others do their shopping. It is declared that these stores have squeezed out the small traders and their wives and compelled them to take their wives and children to new homes across the seas. Co-operative effort produces the same effect as capitalist effort as long as the iron system of wages exists. The co-operative stores cheapen the cost of distribution and squeeze out the little dealers. The co-operative stores sell to the workers. The price of goods fall, workers can live on less and therefore either wages go down or rents go up. As long as capitalism exists the workers will get but a bare living and many of them will not be able to get that through unemployment.

## BUNCOME &amp; SCRAPP'S

By R. W. NORTHEY

WRITTEN EXPRESSLY FOR "COTTON'S WEEKLY"

## CHAPTER XV.

Alan Maynard, Soapboxer.

(Continued.)

"The chattel slave had to be bought at a cost of several hundred dollars or bred and fed from infancy; the wage slave costs nothing. The chattel slave had to be clothed, housed and fed all the year round and kept in a good state of health whether he was at work or not; he was property, you know, and if his value depreciated there was a money loss. The wage slave is only paid for the actual time he works; when there is no work for him he is no expense to his master, and there is no money loss if he falls sick or dies. Which system was most profitable for the masters? Why, wage slavery, of course. Wage slavery cheapened production! Therefore wage slavery continued and chattel slavery was relegated to the scrap heap with all other obsolete and expensive systems of the past. This was the economic determinism—and there could be no other outcome. There is no sentiment in economic determinism. It is hard, scientific fact, but it has always been the greatest of evolutionary forces; it has forced the hand, so to say, of every tribe and every nation in working up to the splendid achievements of this wonderful twentieth century. And here we are today, a world waiting in expectancy for the next step upward; some nations further advanced and more prepared than others, but all on the qui vive, as one might say, waiting for the great change that a scientific reading of history tells us must come as soon as the conditions are ready for it—and in most countries the conditions are ready now—the change from the private ownership of public utilities, better known as the competitive system, to the Co-operative Commonwealth. And of all the nations and races of present day civilization there is no race so fully and completely ready for it as the Anglo-Saxon race, because in the grand old Motherland, the cradle of that race, Capitalism, the competitive system, first came into existence, fought its first battles and won its first victories over its proud but ignorant predecessor—Feudalism. Because of this, because in that race Capitalism is further advanced, because the profit system has become rotten ripe and ready to fall, and because the desire for liberty and true freedom has never been really crushed out of the Anglo-Saxon people, we may confidently predict that that great race will again lead the new evolution—the evolution that will put Capitalism and the profit system on the scrap heap for all time.

"In my remarks on wage slavery I have hardly touched on any of the evils that are depicted in the newspapers from day to day. I have said nothing of the slavery of little children in Southern factories, of the slavery of the sweatshops in all our great cities, of the ghastly white slave traffic, of the peonage in the South, or the worse than slavery of the thousands of coal diggers in more than one of the coal areas in the south-eastern states and Nova Scotia. There is no need for me to go into any of these, because the daily papers are most effective witnesses to the fact that wage slavery does exist. And to the man or woman who has an understanding of the matter it is rendered as clear as daylight that the cause of all this barbarity is that same economic determinism, or, in plain words, the cheapening of the cost of production in the greed for profits.

"I stand here tonight for the purpose of explaining to all who are willing to listen how the Co-operative Commonwealth can be brought into existence. There is no need for force of arms in this new evolution, although the plutocrats who are now in possession of the earth and all its utilities may show fight, but without the police and the army at their back they would necessarily have to submit to the will of the majority. The only weapon needed is the ballot. The combined votes of a class-conscious proletariat is the most powerful weapon in the government of any nation. If the workers would only begin to understand their position—that they are only hewers of wood and drawers of water to the governing classes—if they would only begin to realize that they are wage slaves and not free men in the true sense of the word, they would vote as one man. They would get possession of the law-making power, because the most ignorant cannot fail to see that the laws enacted have always been in favor of the labor skimmers and the trust magnates, and whenever a law favorable to the people has been passed by the legislatures the courts have quickly proclaimed it unconstitutional. While this latter injustice has been illustrated more shamelessly

in the United States there is no guarantee that it will not be copied by the other Anglo-Saxon nations.

"For many years there has been a workers' political party in existence—the Socialist party—which has lately been causing great perturbation amongst the wealthy classes of all countries. It is an international organization, and its aims and objects are the uplifting and ennobling of all humanity by giving equal opportunity to every individual, male and female; by obliterating all class distinctions and unequal privileges; by utterly destroying the profit system and replacing it by production for use, and this will have a wonderful effect in lessening the drink traffic; by placing woman on an equality with man socially, industrially and politically; by putting an end to all wars, standing armies and navies, as well as all strikes and lockouts; by giving the best possible education to every child and congenial employment to every citizen, male or female, who wants it; by freedom of worship for all religions, as religion is a private matter and concerns the individual alone; by making life worth the living for all people instead of the ghastly mockery it is now for millions of our fellow creatures in the slums, the jails and the red light districts. Socialism does not claim to make all men equal, but it does claim that it will give all men and all women equal opportunity. It would take me more than one night to give anything like a competent explanation of Socialism and its aims, therefore I would ask you to read up on the subject and judge for yourselves; it would be useless and even foolish for me to ask you to vote for it unless you have a thorough understanding of this world wide movement. I am not asking for your votes. I am asking for your own sakes to read and find out what it stands for. You will then understand how we workers propose to recover the God-given heritage stolen from our fathers long ages ago. Do not be led astray by the jeers and ridicule of your boss, for he is more ignorant of what Socialism is than you are yourself. Don't let the denunciation of your priest or your minister frighten you away from the study of this vital matter, for he is prone to depicting a bogey and drawing a lurid picture of some frightful ogre that is not Socialism at all, but a phantasmagoria of his disordered brain.

"There is no finality in evolution. There will always be the mountains of Progress looming up in the distance ahead and there will always be pioneers in the forefront marking out the trail. Like a piece of ancient intricate machinery in this age of invention the Capitalist system has become too worn and decrepit to be of any further benefit to the race as a whole. It has been tinkered and patched and oiled and greased with loving yet greedy hands by those favored few who have been running it and who now see the finish of their sinecures and unearned increment with the finish of the machine. They want to keep it going at all hazards. When the Capitalist machine stops they are well aware that, like Othello's their occupation will be gone forever. And what is their occupation? Nothing very much. Only oiling the machine and taking possession of four-fifths of its products. They are magnanimous enough to allow the workers the other fifth.

"The new machine, Co-operation, will be run by all the people and its working will be so regular and so evenly adjusted that the jars and clashes so common to the old machine will never again be heard or felt. Its powers of production will be so vast that the physical needs of every man, woman and child in the country will be amply supplied. There will be no rake-off for anyone, but everyone will have enough, and when a man has enough to supply all his physical needs he can find time to turn his attention to the pursuit of knowledge or the pursuit of pleasure without the dread of having to carry Poverty around with him wherever he goes. Our old companion Poverty, that stuck closer than a brother, will have no part or lot in the new Commonwealth. This earth will know him no more. He will have winged his flight to some other planet less advanced in evolution than ours—if there be any such—and with him will go all of his numerous progeny, such as Starvation, Disease, Misery, Ignorance, Despair, Crime, Drunkenness, Worry and a host of other vampires that have lived with us and fed on us and sucked our blood and drained our manhood and womanhood for hundreds of years. But we must not forget that all these evils were absolutely necessary to the growth, expansion and decay of the Capitalist system. Neither must we forget that had there been no Capitalist system there could be no possi-

ity of the Co-operative Commonwealth. Capitalism is the progenitor of Socialism, and Socialism is merely the forerunner of the Co-operative Commonwealth.

"When old King Capital is laid away and decently buried there will be another funeral immediately following; for the Socialist political party will cease to exist. It will have done its work and its services will no longer be required. In the ripe manhood of the Co-operative Commonwealth there will be no politics and no political parties as we know them today. There will also be many things besides politics that will be sent into oblivion under the new dispensation. It would be foolish for anyone, however gifted, with foresight, to attempt to lay down a cut-and-dried programme for the Co-operative Commonwealth, because the people of that day, however near or however distant it may be, will decide their own problems and make their own laws, just as they are supposed to do today. But while it would be out of place for any prophet or the son of a prophet to say what shall be under the new regime, there is very little difficulty in predicting what shall not be.

"As I have already exceeded my usual time limit of one hour I must ask you to be present next Friday night if you care to know what will not be in the new Democracy."

The speaker then stated that he was ready to answer any questions his hearers might desire to put.

## Your Independence

I know you. You pretend you are wise and free and independent. You deceive nobody but yourselves. When you go to the city or town you don't stop at the fine hotels—not even if you have the price. You don't feel at home in them. You hunt around for some cheap place where they hand out fifteen-cent chucks. You feel more at home there, and you know it. You don't know how to act in a fine hotel; you are ashamed to eat for fear of showing your "bringing-up." I know you are. I have been there myself. How many times have I had money more than some of the swell dudes that pick their teeth in the hotels, but who eat outside, but I was ashamed to go into the lobbies! I am frank enough to admit it. What a damnable state of society to raise children in! Nothing is too good for the human race, but most of us are reared like cattle, until if we have any sense at all we feel our lack of those nice social qualities that are by right the heritage of the race. But the few who do no useful work are fitted from childhood for such association—and usually they are too degraded by maturity to be fit to associate with. But we are all entitled to proper training and not wait until late in life, to enjoy, if we even can then enjoy, the things that are made for us. Under Socialism every child will have condition of life under which he or she will develop all the fine social qualities that distinguish us from animals. But you prefer a system that makes you feel like a poor boy at a frolic—that makes you feel more at home in a fifteen-cent chop house than in a hotel fit for humans to dine. But, then, we Socialists, who want this for you and your children, are such damn fools that we ought to be hung. The good things of life are only fit for such fellows as corner the markets, bribe the legislators and do those fine things! Tag!—J. A. W.

All subs for Cotton's expire at end of time paid for, and all subscriptions, new or renewals, are treated as new.

## YOUR HOME COUNTY

You Comrades have done a little better. But pshaw, you haven't begun to dig after your own freedom like what you will have to before you make this plutes let go.

Do you like your slavery? Are you hugging your chains? Are you a contented lot of slaves who want to play at revolution instead of working at it?

It would seem so. You only sent 375 new subs out of eight millions of people. Many of these were renewals. Just figure up to yourself in how many centuries your freedom will be achieved at that rate.

Now Comrades, this won't do. All respectable revolutionists are blushing for shame over that sub list. Get busy and make it humph.

Let the Comrades in other constituencies tend after their own affairs. Let each one of you make it your business to pump Cotton's Weekly into your electoral constituency.

You mildly rejoice over a Socialist victory in Germany. You rejoice more in a victory in the United States. Your joy is greater over a victory in some other Canadian province. But how great your joy will be when YOUR OWN COUNTY goes Socialist.

You are laughed at more or less as a visionary. You don't like it. None of us like to be sneered at. The way to overcome this is to work for the spread of Socialism in your own home county. When there is enough Socialism in it you will have a Socialist M. P. When you have enough Socialist M. P's you will have Socialism.

So get right down to work in your own home county and fill it full of Cotton's. We have our eye on each constituency in Canada. Get busy and put your county on the map as a red centre of revolt.

## Circulation Statement

Following is the statement of circulation for the issue of May 18.

|                        | OFF | ON  | TOTAL |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Ontario.....           | 82  | 94  | 3166  |
| Alberta.....           | 35  | 123 | 1389  |
| British Columbia.....  | 38  | 72  | 1312  |
| Prov. of Quebec.....   | 31  | 32  | 1184  |
| Nova Scotia.....       | 19  | 30  | 975   |
| Manitoba.....          | 12  | 11  | 753   |
| Saskatchewan.....      | 15  | 11  | 703   |
| New Brunswick.....     | 0   | 5   | 156   |
| Elsewhere.....         | 2   | 1   | 134   |
| Yukon Territory.....   | 0   | 0   | 45    |
| Newfoundland.....      | 0   | 1   | 19    |
| Prince Ed. Island..... | 0   | 0   | 10    |
| Total.....             | 234 | 380 | 9,846 |

Gain for week 146

Total issue last week was 11,000

## Lists Wanted

Cotton's needs lists for sample copies—and it needs them now. Comrades who will send us in electoral or other lists, with post offices marked will be remembered with a good premium. Make out lists carefully, as we want results.

## New Souvenir Post Cards

We have just printed two nice post cards, one showing Jules Lavigne and the Socialist Young Guard on a parade at Springhill, N.S., the other putting before the public, the Canadian Temple of the Revolution, the home of Cotton's Weekly. They will be sent to every hustler who sends in a dollar or more at one time. Ask for Souvenir Post Cards, so the girls will not forget.

TORONTO, LOCAL No. 1, ENGLISH.—Business Meetings held on the first and third Thursday of each month at the Finnish Hall, 214 Adelaide St. W., at 8 p.m. Second floor. Economic class, second and fourth Wednesday of each month held at 17 Chestnut St., at 8 p.m. Organizer, A. W. McCall, 280 Carlton St. Secretary, Mr. E. Bellemare, 115 Spadina St.

Dr. W. J. CURRY  
DENTIST  
SUITE 901  
1000-1001 TRINITY BUILDING  
VANCOUVER, B. C. 106  
PHONE 234

## JOB PRINTING

SEND Cotton's Co-operative your orders for Letterheads, Envelopes, Statements, Billheads, Cards, Tags, Circulars, Programs, Handbills—in fact anything in the way of Printing. The facilities of Cotton's are such that it is enabled to turn out large quantities of this class of work at the very minimum of cost. The best grade of material is used in all work, and our finished product will compare favorably with that of any office in Canada.

Any job received from Cotton's that is not entirely satisfactory in every particular will not cost the customer a cent. If you have sent the money for the job it will be refunded, and you may keep the work besides. There is no question about this. Your word goes. Think you could lose on that kind of a proposition?

In sending for an estimate of a job, always send a sample of the work to be done, or a sample of a job as near like it as possible. We positively guarantee the prices—quality of work to be considered—to be as low as can be obtained anywhere in Canada, where the Union Label is used. We pay express charges. Send for our nifty line of samples. A Postal Card will do.

The Profits from Job Printing go into the General Propaganda Fund. It's better there than in the pockets of some old party publishing firm.

REMEMBER—We Pay the Express Charges

## THE

Two ye

Leckie, O

Comrade

Sask., put

from his v

Comrade

C., swings

Three m

B. Daniels

A halfe

Kerton, S

Comrade

responsib

Comrade

Sask., lan

takes a cr

Three do

Comrade

kee, Wis.

Comrade

Lake, Sas

with two

Comrade

ton, B.

yearlies.

Comrade

Ont., mak

of the dis

Comrade

news for

flag over

A list of

dog, The

Kernick, S

Comrade

rushes a

Comrade

Man., mak

eyes. 6

Comrade

renews his

into the h

for a year.

Comrade

Park, B. C

alism to

yearlies at

Four ye

herst, N. S.

slave who

what he is

Comrade

makes the

uneasily w

lies.

Five sub

influence o

stituency

Jas. LeBro

"More t

Jas. T. J

with two

of five cop

Watch th

on the lit

your paper

least a we

piry in ord

"Enclose

a year to

play the s

Let the go

C. A. Hill

"Enclose

ly tending

to wait. H

ism." Com

lin, Ont.

Comrade

Sask., sen

"May be s

stick." Hop

more."

Place a

place in y

chance of i

reading an

libraries, et

"Enclose

for a year.

kindly send

don't want

al story."

Alex. Wilk

Comrade

Bay, Mani

of the lon

ing their d

of red.

Twenty t

qualist loc

twelve tri

ists of Gu

scriptions

prejudice b

Comrade

Valley, Alt

ty-five fo

politicians

manner sou

rickson sou