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This is No. 143

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Cotton's Weekly

W. U. COTTON, Editor

COWANSVILLE, P. Q., Canada, June 8, 1911

H. A. WEBB, Bus.-Mgr.

There's a Hearty-Send-
Off Sub Blank Enlosed

USE IT!

MOOLEY COWS

"You can't clean up elections. Men are corrupt and it is useless to try and remedy the defect. Human nature is human nature."

How often do you come up against that stock argument against pure elections, against Socialism, against even mild reforms?

When you get talking politics with the average common mutt who wields the ballot you run up against a strong belief in the rottenness of politics and the hopelessness of overcoming it.

When we analyse the reasons for this sentiment we will know the causes and knowing the causes we can apply the remedy.

Do you know that the average voter in his capacity as voter is not much better than a mooley cow?

Did you ever study the cow? Did you ever look into the large, peaceful, pellucid orbs of its eyes? Did you ever study how it takes its own stall, walk in the beaten paths of the pastures and is obedient to the commands of the swearing farmer?

If you have, then you know the political nature of the average common mutt who votes.

He walks in the beaten paths of old political ideas. He is obedient to the command of the politician who owns him. And just like a cow likes to have handed her a particular juicy handful of long grass when she is to be captured to be led to the slaughter house, so the common voting mutt likes to be handed a little of the long green when he is to be led to the political slaughter house of all his economic interests.

The voters are mooley cows. They were not intended to be such. They were intended to be free men, men with a will and with courage. But owing to slavery and ignorance, they have become bovine. Occasionally they get glimmerings of the manhood in which they might live. Then they rear a little and toss their heads. But the old party politicians say, "So, Boss." And they quiet right down and enter the polling booths and vote for their masters. Thus they earn for themselves the epithet commonly bestowed upon them of being gothing but voting cattle.

As men they are not half bad. But as voters they are atrocious. The politicians despise them. The thinkers are cynical. And they have contempt for themselves as voters. For the common mutts realize that they are not much good as voters. They hold themselves in great derision. I have talked to a number of voters and they look upon themselves in the mass as corrupt and nauseous. They cannot reason it out but they feel dimly that if they are corrupt and nauseous in the mass, they must be individually odious or the smell that rises to high heaven, the smell of the politicians they elect would not rise. For the smell of putrefaction does not rise from meat whose individual particles are wholesome.

WHY BE CATTLE?

The average voter is like the mooley cow. Now if this quality is inbred in him. If he is own brother to the ox by nature, by long inheritance, by similarity of nerve cells and brain structure, then we must submit and declare that human nature is mooley cow nature and we cannot expect mooley cows to be anything else but mooley cows.

I need not explain that human beings have not the same bodily structure as cattle have. I think I can take that much for granted and I think that even the ignorant capitalist politicians will not venture to argue the question.

That being the case, why do we see intelligent human beings voting corruptly, voting against their own interests, voting for men whom they know to be useless to them?

The answer lies in the fact that the common mutt has nerve centres, brain cells, thought capacity. But he has not used these things politically. He has enslaved himself. He wraps up his talents in his noddle and lets his politicians do the thinking for him. When the voters really begin to use their intelligence, then will the reign of the politicians be over.

The voting cattle are in the shape of men. They have glimmerings of intelligence. They are no longer content, as they were under feudalism, to have but one master. They want to rule themselves. So their real masters, the capitalist class, appoint

two sets of cattle driving politicians. The one set they label Liberal. The other set they label Tory. They set these two sets of cattle drivers at work persuading the voting cattle to walk in their respective paths. The Liberal path leads to the capitalist barn and slaughter house. The Conservative path leads to the capitalist barn and slaughter house. There is no rivalry between the two sets of drivers as to the destination of the cattle. But as the master class pays the drivers who persuade the cattle to take their path a little better pay, there is personal rivalry between the two sets of drivers and they do their utmost to persuade the cattle to go to the capitalist milk house and slaughter pen by their path.

The Tory politicians declare that the common mutts will end up at a terrible place if the common mutts go the Liberal way. And the Liberal politicians declare that the common mutts will end up in a terrible place if they take the Tory path. And both paths lead unto the same place. Along each path the cattle are sore driven and overworked, fed scanty rations and pass through bleak territory. While up on the sunlit hills, clothed with verdure and shady trees and abounding in rippling brooks leaping from the cool earth, live the parasite capitalist class in luxury on the milk and beef and hides of the sordid mooley cows.

Now a peculiar thing about the voting cattle is that they believe or pretend to believe what their politicians tell them. If they are stamped with the blue Tory brand, then they think that they are passing through beautiful scenery if the Tory politicians drive, while the cattle stamped with the red brand of Liberalism think the scenery bleak and desolate. If they have chosen the Liberal path then the voting cattle marked Liberal think the scenery perfectly lovely while the Tory voting cattle think the scenery desolate and dreary.

But back in their brains, somewhere emerging from their subliminal consciousness, comes to the voting cattle the glimmering idea that they are not cattle at all. That they are men. That they are of the same nature as the capitalist class, bone of their bone, flesh of their flesh, equal in natural power, superior in usefulness, and more glorious in acquiring capacity through years of hardening work.

So the men who have aped the mooley cows, the men who have been nothing but voting cattle politically, begin to ask themselves in fear and trembling, "Why should we be voting cattle? Why should we allow these foul capitalist politicians to drive us sore for the benefit of the capitalist class. Let us arise to our manhood stature and be free?"

THE SOCIALIST

The Socialists have found the remedy for political corruption. They have found how to change the whole current of political action. They have learned to think. They have learned how to use their vote. They have learned to be men.

These Socialists are abroad in the land. The capitalists on the sunlit hills do not like them. They declare through their press and politicians that the Socialists are discontented creatures who would overthrow society. The capitalists are right. For the capitalists know as well as the Socialists that justice to man cannot come as long as the capitalist class live by the sweat of other men's faces.

The capitalist politicians do not like the Socialists. The capitalist politicians are corrupt individuals whose duty is to keep the wage workers in slavery and to keep the voting cattle in the condition of voting cattle. When these politicians are faced by men who see through their tricks, who read their corrupt and shameless hearts and speak aloud unto men still in mental bondage to the political cattle drivers, is it any wonder that the capitalist politicians do not like the Socialists?

The Socialists are free men compared with the non-Socialists. For the Socialist knows he is in slavery. The non-Socialist does not. The Socialist has emancipated his mind from the lies of the master class and their official henchmen. He is free to think and to learn wisdom. The non-Socialist is not.

Into the ranks of the mooley cow voters leap the Socialists. They have learned to walk uprightly. They have

learned to flash their eyes like men. Out from their mouths proceed burning words of truth. These words scorch and blister the tender brains of the voting cattle whose tender minds have not yet felt the surge and potency of dynamic social thought.

The Socialists are looked upon by the mooley cows at first with distrust. The voting cattle have been told by press and politician and preacher that they are mooley cows. The Socialist laughs at them, maybe sneers at them, shows them up in all their folly. The mooley cows do not like it.

But because the mooley cows are not mooley cows by nature but are men, the flashing-eyed Socialist has a strange attraction for them. They are drawn in spite of themselves to listen to the words of the Socialist orators. They are not the oily words of the capitalist preacher. They are not the doped words of the capitalist press. They are not the hollow praises of the capitalist politician. Socialist words are words of denunciation, of exposure, of showing how the mooley cows can cease to be mooley cows and be men.

So ever the Socialists gain, the capitalist politicians fear and the capitalist exploiters tremble on the sunlit hills.

STOP THE HERDING

The aim of the capitalist politicians is to herd the cattle. The aim of the Socialist is to show the cattle that they are men, that they are robbed and that the remedy lies in the common mutts seizing the political power to abolish the robbery practised upon them.

Socialists do not want to herd cattle. They want to establish industrial democracy based upon the will of men. To get office is not the desire of Socialists so much as to wake the workers to a knowledge of the power of political action. They want to put the revolutionary idea into the heads of the voters. That idea implanted, the voters will do the rest.

I am pretty sure that many Canadian Socialists have not yet awakened to their own power. They look upon the capitalist politicians as very powerful creatures. Yet these gentlemen are very weak. They are not strong at all. A small bunch of revolutionary Socialists can play the very mischief with any capitalist politician if they will but get on to the game.

The mooley cow is the keynote. The average voter is not a man politically. He is herded along with other voters by a few politicians. The politicians, being nothing but the choice of mooley cows, are not strong men. They are weak. For they are the choice of men as mooley cows. They are not the choice of men as men. Any moment the voting cattle may assert their manhood and the politician they have voted for will be swept into oblivion. The politician knows this and that is what makes him a coward at heart.

The moment the voters become men and vote as men, vote for the abolition robbery, vote for a sane industrial system, that moment all our politicians now dominant will be overwhelmed. So the politicians must use all their wiles to mislead the voters, to keep them from thinking, and to keep them in ignorance.

A few Socialists in a county can play the very same hill with its capitalist politicians. They can do more to break the power of capitalist rule than a thousand step-at-a-time, O-be-jayful reformers.

The capitalist politicians herd the cattle. STOP THE HERDING.

If you cannot run a Socialist candidate in your constituency, ORGANIZE A CAMPAIGN AGAINST VOTING.

We have anti-militarist propaganda. We have anti-capitalist propaganda. Let us have anti-voting agitation in

those counties where Socialist candidates are not run.

The voting is watched closely. The number of votes is examined and tabulated. If eighty per cent of the possible vote is polled the capitalist politicians rejoice. They consider that they struck some topic that interested the common mutts and pulled them to the polls.

If the total vote in any constituency could be reduced to forty per cent of the possible vote, and if this could be done in numerous constituencies where Socialist candidates were not run it would cause a spirit of blue ruin to pass over the capitalist politicians. IF THE COMMON MUTTS ARE NOT VOTING FOR THEM THE CAPITALIST POLITICIANS WILL KNOW THAT THEY WILL BE MIGHTY SOON VOTING FOR REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISTS.

It is better not to vote than to vote for what you don't want. The refusal to vote of a large number of the voters will show that the old issues no longer appeal. It will set men to questioning. The ruin of the political state will be predicted. By abstention from voting the fear of the common mutts will be driven into the hearts of the capitalists.

WHERE TO ATTACK

If you desire to attack your member of parliament and make him wince, ATTACK HIM ON HIS CONSTRUCTIVE SIDE, NOT ON HIS DESTRUCTIVE ARGUMENTS.

Blue ruin has been the stock-in-trade of every cheap reformer, of every revivalist, of every single taxer, of every successful politician.

I have attended single tax meetings and have heard the orator paint the woeful condition of human society. Then at the tail end he would advocate single tax as a remedy. The Tory politician paints the woeful condition of Canada under Liberalism. He spends hours at it. Then winds up by begging votes for himself.

Every faddist, every wild reformer, every missionary who whangdoodles away at the heathen, all these are convinced that the country or society is going to the demdition bowwows, unless of course the country or society applies the remedy of the faddist, reformer or missionary. The politician is of the same stripe. A story is told of a U. S. office seeker, who made the following speech: "Yes, gentlemen, this here glorious country of the United States of America is going to perdition. It is on the down-grade and no brakes on, it is going with tail and main aying and hell-whooping. But appoint me county constable of this here Boone County, Kentucky, and I will stop the whole durned thing."

Crowd psychology is a queer thing. Of course it is not queer when you know it. But it needs some study. Did you ever study the phenomena of concentration and weariness. The politicians know it and they practice it upon the crowd.

The great thing is to get the crowd in good humor. This is done by a joke, or soothing talk about nothing, or a lot of smiles that show white teeth. That is a trick of the capitalist politicians. The next trick is to pick holes in your opponent. Wear out the crowd by talking about how wicked your opponents are. Keep this up for quite a while. Then when the crowd has listened, and is convinced that the opponents are rogues, and is too tired to investigate the speaker's own platform, just bone them for votes for yourself. That is the opposition trick.

The trick of the ins is to paint the wonderful prosperity of the country. Talk about the miles and miles of railroads built, of hundreds of wage slaves who are "prosperous and happy" in their slavery. Talk about the immense wheat area and claim it all for the government. Then sneer at the opposition and make them out to be whining beggars only looking for

a job. Then when enough generalities have been indulged in, bone the common mutts for votes.

The voting cattle don't think. If they did the capitalist politicians would have to define their position, would have to come down from glittering generalities, glorious visionary dreams, fierce denunciations of opponents, and they would be made to explain their position precisely and sustain it by clear, cold logic. They would be made to do what the Socialists do. The old line politicians would be forced out of their empty vapors and made to talk sense.

When the capitalist politicians rave about corruption among the opposition, let them talk. When they say the country is going to the demdition bowwows, let them talk. But when they begin to talk about what they would do, nail them, and nail them hard.

Suppose a Tory politician talks about the glorious principles of the Conservative Party, ask him: if they will free the workers from slavery. If a Liberal politician talks about the glorious prosperity of Canada, ask him why there is so much prostitution. Ask him why the unemployed army is growing so large. ASK HIM FOR ONE THING THAT THE LIBERALS DID TO HELP THE WORKERS IN THE CLASS WAR.

Nail your politicians. Make them come to your ground. Pump questions at them about the millionaires who are growing richer. If the Liberal politicians talk about reciprocity ask them if it is not a fact that cheap food means cheap wages and cheap food means dear wages and the capitalist politicians see to it that the workers get but a dog's living.

You Socialists are men. The light of reason has penetrated your brains. You think for yourselves. You have studied philosophy and economic determinism. You know. The poor fool, mooley cow, common, voting mutts don't know. They need awakening. Waken them.

Paid in Advance

This paper is paid for. If you have not subscribed, a friend has. No bill will be rendered, and the paper will be promptly discontinued when the subscription expires.

If people see a thief running away with a lot of loot they do not think of his wife and children. They do not think that the poor man needs the things he has taken. They yell, "Police! Police!" And if they get the thief judged they swell out their chests and tell how they did it. But when Socialists talk about capitalists then it is another story. We are told that we are discontented wretches, that the capitalist must have his income or his poor family will suffer. The little thief gets caught. The big thief has his thievery legalized and is respected.

The last session of the state of Colorado appropriated \$60,000 for the payment of claims to the Western Federation of Miners for the destruction of its stores and the Victor Miners' Union Hall during the great Cripple Creek strike of 1903-04. This is an admission that the rioting was aided and abetted by the state authorities in the interests of the master-class against the strikers.

Diaz, the bloody tyrant, has skipped from Mexico city. He left in the night and surrounded by soldiers. Now Madero is in the ascendant. Madero is a multimillionaire and the first thing he did was to declare that he would put down the Socialist revolt in Lower California. The revolutionaries of Mexico have still to win their battle.

The French workers are boycotting the old age insurance plan. One of the reasons is that the bosses are planning to reduce wages to make up for having to contribute to the old age pensions of the workers. As long as capitalists rule the political state the workers will get but a bare living.

The religion preached in the churches of Canada is entirely acceptable to the labor skimmers. Otherwise it would not be preached.

Capitalists make workers divide up with the capitalists and get mad when Socialists want to stop the dividing up that goes on under capitalism.

Socialism could not possibly be worse than the capitalist hell in which we now live.

ORGANIZE!

Organize your county.

Do you know who the M. P. is for your constituency at Ottawa? Do you know your local member is? Do you know the boundaries of your county? Do you know how many votes were cast at the last election in your constituency? Do you know how many Liberal votes were cast? How many Conservative?

How many polling booths are there in your constituency? Where are they located?

Have you tried out the temper of your county? Do you know what things interest the common mutts who do the voting? Have you studied the way that will win them for Socialism?

Have you appointed a Socialist chairman for your constituency whose duty will be to get in touch with all Socialists in the county and see how the territory of the county can be most effectually divided up to be looked after by the various Socialists?

Have you yet taken steps to put a piece of Socialist literature into the hands of every voter in your constituency?

Have you looked up the Socialists and found how many there are in your constituency? Have you looked over the material among the near-Socialists and seen how much of it can be utilized in pamphlet distribution, etc?

Have you dug into the work of organizing? Or have you preferred to gather in the Socialist headquarters and wrangle about minute points of Socialist dogma?

The late H. T. Duffy, Provincial Treasurer of the Province of Quebec, in whose office I studied law, used to say that the city political heeled did not know how to get votes. They would get into a committee room and talk about victory and would not go out and rustle votes.

There is a tremendous amount of the energy of Socialists going to waste. They prefer fraternizing with one another instead of getting out among the unconverted.

Will YOU get busy on the organization end? Will YOU study your own local conditions and work for the winning of your own county.

It may seem a big task to you. But it was not half the task that Marx and the International started out on. There are millions of voters voting the Socialist ticket now. If your county is not in line it is because it is behind the times. You will find that you will not be alone long, for many will join once they see practical efforts put forth. For Socialism is growing by leaps and bounds.

ORGANIZE YOUR COUNTY.

Many people don't want Socialism. I met one like that the other day. He admitted he did not know much about Socialism but said he was conservative and that he did not think a Socialist could make him a Socialist. I asked him if he considered himself a reasonable creature. Certainly he did. Then I asked if Socialism could be made plain to his reason would he accept it or would he go against what he knew to be the most sensible and cling to the old which he knew to be wrong. He could not get out of that and had to admit that many of the Socialist ideas were right.

As industry becomes more and more consolidated the revolt of the common people becomes more and more pronounced. The evolution of industry is a great factor in the spread of Socialism. If the capitalists want to stop Socialism let them stop the concentration of capital, the march of inventive progress and the revolution of machine production. The capitalists cannot do this and are being forced into the Socialist state.

A compilation of the trade union statistics of the principal countries of the world places the number of members in good standing at 9,000,000. This is a million more members than last year. The growing spirit of solidarity of the workers is shown in trade union statistics as well as in Socialist progress.

We cannot blame a capitalist because he is a capitalist. But we can bring about a state of society in which the capitalist class will be merged in the working class.

Capitalists think they are necessary to run industry. The concealed things,