

TACTICS

The history of warfare and military development, the different methods used by the conquerors to win their battles, is an interesting study and can be applied to modern Socialist tactics. The whole development of war has taught the value of individual initiative and combined action.

The Chaldean, Assyrian, Babylonian, Median and Persian empires were built up upon what might be called mob action. The troops marched to battle according to nationalities. When a province or kingdom was conquered there were so many more soldiers added to the conquering army. But the new troops were not organized like those of the conquerors. They came to war for the conquerors in the same style, with the same arms and with the same tactics that they fought against the great king. Consequently when the Persians invaded Greece in 490 B. C. they came a motley host. There were the armed and mailed horsemen of the king. There were tribes in the army that fought with bow and arrow. There were those who came to the war clad in skins of animals and armed with a club.

The Greeks had developed a united battle movement. They had the phalanx. They were all armed alike. They had a shield which they carried on one arm. In the other hand they carried a pike or spear which was eighteen feet long. They were armed besides with a short dagger. They fought in serried ranks. They were massed close together and they pressed forward from eight to fifty ranks deep. One flank of this moving mass was protected by the shields. The other flank was protected by light armed troops.

The spears of the first six or eight ranks protected out in front of the moving mass of men. It meant death to the first ranks of the enemy to withstand the moving pike points pressed forward by the weight of many lines of men.

The Greeks met the Persians for the first time at Marathon in Greece in 490 B. C. The Greeks had ten thousand men. The Persians had two hundred thousand. The ten thousand were victorious.

This battle showed the superiority of organized mass action against mob action. The ten thousand organized fighters were more powerful than the mobs of troops that fought for the great Persian king. The same lesson was repeated on many a battle field. It was written large in the heart of the Persian empire when Xenophon led the ten thousand Greeks through the lands of a hostile empire to the shores of the Black Sea with but the loss of two thousand men. The Persians never learned the new art of warfare and finally became subject to Alexander the Great of Macedonia when his phalanxes of forty thousand men and seven thousand horse defeated Darius Codomannus who led a million men, forty thousand horse and two hundred elephants against him. This was the battle of Arbela fought about 330 B. C. and gave Alexander dominion over the then civilized world.

The Greeks found it easy to conquer the unorganized troops of the east. When they fought among themselves it was a different matter. When the phalanxes crashed together there was terrible slaughter, and the issue was doubtful. "When Greek meets Greek, then comes the tug of war."

But Rome was rising on the banks of the Tiber in Italy. The Romans adopted different tactics, a different formation of troops and style of war which gave her dominion over Greece and the East as well as over Africa and Europe.

The Romans fought in cohorts. The Greeks fought in organized mass action. The Romans fought in mass action but each man was free to act individually.

The Romans were not armed with pikes but with swords. Each man had room for himself. He had room to use his sword, to step back and forward. Three feet of space separated each man. The cohorts were four men deep and eight wide.

These cohorts were arranged like the black squares on a checker board. There was a cohort and then a vacant space. Thus there was room for action and room for each man to work in and room for each cohort to move in.

Pyrrhus, who died in 272 B. C., was the first Greek to test the Roman method of war. He invaded Italy with his phalanxes and his elephants. The Romans met him in battle and were defeated. But after the battle Pyrrhus exclaimed that another such victory and he would be beaten. It had cost him so dearly. Hence today we use the expression, a Pyrrhic victory, to denote a triumph which is really a defeat.

The Romans were beaten but they learned their lesson. Thereafter they would not face the phalanxes. When the Greeks charged with their long spears, the Roman cohorts would

form in long columns, one line of cohorts stepping into the blank spaces behind the other cohorts. Thus the Greek phalanxes would charge through empty spaces lined with men on each side. Then the Romans would turn on the massed Greeks and kill them with thrusts from their swords. Organized mass action was found to be powerless against mass action which gave each soldier the power of individual action.

Rome lasted as a military power till she forgot the art of war and called the barbarian Franks and Angles and Danes to guard her borders. Then she was overwhelmed by the kinsmen of the soldiers she had called to defend her and we have the dark ages, mail clad knights, and English bowmen. The individual initiative of the English proved itself superior in many a battle field against French peasantry driven to war by the feudal knights.

Then arose the age of gunpowder, which the warriors of that day declared to be the end of civilization and the end of virtue. They held that a common peasant with a gun could blow a superior knight all to glory which was bad for the knight and, from the viewpoint of the ruling knight, extremely bad for civilization.

Then the tactics developed by the English of individual initiative, combined with mass action, won many a battle field. Cannon could play on massed troops killing many men. Massed troops were necessary to receive charges of infantry and cavalry. So the English troops were taught to deploy and gather in quick time. When the cannon began to play on the English squares they would rapidly scatter, forming thin red lines of not more than two men deep. So the cannon could not kill more than two men at a shot. But when the enemy charged, or the cavalry came thundering up to the lines, the formation would shift. Sharp and quick the hollow squares would be formed, the first rank kneeling, the second rank half up and the third rank standing, and thus the charge of the enemy would be received.

Now we have the lessons of the South African war and the Russo-Japanese war. Here we have the spider web formation. The general sits back ten or twenty miles from the line of combat. Tens and hundreds of miles of telegraph wire stretch over the field of battle, each thin line being a nerve fibre over which is flashed intelligence of how goes the fight to the central brain. War maps are there at the centre with pins stuck in showing where every regiment and command is located. The men in the front crawl forward at the command, seeking such shelter as can be found. Pressing forward, each and all set together but the man on the firing line must exercise intelligence, initiative, courage, resource.

So today we have warfare completely changed. Mob action has gone. Mass action in its old form has gone. We have movements of individuals all concentrating on the one point. We have developed the greatest amount of individual initiative compatible with combined mass action.

This is a lesson for the Socialists. Individual initiative. Mass action. Let the Socialists organize. Let each have the freest play of individual activity combined with mass action against capitalism. Let the thin lines of intelligence stretch out all over Canada. Let the movement become one. Let each Socialist act in conjunction with other Socialists for the overthrow of capitalism.

Mob action is useless. Mass action is good. But individual action of intelligent workers moving forward against capitalism in unison to one central plan of campaign is best.

FORMERLY AND NOW

Formerly it required 200 hours of human labor to place 100 tons of ore on railroad cars. Today, aided by machinery, two hours of human labor will accomplish the same task.

Formerly it required 240 hours of human labor to transfer 200 tons of coal from canal boats to bins 400 feet distant. Today machinery will accomplish the same work in 20 hours.

On a bonanza farm in California wheat was produced at a cost of 33 cents per bushel.

Prof. Herzog, of Austria, has estimated that 5,000,000 people, with the help of modern machinery, could support a population 20,000,000 people with all the necessities and small luxuries of life by working 13 hours each day.

Today 100 men make 250,000 bricks where 12 years ago they produced only 30,000 bricks.

Today 850 "hands" in one factory produce 225,000,000 matches a day. Seventeen years ago, 5,000 "hands" in 36 factories produced only 140,000,000 a day.—Exchange.

EXPIRING SUBS.

All expiring subs get a notice in the last copy of Cotton's going to expiry addresses. Two weeks after each will receive a sample copy, etc. Any subscriber, having renewed his sub in the meantime, who gets these notices, will please pay no attention, so long as the new sub is coming correctly. Pass the sample paper on to another and get the yellow sub blank filled up. Then with a happy smile, watch Cotton's for satisfaction.

BUNCOME & SCRAPP'S

By R. W. NORTHEY

WRITTEN EXPRESSLY FOR "COTTON'S WEEKLY"

(Continued.)

CHAPTER XII.

John Logie Thanks the Chairman for his Consideration.

Here John Logie said: "Mr. Chairman, I rise to a point of order. Have I the floor or will you permit Brother Sweeney to continue after you have ruled others out of order for a much smaller offence against the rules?"

Sweeney did not wait for the chairman to give his decision but sat down at once. Like most of the members he stood somewhat in awe of Logie, who had held the office of president so many times that it was difficult to class him with the rank and file.

Logie continued: "As you are well aware, Mr. Chairman, I am one of the fifteen who signed the petition for a special meeting. Of those fifteen there are seven who are not Socialists, and I believe I am correct in saying that there are not more than a dozen members of this union who are also members of the Socialist party. On what grounds, then, does Brother Sweeney base his protest against the Socialists carrying things in such a high-handed manner in this union? Where is his evidence? I have not seen any of it. Neither have you, Mr. Chairman, and yet you did not call him to order when he made such a baseless assertion, or, in your own words, such 'insinuations and groundless charges.'" (Cheers, "Hear, hear" and clapping.)

Logie was one of the best debaters in the union, and President Merrivale didn't want to look small by coming out at the wrong end of an argument, especially when he knew his side of it didn't have a leg to stand on. So he said nothing and Logie went on:

"I would like to point out that this is the first time in the history of Machinists Union No. 91 that anything like bias has ever been shown from the chair."

Merrivale jumped to his feet with his face flushing red as he exclaimed: "Bias! The brother is mistaken. There has been no bias shown in any decision from the chair since I have had the honor of occupying it."

"Oh, very well, then," returned Logie, "perhaps I have used the wrong word. It may be that the chair is not biased, but only prejudiced. What other construction can be put on the ruling that certain members are out of order for using certain unpatriotic phrases in explaining their position while another is permitted to use far stronger language and under less excusable conditions without being called to order?"

The Chairman: "I believe this meeting was called to discuss the question of whether there shall be a strike at Smoother & Grabbitt's. We appear to be wandering away from our subject. Is there anyone who has a motion to make?"

"Yes," said Frank Wells as he stood up, "but before I move my resolution I should like to show why Tuesday night's vote should not stand."

The Chairman: "That is entirely needless. The resolution passed on Tuesday night has already been rescinded."

"Yes, I know," returned Wells, "but I have some facts to disclose that will shed a little light on the reasons why certain parties desire to see a strike at Smoother & Grabbitt's and why those parties took advantage of a slack attendance to get a snap vote."

The Chairman: "I cannot allow this thing to go on. I have already explained that it was not a snap vote, and I think my word is as good as that of any other member present."

Logie was again on his feet. "Excuse me, Mr. Chairman," he said, "but this does not appear to me to be a case in which your veracity has been challenged. It is simply a case of shutting off certain evidence which I for one think the union should have placed before it. I therefore beg to propose that the standing rules be suspended tonight in order to allow Brother Wells to make his explanation and also for a free and full discussion of the whole matter."

This was seconded by George Workman, put to the meeting and carried by a large majority. There was a rumor in the air that some important disclosures were to be made, and the majority of the members were curious enough to want to know all about it.

Frank Wells then went on: "Now I don't want to mention any names—present. The real reason for bringing on a strike at Smoother & Grabbitt's is sure a business reason. Big business is at the bottom of it, as it always is. Most of you can understand why Buncombe & Scrapp's would like to see a strike on at Smoother & Grabbitt's. There's that Stephenson contract, you know. There's big money in that contract

for Buncombe & Scrapp's if they can land it at their own figures, and they certainly could get it at their own figures if they could put Smoother & Grabbitt's out of the running, because there's no other shops in the city equipped for such work. Of course Buncombe & Scrapp's could get the job anyway if they'd come down to Smoother & Grabbitt's figures, but they won't do that; they'd rather work on the plan Big Business is best used to—they'd rather knock out their opponents by underhand methods. Big Business always wants to play the game it best understands. We all know that Buncombe & Scrapp's prices are always miles above Smoother & Grabbitt's."

The Chairman, interrupting: "But what has all this grime got to do with Tuesday night's meeting?"

"Oh, just wait a minute," said Frank, "I'm coming to that. I'll make the connection all right. But I ain't much of a speaker and must be allowed to go ahead in my own way. When McSurly was superintendent at Smoother & Grabbitt's it was pretty well known that he had a spy amongst the machinists employed there, and although some of us had our suspicions as to who that party was we could never bring any real proof to bear. About a year ago McSurly went to Buncombe & Scrapp's and not long after that he made an opening for a certain machinist from Smoother & Grabbitt's, and strange to say it was the very man we had suspected, I suppose McSurly couldn't find a suitable man for the spy business at Buncombe & Scrapp's so he had to send for the tool he had been using at Smoother & Grabbitt's. Well, since this man has been working at Buncombe & Scrapp's he has been seen to enter and leave the superintendent's private office on more than one occasion, and only yesterday afternoon he was there for the purpose, I presume, of informing McSurly that the strike vote had carried at the meeting on the previous night."

The Chairman: "But this is all mere suspicion. A workman may have private business with the superintendent without being a spy. Are there any witnesses who can prove something more than your bare statements?"

"Yes,"

"Will you produce them?"

"No,"

"Oh, I see; you're afraid they would lose their job. Well, probably they would. But since you have brought such a charge against a member of this union I must ask you to name him so that he may have a chance to defend himself."

"Oh, I don't think there is any need for me to name him. There has only been one machinist who has left Smoother & Grabbitt's for Buncombe & Scrapp's in the past two years."

All eyes had been turned on Sweeney until in a frenzy he jumped up and shouted: "Tis a damned lie. 'Tis a plot got up by these Socialists to ruin me. I know them and their sneaking, hypocritical ways. (Laughter.) If there's any spring going on 'tis the Socialists who are doing it. I ain't no spy. What is there in it for me? I couldn't make anything by it. I know the chief instigator of this underhand scheme. 'Tis Bill Gay. He put Wells up to spring this charge against me because he was afraid to do it himself. That's the way with all of 'em. They're afraid to come out in the open. As for McSurly getting a job for me at Buncombe & Scrapp's it was in fulfillment of an old promise he made when he left Smoother & Grabbitt's."

As the rules regarding speech were suspended Sweeney was allowed to run on for twenty minutes or more, but his defence was chiefly protest, denial and vituperation against Socialists and Socialism in general. There was considerable applause from his side of the hall when he sat down, showing that some members of the union had a greater hatred for Socialism than they had for a union spy.

Then Billy Gay got up. "Mr. Chairman," he said, "I lay no claim to being a long-winded orator like the member who has just sat down. I merely want to say that until last night I knew little or nothing about Judson Sweeney, as we are not what you may call affinities. (Laughter.) To me he was a machinist working in the same shop, a member of the same union, and nothing more. I have never asked him to study Socialism because I knew the man was too ignorant and too conceited to study anything but his own little ideas and interests. At the present stage of Socialism it means considerable sacrifice for the good of others, and it does not require a great lot of discernment to see that such a thing as sacrifice is utterly incomprehensible to a man of his disposition. He seems to have cherished a hatred towards

me personally and to all Socialists generally. I don't know why. Perhaps because I've never been familiar with him since he first came to Buncombe & Scrapp's. Well, I'll let that pass, but here and now I ask Mr. Sweeney to meet me outside tonight or any other time that is convenient to him and I'll try to show him that I'm not 'afraid to do it myself' as he insinuates." (Laughter and applause.)

(To be continued.)

STOCK PAID IN

A hundred and forty-five shares have been taken to date with to-day, April the eighth, to hear from. The Comrades all express the hope that the paper will go on. So the time for the taking of the 250 shares has been extended.

Comrade C. Spencer, Edmonton, takes a share and writes, "I sincerely trust you will be able to keep afloat during the present crisis and that it will have the future it deserves. It is doing incalculable good as a propaganda paper and judging by present indications of Socialistic activity here in the west, it has a great work to do for us in these parts."

Comrade Geo. McMillan, LaCrosse, Alta., says he would not like to see Cotton's go down as it is doing a great deal of good. Comrade McMillan takes a share.

Comrade E. Beaven, Galt, Ont., forwards twenty dollars for two fully paid-up shares in order that the paper may continue to help the workingmen of this country. These two shares were purchased jointly by Comrade L. Thompson, A. Wilson, C. Jeffs, J. Cardy, E. Cartwright, E. Smith, W. Hale, G. Lait, A. Turner, E. Collard, D. McIntosh, and E. Beaven.

Revelstoke, B. C., Comrades take a fully paid share in the name of Comrade F. J. Parks. The local turned down the proposition as a local but the private Comrades took the share.

Comrade Mrs. E. Bellemare of Toronto got five Comrades to purchase a share jointly. The Comrades are Mrs. E. Nesbitt and Comrades Corrie Shepherd, McVab and Kinder. All of English Branch No. 1.

There are over seven hundred dollars deposited in the bank paid by the shareholders.

COMRADE O'BRIEN COMING

Comrade "Charlie" O'Brien, M. L. A. for the Rocky Mountain district of Alberta is coming East. He will visit the Maritime Provinces. As all Comrades who have read Cotton's or the Clarion know, O'Brien is a fighter in the interests of his class. It is very important to our meetings as possible in the Maritime. He will probably speak in McAdam, Fredericton, St. John, Sussex, Moncton, Albert, Amherst, Springhill, Halifax, Jorgins, Country Harbor, Sydney, Glace Bay, Sydney Mines. There are probably a number of Comrades in other places with whom the Executive Committee for the Maritime is not in touch. Will these if they are interested and can arrange a meeting write to Roscoe A. Fillmore, either at Albert, N. B., or Amherst, N. S., who has charge of the tour. If this should meet the eye of Comrade O'Brien he will kindly communicate with Fillmore at once.—Roscoe Fillmore, Organizer Maritime Provinces.

Six thousand miners are on strike in Alberta and British Columbia. The strikers will have the support of the international coal miners. The merchants in the strike area have had warning and have laid in as little supplies as possible. If the strike lasts long it means that many little merchants will have to go down. This is the fate of the independent people. Economic evolution is producing two classes, the working class and the possessing class. The fight is on between these two. The little independents are being crushed out between the upper millstone of concentrated capital and the nether millstone of revolting wage slaves. Wm. King, Minister of Labor and John Herron, M. P. for Macleod, Alta., have both sent telegrams to the men to be good and not strike and to try and get along with brother capital. The men laugh at these fussy gentlemen. The miners are realizing more and more every year that the politicians at present at Ottawa are the servants of brother capital and not the servants of brother labor.

An English syndicate has purchased thirty acres in Northern Mississippi and will use the land for growing cotton to supply English mills. English, Swedish, and German colonists will be imported to do the work. Thus the agricultural workers are falling into the class of the propertyless workers. Landed estates are becoming concentrated in fewer and fewer hands. The country workers have just as much to gain through the coming of Socialism as the city workers have.

GUMMED STICKERS—250 assorted for 25 cents. All new and snap printed in red and blue. Size 2 1/2 by 2 1/2 inches.

Dr. W. J. CURRY

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Cotton's Co-operative Publishing Co., Inc.,

Cowansville, P. Q.

Advancing Like a Crab

Cotton's Weekly sub list is going forward like a crab, backward. It loses two hundred and seven this report.

There were 72 yearlies, 166 half-years and 24 trials sent in. This works out at a yearly rate of 8,372.

The Comrades have been bending their efforts to raise money to keep Cotton's going. They have done nobly along that line. But the sub list has suffered.

I like to think that Cotton's is going into new hands, that new brains are beginning to think, that new wage slaves are enlisting in the war upon capitalism.

Break new ground, Comrades. Cultivate new territory. Press forward. Cotton's should be reaching new readers. This is the work of the Comrades on the firing line.

A good way to reach new readers is to take a bundle. A bundle of five copies for three months costs fifty cents. There are many Comrades who can afford to take a bundle of this size and use it effectively.

An effective use is for the Comrades to see that each of the five copies reaches a worker who is not yet a Socialist. Pick out your man, hand him your copy, and ask him to read it and tell you what he thinks of the paper. That will arouse the curiosity of the man. He will read it in order to be able to tell you what he thinks of it. It may not be a favorable opinion, but that does not matter. He will have read it and his brain will work on the ideas furnished even against his will. Then when he gets hit by the capitalist system, or he becomes roused at some injustice he sees, then like a flash he will remember the Socialist ideas he read and they will ring true.

If you take a bundle of five and work carefully, giving one copy each week to a new man, you will have placed Socialist propaganda before sixty-five persons in the three months. And you should be able to land quite a few of these as trial subscribers and a few of them as permanent subscribers and sub husters.

This is one plan according to which you can work. There are many others. You can pick the one best suited to your own personality and your own field.

Cotton's must go to the twenty thousand mark before 1912. I would like to see it at the forty thousand mark before the general elections of 1912. We will all have to work to put it there. It is going there. Comrades.

Circulation Statement

Following is the statement of circulation for the issue of April 6.

	OFF	ON	TOTAL
Ontario.....	227	77	3327
Bertha.....	60	28	1307
British Columbia.....	49	42	1302
Prov. of Quebec.....	50	24	1166
Nova Scotia.....	15	27	1019
Manitoba.....	15	12	799
Saskatchewan.....	14	23	683
New Brunswick.....	6	5	147
Elsewhere.....	2	13	159
Yukon Territory.....	0	1	57
Newfoundland.....	1	0	17
Prince Ed. Island.....	0	0	11
Total.....	459	252	10,131

Loss for week 207

Total issue last week was 11,100

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

While almost two hundred dollars have been paid in for shares during the week ending Friday, April 7th, only \$68.97 was paid in for subscriptions, etc. The ordinary receipts were made up as follows: subs, \$41.70; bundles, \$1.00; agitation, \$5.00; books and leaflets, \$7.25; job printing, \$7.27; sub. cards, \$6.75. The receipts per share are as follows, Saturday, April 1st, \$13.00; Monday, \$10.25; Tuesday, \$10.00; Wednesday, \$3.50; Thursday, \$12.25; Friday, \$13.87.

The receipts are less than half the ordinary expenditure, when we take in rent (which we ought to pay), depreciation and fixed charges.

The Comrades are bleeding themselves to keep Cotton's alive. And while they bleed themselves of their own wages, they are not getting out to get the dimes and quarters of other wage slaves for information that would cause the wage slaves to become free.

A big subscription list is the salvation of any newspaper. Figures talk.

Get out into new territory. You can't spread a movement by living among yourselves. Get out into the crowd of the great unconquered. Study them. Find out what the non-Socialists are interested in and work from that starting point.

You won't be doing well as a bunch of sub husters until you are sending in subs to the extent of \$200 per week.

If you are receiving this paper, regularly you can bank on the fact that it's paid for. No bill will be sent.

PRINTING

Don't pay more for your time it is worth. Get our estimate before placing your next order. Samples and Price List free.

COTTON'S CO-OPERATIVE PUBLISHING CO., INC., COWANSVILLE, P. Q.

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