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THE BRITISH FIGHT

The Unionists are relying upon two cries for success in Great Britain. The one cry is "Make the Foreigner pay," and the second cry is "Land for the Farmer."

The Unionists want to bring in protection. They want to fool the electors with the idea that the keeping of the home market will relieve unemployment. They present two arguments. The first is that, with a protective tariff, prices will not go up, because the importing foreigner will have to pay duty, thus putting money into the treasury without the Britisher paying for it. The second argument is that by keeping out the foreign goods, the home market will be supplied by home workers thus giving work. These two arguments are mutually destructive. Either the foreign goods will be admitted and the unemployment in Great Britain will still remain unsolved, or the foreign goods will be kept out and the foreigner will not pay any money into the treasury.

The other cry of the Unionists is that of selling land to the farmers and farm laborers so that men may own the land they till. A big Unionist land owner declared that he would be glad to sell his land and to put the price into some form of security less liable to attack.

Individual proprietorship by small farmers as proposed by the Unionists is not an advance. In France where the peasant proprietors are so numerous, rent-racking goes on. The little proprietor will let a part of his small farm to a tenant. The little proprietor has to work with individual tools. His little barn contains a little harvest. Individual work on individual small farms is a most wasteful method of farming. The amount of useless labor done is enormous. The result in France is that the peasants leave the farms and the depopulation of the rural districts is a serious problem.

The Lords are feeling the coming of the revolution. They therefore want to unload on the state. They want to be bought out at a big figure like the Irish landlords were. The nationalization of the Land, the demand of the Socialists, frightens them. The want to get out before the revolution hits them.

ANTI-SOCIALIST UNION

A Nonconformist Anti-Socialist Union of Great Britain has been organized. Among its other objects are:

1. To fight Socialism in all its forms.
2. To withstand the encroachments of Socialism among the members of the Nonconformist Church.
3. To protest against the use of the pulpit for political ends.

The above society is a little inconsistent in its aims. The Union is the union of members of a religious sect for political ends. It is a religious union for the fighting of a political party, the Socialist party. It wants to take the religion of its members into a political fight. So far so good; but the society does not want the Socialist party to bring its politics into the pulpit. The Union wants to take its religion into politics but does not want its political opponents to take their politics into religion. This is what Socialists are up against continually; and when they protest against their opponents dragging religion into politics, they are accused of attacking religion.

The U. S. railway employees are demanding an increase of wages. The railroad officials say the railways cannot afford to raise rates just now. The railways are paying two hundred million dollars more in dividends now than they were six years ago. But the railways cannot afford to raise the pay of the employees. That would hurt the increased dividends and anything which hurts dividends cannot be done.

Decadent capitalism is top heavy and about to fall.

Warships are provocative of war.—Andrew Carnegie.

The revolution will be won by blood and brains.—J. Stitt Wilson at Montreal.

The Christmas spirit in modern times has taken the form of swapping useless presents and working girl clerks to death.

The class struggle is a fact, not a theory. The Socialist philosophy did not create the class struggle, it but recognized it.

There were seventeen thousand suicides in the U. S. last year. Capitalism produces a golden harvest for some and a ghastly end for more.

The workers of the dominion of Canada elect their bosses to go to Ottawa and then whine because their bosses make the laws in the interest of the bosses.

The Socialists want to introduce a system whereby rent, interest and profits shall be abolished, and the plutes declare that Socialism attacks their religion. This but proves that the plutes make a god of their profits.

Why do not Socialists try more co-operative schemes? Because, if the scheme were a small one, it would be crushed out, and if a big one, the capitalists would make laws that would put the co-operative out of business.

There are many plutes who think Cotton's Weekly is stirring up the dangerous element. To the plute mind the dangerous element consists of the workers who want the full return of their labor power.

Lord Strathcona worked for forty years in the wilderness. Then came the C. P. R. graft on the people of Canada and Lord Strathcona got a hustle on and is now the biggest parasite that is sucking the blood of the workers of Canada.

Many persons wonder why Socialists do not attempt to overthrow the capitalist system by cooperation within the mode of capitalist production. A little study on their part of the capitalist mode of production, would show them how impossible this would be.

Does the principle of love, or the principle of hate rule the world? For what reason and to what extent are the two principles active in the world? The study of the socialist philosophy and material determinism will unravel the mysteries of the operations of the two.

The Dominion of Canada gives the privilege of making paper money to the banks and they make paper money, flood the market with it, and the bank owners wax fat and prosper. But if an ordinary man makes paper money he is dubbed a counterfeiter and the cold walls of the penitentiary close around him for fourteen years. It is great thing to stand in with the makers of laws, is it not?

The American government is losing money in carrying second class mails matter. Taft says the postal rates must be raised. The American government pays the railroads eight cents a pound for carrying this mail. The express companies pay the railroads one cent a pound to carry express parcels. Taft does not hint that the railroad graft might be curtailed. That would interfere with his friends of Wall Street and Taft would not see them hurt for worlds.

WHAT THE LORDS FEAR

The lords do not fear the tax of the Budget. What they do fear is the valuation which is provided in order that the tax may be levied.

There is no land valuation in Great Britain which is worth anything. A valuation has not been made for years. The value of the land is not known. It can only be guessed at. The budget proposal is that the land be valued. This is what frightens. When once the people of Great Britain find out how valuable the land is, it is likely that the Socialists' rapks will receive a mighty army of recruits.

When I was in Scotland I was shown a narrow strip of land which lay between a coal mine and the public highway. The coal had to pass over that narrow strip of land, about two hundred feet wide, to get to the road. The owner of the strip of land collects twelve cents for every ton of coal that is taken out of the mine, or the coal cannot reach the road.

The Duke of Hamilton possesses an immense park and castle. Under the park are large coal mines. These coal mines are not worked. It would spoil the look of the park. The park pays no taxes. For coal mined outside of the park a shilling a ton is collected by the land owner. The land owner does nothing but collect his shilling.

When the values of large parks in the centre of populous cities are valued, and when the occupied areas are also valued, the nation will be astounded at what immense sums the land-owning classes collect for doing nothing. The Lords fear the discovery by the people of the rent graft.

The landlords in their wrath would like to show up the graft—the financial and commercial pirates collect from the useful workers. They started to talk upon this line but quickly shut up. The people were listening too eagerly to the tales of exploitation. The Lords saw that the exposure of industrial robbery would but further arouse the anger of the people against all exploitation. Moreover the Liberals got wise and quit showing up the robbery of the land owner. Just as Fowler with his wine, women and graft, shut up Liberal criticism and the Conservatives also became suddenly mum, so the Lords became mum and the liberals began talking lamely about curbing the power of the Lords. The fight has developed into a fiasco.

PRESS BITTERNESS

The Woodstock, Ont., Sentinel-Review says, "Canadians are learning some things from the British election campaign, and unlearning some things. The bitterness of the fight, the intemperance of the language, the display of class, and even of personal hatred—these things come as a shock to Canadian observers who have been taught to look upon British statesmen as models and to regard the conditions of British public life as approaching the ideal. The fierce partisanship of the British press comes also as a painful revelation. The Canadian press is far enough from being perfect, but apparently it ranks high in comparison with the British institution. Most Canadian newspapers, however partisan they may be in their editorial pages, make at least an attempt to be fair in their reports."

The editor of the Sentinel-Review is evidently surprised at the bitterness of the British press. This bitterness is easily explainable according to the Socialist doctrines. When you touch the means whereby men live they turn savage and brutal. This is what is taking place in Great Britain. The Sentinel-Review turns the white wash hose on the Canadian press. This fairness of the Canadian press is also easily explainable. The Canadian press is tumbling over itself to heap flattery on our industrial and financial magnates. The Canadian press backs the Laurier government in giving Canada away to the plutes. The Tory papers gently lament that the Conservatives were not chosen instruments for the presentation of the gift. But let a strong radical and socialist press rise, and the plute press would snarl and rage and be bitter just like the British press is.

"We'd rather strike quick than starve slow."—Slogan of the girl shirt waist makers on strike in New York City.

EMPLOYMENT BUREAUS

Every little while the capitalist upholders and little reformers hit upon some new scheme for the relief of the miseries caused by the capitalist mode of production. One of the latest to be resurrected is that of employment bureaus. There is much unemployed. Many men seek work. Now therefore let us organize employment bureaus so that the unemployed may know where the jobs are and not waste time in hunting them. That is the idea of the employment bureau and it is being put forth in order that the workmen may bend their energies in chasing the proper remedies for their miseries. The employment bureau is a fake. The employment bureau will not solve the unemployed problem. Under capitalism the unemployed problem cannot be solved.

Under capitalism, business is run for profit. A worker gets two dollars a day and produces ten dollars worth of goods. The bosses waste great quantities of what the workers produce. Even then the bosses cannot waste all and there goes on the market, to be bought back by the worker with his two dollars, three or four dollars worth of goods. The workers cannot buy back what they themselves produce; mills are shut down and, although the mills are there, and the workers want work, the bosses will not run the mills because there is no profit to be got. Mankind must suffer because the production of the necessities of life will not yield a profit to the labor thieves. It is impossible for the workers to get work because the owners of the machinery of production declare that the mills shall stand idle.

The workers become restive and the masters see that something must be done. The workers, if not beguiled by some phantom hope, will hit upon the true remedy for the ills that afflict them. That would never do for then the bosses would have to go to work.

So the employment bureau is trotted out as a hope for the workers. The bosses say, "See, we are going to tabulate the jobs and we are going to tabulate the workers on little index cards in some nice offices. Then when in actual life a worker gets separated from his job, these little bits of paper will tell us where another job awaits the workless worker."

Thus say the bosses and in Great Britain and elsewhere the workers are deceived and pursue after, and elect to, parliament the men who say they are going to put the scheme into operation.

One thing is lacking to the success of the scheme. There are far more workers than there are jobs. The little bits of index cards in the employment bureau will show far more workers than jobs. The bosses will know where they can get scabs in particular trades when some section of the workers strike for better living conditions. The employment bureau scheme will put the workers more absolutely under the control of the bosses than the present chaos, because the workers can be made to go more keenly for the well paid jobs thus making them less valuable for the workers and more profitable for the bosses.

The employment bureau idea is a fine thing from the bosses' point of view because it keeps the workers chasing a phantom remedy which, when applied, will but make wages lower and profits higher. How the bosses must laugh at the poor, deluded, simple minded workers.

The social unrest is becoming so keen that popular magazines are finding it profitable to exploit it. Thus the American Magazine is running a series of articles on Barbarous Mexico. Everybody's is running a series on "The Beast and the Jungle." In its last issue it had a first article on "The Blind Revolutionist," by Ernest Poole, a Socialist writer, and Success Magazine publishes Russell's article, "The Power behind the Republic."

The capitalists cry, "Socialism will destroy the homes." The capitalists are so blinded by self interest that they only look at their own homes. It may be true that Socialism will destroy the palatial homes of the rich by turning such palaces into municipal buildings or museums. But Socialism will give homes to the common people who now have to pay rent for the privilege of living in a building belonging to another.

God must love the common people. He made so many of them.—Abraham Lincoln.

The house of Lords is as essential to the Liberals as the devil is to the Salvation Army.—Harry Quelch.

The vast majority of the trades unionists of Canada are caste conscious. They are not class conscious.

A giant merger of coal is being engineered in the U. S. The American industrial tyranny is preparing itself for a grand bust up.

Count Hayashi urges Japan to act at once and annex Korea. Japanese exploiters are finding that they need the unpaid labor of the Koreans in their business.

The capitalists believe in a paternal government as long as the paternalism is exercised for the benefit of the capitalists. But they consider a paternal government perfectly abominable when the paternalism is exercised for the benefit of the workers, or common people.

The American Federation of Labor has started its fight on the steel trust, with its billion dollars of capital, with its activities in coal, railroads, steel, lake carriers, etc. The American Federation will be forced to fight along other lines than craft unionism. Modern machinery and industrial conditions have broken down the old division lines which formerly separated the various crafts.

A BIG TRUST

According to the Toronto World a giant steel trust, similar to the U. S. Corporation, is being planned in Canada.

The companies which are said to be involved in the Canadian steel trust are the Dominion Iron and Steel Co., the Dominion Coal Co., the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co., the Lake Superior Consolidated Co., the Atikokan Iron Co. of Port Arthur, the Montreal Rolling Mills, the Hamilton Steel and Iron Co., and the National Iron Works Co., which it is proposed to start up in Toronto within a very short time.

The prime movers in this big Canadian organization are: E. R. Wood, J. H. Plummer and Robert Fleming. Mr. Fleming is the representative of big moneyed interests in the London market. Some few months ago this London financier practically took over all the American holdings and other obligations in connection with the Lake Superior Corporation, and it is believed that he is the pivot around which the consolidators of all the leading steel and coal interests are revolving.

From Montreal it was learned yesterday that changes in the directorate of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co. are already in contemplation and that Rodolphe Forget and Max Aiken are to be put on the board of this company. Mr. Aiken, although a young man, has already made a record in the matter of amalgamations, and his prospective appointments to the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal directorate is regarded as one of the signs in the association of this big trust.

The capitalization of the Canadian Steel trust is placed at five hundred million dollars. The securities of the new enterprise will be put on the London market as one of the attractive features of Canadian investments.

The reasons announced for this combination are numerous. The principal one is the reduction of competition. There are other reasons all of which accord with the Socialist doctrines. The big corporation is the logical outcome of the hunt for dividends. With the consolidation of steel there will be many men thrown out of work. Those who do work will be forced to work on the terms dictated by the trust unless the trades unions stop fooling and get to work to organize all the workers on a revolutionary basis.

The steel trust will pay the labor thieves big. The workers will be beaten down. Even the appearance of competition will pass away and the class struggle will stand out so that all men can see it.

The steel trust is simply organizing itself for the sake of business. The capitalist mode of production is rounding itself out. The machinery of production is being systematized in the interest of the masters. The workers will be left out in the cold. Their only hope will be the social revolution that will expropriate the machinery of production for the benefit of the useful classes of society. But between the present capitalist proprietorship and the social revolution lie hardships and suffering for the steel workers. What are you workers doing to bring about your own emancipation.

WHAT THE SOCIALISTS ARE

The Socialists are taken to task because of their economic doctrines. They are called materialists and atheists and tearers down of religion and many other things which are grievous to be born. The attacks upon the Socialist doctrines of economic emancipation for the workers show the ignorance of the attackers.

Socialists do not declare that economic foundations are everything. Socialists are ordinary men and women with ordinary desires and passions and vices and virtues. Socialists know that flowers are sweet and that the gorgeous coloring of the sky under the rays of the sinking sun is well worthy the watching. They know the sorrows and joys of ordinary mortals. Love, truth, justice, humanity, tears, laughter, are all their lot as they are the lot of all men and women. I state this fact because there are some interested parties who go about declaring that Socialists are strange outlandish creatures who take a frenzied delight in robbing and pillaging and bloodshed. Socialists are not that kind of human beings at all.

Socialists are Socialists because they are human creatures and have so much human nature in them. They want sunlight and laughter. They want leisure and rest. They want the pretty things of life. They do not like to live in rented rooms. They want homes of their own.

It is because the Socialists want these things and because they want to see others having these nice things that they are Socialists. The present system condemns men and women to live under long hours of work. Ten hours a day in a grimy factory, twelve hours a day in a department store, the unemployment and the heartbreaking hunt for a job, these are not pleasant things for men or women. Such things take the joy of living out of all but the stoutest hearts.

The Socialists propound questions, very frequently, like little children. They ask why Strathcona should be able to get millions while boys and girls of Canada are becoming poisoned by slum life. They ask why Jas. Ross should get five million dollars for the coal which the Good God gave while men freeze and suffer and fierce soldiers stand guard over the coal with guns in their hands.

It is because of the deep humanity in them that men and women are Socialists. It is because they see how life could be made beautiful that they want the dawning of the co-operative commonwealth. It is not because they want to burn, rob and pillage that they are Socialists. It is because they want to live a life worth living and to give food, clothing and shelter and other things worth while to their wives and little ones that they become Socialists.

It may be that political storms are gathering dark on the horizon. It may be that Laurier and Borden and Strathcona and the false followers of the poverty-stricken Nazarene are planning to prevent the people of Canada from having warm clothes and homes and good education and leisure. It may be that bloodshed and barricades lie between us and the giving of true lives to the people. This however, is deeply deplored by Socialists. It is those who fight for freedom against entrenched privilege upon whom the burden of the fight falls the most heavily. The Socialists do not want barricades nor bloodshed. But the Socialists, with the spirit of humanity in their hearts and the love of freedom red in their veins, are bound to win the social revolution.

Nearly three hundred years ago England learned by an expensive lesson the economic waste and extravagance of putting men in jail. Prisoners taken into court for trial spread infection to such an extent that 300 judges, lawyers and spectators died from jail fever, and this event passed into history as the "Black Assize." It is safe to say that the graveyards which have been peopled by the "white plague" as a result of prison conditions would look with disdain upon their little neighbor which was the beneficiary of the black epidemic.—McKenzie Cleland.

The socialization of humanity is proceeding apace. Nothing can stop that socialization save some unforeseen cataclysm. The socialization of humanity was a process wrapped up in the latent potentialities of the primitive star mist.

The Workers Issue

COTTON'S WEEKLY, Cowansville, P. Q.

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