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W. U. COTTON, Editor and Prop.

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Cotton's Weekly

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H. A. WEBB, BUSINESS MANAGER

Cotton's Requests Lemieux to Retire

FROM THE POSTMASTER GENERALSHIP

The following is my letter in answer to Lemieux's Communication. It is now in his hands. Will the Socialists of Canada make him give them a fair rate under the law on pain of retirement from his office? To The Honorable Postmaster General of the Dominion of Canada, Ottawa, Ont.

Sir:— I have made two complaints against you. The first complaint is that you have treated Cotton's Weekly in a harsh and discriminatory manner. The second complaint is that even if there is no discrimination, the regulation you are enforcing against Cotton's Weekly was made for the direct purpose of hampering the spread of radical thought and was beyond your delegated powers under the Post Office Act, to make or enforce. In answer to my first complaint against you, you reply that I have no cause to complain because you are not aware that any discrimination is practised. Sir, your ignorance of what your department is doing does not in any way change the fact that Cotton's Weekly is being discriminated against. You are appointed to run the Post Office Department. You cannot, when complaints reach you, hide your head, like the ostrich, in the sand of your own wandering thoughts and claim nothing is wrong or unjust because you personally are unaware of the discrimination. You evidently think that both the Members of Parliament and the readers of Cotton's Weekly are very foolish persons when you turn aside a just complaint by a plea of your own personal ignorance.

My second complaint against you is that the regulation under which you are acting and which you are enforcing is one made on your sole authority and is nowhere found in the laws of Canada, that the regulation you are enforcing against my paper is one you had no power to make or enforce under the Postal Act of Canada. This complaint you have not even deigned to notice. When forced to answer will you again shield yourself behind a plea of your own personal ignorance? Sir, in this twentieth century of growing enlightenment, the Canadian people will stand for a certain amount of knavishness in their Cabinet Ministers; but ignorance in a Cabinet Minister is something the Canadian people will not stand. The awakened wage slaves who are fighting for a fair mailing privilege for my paper are proceeding on the assumption that the interference with the mailing privileges of Cotton's Weekly is due to a certain knavish-act in your character, to a desire on your part to unjustly hamper the Socialist movement. Sir, if they once learn that you, a Cabinet Minister, are hampering the Socialist press merely through ignorance of your Departmental affairs and ignorance of the laws and powers under which you act, every one of them, to the least trackhand of them all, will hold you in their estimation as worthy only of contempt and pity as a very inferior creature.

Now I bring a third complaint against you, Honorable Sir. This complaint is that when you are written to with regard to this unjust ruling you are enforcing against a Socialist paper, the replies that go from your Department at Ottawa are such as to mislead the enquiring citizens of Canada and to give them a totally erroneous idea of the law governing your Department. In Parliament you stated that a reply was being sent to me dealing fully with the question of which I complain. This reply, therefore, was sent with your approval and under your care. This reply is a reply that exhibits the ignorance of the sender with regard to the law under which you carry on your Postal Department. Either this reply was sent, you knowing that it was an untrue statement of the laws governing your department. If that be the case, then you are guilty of intentionally attempting to mislead the Socialists of Canada with regard to the rights their paper possesses under the Post-act. Or else this reply was sent, you yourself being ignorant of the laws of Canada which govern you and according to which you are bound to act in administering your Department. If the former be the case then you are wilfully using your office to hamper the Socialist press.

If the latter be the case, then you are too ignorant an person to be allowed to remain longer the Postmaster General of Canada without a vigorous protest being registered against you with the Members of Parliament from the progressive spirited citizens of Canada. As to my first complaint that Cotton's is discriminated against by being forced to pay a postal rate of sixteen times greater on transient bundles than do other papers, you plead ignorance of the fact. Do you not know that the Montreal Star and Witness and the Toronto World, Globe and Telegram are sending bundles of their papers through the mails to parties, who order an occasional bundle at a rate sixteen times lower than what you are compelling me to pay? Are you not aware that every little local paper is doing the same thing whenever occasion arises? Look into the affairs of your department and cease to be ignorant of the things which the people of Canada are paying you seven thousand dollars per annum to know. I would urgently request you to investigate the facts of the case and not stop on the threshold of the enquiry with the preliminary exception of "ignoramus."

My second complaint against you is that you are regulating your own powers to enact.

According to the Postal Act you can make rates on all mailable matter, not being letters, newspapers or other things herein after specially provided for.

The Act lays down the rate for newspapers from office of publication to regular subscribers or newsdealers at a quarter of a cent a pound. The Act also declares that sample copies can be done up in bundle lots and go for one cent a pound. Lest you plead ignorance of the laws governing your department, let me call to your attention two fundamental principles, two elementary principles of constitutional law. The first principle is that when a parliamentary body delegates its law making powers to a public officer, that officer must exercise his delegated powers of enacting laws in a very circumspect manner. If the legislative body has made laws dealing with certain phases of the question, the public officer, to whom power is delegated to make additional laws, must make those laws as similar as possible to the laws enacted by the legislative body from whom he derives his delegated authority.

Have you fulfilled your duty as constitutional law bids you do? Have you made rates similar to the rates established by Parliament? You must assuredly have not. Acting under your delegated authority, you are presuming to enforce the following regulation.

63. On all newspapers and periodicals posted in Canada other than those provided for in the foregoing sections, when addressed to places in Canada, the United States or Mexico, the rate is one cent per four ounces or fraction thereof to each separate address, which must be prepaid by postage stamp. This your regulation Honorable Sir, is in direct violation of your delegated powers. To bona fide subscribers and to newsdealers the rate of postage is one-quarter of a cent a pound. This is fixed by Parliament. To persons not paying a cent for their papers but who receive the papers as sample copies, the rate is one cent a pound which must be put up in bundle lots. You, Sir, when given a little delegated authority, violate the elementary principles upon which delegated authority rests. A subscriber can get Cotton's Weekly through the mails for one year for a postage rate of nine-sixteenths of a cent. A newsdealer can get fifty-two copies through the mails in one bundle for nine-sixteenths of a cent. But if a Socialist buys fifty-two copies at

once you charge him nine cents, a jump of one thousand five hundred per cent in postal charges. Further, according to this regulation and the interpretation you put upon it one person cannot pay the subscription of another. If he does the publisher, to send the paper through the mails to the person subscribed for, must affix a one cent stamp to each paper sent. The postage charge then becomes fifty-two cents a year. This is a rate ninety-one thousand per cent greater than the rate applicable had he subscribed for himself. Is not this a ridiculous state of affairs, Honorable Sir. Cannot even you see that this is a ridiculous pretension of your powers of making regulations?

But, Honorable Sir, you are not acting in good faith with the people of Canada over this matter. The letters you are sending out to workmen of Canada in answer to their complaints about your hampering of their press are deliberate misrepresentation of the rights of their paper to mailing rates. You are deliberately deceiving them, relying upon their inability to catch you at it. Such actions on your part, Honorable Sir, prove that you are totally unfitted to be longer entrusted with the high office you hold.

In these letters and in the letter to me, sent at your personal request, you state that the Postal Act restricts the mailing privileges of a quarter of a cent a pound, to bona fide subscribers. This is a deliberate untruth on your part. The Act specially states that this rate shall also apply to newsdealers. Moreover the Act does not restrict the cheap postal rate to bona fide subscribers and newsdealers. The Postal Act makes this rate for subscribers and newsdealers, and delegates to you the power to make similar rates to apply in other cases. You are well aware of this fact for you have but recently applied the one-quarter of a cent rate to all advertisers who get free copies of papers containing their advertisements. You are well aware that you are acting in bad faith with regard to the workmen of Canada.

In answer to your letter to me I reply that the Post Office Act does not restrict the privileged rate to bona fide subscribers, that the regulations which are explicitly set forth in the postal guide are beyond your delegated power to enforce, that the Department is not enforcing said regulation with impartiality against all but in a discriminatory manner against Cotton's Weekly, that the workmen are not on an equal plane with newsdealers, and that your statement of the same is deliberate and wilful falsehood, and that your statement that I need not use the Canadian mails is a direct slap in the face, of the workmen of Canada, that you are using your office to prevent the working classes from getting cheap literature, and that for all these reasons you should retire from the position of Postmaster General and give place to some person who can handle the affairs of that department with more justice and fairness towards the plundered workers of the Dominion.

I have the honor to be Sir, until you resign your office,

Your obedient servant,

W. U. COTTON.

The man who works is kept on the jump from morning till night. He goes home tired out. He has little time in which to read. He has little time to study up how his boss is robbing him. But the boss takes it easy. He himself knows just how much he is squeezing out of the workers. He hires lawyers and lawmakers to give him the authority to squeeze more and more out of the work of his wage-slaves. The scheming capitalist, by his robbery of the workers, is able to live without working and has the leisure to devise more cunning schemes for robbing the workers still further. Socialism is a philosophy that explains the robbery to the workers and shows them how to throw off the power of the capitalists. Is it any wonder that the capitalists do not like Socialism?

When the western workers telegraphed Laurier demanding certain information he grew huffy. What right had the working plugs to talk like that to the leader of the government. Were they not but working plugs?

The central demand of Socialism is the social ownership and democratic management of the means of production and distribution.

When Socialism comes the control of capital will be democratized. The power of the capitalist will be as is the power of the old political noble.

The capitalist does no useful work. The capitalist gets big revenues. The wage plug does a lot of work. The wage plug gets little pay. The wage plugs are therefore coming over to Socialism, while the capitalists are fighting Socialism with a bitter hatred.

According to Kier Hardie, out of the forty-three million people in Great Britain, thirty-nine millions are poor and twenty millions are very poor. This is not the fault of the workers of Great Britain, but of the system under which they work. The capitalist system takes away the wealth they make and gives it to useless capitalists, landowners and nobles.

We do not have democracy in Canada. We have autocracy. Once in four or five years the workmen of Canada have a chance to mark a cross on a piece of paper, which mark is to declare which of two men, both usually capitalist labor skinners, the workers want to make the laws under which they are plundered. That is not democracy, neither is it liberty.

There is a strike on in Philadelphia. A hundred thousand men are out. The members of the master class are losing their profits. Now that is the greatest crime possible in the judgment of the capitalists. So the business interests are arresting the strike leaders for lese majeste against capitalism. Revolting wage slaves must be taught a lesson. How soon will the workers wake up and smash the capitalist power by taking the control of the political machine away from them?

Forty seven thousand dollars for labor, twenty millions for murder. That is the Canadian government's answer to the plea of workmen for economic liberty. The workers produce the wealth and the Liberal government spend it for murder. The appropriation for the Department of Labor this coming year is forty-seven thousand dollars. The initial expense of the Canadian navy will be twenty million dollars. What do you think of the Liberal government, you workmen who sweat that your masters may bind you to harder slavery and more laborious tasks?

The fight for a free Socialist press must come some time. It may as well be fought out now as later. The Spokane police suppressed the Industrial Worker of the World. The New Castle, Pa., police are arresting the editors of the Free Press and of Solidarity. Our Canadian Aylesworth suppressed the Appeal to Reason. Lemieux is trying to play a cunning game on Cotton's Weekly. The sooner the fight comes and Lemieux learns his lesson that the mails of Canada are for the working class publications as well as for the capitalist dailies the better it will be for the growth of revolutionary Socialism.

Why should one person, who is strong and capable of working, receive an income of one hundred thousand dollars a year for doing nothing, while at the same time some weak woman is forced to sell her body for bread because she cannot make enough money by the sale of her labor power to furnish her with the necessities of life? This question is the one that is beating in the brains of the patriots of Canada. This question cannot be answered by any upholder of the capitalist system. This question is the question that will wreck the name of every capitalist politician now powerful in Canada. The answer Laurier gives to this question is to give bonuses to the men who get the big revenues. This question Brodeur answers by demanding twenty million dollars for war ships that legalized murder may be done. This question Lemieux answers by harassing the paper that dares ask it. This question Aylesworth answered by excluding the Appeal to Reason from the Canadian mails. This question the workmen of Canada will answer by smashing the power of the capitalists and taking away the revenues now being given to the cunning, useless schemers and giving them to those who earn them.

Lemieux Seeks Refuge in Evasions

COTTON'S DISCUSSED IN PARLIAMENT

The following is Lemieux's explanation with regard to Cotton's Weekly made on the floor of the House of Commons in answer to a question of John Herron, Esq., Member for Portage La Prairie, Man. Following is the letter proves that Lemieux either knows little of his office and duties, or knows his duties and refuses Cotton's fair and just treatment.

"Extracts from Hansard"
2nd March, 1910
"COTTON'S WEEKLY"

Mr. Herron: Is the Postmaster General aware that a paper called "Cotton's Weekly," published at Cowansville, P. Q., claims that it is being unjustly discriminated against in the matter of excessive postage charges? If so, what grounds are there for such a claim?

Mr. Lemieux: A communication has been received from the publisher of "Cotton's Weekly," respecting the rate of postage chargeable on copies of his publication. There has been no discrimination, and, in the view of the Department, no ground for complaint exists. I might explain further: The Department was informed that the publisher of "Cotton's Weekly" had sent various bundles of his paper to different post offices addressed to other than regular subscribers. It appears that the Postmaster of Cowansville, instead of collecting postage at the transient rate of one cent per four ounces, allowed such bundles to go through at the bulk rate of one-quarter of one cent per pound. The Department has contended that persons who subscribe for fifty or one hundred, or a similar number of copies of but a single issue cannot be regarded as regular subscribers, and, therefore, that such copies can only be transmitted by post at the transient rate of one cent per four ounces, or fraction thereof, to each separate address. The publisher has recently written resenting the action taken, and a reply dealing fully with his enquiry is being sent to him to-day, to the effect that he is not in any manner being discriminated against, but is enjoying the same privileges as all other publishers, and not in any way knowingly treated differently.

Ottawa, Ont.
March, 1st, 1910

Sir: I am directed by the Postmaster General to acknowledge receipt of your communication of 24th ultimo, on the subject of the rate of postage collected on bundles of "Cotton's Weekly," addressed to non-subscribers.

By way of explanation I would state that the Post Office Act restricts the privileged statutory rates of postage to copies addressed to bona fide subscribers. By a subscriber the Department understands one who has paid, or undertaken to pay, the regular subscription price for a period in the case of weeklies of not less than three months. Copies of papers addressed to non-subscribers are, under regulations, which are explicitly set forth in the Postal Guide, considered as transient newspapers and permitted to enjoy the privileged rate applicable to transient newspapers, that is, the rate of one cent per four ounces, or fraction thereof, to each separate address, prepaid by postage stamp, a rate which is only half that chargeable on ordinary printed matter, and which governs not only "Cotton's Weekly," but all Canadian publications.

The Department learned incidentally in December last that copies of "Cotton's Weekly," addressed to non-subscribers were being accepted at the privileged rates applicable only to copies addressed to subscribers, and at once took the usual action with the Postmaster of Cowansville, and gave instructions that the rates applicable to all recognized newspapers should apply in the case of "Cotton's Weekly," as required by the Regulations and the Post Office Act, which it is the duty of this Department to enforce, showing partiality to none.

Your statement that the workingman is discriminated against as compared with the newsdealer has evidently been made without a full

knowledge of the facts, as bundles of your paper can be placed in the mails addressed to a workman on the same condition that bundles can be accepted for transmission to a newsdealer, that is, the workman or the newsdealer as the case may be, must be a regular subscriber for a period of not less than three months for the number of copies tendered through the mails to his address at the privileged rate.

In conclusion, I might add that the Post Office has no monopoly of the transmission of newspapers, and a publisher who at any time thinks the rates of postage charged are excessive is at liberty to utilize other means of distribution. Publishers generally are far from complaining of Canadian rates of postage.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
E. S. LASCHINGER.

John D. Rockefeller has long ceased to be actively engaged in building up the oil and other industries. Yet his annual income of \$68,000,000 continues undiminished. If a workman goes home an hour early on account of sickness, he is "docked." If he arrives ten minutes late in the morning, he is "docked." And his annual income averages less than \$600. Thus, Mr. Rockefeller, without working, gets an annual income equal to that of 113,500 men who do work.

In 1906 A. B. Aylesworth, the then Postmaster General, prohibited the Appeal to Reason from the use of the Canadian mails on the ground that it was a seditious and scurrilous publication. In so doing Aylesworth acted in an illegal and unwarranted manner. He did not know, or knowingly broke the law under which he was acting. But when his illegal action roused the People of Canada against him, he found the Postmaster Generalship too warm for him, he was transferred by Laurier from that Department to the Department of Justice. Ignorant of the postal law, he was transferred to the Department which administers all the law. Oh what little brains run this Canada of ours.

The capitalist apologists cry out against the doctrine of Socialism because it makes the workers discontented with their lot and endangers the stability of capitalist rule. When a thief is caught robbing a capitalist, the capitalist apologists cry out that the robbery should be made to cease and they do not rest until the thief is safely behind prison bars. But when the workers catch the capitalists robbing the workers of the product of their toil, the capitalist apologists do not try to stop the robbery, but protest against the workers becoming discontented. What foolish persons capitalist apologists are.

There is to be a pension system inaugurated for the men who are to operate the murder ships. Laurier and his government are going to take the public moneys and pay them over to the marines who grow old in the trade of protecting the capitalist profits from interference. But the men out of whose toil those profits are made, the workmen of Canada, are to get no pensions. Are they not slaves? Has not the Canadian government handed the workers over to the capitalists to sweat profits out of in the slave pens of Canada? Is not the Laurier government a capitalist government to protect the capitalists against the wage slaves? Why, then, should the Laurier government, out of the revenues they receive from the toil of slaves, hand any of that money back to take care of the out-worn slaves? Such an idea is ridiculous. But the men who are the modern gladiators, the men who give up their time to war, upon whose might the capitalist rely to protect them against revolting wage slaves, these men are to have pensions. Is it any wonder that the Socialists and union men, the seabs and the Trades and Labor Councils, are sick unto death of the Liberal government and all their betrayals of the interests of the working classes?

There are numerous strikes these days. The workers are not content to work hard in order that others may live in idleness.