

# MAY DAY

The first reports of May Day throughout the world seem to indicate that the day passed off quietly without police disturbance. Geneva appears to be the only place where the paraders and police clashed.

The Socialists seem to have won for themselves the right to express their ideas. The Socialists, when left to themselves, maintain order. They have, however, had little chance in the past to meet peaceably as the police of the various countries appeared to consider it necessary to become rowdies and to create the necessity for their intervention.

In Montreal the Socialists were allowed, for the first time in years, to assemble peaceably. They assembled on the Champs de Mars over three thousand strong and listened to speeches from three separate platforms in English, French and Yiddish. In the evening a meeting was held at the Auditorium where about five hundred gathered to listen to the addresses. During the afternoon three arrests were made. One person was arrested for distributing literature on the streets without a license. A Comrade accompanied the arrested one to the police station to bail him out. When the Comrade was paying the bail the police found out he was a Socialist. He was immediately arrested and could not get out without paying five dollars for which the police refused to give a receipt. Of course such procedure is common to Socialist experience and shows how the police would like to bite were it not that they are afraid of the growing sentiment in Montreal.

In New York about seventy thousand paraded on Saturday, accompanied by a hundred bands playing revolutionary music. In Rome trouble was feared because of the large strikes now existing. No trouble, however, appears to have experienced.

The International revolt of the workers seems to be experiencing a uniform treatment of respect by the authorities. Did the capitalist governments feel they had the strength they would not allow Socialists an opportunity of peaceful demonstration. The mere fact that May Day was so quiet shows that Socialism is making its enemies fear its power, while realizing their own weakness.

In Montreal the advocates have been investigating the conduct of some of the members of the Bar Association. They have found some of their number to have engaged in seamy transactions and they are on the trail of others. The Advocates are trying to clean up their profession. It will be a difficult task. From the earliest trace of the profession we have the advocates have regarded with fear and contempt by the common people. They are still so regarded. To clean up the profession is impossible. The advocate is a person who takes his toll from the squabbles between individuals over the division of private property. The clean up of the profession is therefore impossible. It needs to be abolished by the abolition of private control of the means of production.

The capitalist press prints a despatch about how Mayor Seidel of Milwaukee has started a campaign for the lengthening of the hours of labor of the city workers. Seidel has put the city hall officials on an eight hour basis. They were formerly working six. Seidel has put the manual workers on an eight hour basis. They were formerly working ten. This last part the capitalist press did not mention. The Milwaukee administration will be misrepresented by its enemies in every conceivable way. It is an old trick, but it will not succeed at this late day of capitalist decadence.

One capitalist paper of Montreal declared that the Socialist meeting on the Champ de Mars was composed of several thousand people. Another capitalist paper declared that there was but fifteen hundred. Needless to say the paper which said there were several thousand was the old reliable Montreal Daily Witness which has been noted for years as seeking to give truthful statements of actual occurrences.

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# "Thank God For The Mistakes of Our Enemies."

## A SERIES OF OPEN LETTERS

To the Postmaster General of Canada.

over which A. B. Aylesworth presides, is in the habit of doing the political work of the Liberal Party. Your regulations provide that the frank of the Solicitor General shall only be used for matter appertaining to the government business of that Department. Bureau has been using it otherwise. Campaign circulars printed outside the Department and addressed outside the Department, and which have no connection with the Department of Justice, are brought to the Parliament buildings, Bureau affixes his frank, and the Liberal campaign literature travels free all over Canada.

When this question was brought up in Parliament, you supported the practice. The practice is clearly against your regulations, those regulations you are so solicitous about, those regulations you so grimly apply for the suppression of radical thought. When Liberal campaign literature is being sent through the mail free of all postage, you nod your head in approval and do not give two straws about your regulations.

When Aylesworth is questioned about the franking of non-Departmental literature for political purposes from his Department he replies cynically that he is a partisan politician and approves of the practice.

But when it comes to radical publications then your regulations are enforced in all their severity. Not only do you collect the ordinary newspaper postage from Cotton's

Weekly but by an arbitrary exercise of your powers you raise the rates to certain bona fide subscribers one thousand five hundred per cent.

The Socialists of Canada are perfectly well aware of the nature of the Laurier government. They are aware of the fact that the Liberal government is not a government for the benefit of the people, but a government for the benefit of the few at the expense of the many.

When your department, therefore, raises the rates on Socialist publications, while letting the big capitalist dailies infringe your regulations with impunity; when your department, moreover, allows the Solicitor General's frank to be used to send Liberal campaign literature absolutely free through the Canadian mails, the Socialists are not surprised. They expect such treatment.

There are reasons why you do not like Socialist publications being spread broadcast throughout Canada at the mailing rates accorded other publications. There was the Canadian navy bill jammed through to help out the exploiters of Canadian labor, in the coal and steel industries. There was the Belcourt bill to make the unionizing of the workers a penitentiary offense. There were big bonuses granted to parasite friends of the Liberal politicians. Were Socialist publications accorded a fair chance to spread their thoughts abroad through Canada you know that Laurier would not have such an easy time in gulling the people.

You have taken the short course by ordering the local postmistress to exact an enormous postal charge from certain bona fide subscribers to Cotton's Weekly. But the short cuts are not always the best.

I am surprised at you for taking the stand you do on this matter. A really clever politician would not adopt such a stupid course. It is too raw a deal and too palpably unjust. It shows up the class character of our Canadian government in too clear a light. It gives too great an illustration of the Socialist contention that the Canadian government is run by the capitalists for the capitalists.

Your action in this matter is making the workmen of Canada see that the Canadian government is not for them. It is making them see how the powers of the government are being swung against them: to keep them in darkness. Your attempt to hamper the circulation of Cotton's Weekly shows up beautifully the class nature of the Postal Department of Canada.

For your own good I would advise you to take a different stand. If you desire to gloze the fact that Laurier is not for the people, you should at least cover that fact by an appearance of his standing for the people.

Your action is attracting more attention than you think. It is making people understand many things which they did not understand before. And many Socialists are exclaiming to themselves over your arbitrary and unjust postal ruling, "Thank God the mistakes of our enemies."

Yours truly,  
WILLIAM ULRIC COTTON.

## SOCIALISM DEFINED

What is Socialism? That is the question men are asking. They go to books and they go to lectures and they do not seem to be able to find a definition of this thing that is conquering the earth.

What is Socialism? That question can best be explained by asking a couple of others. What is Christianity? What is Democracy? Socialism is many things. Socialism is a material science and a spiritual awakening. Socialism is a doctrine of the brotherhood of man and a doctrine of class struggles. It is a new viewpoint of life. It is the summing up of modern tendencies. It is the heart hunger of the humanitarian and the revolt of the wage slave.

Have you ever heard it said that the letter kills but the spirit gives life? That can be applied to Socialism. Socialism on its material side is the public ownership and democratic management of the machinery of production and distribution. That, like all definitions, is erroneous. But it is the nearest approach to a correct definition, in a short phrase, of Socialism.

But Socialism can no more be defined than can Democracy. It cannot be examined by the literalist's rule of thumb. It is a world wide philosophy.

But Socialism, although it cannot be strictly defined, can be definitely felt. The whole world is moving in the Socialist direction. The socialization of the means of production and distribution, the coming of the race consciousness, the going of wage slavery, the abolition of capitalist parasitism, industrial democracy, the going of competition, the coming of co-operation, the scientific organization of industry, the establishment of the management of things in the place of the government of persons, these are some of the ends and aims of Socialism. They are the objective points. But Socialism is far more than these.

Socialism is a life here and now. It is a soul awakening. It is an awakening, if you will, to the spiritual significance of material things. It is the freedom of the mind from bondage to conventional ideas. It is a knowledge of human society of the past, present and future.

How many men you meet who you know to be mentally dead. Talk to them and you know beforehand just what they are going to say. They have not thought a new thought for years. Their thoughts work in their minds like squirrels in a cage. Round and round the same old limitations the same old thoughts go. Those men are dead.

How many men do you meet who

are bound down by set rules of thought. They think along certain lines, and if you suggest new lines of thought to them they refuse to think. The new thoughts are not proper.

But you will find the Socialists wide awake. They are ever seeking information. They know that vast changes in society are about to take place and they know that they must strive their utmost to fathom the tendencies of the day that they may be prepared to welcome the good in the new and fight the bad.

Socialism is the summing up of modern science. It is the crowning glory of democracy. It is the final triumph of the toilers.

The wage slave sometimes saves a little money and thinks the Socialists want to take his savings away from him. Poor simpleton. He has been robbed of the most of what he earned by the capitalist class. The little he has saved he wants to keep. Can he not see that what Socialism will do will be to give him a far larger amount in return for his labor, with which he can do as he pleases.

The Milwaukee Socialist councillors control over a half a million dollars worth of jobs. The capitalist dailies are sending out reports that the Socialists are giving these jobs on the spoils system. This is absolutely untrue. The Milwaukee Socialists are working for an efficient administration. The capitalist upholders are telling what they would like to see and not what is.

At Grafton, Ill., a Socialist by the name of Keon refused to pay the poll tax of \$1.50 levied on the workers. He has been condemned to prison until he does pay it. It is costing the little place quite a lot of money to keep him locked up as Grafton has poor prison facilities. The other Socialists may join him in this new revolt against taxation.

The Socialists in Montreal, on May Day held one of the most successful meetings in years. The city authorities have seen the rising tide and have inserted "fair wage clauses" in their contracts with the contractors. The more the Socialist spirit grows the more the exploiters will try to stave off their complete abolition by being nice to labor when it don't hurt too much.

No. Socialism will not hurt anyone who is willing to work. Nor will it hurt the healthy person who does not want to work. Socialism will do the latter person a tremendous amount of good in spite of himself.

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The Socialist Party is the party of the working class.

Political democracy is not so good as industrial democracy.

Socialism will abolish rented shacks and build homes.

Men cannot be politically free so long as they are economically bound.

The workers must achieve their own freedom. Their bosses are sure not going to do it.

Agitation of the workers combined with education and organization will hurl capitalism from its power.

If you are not a Socialist, why are you not a Socialist.

If you like to be robbed vote the old party tickets.

Present society is the product of revolutions. The future society will be the product of the social revolution.

The unemployed capitalist will always have with him. If you want to do away with the unemployed, abolish the capitalist mode of production.

The world for the workers and not for the human parasites who live off the labor of the workers. That is an aim of Socialism.

Do you want to see the working class raised to power? Then organize the working class for victory under the red flag.

The May Day just past has shown a great advance for Socialism. The May Day of next year will show a still greater advance.

The Laurier government is a government of confiscation. It confiscates the surplus values from the labor of the workers and gives them to the capitalists.

Capitalism once. Capitalism twice. Going, going. When will capitalism be auctioned off to the past and be forgotten out of the way?

Montreal is spending one million dollars on the education of her youth. As this education is along capitalist and reactionary lines, most of the money will be wasted.

Gaynor, Mayor of New York, is calling Hearst a forger and Hearst is calling Gaynor all sorts of things, and the common people of New York will say "Hear, Hear," to both sides of the squabble between capitalist politicians as to their relative blackness from their political mud baths.

Judge Winchester of Toronto declares that the crowded detective quarters in that city are intolerable. If the judge wants to remedy this state of affairs, let him join the Socialists and help introduce Socialism which will abolish the detective business and relieve the congestion absolutely.

The Milwaukee Socialists will have a hard fight ahead of them. Every possible influence which can be swung against the Socialist administration by the national plunderers and politicians will be swung. Yet the Socialists will come out with flying colors because the evolution of industry will fight for them.

The Socialists are not the only ones who are educating the workers. The capitalists are educating the workers in a fine manner. Every strike, every lockout, every cut in pay, every rise in the cost of living, each and every one of these things is educating the workers. When they get a little more education along capitalist lines they will see why Socialism is.

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