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Cotton's Weekly

W. U. COTTON, B.A., B.C.L., Managing Editor Established Dec. 3rd, 1908 ROY WINN, Associate Editor

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The Olivier Papineau Case

On May 10th, 1913, Olivier Papineau of the Township of Bolton in the District of Bedford, was brought before a Justice of the Peace on the charge of stealing one tub of sugar, containing 88 pounds, and said to be worth \$8, from his brother. He was brought to Swetsburg on the 19th of May, tried a little later, and sentenced to three months in jail by Judge Mulvena.

The two brothers live a few miles from the village of Eastman, about thirty-five miles from Cowansville. The tub of sugar was in the sugar house of Joseph Papineau. The little daughter of Olivier said that her father had bought a tub of sugar. The brother was suspicious, and questioned the little girl, and told her she could have the sugar if she returned the tub. This she did, and Joseph declared it was his tub, called up Joseph A. Boisvert and had him go and arrest his brother Olivier.

Joseph Boisvert and his brother, Alphonse Boisvert, went to the home of Olivier and arrested him. The prisoner declared and has always maintained that he bought the tub of sugar from a man he had met on the road. He declares there was about 40 pounds of sugar in the tub and he paid \$1.50 for it. Tub sugar is not worth 10 cents a pound, but five or six cents, according to the storekeepers of Cowansville.

Mulvena heard the evidence, and came to the conclusion that the prisoner was guilty and gave him three months.

Olivier Papineau had no lawyer. He can not read nor write. He is a hardworking man. The neighbors say he abuses his children.

Up in the wild mountains of Bolton Papineau was endeavoring to make himself a little home. Towards the end of 1910 he bought a little farm, which he believed contained forty acres more or less. He agreed to pay \$450 for the place. He worked upon the place for over two years. He was building a two storey house 26 by 30 feet. He had it nearly built. He had a little barn built 20 by 26 feet. He had fifty or sixty cords of wood, he had legs, he had material ready to continue finishing his house. He had hens, milk cans, a little furniture. He had a sled, some hay, and other things a small farmer gathers round him.

When he was put in jail, he owed about \$250 on his little place. The man who sold it to him thought he saw a chance to skin the poor devil and get back the place with what improvements were on it.

Joseph A. Boisvert, who can scent a dollar as far as anyone in Canada, stepped in and arranged to buy the farm. Papineau was in jail. Joseph Boisvert was about the only person he could see. So Joseph Boisvert arranged to buy the farm for \$500. He was to get the farm outright. It was a sale.

On June 14th, 1913, Joseph Boisvert rendered the following account to Papineau:

MEMO BETWEEN J.A. BOISVERT AND OLIVIER PAPINEAU
Swetsburg, Que., June 14th 1913.

Re movable and immovables bought of Olivier Papineau and the result of liquidation as follows:

Farm sold to Mr. Lagorce, \$475.00
Block wood sold to Mr. Lagorce 75.00
Timber, hens, wood, etc sold to A. Boisvert 32.00
Old horse sold to A. Boisvert 15.00
Paid to Mr. Murray, balance on colt and acct. 25.00

Total 622.00
Purchase price 500.00
Balance 122.00
Donation to Oliver Papineau 50.00

Leaving for my time and expenses 72.00

Joseph A. Boisvert, the man who arrested the prisoner, who worked up the case against the prisoner, buys the prisoner's property and clears \$72 on the transaction. He says the horse sold to his brother has since died and he has to make good the loss so his net profit is \$57. However, I do not believe he will have to make good the horse. For when a horse sells for \$15 it is sold without warranty.

Joseph A. Boisvert's brother bought the hens, wood, etc., for \$32. As this is evidently a final accounting, this is the only place in which the loose property could be accounted for. The "etc." shows that for \$32, Mr. Alphonse gets all the loose property. Mr. A. Boisvert went with the High Constable and was present assisting in the arrest. Does it not look strange that this man should receive and get all the loose property around the barn and house for \$32, including the timber? When Joseph sells to Alphonse all Papineau's loose property for \$32 and an old horse for \$15, does it look as though Joseph would make good the old horse? Does it look a square deal to Oliver Papineau?

When Joseph A. Boisvert was asked why he gave a donation to Papineau of \$50, he replied that the neighbors were saying he was robbing the poor fellow too much.

Mr. Boisvert bought the farm, and when the people complained too much he released his grasp a little. Even then \$72 is quite a sum for selling \$622 worth of stuff. For such an amount many a worker has to toil a month and a half or more ten hours a day.

Mr. Boisvert informs me that Pelletier can have back all his stuff at the price at which it was sold and

The Tremblay Case

Mr. Boisvert will take a mortgage at 5 per cent. upon the property. Publicity is a great thing for correcting errors.

The Tremblay case is another case which is causing considerable comment. In Eastman, the village near which Oliver Papineau lives, was a little thirteen year-old girl by the name of Tremblay. This little girl became in the family way and blam-ed her uncle. She swore out a warrant against her uncle. When the trial came off she spent a little while with Mr. Boisvert and later in court swore that her uncle had nothing to do with her at all. Mr. Boisvert says the girl perjured herself but he had nothing to do with it. "Mr. Giroux was her lawyer," he declares.

A little thirteen year-old girl does not perjure herself unless instigated to do so. Who did the instigating?

The System

I have shown up Mr. Boisvert in a limited way. I do not want to hurt him any more than I have to.

Mr. Boisvert is not to blame, but it is the system.

It is the damnable, rotten capitalist system which produces the conditions which allow the Joseph A. Boisverts to grow rich.

Many people think the money of Jos. A. Boisvert is tainted. It is not tainted any more than is the money of the psalm singing, alms giving, owner of railway shares or rubber bonds.

In the case of Papineau, Jos. Boisvert made a good thing. But if he had not stepped in, the ignorant Papineau might have been cleaned out entirely by the petty sharks that infest Eastman and consider themselves the most respectable citizens of that place.

The case of the two men baled into Swetsburg as tramps from the U. S. is undesirable is another case in point. Some shark, some official would have landed them, would have made money out of them. Why should not the shark, J. A. Boisvert, get his teeth into them as well as any one else? Sure he should. He would be a fool not to. Of course other sharks who want to get the fees from them are jealous and angry at Boisvert. ECONOMIC DETERMINISM MAKES THEM SO.

They miss the fees and, like a baby that cries when its mother is late in providing sustenance, they howl against Joseph because he has connected up with the dollars which they are reaching after.

The High Constableness

The high constableness is one which has an odor to it.

There have been three occupants of it since this district was created and the record of each has been maddening in the nostrils of the people.

There is no salary attached to the office. The only thing the High Constable gets is the patronage of the court. The High Constable does the orders of the courts and gets the fees when he executes the orders. These fees are small and few.

Consequently the High Constable has to look out for himself. He has to make his own living.

All three occupants of the position have made a good thing out of it.

It takes a mean man to hold the position, a man who will do things that other men would scorn to do.

If a robbery has been committed, and you are a good High Constable, you will ferret out the criminal. You will curl yourself up under another man's back verandah and listen to the private conversation of a family. A man who respected himself will not do such things. It is only a low order of person who will hold the office.

The thief is the cause of this thief catcher.

The unearned revenues of our prominent citizens is the cause of the thief.

They produce the poverty and the extravagance, which causes envy and malice and temptation and thievery and brings the special qualities of men like Boisvert into active exercise.

WERE J. A. BOISVERT TURNED OUT OF HIS OFFICE, HE WOULD BE SUCCEEDED BY AS CROOKED AN INDIVIDUAL IT IS THE OFFICE WHICH IS CORRUPT AND ONLY A CORRUPT MAN CAN HOLD IT.

The thirty-eight who control Canada have separated the workers from the wealth they have created, yet the workers keep right on voting for the continuance of the system which makes them poorer and the thirty-eight richer.

"Business is business," say the capitalists, and then they proceed to grind the workers, male and female, into the dust, and cause conditions to be so oppressive that only the strongest may survive, and that for a short time only. Business is hell.

The very minute you refuse to be hypnotized by the spellbinders of capitalism you break the first chain towards freedom.

When a man says, "I am no longer a liberal," or "I am no longer a Conservative," that man is just beginning to reason for himself.

The capitalist system is a wedge which is forever thrusting you farther and farther from what you produce.

Boisvert Still a Manhunter

Did you ever run across the minister who says "I am a 'Christian' Socialist," and then proceeds to run down the revolutionary Socialist movement?

Did you ever notice how the man who boasts that he never reads anything votes the old party ticket? This is the sort of Simon pure that Laurier and Borden loves.

There should be no poor working-men and women in a rich country such as Canada. And there wouldn't be if the working class were not robbed of a great share of what they produce.

Go into a Canadian lumber yard and ask the price of lumber. You will pay as much for it as asked for it in cities after it is shipped to the United States. How is this? Mathematicians get busy, please.

Socialists stand for no destructive policy. They are the advocates of a square deal for the working class, and they consider nothing less than the full social value of everything they create to mean a square deal.

Police Magistrate Watt, of Guelph, recently sent two fifteen-year-old boys to the cells and they were flogged for theft. It takes a mighty long time for Dame Nature to eliminate the barbaric strain from some people.

Just think of the tens of thousands of Canadian workers who rush to a mill or factory at the sound of the morning whistle and slave and sweat and are bruised and mangled and maimed producing profits that their masters and their families may revel in idleness and luxury.

You do the crawl act to your master for a job, and when your week is ended he hands you a few nickels out of what you have produced with an air which makes you imagine he is doing you a favor, and that he is a real philanthropist. When, oh when, are you going to get wise, and demand what you produce?

No, dear Brother. The Bible nowhere says, "Thou people of Canada shall give fifteen million dollars to Bill and Dan and thirty million dollars to the warship builders of England." But you would think it did so to hear other sharks who want to get the fees from them are jealous and angry at Boisvert. ECONOMIC DETERMINISM MAKES THEM SO.

"I voted for my bread and butter," said a mechanic as he cast his vote for Borden. If this man voted Socialist, he would be voting for his bread and butter still, also pie and cake and a few other things which he has produced, but of which he was robbed. True, his master would not have so much of the good things as formerly, but the worker would have his pie before he got to the sky, up on high.

The annual report of the factory inspectors for Ontario shows 1,502 accidents last year, an increase of nearly 50 per cent. Of these 62 were fatal. Canada is prosperous. The masters have autos, and yachts and golf courses, and club houses and mansions: while the workers who run the machines have maimed limbs, blurred eyes and cheap coffins for their share of the prosperity of the country.

Capitalists fatten on the sale of the souls and bodies of innocent-ghosts, and then yawn in their hired press about the way the white slave evil is being stamped out. The white slave traffic has grown apace with the capitalist system, and will last as long as profits are taken from the slaves. The system fosters slavery, white, black, male and female, and will fight for whatever brings in profits, no matter from what source.

Whole pages of the capitalist press are devoted to money. It is nothing but money, money, money. But of the class who create all this wealth little is said. In an obscure corner of the papers may sometimes be seen a few short articles headed "Labor Notes." The only time labor gets any publicity is when a strike is pulled off, or when a few workers happen to get arrested. Then the kept press lams the working class right and left.

It may surprise many people in Canada to know that in England on almost every Sunday in the year vast music halls are crowded with audiences who pay for their admission; and who hang on the words of some Socialist orator preaching to them the new gospel of social reconstruction. These meetings are not reported; they are not even noticed in the great papers; and so the movement is proceeding at a much greater rate of progress than is imagined.

The hunger strike has made its appearance in New Zealand. A number of Socialist youths, who were arrested for refusing to undergo military training, went on a hunger strike, and were sentenced to solitary confinement. This is one of the rewards of working and slaving to rear a family and seeing your boy forced to wear a red coat or a striped suit. New Zealand has been looked upon by Canadians as a paradise for the worker, but reports of late from that country seem to indicate that it is exactly the reverse. What kind of spirit can the workers of New Zealand possess which will allow their sons to be arrested and imprisoned simply because they refuse to become hired murderers? Pretty weak, we opine.

In most armies those who stand the fire are usually pawns in some higher game.—James Manson.

There is no money stringency with the noble illustrious thirty-eight who control the finances of Canada.

Flour can be bought in England for the same price which is asked for in this where it is made in Canada. Why is the wherefore of this?

Canadians are willing to take the wealth they have produced and place it in the hands of a few men, thereby making them idlers and parasites, and then set up a howl about a money stringency when these parasites put the pressure on in order to make a big killing.

5,726 insane people cost the province of Ontario \$1,000,000 a year. The capitalist system imposes conditions under which the worker either breaks down physically or goes insane. Then he is placed in an asylum, and his place taken by others who are younger and more virile. A large number of the above patients are reported to have gone insane from privation and overwork. The masters take a heavy toll from labor that they may live in luxury and idleness.

A mammoth oil-driven harvester that is being tried-out on Australian wheat fields strips 60 acres a day. Do the workers own this machine, and the others that will be built if it proves a pronounced success? No, the workers invented and built the machine, but the master class own it, as they own all other labor saving and money making machinery whereby great profits can be piled up. A wheelbarrow is about the only machine that a worker is allowed to own, and the majority do not own even one of those.

A daily paper says:—"Mining gold in South Africa produces an appalling mortality roll." The mortality is not among the class who benefit from the efforts of the miners, but is among those who produce the wealth and get but a bare existence out of the results of their toil. Why not let the people who want gold mine it themselves? Why do the miners brave danger of life and limb to enrich people who have never seen the inside of a mine? The capitalist result of such an action is to get prodded with a bayonet or shot up in gangs at the first sign of revolt against unbearable conditions.

Some time ago a man in Passaic, N. J., was arrested and sent to jail ten days for failure to send his fourteen-year-old daughter to school. The girl was the only support of the family. Her parents were ill, and unable to work. The authorities, however, refused to allow her to work, and sent her back to school. Now the father is dead of starvation and the mother had to be taken to hospital. Now, who will support the girl while she attends school? The workers under capitalism are up against it every move they make. The machinations of the capitalists are fast bringing the affairs of every country into a chaos, and the working classes must bear the brunt of battle.

A deputation of labor men of Toronto visited the parliament buildings and complained of the manner in which the police of that city round the workers who dare to go on strike. The police have made numerous efforts to provoke the strikers into breaking the law. During the carpenters' strike men were pushed off the sidewalks, and otherwise handled, so anxious were the police to get them to say or do something for which they could be arrested. The men in the Toronto labor movement are determined to have this injustice stopped at once. It is a notorious fact that the Toronto police have always been picked out for qualities otherwise than intelligence.

Viscount Gladstone sent 3,650 troops to Johannesburg to suppress the striking miners. This is exactly what soldiers are kept for, and did you ever notice how the master class were always in command of soldiers, from the lowest subaltern in the militia to the highest rank in the permanent force? There are regiments in England whose officers must all be of the wealthy class, and where those of the working class are not wanted. The workers fought for and secured South Africa for the master class, and the masters will see to it that the British workers are kept at work in the mines at the wages imposed by the bosses, or take their medicine in the form of bullets and bayonets.

A Canadian office of the Wm. J. Burns detective agency will be established in Montreal. The city of Montreal is already cursed with a superfluity of creatures in the guise of detectives, and this Burns outfit will not help in the least to smother the stink. Montreal is a huge town; it has tens of thousands of workers who are in a state of unrest bordering on a citywide upheaval. The corporations which exploit these workers note the uneasiness of the labor market. They also note that the soldiers of the city cannot be depended upon to butcher striking workers, so they import an agency of the gunmen and strong arm tribe of Burns, the most successful of the many crooks who have railroaded workers to prison on perjured evidence. The workers of Montreal will now have another stone around their necks.

Boisvert Answers

In the last two issues of Cotton's Weekly we have been showing up how Joseph A. Boisvert, the High Constable of this district, drags unemployed men before District Magistrate Mulvena, and Mulvena slams them with hard sentences.

We cited the case of four men, Jas. Garvin, Charles Feeley, Weldon Burke, and Edward Burke who had been arrested at Farnham.

We showed up Mr. Boisvert as a feeble, and pursuer of innocent men. To these articles Mr. Boisvert gives the following answer.

REPLY FROM HIGH CONSTABLE BOISVERT.

To William U. Cotton, Esq., Editor "Cotton's Weekly," Cowansville, Quebec.

Sir:—I hope you will allow me a small space in your columns to tell your readers that the contents of the facts alleged in your sensational article of the 17th inst., are absolutely false, untrue and unfounded.

You first accuse me of having arrested four innocent men, Jas. Garvin, Charles Feeley, Edward Burke and Weldon Belyea. This is absolutely untrue. I did not arrest them nor cause them to be arrested. They were arrested on the 21st of June last and it was not until the afternoon of the 22nd, that I was notified to go to Farnham and convey them to Swetsburg jail. Mr. Roy, the Chief of Police at Farnham made the arrest in the forenoon and later allowed them their liberty upon the express promise that they would leave the town immediately. As they failed to keep their promise, they were re-arrested in the afternoon not only because they were tramps and vagrants but also because four tramps had been seen going into a freight car in the morning and it had been found that the seal had been broken. Early in the afternoon it was also discovered that a trunk addressed to Mr. A. Dupont had been stolen and hidden in the bushes where it was later found with the lock broken. There is no doubt that the four tramps who had been seen going in and out of the freight car were waiting for the middle of the night to take away the contents of the trunk.

When I arrived at Farnham, I questioned the accused with the Chief of Police, Mr. Roy, and although they were the only tramps seen in the vicinity, I soon realized that they were not disposed to admit their guilt and that it would be difficult to connect them with the mischief done. When I questioned them concerning their means of livelihood, where they came from and where they had been working, they refused to give me a satisfactory answer. It was only after they had been in jail for eight days that Jas. Garvin and Charles Feeley told me that they came from Natick, Mass.

I immediately wrote the Chief of Police asking him what he knew as to their conduct and behaviour and I give you herewith a copy of the reply received, which speaks for itself.

Town of Natick, Police Department, David D. Church, Chief.

Natick, Mass., July 4th, '13.

Mr. Joseph A. Boisvert, High Constable, Swetsburg, Que.

Dear Sir:—In regard to your letter of the 3rd, I would say that James Garvin, 12 Fifth Street, is his right name and address. He has been in court here for being a loafer, he is not wanted here now.

Charles Feeley, 30 Harrison Street, is his right name and address. He has been arrested here for drunk and since then he is not right at times.

These two young men never stay in one place very long, they are rovers.

Respectfully yours, (signed) David J. Church, Chief.

Edward had given me his address as Fresno, California, saying that he had been born and brought up there. I wrote the Chief of Police who replied to me in the following terms:—"I have done my utmost to locate anyone who would know Edward Burke. He is not known in Fresno." (signed) Edward Jones, Chief of Police.

Now Mr. Editor, you call these men honest working men. Did they succeed in making you believe that they were? And if so, who am I to believe, you or the Chiefs of Police above mentioned? I will leave the answer to this question to the reader of your paper.

You have printed their affidavits, stating that I told them to give me \$2 or \$5 and I would get them off. I can easily forgive them for making the affidavit but I cannot forgive you for having published them, because you know that I did not say that. When they asked me what would be the penalty imposed by the magistrate for vagrancy, I told them that it would be from \$2.00 to \$5, which is usually the fine which as you know goes to your father, the Sheriff, for the building and Jury fund and not to myself.

I defy you or anyone else to say that I have ever received through graft or otherwise, one cent from anyone that was not for the regular fee allowed by law. I have never yet even charged one cent to make an unsuccessful investigation except of course to Companies and Corporations.

You say that I am a great tramp hunter. I have every reason to be for nearly all the offences committed

in my District since my appointment have been the work of tramps. I can cite you many cases where we have arrested not hoboes, but mere tramps and then allowed them to go after hearing a nice story like the one told you and printed in your paper about their being driven away from their own country by strikes, etc., only to find the very next day, the same parties guilty of shonbreaking and theft.

The threats you make against me in your paper do not scare me in the least. I shall continue to do in the future as I have done in the past, without consulting the editor of "Cotton's Weekly" or anyone else. It is my duty to arrest tramps such as these parties were and all those who may commit offences that will require prosecution and your articles will never keep me from doing my duty and protecting the rights and property of honest people.

When you refer to my fees you should know that there is no fee allowed by law for the arrest of tramps who are residents of this Province and that in the case of outsiders, all that I receive from the Government is a mileage fee of 10 cents per mile which only pays my travelling expenses.

Before closing, allow me to say that it was, to say the least, very imprudent for you to publish the article which you did, without obtaining your information from a more reliable source. I could give you more information concerning these particular cases but I feel that it is unnecessary for me to do so, to convince your readers that I only did my duty.

Thanking you for your courtesy in allowing me the use of your columns to reply to your article, I am, Yours truly, High Constable.

P. S.—You may add that I am willing to contribute \$5000.00 to any charitable institution if it is proven that I ever received one cent outside my taxable fees.

A Self Convicting Statement

Of all the weak, knockkneed self convicting statements, this one takes the biscuit.

Let us review what happened.

On the 21st four men were arrested at Farnham.

On the 22nd, Boisvert arrived, looked at the men, and made out a warrant charging them with trespass on the C.P.R. and with entering a freight car with intent to ride thereon without paying their car fare.

They were taken to Swetsburg jail, kept there till the 7th of July when Mulvena came. Then a new charge of vagrancy is made out against these four men, (the writing still is Boisvert's) and upon this charge they are railroaded to jail.

Nothing is done about the charge of trespass. They were not released on that charge, they were not convicted, they were not remanded. It appears to have simply dropped out of sight.

The four men had money on them when arrested. They had not been in Farnham long.

Boisvert's hand is seen all through. Now he tries to lay the blame on Roy of Farnham.

A Damnable Charge

See what Boisvert says.

A car was broken into.

Four tramps were seen going in and out.

A trunk was stolen from the car.

These four men were seen around Farnham.

Therefore they broke the seal of the car and stole the trunk.

They would not admit their guilt, and it was difficult to prove it on them.

Therefore convict them as tramps. That is the way Boisvert reasons. That is the way Mulvena reasons. When I asked Mulvena about them he said a charge of breaking into a car and stealing would probably be laid against the men. Then he suddenly shut up. He realized he had said too much. He had given himself away.

He had not convicted the men on the evidence before him. He had convicted them upon the lies and slanders and insinuations Boisvert had poured into his unjudicial mind before the trial.

It is the principle of British law that a man is held to be innocent until he is proved guilty.

Joseph A. Boisvert's rule is to hold a man guilty until he proves himself innocent.

The Arrest of the Four Men

The four men were arrested without warrant.

The arrest was perfectly illegal.

Trespassing is not a crime for which an arrest can be made without warrant.

Having entered a car to steal a ride without paying car fare is not a crime where an arrest can be made without warrant.

Being a vagrant is not a crime where an arrest can be made without warrant.

Roy, policeman of Farnham, made the arrest.

The four men were not on the railway track when arrested. They were sitting on the steps of Cyril Lapointe's old cash and door factory.

They are put in, hung into the dirty cell and kept all night.

Next day Boisvert arrives, asks questions, draws up the warrant, has them before a J. P., hales them to Swetsburg, and then says, "Please,

(Continued on Page Two)