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H. A. WEBB, BUSINESS MANAGER

WORKING CLASS OWNERSHIP

At Winnipeg, the street railway employees are on strike. The slaves of the company organized a union. Unions are for the purpose of protecting the workers. The bosses do not like unions. Hence the employers seized upon an excuse to discharge the union officials.

The slaves struck. That is, they ceased to work. Their slave's pay ceased. At once strikebreakers were imported. When slaves strike they starve their stomachs in the hope that the masters will be forced to give better slave conditions in order to get parasite profits.

When strike breakers are imported the slaves see their hopes go down, and they are apt to riot. Then the militia is called out. Or perhaps the regular troops. Canada spends six million dollars a year to maintain an army for the sole purpose of smashing strikes.

At Springhill, N. S., wage slaves have been striking for seventeen months. The masters would not grant better conditions to the slaves. Hence the struggle.

This takes place under capitalism. The poor, forlorn, patient, unthinking wage slaves of Canada compose the modern slave class. They bear the burdens. They do not enjoy. They produce. The masters consume.

And the poor creatures know no better way of bettering their condition than to say, "We will not work. We will starve ourselves. And the masters will not be able to enjoy the fruits of our labor."

These deluded creatures will not vote for their own emancipation. They will hurrah and cheer for Laurier or Borden or the local parliamentary henchman of the labor skinners. They will not adopt the parliamentary method of freedom.

Nor will they adopt the method of direct action. They will not say, "We are all wage slaves together. Let us unite in one grand army of revolting wage slaves, and face our exploiters."

No. The wage slaves are timid. They fear their masters. They rise to the false hopes the masters encourage. They vote for the politicians of their robbers in the hopes of being given doles. They will not strike as one man. They strike a few at a time and look on in impotent weakness while fellow wage slaves jump into the slave harness that slaves must wear under slave institutions while the slave get the bread of life.

When, oh workers of Canada, will the spirit of revolt enter your hearts and grip your lives? Will you forever be slaves?

Will you be content to see your wives and children and your children's children suffer because you are robbed?

Awake! Arise! Join with the army of your awakened comrades in chains. Unite for your own freedom. A word of happy hopes, of bright homes, of care free lives, of comfort, leisure and joy is yours for the taking.

But such a world is not for a class of slaves who possess the craven spirit of slaves.

Montreal is to have municipal pawnshops. This question is agitating the council and the chances are that they will be introduced. The pawnshop business is in the hands of small dealers. Consequently no big interests will be hurt. Moreover cheaper pawn bro'ing will make the few trinkets of the unemployed go farther in relieving want and thus save the charity doles from the pockets of the philanthropic capitalists. Municipal pawnshops are what the capitalists give to cover the poverty they produce. Under Socialism, where the means of life would be the common right of all pawnshops are unthinkable. Socialism would do away with pawnshops. Capitalism would "reform" them.

In the U. S. 13,000,000 toilers are sick every year. When they are sick they cannot work. When they cannot work their slave's pay ceases. Under chattel slavery the masters took care of the sick slaves and saw that they were cured. Under wage slavery the slaves have to take care of themselves when sick and if their funds give out, they can rot. Wherein is wage slavery superior to chattel slavery?

Labor produces all wealth.

Socialism will give the workers all they earn. Hence the labor skinners do not like Socialism.

The farmers of the west stand for co-operative societies. This is a step in the right direction. But it is only a small one. Socialists stand for the abolition of wage slavery.

The rise of the farmer class threatens some of the profits of the industrial parasites. Wherefore the henchmen of the industrial labor skinners tremble for the profits of their masters.

In the American Federation of Labor there are 117 international unions divided and subdivided into 27,000 local unions. Craft divisions make the workers weak when fighting the capitalist class.

The farmers are being advised to buy automobiles. The working farmer can no more afford to buy an automobile than can a wage worker. But there are many real estate owners who will buy automobiles.

With machine production poverty is unnecessary, slums are unnecessary, indigent old age is unnecessary. Socialism will set the machines to work providing the means of life for the people instead of for the capitalists.

I have nothing against Laurier for being Laurier. Laurier is Premier of Canada simply because he is the tool of the capitalists. Had Laurier not been a tool of the exploiters he would not be Premier. Some other would be holding down the job.

The public baths of Montreal were used 271,499 times during the summer months last year. Were the baths not public but run for profit then many people would perforce have gone bathless owing to the lack of the price. If free baths are good, why not free bread?

Senator Dandurand declares that universal peace will come in twenty-five years. He bases his estimate on the activity of the Hague tribunal and international arbitration. He takes no account of the international solidarity of the workers. I hope to see international peace come long before twenty-five years, through the abolition of international capitalism.

Little Monaco, the home of the gambling institution known as Monte Carlo, with seven thousand people, is tired of being ruled by a prince. It wants to become a republic. But the French capitalists say no. French capitalists about own Monaco and the people cannot have what they want. Yet Monaco is supposed to be an independent state.

The United States fought the War of Independence to be free from the taxation imposed by England. But today the United States pays Europe every year \$300,000,000 in rent, interest and profit. Each year the Americans are taxed this amount that is given to the parasite receivers of rent, interest and profit to Europe. The Americans think they are a free people. But international capitalism taxes them heavily.

P. C. Simons, Unionist candidate in the St. George's division of the Tower Hamlets at the British elections last January, has been awarded \$25,000 damages in the London courts against the London Daily Chronicle. The Chronicle had charged that he was responsible for having 3,000 men thrown out of employment and that he had voted against the proposition to feed poor children out of the public funds. All that Simons said was untrue. In England a man may be as corrupt in his personal morals as possible and yet stay in public life. You must not expose his private record because his private record has nothing to do with his public office. This is why we never hear of scandals in British political life. Not because they do not exist but because it would break any paper in libel suits and damages who would publish them. Now this last decision decided that a man's record is also his private property. This is an effective damper on public criticism. Our politicians shout for imperialism and the spread of British institutions in Canada. How they long for the British muzzle that restrains the freedom of the press!

The Farmer and the General Strike

The farmers of Canada have not had a fair deal. The manufacturers have been protected. The farmers have had to pay heavy toll to the manufacturers. They have been forced to sell good pork cheap and buy shoddy clothes dear.

The farmers have objected. In Canada they have formed large associations. They are going into politics. The western farmers particularly, have strong views.

I was born on a hillside farm of a hundred acres. The greater part of this farm was pasture and the greater part of the pasture was stoned. So I think I know something of farm life.

I have been through the free trade stage. I have longed for the time to come when we could sell dear food to England and be paid in good clothes and commodities bought cheap. So it is in no spirit of hostility to the farmers that I write.

The farmers want government ownership of railways; government ownership of chilled meat industry, terminal elevators, telephones, etc., etc. They also want free trade, an efficient and simple law for the formation of co-operative societies, and eventually cheap credit.

These things are good so far as they go. The banks are parasite institutions. Cheap credit would put them out of business. Co-operative societies are good. But they are liable to meet with strenuous opposition. Five thousand retail merchants and others who will be injured by the co-operative bill will go to Ottawa, it is said, and oppose the bill. Free trade is opposed by the men who own hundreds of millions of labor-sucking stock certificates of industrial companies.

I do not see any intimation that the farmers stand for the COLLECTIVE OWNERSHIP OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS. The farmers want CHEAP CREDIT. This would cause the value of farm lands to go up. The farmers want CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES. These would lower the cost of living; wage slaves could be hired cheaper on farm lands, and the farm owners would become agricultural capitalists.

Government ownership of railways, elevators, telephones and chilled meat business would reduce the cost of these services. The wage slaves would be still the expropriated proletariat. But the government, operating the railways without profit, the profits now going to the railroad owners would go in reduced rates to the transporters of the commodities, to the farm owners who shipped wheat, hogs, apples, etc. This again would cause farm lands to increase in value and the farm capitalists to become more wealthy.

But railroad workers have a habit of striking and they strike when they can squeeze their bosses the most. In Europe the railroads are largely government owned. Railroad strikes are treated more or less as an insurrectionary movement against the government.

Suppose the C. P. R., the G. T. P. and the C. N. R. to be government owned and the railroad workers all struck just as the grain was being moved out in the fall. Would there not be great commotion among the farm owners? Would there not be great commotion at Ottawa?

The industrial workers of Canada are moving in the direction of mass action and the general strike. At present a successful railroad strike means less profits for the railroad owners. The farmers and merchants now sympathize with the strikers and encourage the strikers to beat the railroad owners. This explains the activity at Ottawa in favor of the Grand Trunk strikers.

But under government operation without profit, a successful strike would mean higher railroad charges. Therefore the farm owners and manufacturers would swing all their influence against the railroad strikers and brutal methods would be employed to put the strike down.

Socialism has nothing to fear from the rise of the farming class. Economic forces are flinging us forward into the co-operative commonwealth.

But let us realize just what the farmer movement is. Socialism aims at the collective ownership, control and management of the means of production and distribution and the

abolition of rent, interest and profit. The farmers want private ownership of land and the profitless operation through government ownership of the means of distribution of agricultural wealth in order that the private ownership of the means of agricultural wealth production may become more valuable. This is something different from Socialism.

No doubt many farmers consider their aims to be Socialistic. No doubt in the coming clash between agricultural and industrial ownership and control Socialism will be brought nearer. But let us keep our aim clear before our eyes, which is the rise of the exploited toiling many to the full control and enjoyment of the values created by their labor.

The Liberals of Great Britain stand for four things. There may be said to be four planks in their platform. The first is the abolition of the hereditary right of a few to sit as legislators.

The second is the abolition of the laws of primogeniture and entail whereby the land is held by a few great landlords. The third is the establishment of the state and the fourth is the decentralization of government by appointing separate legislatures for Scotland, Ireland, Wales and England. These are the Liberal reforms. They say nothing of the abolition of wage slavery nor doing away with the commodity nature of the means of life. Socialists hurrah as little for British Liberalism as an association organized for the abolition of chattel slavery would hurrah for single tax politicians.

The Austrian Commonwealth has decided to sell coal to the public. The mines owned by the state can produce a million tons a year. At the price of nine shillings a ton a profit of twenty-two cents can be made. Those engaged in the fuel industry vigorously oppose the movement. It will hurt their profits. But the public will support the move. For all, whether parasite exploiter or wage slave, desire to get cheap commodities. But here is the difference. The parasite exploiter will live better, having his income go farther. But the man who works for a living wage will find his wages going down. For labor power sells at what it costs the wage slave to live on. When living is cheap wages go down. This is what will happen in Australia.

Mexico has been trying a few dodges to wriggle out of her agreements with some of her taskmasters. The Mexican government threw open the country to the foreign exploiters. The capitalists rushed in to exploit the slaves. Easy money was to be made.

Now Mexico finds the burdens heavy. Limantour tried to break through some of the obligations assumed towards the Bank of Montreal. At once the Bank got busy. Sir Edward Grey, British Foreign Minister, told the Mexican government that the Bank of Montreal must be protected or there would be trouble. Mexico backed down. Thus the capitalists enslave Mexico for the sake of profits.

Mary Dolan murdered her illegitimate child at Barrie, Ont., at the instigation of the father, Thos. McNulty, a barkeeper. They were condemned to be hung. But the government at Ottawa commuted their sentence. They will not hang. Thomas Candy, however, was hung in spite of numerous protests to have his life saved. You see Candy threatened the profits of the master class. Therefore the henchmen of the master class at Ottawa, Laurier, Aylesworth, Grey, let him swing. You working cattle, cheer for Laurier now. Cheer for the Governor-General. They stand for your enslavement and death. So cheer for your enslavers and murderers, you slaves.

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It is a puzzle to class conscious workers why their fellow wage slaves still continue to vote for slavery.

A flock of Russian spy buzzards have landed in Canada hunting political refugees to turn them into carrion in the Russian prisons. Shall Fedorenko be yielded up?

The House of Lords is threatened over in England. Across the border there is a strong movement for the popular election of U. S. Senators. But Canada still hugs her ancient Senators to her bosom.

The navy is unpopular in Canada. I believe that Earl Grey had a good deal to do with stuffing a navy on Canada. When you live under a monarchy you cannot escape the pernicious effects of monarchical activity.

The farmers marched to Ottawa and Laurier said little and the farmers marched back again. Laurier is tied to the eastern financiers. The west cannot look to him for relief from the industrial and financial profit lords.

"Every time that I have felt the weight of the soldier's gun upon my head, I have felt the necessity of one big labor trust. I have never felt that there was an identity of interest between the exploiter and the exploited."—William D. Haywood.

Russian political autocrats want to get Fedorenko. If they can snatch one victim from Canada it will put the fear of torture into the hearts of all other political refugees. Shall our Canadian courts be used to do the dirty work of Butcher Nicholas?

The capitalists are bringing about many reforms. They have to bring these changes in order to exist. The Socialists do not object to reforms, but they aim at putting out of business the capitalist system. Hence they do not hurrah for the reforms dying capitalism inaugurates to prolong its life.

Court martials in Russia in the last few years have killed over 3,000 persons. Many more persons have been beaten or kicked to death in the Russian prisons. Yet the capitalists of Europe still lend Russia large sums to keep the rotten government alive. There is good interest paid. International capitalism is responsible for many crimes.

At Calcutta, India, thirty-two Hindoo policemen clubbed some Mahomedan worshippers who wanted to sacrifice cows. We consider their conduct foolish. Yet here in Canada we have Protestants fighting Catholics. And the capitalists are cornering the means of life while the common people squabble over creeds.

A. E. Donovan, M. P. P. for Brockville, Ont., Conservative, in an address at New Dublin, declared that the Party System is essential to government. Of course it is essential for the exploiters. If the two old parties should unite, then there would be an end to the political guff worked on the slaves and the slaves would see themselves as they are.

Premier Sifton of Alberta declares that Alberta should have five experimental farms each to cost \$25,000. These are to be bought and furnished out of public monies and without any idea of making a profit out of them. They are run to instruct the people how to farm properly. If farms can be run without profit for the good of the people, why cannot we have banks run without profit and the distribution of commodities without profit and the production of food without profit? We can have these things just as soon as the people want to abolish rent, interest and profit.

Francis W. Hirst, of the London, Economist, declares that war scares are inspired for profit by armament contractors. Hirst, in a speech at Washington, declared that Japan, England and Germany are being crushed by war burdens. Had a Socialist made this statement it would not have had a press line given it. But a plute writer making this statement, it is given bold headlines in the newspapers. The capitalist politicians are squirming and explaining. But they are being forced to the Socialist conclusion that rent, interest and profit are the three great evils that afflict humanity.

PROTECTION AND FREE TRADE

We have protectionists and free traders in Canada. The protectionists want to have protective duty to keep the home market for Canadian manufacturers. They declare that the owners of the industrial establishments of Canada cannot profitably employ wage slaves unless there is protection which will allow them to get good profits. They declare that the industrial employers will be in a position to pay good wages and that therefore the wage slaves benefit by protection. Let the capitalists have a chance to sell goods high and the wage slaves will be employed at good wages.

The free traders ask why they should have to pay high for goods when they can get them cheap. They say that high wages do not benefit the workers under protection as the cost of living is so high that the workers on high wages under protection are no better off than the workers on low wages under free trade. They say that with free trade and cheap goods the workers can work for low wages; goods can be manufactured cheap, and that, therefore, Canadian manufacturers with free trade could undersell rival countries in the markets of the world.

The protectionists and the free traders are very much to the front in Canada just now. The printer's ink of combat is flowing through columns and columns of the plute press. And neither side advances conclusive arguments.

Along come the Socialists and belabor both arguers. The Socialists point out the weakness of both sides. And both sides refuse to let the Socialists break into the discussion in the capitalist organs. For both protectionists and free traders desire to deceive the workers.

Under protection the worker gets higher wages, pays more for living expenses, is robbed while at work, and is frequently thrown out of employment.

Under free trade the worker gets low wages, pays less for living expenses, is robbed while at work, and is frequently thrown out of employment.

For, while the parasite capitalists own the industrial establishments, the workers are forced to beg for work at the factory gates. The masters can pay little or much, within certain limits. The masters pay, on the whole, just wages enough to feed, clothe and shelter the workers and for a certain proportion of the workers to rear up wage slaves after them.

With protection the workers get a higher nominal wage but the cost of living goes up. With free trade the worker gets a lower wage but the cost of living is low. The masters, through the private ownership of the means of production and distribution, rob the workers.

There are certain private owners whose profits would be bigger under free trade. Hence they shout for free trade. There are other private owners whose profits would be bigger under protection hence they want protection.

But the wage mules, the patient, long-suffering human beasts of burden who carry the plunderers on their backs, these creatures will be wage plugs as long as they allow the masters to own the machinery of production and distribution. Neither free trade nor protection will cause them to become liberated.

The Socialists are not bothered about the arguments for or against protection. They are busy persuading the workers to seize the reins of government and through political action, place the machinery of production and distribution under the ownership, control and management of the collective working class.

Under capitalism the harder the workers work the quicker the markets are overstocked—and the sooner comes unemployment. Under Socialism the harder the workers work the quicker they can take a holiday. The difference between capitalism and Socialism is that under capitalism the workers get a forced holiday and have to hunt work. Under Socialism the workers will take a holiday and enjoy the commodities they have made while at work.

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