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# Cotton's Weekly

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## WANTS INFORMATION

Brookville, Ont., May 13th, 1914.  
Editor Cotton's:—As a reader of the organ of the S.D.P., Cotton's Weekly, also a reader of the Clarion, I wish to make a few remarks. During the last few issues of your paper there have appeared in each a few words in favor of a union of the two parties. That in itself is very nice, something that we all would like to see, but it is a little regrettable that there ever was a split in the party at all. It shows, to my notion, that there must be a difference, or at least, there was a difference in the two factions. It is quite evident that there must have been a large bone of contention to cause a division in the original whole, and what was it? Is it possible that there are two scientific Socialisms? Tell me, Mr. Editor, as I am very ignorant along this line.

I have always understood that Socialism was a science and that the Socialists are supposed to be interpreters of that science to the masses. Am I right?  
If, then, the revolutionary scientific Socialists are students of, adherents to and simplifiers of that science and the nature of that science's fundamentals being so plain, how comes it that there are two parties, both claiming the same title, yet being distinctly separate? Can there be two groups of fundamentals opposed to each other and yet join under one head or be called by the same name? This to me, poor ignorant human mutt that I am, appears to be like a mathematical problem only fit for educated men to solve.

I can readily see where there might be a difference of tactics, but then it beyond me to know when they both become identical, for in order to unite there must be unity of tactics as well as fundamentals. If the tactics are left to settle themselves after the imaginary union, I can predict a most joyous upheaval in the camp when the first bit of business is being put on.

There seems to be in both parties one thing in common though. They both are against compromise or bartering with any other political organization and that to my knowledge, remains intact as a grand attempt at being revolutionary. Do you not think that "no compromise" would be a hard thing to overcome when it would mean most likely the majority voting the minority into another party, compromising of course, and not allowing the other fellow a chance at that boasted democracy? If it should be taken easily and no kick registered by the opposition what would anyone call them after such a manipulation and juggling has taken place with the two platforms and principles without discussion? The ones who would allow anyone to vote them into another party in that manner would let anyone vote them out in like manner, and in my way of reasoning, that is as far as I have read the sentiment of that paper, a deliberate lie. The Clarion is too firm for the cause of revolutionary Socialism to stoop to that, it being illogical, unreasonable and idiotic. It is sorry of course there is another party calling themselves Socialists and yet taking exception to the propagation of the final analysis. I myself heard one named Cotton, making the statement that "one should not put too much study on the dying system," alluding to the study of Marx Capital. That, on the face of it shows ignorance of the philosophy of Socialism. I have henceforth good speakers and have read very little, but with what little I know, that statement is awry.

I would like to know more but my time and money is limited and as there is no pretext at teaching callers or even themselves in the local here, will have to wait for something else.

I am an Englishman not over seven years out, but have learned a few the while. I want this letter published and if you do not I will try and get the Montreal Herald to do so.—Yours for Reason, Samuel Smith.

THE ANSWER EASY.  
The above letter from Samuel Smith, who calls himself a non-Socialist and yet who bears all the earmarks of the Socialist Party of Canada, is published at his request. It seems to us that his letter is easily answered.

He says that it is too bad there ever was a split, and asks if there are two scientific Socialisms.

Science means accumulated and accepted knowledge which has been systematized and formulated with reference to the discovery of general truths or the operation of general laws. That is the definition given by Webster's.

The scientific basis of Socialism is threefold: the three laws or accepted truths of the Marxian law of value, the determinist conception of history and the class struggle. Both the S.P. of C., and the S.D.P. of C. adhere to these three theories and make them the basis of their propaganda. The determinist conception of history is also known as the materialist conception of history.

Socialists are interpreters of scientific Socialism, but they are more. They are not only interpreters of the class struggle, they are active participants therein, and theorizing about scientific principles, and applying those principles to the exigencies of political activity are two different things. Adam Sieves could make dozens of constitutions to govern France and Napoleon would walk through them all. A man may know the laws of mechanics and not be able to make a pump. A Socialist may know the laws of scientific Socialism and yet be rotten-headed when he speaks. Another Socialist may give forth the same principles and be loudly cheered.

How comes it that there are two parties both calling themselves Socialists and yet separate? The majority of Socialists consider that the party affairs should be run democratically. Under the Socialist party regime in Ontario, the majority of the party members were read out of the party by the Socialist party executive in Vancouver. The membership read out thereupon considered themselves to be a party, drew up a constitution, and has now come to be the bluest party in Canada. It has four organizers on the road in British Columbia, a paid organizer on the road in Ontario, a Dominion Secretary devoting all his time to the party affairs and paid out of party funds. It is affiliated with the International Socialist Bureau and is sending a delegate to the International Socialist Congress in Vienna.

Does interpreting the science of Socialism to the masses include drawing knives on fellow Socialists in a local meeting? This, if we have been correctly informed, is what took place in Toronto under the S.P. regime.

Comrade Smith seems to think that the only question at issue may be fundamentals, and cannot see how the difference could arise. Persons may agree on fundamentals and yet accidentally may cause a split.

The question of tactics next comes up. Comrade Smith thinks that tactics must be identical or a split will result. He admits he cannot know when tactics become identical. He is right. For no two persons are exactly alike. Not being alike, their tactics will not be exactly similar. Each will propagate Socialism according to their own personality. This being so, the general principles are laid down, and each person is allowed to use his own personality in propagating general ideas. When we have individuals insisting upon identity of tactics we get tyrants and autocrats. If identity of tactics be pushed to its ultimate conclusion, then instead of having one party composed of four thousand members, we would have four thousand parties composed of one member each.

With regard to the upheaval that would result if tactics were not first settled, this would not follow. The majority of Socialists want the principles of Socialism propagated. They are willing to co-operate. A few persons must be different and want their own tactics adopted. These, no doubt, would withdraw, and form a party like the Socialist party of North America which sprang into existence in Toronto with seven members.

DEMOCRACY.  
Democracy is considered to be a necessary principle of Socialist parties. The initiative, referendum, right of recall are or should be part of the machinery of a Socialist organization. And the minority bow to the opinion of the majority.

In the recent convention of the Social-Democratic party of British Columbia, a resolution was introduced to remove all reference to reforms in the party platform. Ten votes were cast to remove reference to reforms and thirty-one votes were cast against removing them. The motion lost. The minority do not get provoked and withdraw from the party. The Socialist parties of all the great countries have reforms in their platforms. It is not, however, a question of reform or no reform. It is a question of democracy.

An organizer of the S.D.P. was conversing with an organizer of the S.P. The S.P. organizer asked the S.D.P. man if he believed in democracy in the party. He replied he did. The S.P. man replied that he did not, that there was a bunch of them in the S.P. who were not going to be run by the S.P. and file.

We have a letter from W. A. Pritchard upon the Atkinson matter. He asks, "If the S.D.P. of C. is revolutionary, etc., should not the affairs of such a party be conducted on democratic lines?"

Local Creston, B.C., of the S.P. of C. wants a referendum on the matter of fusion of the two parties. Under the S.D.P. constitution, three locals can unite and call for a referendum and get it.

We have a letter from an S.D.P. organizer, in which is the following paragraph. "After the slap the unity boosters received this week's Clarion, I should think they would know enough to shut up and propagate Socialism." This organizer is not the S. D. P., nor is the Clarion the S.P. of C. The question of unity is for the file of both parties to decide. If the majority of either party is against unity, then the matter is dead.

The Socialist-Democratic party can work with any organization recognizing the class struggle and the necessity of abolishing capitalism. It is a Socialist compromising his principles by joining or fusing with the S.D.P. of C., a revolutionary Socialist party? We fail to see it.

With regard to the "deliberate lie" appearing in Cotton's about the Clarion being in favor of unity, in issue of April 10th, we published a resolution, the first paragraph of which read, "We, the Socialists of Ekville, Alberta local No. 58, S.P. of C., are pleased to note the position taken by the official organs, Cotton's Weekly and the Western Clarion, regarding the probability of unity of the two Socialist parties of Canada." The resolution did not state the Western Clarion favored unity, and we could not alter a resolution passed by an S.P. local and publish it in an altered manner. We published the resolution as we received it.

THE DYING SYSTEM.  
This refers to a remark the editor of this paper made at Brookville. How many Socialists have read the three volumes of "Capital"? How many have found the reading of the three volumes make them better fighters against capitalist exploitation?

The capitalist system was born out of the feudal system, but a study of the feudal system did not teach the students how capitalism would grow and in what form its development would take.

The capitalists are their own grave diggers. The system is dying. We are going either into industrial democracy or capitalist feudalism.

"Capital" is largely a study of the capitalist mode of production and the various forms of apportionment of the revenues arising from the robbery of the wage-workers. Banker's capital, merchant's capital, building lot, differential rent, are all explained. The different compositions of capital are minutely analyzed.

Capital is means used to exploit labor. When machinery ceases to be used to exploit labor it ceases to be capital. Capital is a condition, not a thing. We are going to abolish the condition which causes labor to be exploited. We are therefore going to abolish capital.

When we abolish capital, of what use will it be to us to read the analysis of capitalist production? When the co-operative commonwealth arrives, very few indeed, will be the readers of Capital.

It is true we are still in the capitalist system and we must know enough of that system and its workings to fight it intelligently. This can be got in the main outlines from such works as Kautsky's The Class Struggle, the Communist Manifesto, first part of Capital, etc.

## MANIFESTO OF THE S.D.P. OF C.

For North Waterloo, Ont.  
Fellow Workers:—The Social Democratic Party are nominating candidates in the forthcoming election to represent the interests of the working class, upon the only vital and real issue before the workers of this country as well as the whole working class of the world: "Socialism versus Capitalism."

In this manifesto is analyzed the capitalist system, its construction and tendencies shown, and we appeal to every worker to read it and get an intelligent grasp of the principles of the Socialist movement.

It is not our purpose here to trace the origin of classes; suffice it to say that every system has given rise to social classes and the capitalist system has produced the wage working class. The capitalist system necessarily presupposes the rending of society into two classes—the owners of the means of production, that is, those who own the mines, mills, factories, railroads, etc., (the capitalist class) and those who have nothing but their labor-power to sell, (the wage working class). The working class is thus absolutely dependent upon the capitalist class. The ideal of the Socialist movement must, necessarily, be the emancipation of the workers from this condition of dependence and servitude.

This arrangement of society into classes presupposes certain relations between the employing class and the wage working class. A clear conception of these relations reveals the program and tactics necessary to success. For the working class to secure its freedom it must cease to be dependent upon the capitalist class, and this can only be accomplished by the overthrowing of the capitalist order.

Woman Under Socialism  
By Mary Nicolaeff, Morningside, Alta.

I send you the notice about the dirty speech of a certain Goldstein, the barking dog of the Roman Catholic priests, who dares to talk so much about Christianity, which they deny by all their doings, being the very henchmen of the oppressors and slayers of the poor.

This Goldstein dealt especially with the question of free love. Yes the priests and ministers praise the marriage of today. But let me tell the truth about the respectable women of today.

I am a married woman and a mother of two married daughters. All my experience of the life of many, many married women is only a big grievance. The Christian marriage of today is a crime against the nature and thousands of women find themselves bound by their prejudices and so-called religion to an undecidable torture. The nature of a man and woman is different, it was said by the celebrated professor Mechnikoff: "that nature was unjust against the woman, making her unable to be adequate to the man from the sexual point of view." This means that the marriage of today is not a healthy, normal, joyful life for the wife, but just an abnormal existence, worse than the life of a female animal, which follows sincerely and simply the call of her nature, but does not tolerate the insane obedience to its "hobby" as are doing millions of women. Why are they so foolish? Why do they go against their nature and spoil their health and that of their children? Because they depend upon the men in economical conditions of the cursed capitalistic system! There is a form of legalized prostitution. But many women depend only upon their prejudices, cultivated and inspired by the hired henchmen of the masters, priests and ministers, who fool the women as helpless children.

The curse of woman's life will be abolished when this damned old system is swept away, not before.

Dear Comrade, I cannot find subs here, but I wrap always the bread we give to the travelling unemployed in the dear Cotton's paper.

Oh the crowd of hungry men, who every day come and ask for some bread and water! They come every day to us, because we are living right by the railroad and no other buildings are there. They are pale, thin, their feet are bleeding. They make a fire just by the railroad and cook the scraps they find on the road, thrown away from the trains. You can see in their "soup" all kinds of rotten food, which they cleaned and put in the boiling water. Many of these people, after their dinner read the Cotton's Weekly, we gave them and you can hear from afar how they exclaim: "Oh, you curse of the world!" They see from the red paper, that there is no chance for the working class all over the world.

I get every week, three copies, and I give them away—it is my only one means to spread the truth between the blind, helpless non-organized slaves. We do not see here the Russian, but just the English workers.

The masters look upon their slaves as a kind of animals whose stomachs must be kept filled in order that profits may be extracted from their muscles. Therefore they give the slaves just enough to exist on and no more. There are thousands upon thousands of slaves in Canada who have not as good shelter as the horses of the masters. Yet many of these slaves say they are contented. They respect their masters for the bite he supplies them. They are human work animals with the spirit of a cringing hound.

The workers get a living wage. With the aid of machinery they produce much more than a living wage will allow them to consume. The master class consumes much and yet there is a surplus which piles up unsold. This unsold surplus causes mills to shut down, workers to be thrown out of work, and hard times generally. As machinery becomes more automatic, the greater is the unsold surplus. There is no remedy under the present system.

A member of the fifth regiment, Victoria, B.C., was fined in the police court for failing to turn out to parade. The soldier would get worse than a more fine if he refused to fire on strikers when ordered by the puppet officers of the employing class. The best way to pull the fangs of the military is for the workers to refuse to enlist.

A Montreal firm advertised for a man for a ten dollar a week job and within twenty-four hours a hundred and fifty men had applied for the job. Behind those applications lie many tragedies of men out of work, of children suffering hunger. Is it not time to end the beastly system which creates such misery?

The system of capitalism is to blame for the misery we endure. We are told that the individual capitalists are not to blame. Who supports the capitalist system? Who profits by its continuance? The capitalists. We cannot oppose the system without opposing the capitalists who benefit therefrom.

The city beautiful is a fine ideal, but as long as the masters own the city and the jobs therein, the slaves will have a harsh cheerless life, whether the city be beautiful or otherwise.

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H. MARTIN, for North Waterloo, Ont.

## CONSERVATIVE AND LIBERAL PARTIES

In a few weeks you will be called upon to vote for a member to represent your boss interest in the Legislative Assembly. You have a vote. What are you going to do with it? Your condition as a wage worker is not an idle one. You would like to change things, but you are not sure how to do it. That depends on how you use it. The Conservative and Liberal parties will tell you that they stand for all the people. Their program they will explain to you in the interest of the working class. It is to the working class that they will make their loudest appeals, knowing that you are in the vast majority, they take great care to pat you on the back and tell you how much they love you (at election time.)

REFORMS.  
They will talk to you about Compensation Acts. Old Age Pension and bar reforms. If you want nothing more than reforms it matters very little whether you vote or not. You can hurry up reforms by voting the Socialist ticket, but these reforms are coming anyway. Because labor law or whether you vote. Why? To sell is the capitalist's goose that lays the golden eggs of profit. The efficiency of your labor-power depends absolutely upon your health and material well being. If the capitalist does not see to it that you are kept in working condition, you or those of your class they employ, their profits will suffer. There are more men than jobs to-day, consequently some of your class have to go without work.

HOW WEALTH IS PRODUCED.  
To live wealth must be produced. Three things are necessary for the production of wealth. First the raw material, second, the machines of production, and third, human energy. The raw material and the machines of production are owned by the capitalist class. Human energy is supplied by the working class. The ownership of these instruments of wealth production gives the capitalist class control of the lives of the working class who are dependent upon the use of these machines in order to live. This ownership carries with it the fellowship of the product. In return for their human energy the working class receive wages. Wages represents only a part of the wealth created, on the average just sufficient to keep the workers in working condition. If wages represent the entire product, where would the capitalist's profits come from?

WHERE YOU GET OFF AT.  
Let us take a very simple example. Suppose you work for a boss; that the total of wages and profits is four (\$4.00) dollars a day; that you get one (\$1.00) dollar and he gets three (\$3.00) dollars. Then, the difference between you and him will be two (\$2.00) dollars, will it not? Now, suppose he increases your wages to two (\$2.00) dollars. You will be able to buy more and better food, you will see your wife and children better fed, housed and clothed and life will begin to be cheered by hope for the future. You will be a better and more efficient slave. The boss puts in better and larger machinery and speeds you up more scientifically by the Taylor system; so that the total of wages and profits can now rise to ten (\$10.00) dollars.

lars. You get two (\$2.00) dollars in wages, leaving the boss eight (\$8.00) dollars for his profits. The difference between you and the boss is now six (\$6.00) dollars, is it not? You have received a higher money wage but your relative position is worse than ever. This move on the part of your boss was a reform.

Commissioner Blue in the official blue book informs us, that the average production of wealth in Canada is \$2436.00 and that the average wage is \$473.00 a year, about twenty percent. What does this mean? It means that the working class have produced on the average \$2436.00 and have received only \$473.00. Now, it is self-evident that you cannot buy back a dollar's worth of wealth with twenty cents. This is the position you find yourself in and it is the position the Conservative and Liberal parties propose to leave you in. But conditions will not and cannot remain as they are today, but must of necessity grow worse. The difference between you and your bosses' share must ever become greater. The gap must become larger.

INDUSTRIAL PANICS—HARD TIMES  
You have observed that the capitalist class get eighty (80) cents out of every dollar's wealth produced. This leaves you twenty (20) cents, does it not? It is quite evident that you cannot buy back the wealth you have created. Neither can the capitalist class use it.

With the use of labor saving machinery today, wealth is being created at a pace in excess of the purchasing power of the market thus leaving a surplus which accumulates from year to year, causing a glut in the market. The capitalists cannot sell the wealth you have so generously created for him, he is compelled to run on short hours, close down or reduce the staff by half. Consequently we have what is known as an overproduction. They will tell you that the real estate sharks have speculated too heavily; that what is needed is a large crop, in fact they tell you anything but the truth of matters. A little reflection on your part will put you next to the real truth of the matter, that your labor-power, the only thing that you have to sell, is a commodity. So long as your labor-power remains a commodity on the market to be bought by some boss, all you will get is wages and wages you have observed is only 20 per cent of the value you have created.

Prof. Jackson, of Toronto University, speaking before the Canadian Club at Berlin, April 2, 1914, said: "Crises produce unemployment and suffering and it can be forecast with some certainty that by 1935 three more crises will have taken place." Hard times then are caused because of the wages system. If you receive a dollar for every dollar's worth of work you created you could buy back all you produced and their could be no overproduction, unemployment and suffering would disappear, the capitalists would have to go to work and humanity will have taken a long step in making social conditions agreeable and this world a more fit place for human beings to live in.

## WHAT THE SOCIALISTS STAND FOR

The Socialists claim that labor creates all wealth, therefore to labor it should belong. We claim, that society has reached a place where the interests of the few must give way to the interests of the many. We claim, that since the capitalist class perform no function useful in the production of wealth, they can be dispensed with. We claim, that since the working class alone make possible any form of human society there can be no brotherhood of man and no peace on earth good toward men, as long as one class is dependent upon another class, and that there can be no economic freedom until class divisions are abolished.

All governments today are class instruments to keep the working class in subjection. Governments make laws and naturally reflect the interests of the class who own the machines of wealth production. That this statement is correct can be verified by the fact, that the Whitney government, passed during the session just closed 140 bills in the interest of the capitalist class but none in the interests of the working class.

You will remember we stated: for the working class to secure its freedom it must cease to be dependent upon the capitalist class, and this can only be accomplished by the overthrowing of the capitalist order. The Socialists therefore contend that the ownership of the means of wealth production must be transferred to society as a whole, they must become the common or collective property of all the people, each person having full and free access to them and receive in return the full social value of the product of his or her toil.

## YOUR VOTE.

That is where you and your vote come in. Use your vote to put a Socialist in the Legislative Assembly. This is what the working class are doing in every civilized country in the world. Just the other day a capitalist at whose industry you may be employed, made this statement: "If I were a working-man and had to work for my living as men and women are forced to work today, I would never vote any other ticket but the Socialist." Take your boss's advice, he understands, he is intelligent, he is class conscious. You must become class conscious.

Fellow worker: In the forthcoming election, where do you stand? How are you going to use your vote? You either stand with the Socialists to emancipate the working class and institute economic freedom or with the servants of capital to prolong your misery.

VOTE FOR H. MARTIN THE SOCIALIST CANDIDATE FOR NORTH WATERLOO.

The Liberal and Labor parties in Great Britain are dissolving partnership. Labor is to run independent candidates in every possible constituency. Lloyd George is not able to stay the revolution even with his slapping the plutes on the wrist.

In a speech in the House of Commons Lloyd George declared that he was granting reforms to stave off revolution and the master class should thank him. This is a gratifying admission on his part.

"The soldier's bayonet is to the capitalist class what the claw is to the jungle tiger."—War—What For.