

Witness is find-
ing it difficult to meet
its aim. It has
a subscription
of new readers.
There is still three

Total No. of Subs for
Issue of April 6
10,141
Total Edition
Last Week...
11,300
W. U. COTTON, Editor

This is No. 135

Cotton's Weekly

COWANSVILLE, P. Q., CANADA, APRIL 13, 1911

Sub Price 50c a Year—25c for 6 months

NOTE THE RED ADDRESS
LABEL ON YOUR COPY
No. 136
Your subscription expires April
1st. You should receive at least
two weeks before your sub expires
so that you will not miss any
numbers.
H. A. WEBB, BUSINESS MANAGER

DEMOCRACY

We think we have democracy. But this is a great fallacy. Once in four years we choose a representative to go to Ottawa or to Quebec or some other provincial capital. When once we have chosen our man he is on our backs for four years. He may betray us. He may lie about us. He may vote for laws that lead us to murder and war and poverty. And we cannot get rid of him. He along with the other representatives choose the senators, if he has gone to Ottawa. These senators must have four thousand dollars worth of real estate. These senators are appointed for life. These senators can refuse to agree to any law passed. These senators squat on the backs of the people as long as they live. There is no way of getting rid of them save by revolution. These senators threw out Verville's eight hour day bill.

Beyond the representatives and senators stand the governor general. He is not one of us. He comes from England. He is appointed by that hereditary parasite George the fifth. He also must agree to all laws passed before they become laws. How much democracy have we? Can we make laws? Can we control our legislators? Laurier's plea that we are a democratic people and that we control our destinies is a black lie. Laurier knows it to be a lie. But as he serves the interests that plunder the workers he has got to lie to hold his job.

Canada does not possess democracy. She is ruled by an antiquated constitution that allows the wealth of the land to be absorbed by financiers, government grafters, interest suckers, and leeches of all kinds and degrees. Our representatives squat on our backs for four years. The country is so gerrymandered that the economic interests of the people cannot be represented. Once in four years the squatters of the House of Commons come before the people in such a manner that the issues are beclouded and the true will of the people is defeated.

There are certain things that cannot be discussed. The representatives see to that. The capitalist politicians from Laurier down to the last labor man of them all now at Ottawa will not face the issue squarely. They will not talk about it.

Shall rent, interest and profit be abolished? Shall the workers, the toilers in the mills, mines, on the farms, in the forests, be allowed to obtain the full reward for the labor they do? That is the issue. Laurier will not face it. He has become the tool of the financiers. He has ripped the wealth of Canada open and crushed it into the grasp of the exploiters.

Borden will not face it. He has tied himself to the capitalist class and his only wail is that Laurier does not serve the interests as faithfully as he should.

Ralph Smith and Alphonse Verville will not face the issue. They are too much in love with their twenty-five hundred dollars a year and the smiles and caresses of the capitalist exploiters to stand by their class and raise their voices against slavery.

Workers of Canada, you have not one friend in the House of Commons. Mackenzie King is there only to betray you with soft words. When you have a strike he goes to you with smiles. But Sir Frederick Borden, the official, high and mighty, head butcher of the Canadian army goes with him to look over your weak spots and to see where your stomachs can be punched full of holes by the organized murderers he controls in case you revolt and endanger the profits of the class to which he belongs.

How long will you tolerate this dition? How long will you be content with your slavery? How long will you let your wives and children feel the wealth your labor has produced that the wives and children, mistresses and valets of your masters may live luxuriously on the wealth you earn but which is denied you? Are you men, or are you slaves? Can burning words rouse you or sneers sting you? You slaves of Canada, arise, revolt! Your class calls you. Humanity calls you.

The capitalists are scheming to cheapen production. They do this by getting machines to displace men, by cutting out useless labor, and thus preventing many men from earning wages. The capitalist system is responsible for the unemployed problem.

There is many a plute who is willing that Socialism should come as long as it did not interfere with his parasite income.

Socialism is not primitive communism. The whole history of invention and mechanical production prevents the social system aimed at by the dreamers of two thousand years ago being reproduced in the present age.

Alphonse Verville, Labor M. P., Joe Ainey, Labor Controller of Montreal, and other "labor leaders" gathered the wage slaves into a meeting and had them declare that they wanted reciprocity as it would make wages higher and the cost of living lower. The poor fools. Don't they know they are slaves to be bought and sold for the mere cost of their keep to the labor thieves? How the plutes must rejoice when they see the slaves voting for their own slavery.

Capitalists grant reforms. But they do not grant them willingly. They grant them only when it would be dangerous to longer withhold them. And with the growing discontent of the workers it is becoming more and more necessary for the capitalists to grant greater and greater reforms. They try to make us believe that they give these concessions willingly. We know better. We know that we can only get what we want by going after it.

A woman's home is to be built in Montreal. The wage earning women get little pay. They are not looked after. They get into trouble. The dear exploiters feel sorry. They must remedy this state of affairs. How do they go about it? Do they take steps to introduce a minimum wage for women? No. They go to work and arrange it so some of them can live cheaper. A woman's home is to be built where plain rooms and plain meals can be had cheap, so that the workingwomen who patronize this home can be given strength on the plainest fodder to produce surplus values for their masters. Great is the god of profit and his worshippers are many.

Mayor Gaynor of New York city declared recently that New York police commissioners went into the office pool and came out millionaires. He declared that that condition of affairs was ended. Does this mean that the reign of justice has come to New York city? Not at all. It means that those whose graft has been legalized through rent, interest and profit are going to prevent the illegal grafters from getting a look in. Morality and honesty have nothing to do in the matter. The lords of rent, interest and profit whose fortunes were founded in dishonesty are going to fight present illegal dishonesty in order to reap the benefits arising from their own legalized robbery. That is all.

The division of labor and specialization of production has rendered social ownership necessary in order to give the producers the full value of their labor product. When men raised the sheep that produced the wool and their wives spun the wool into yarn and made cloth then the family and farm could be the unit of labor organization and the family working on its farm could produce its own necessities and get the full value of the labor power expended. But now when sheep raising is done by a set of persons, spinning and weaving by two or three other sets and garment making by still other sets who do nothing else, the only possible way to give just recompense for labor power applied is through social ownership.

The capitalists have devised a scheme for turning the energies of the workers away from revolt. This is the scheme of purchasing a house and lot on the installment plan. You pay five dollars down on your lot and then pay a small weekly balance. When you have ten per cent of your lot paid for a building society will build you a house and you can move into it and save paying rent. The profit system is everywhere rampant. The workers are in unrest. They cannot be kept down much longer. So the capitalists are willing to allow the more energetic workers to be given a chance to own their own homes in the end by paying a good round profit to the capitalists before the deal is completed. But this trick will not work long. The workers are becoming intelligent. They are using their brains. And they are coming to the conclusion that they are the wealth producers and that their masters are merely useless parasites.

INITIATIVE

Every movement triumphs by two things, by the movement being in accord with natural law, and by the movement being supported by strong men and women who know what they want and go after it.

The capitalist system is doomed. It has to give way to something else. That something else can be industrial democracy, or else it can be industrial tyranny.

The only thing that will prevent the capitalist system developing into industrial tyranny is the democratic spirit among the workers, the force of their character, their power of united action, and the initiative of the individual members of the working class.

There are those who hold that Socialism is bound to come anyway. They hold that capitalism is doomed and that it is but the question of how soon will it come.

While these persons are remaining inactive the armies of the nations are growing larger, travelling is becoming more luxurious for the master class, pleasure yachts and automobiles are being built, extravagant dog dinners are being given, police forces are being augmented and the tramps are becoming more numerous. The Socialist system need not come. We may go back into barbarism. The unemployed problem need not be solved. The unemployed can die. During the reign of Justinian at Constantinople in the seventh century after Christ plagues and famines and pestilences swept off a hundred million people from the face of the civilized nations of that day.

The unemployed question presses and the capitalist solution is war. Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, of the C. P. R., is reported to have declared that war was a good thing as it swept off the surplus populations. Sir Thomas meant by this that as the unemployed of the cities grew in numbers and the slums became crowded, when the surplus labor power offering itself to the capitalist exploiters became too much, it was a good idea to get them out of the hands of this surplus and let them go and kill each other off.

We have every reason to hope for a near triumph. The working class is pressing forward to victory. It is winning battles at the polls and on the industrial field. But these battles are not being won by the inactive fatalists. They are being won by the militant workers, by the men who have energy and initiative and are willing to suffer in the class war.

The battle is being waged. This is no time for cowardice nor for hanging back. This is the time for every militant worker to get into the fight for the freedom of his class.

Every one of you who reads Cotton's Weekly or the Western Clarion or the Appeal to Reason should become active. Your energy and efforts are needed. You can help organize. You can agitate. You can make plans for running a Socialist candidate for your county or as city councillor or village mayor. You can reach out and get others interested.

You can give forth your ideas. You need not mind if the unthinking laugh at you. The unthinking have always laughed at the thinkers. But this will not trouble you much for Socialism is widely spread and the ignorant dare no longer laugh at it for they feel that by so doing they show their ignorance.

You need not wait for an organizer to come and visit you. You can organize yourselves.

Will each one of you get right down to business in your locality and do your utmost to spread Socialism and to fight capitalism?

It is an old saying that virtue is praised and shivers in the cold.

REFORMS

This age is just full of reforms. We have sincere questionings of souls while men and women keep their eyes bandaged tight from the light with the bandage of their own economic interest.

Men and women starve on the streets. The good people who own houses from which the wretches are excluded because they can't pay the rent become sympathetic. They prepare soup kitchens.

Men and women are robbed on their job. They produce four times the wealth that they can buy with the wages given them. They are given just enough wages to feed and clothe and shelter themselves in an indifferent manner as long as the wealth they produce can be marketed. When the wealth can no longer be marketed then they are turned out of work.

These men and women become unemployed. They become underfed and go ragged. Then the good people who live on unpaid labor become worried. They wonder what they can do to relieve the misery caused. They build sanitariums for a few of the victims. They build cheap lodging houses for a few of the victims who still have a dime or two left. They prepare homes for the aged who still live on when by all laws of health they should have been planted long ago under the sod.

The people become discouraged and take to drink. The women become the sellers of their sex. Then the good people appoint a John Roberts to break up Merry Widow balls and to become a censor of morals.

We have reforms. We have prohibition societies and rescue societies and moral reform leagues and civic improvement associations and many other like things.

But all these touch but the fringe of the question. They do not get at the heart of the problem. All these societies avoid the central problem. Under our present system of rent, interest and profit the necessities of life are held up until the capitalist class get their profits. Wages sink to the bare subsistence level or even lower. Man must submit his will to his fellow man and his labor power to the labor thief.

The heart of the problem is the unjust social system. Industrial democracy which will adjust the production of the necessities and comforts of life to the needs of the people will sweep away the need for rescue homes, poor houses, moral reform leagues and the busy body reformers who act as the scavengers for the filth and waste of the rotten body politic of the capitalist regime.

The mind of man can think out things, foresee the evils to come and avoid them by preparing the way of escape. Sanitary measures are taken to prevent plagues. Coast boats seek the harbors when the weather breaks warn them of coming storms. Irrigation works are built to provide against drought. In the same way Socialists plan the conscious avoidance of sociological evils arising from the profit system. Karl Marx foretold the inevitable end of the profit system and the misery that would be produced if capitalism continued. We know these evils are coming. We can avoid them by conscious effort, by political activity, by assisting labor to get all it earns, by consciously preparing and introducing the state of industrial democracy. If this is not done we will have capitalist tyranny and the return to a barbarous despotism. Socialists do not preach the tearing down of this society so much as they point out the inevitable disappearance of the present unstable condition of social organization. It is bound to go. The only question is will we have an industrial despotism or an industrial democracy.

The mineral production of Canada during the past year was \$105,000,000. It is a safe bet that the parasites got a good big rakeoff on the work of the slaves who produced the wealth.

John Redmond, leader of the Irish parliamentary party, declares that when home rule comes in Ireland the political questions will be completely changed and the new lines of cleavage would be along economic, educational and municipal questions. He says that the local parliament would be recruited from among the business and commercial classes. Redmond is right. The local labor skinnners want to run Ireland for themselves. But they will have to reckon with the Socialists who have got a strong hold in the industrial centres.

The government labor bureau of Montreal has opened for business. It makes no charges for finding a job for a man. It gives preference to British subjects over foreigners. A man must declare whether he is a union man or not in asking for a job. Every worker applying for work must answer 39 questions in order to place before the employer the exact qualifications of the man seeking work. References must be furnished in all cases. Is not this nice of Gouin? He is saving the labor skinnners a lot of work choosing wage slaves. All the unemployed can now go and declare their qualifications to the slave buyers of Montreal and if the slave buyers do not like the qualifications they need not buy. Gouin knows how to serve his masters, the capitalists all right.

The town of Springhill, N. S., has been placed under a Provincial Police Commissioner. The thirty-five soldiers will probably be withdrawn. Now comes a possible clash. The town police sympathize with the strikers. The provincial police sympathize with the capitalist owners. Premier Murray will see to that. In case of trouble the police will probably take sides and we will see the local guardians of the peace and the provincial guardians of the peace disturbing the peace. Such clashes are bound to occur as the revolt of the wage slaves becomes greater. The capitalist exploiters cannot expect to always have all the police on their side. Sometimes some of the police will support the side of the exploited. Clashes are bound to come as long as we have an exploiting possessing class and an exploited, disinherited working class.

The Prussian state owns much property. Prussia has gone in for government ownership. Its mineral waters and baths bring in a revenue of \$500,000 per year. The sale of timber from the state forests brings in \$30,000,000 per year. The revenue from the state coal mines bring in another \$30,000,000. The sale of silver, iron and lead results in another \$5,000,000 per year. It has \$100,000,000 worth of state railways. It owns much agricultural land. But this does not benefit the wealth producers. For the profit system has three heads, rent, interest and profit. The state ownership of the means of production and distribution cuts off the profit head but strengthens the rent head. The Prussian state owes over \$2,000,000,000 and pays over \$70,000,000 per year in interest. Socialism will abolish not only profit but also rent and interest.

At the end of the year H. L. Swan took up the work of organizing the railway workers into The Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees. Swan outlines the aim of his little society as follows. "He hoped that the press would impress the fact that the new organization was not a striking or an agitating body, but instead of being antagonistic to the interests of the great corporations and the country at large, their aim and object was to promote harmony between employer and employee and to raise the standard of efficiency AND THEREBY INCREASE THE EARNINGS OF THE RAILROADS WITH WHICH THEY ARE EMPLOYED." Swan deplored "foreign unions" and trouble makers. Swan might just as well go way back and sit down before he comes forward. The Canadian railway employees do not want to be Civic Federationized. They have their eye teeth out and when a Swan comes along with smooth words about how the railroad need to earn bigger dividends out of speeded up wage slaves, he will be told, "O go fly away and let the railroad hatch out their own stale eggs."

FURNISHING WORK

The April dividends in Canada amount to over \$12,500,000. This is the revenue going to the parasites. This is not all the revenues for the month. This is only a part of it.

The dividends will be payable by labor skinning concerns as follows: Rails, \$6,460,000; Phones and Telegraphs, \$265,000; Trams, Light, Heat and Power, \$1,066,750; Loan and Trust, \$239,937; Life Insurance, \$12,750; Banks, \$735,750; Industrials, \$1,387,340; Cobalt mines, \$1,275,000; Listed Bonds, \$1,094,250.

We Socialists say that the capitalists live by unearned revenues, by the private ownership of the means of wealth production and distribution. The capitalists declare they are useful as they give work and furnish employment.

Money is the medium of exchange and standard of value. Money represents congealed labor power. Money is only valuable in so far as it can be exchanged for the products of labor.

Workers work in the mills, mines, forests, shops, etc. They are paid wages. They produce say eight dollars worth of wealth and are paid two dollars. That is, they produce four times the amount of congealed labor power that they receive of congealed labor power in the shape of money.

The rest goes in waste and in unearned revenues. During April the profit takers without doing any work will receive \$12,500,000 worth of congealed labor power which the workers produced but did not get.

This congealed labor power in the shape of money will be turned into living labor power working on the job. With these millions of dollars worth of labor power congealed the capitalists will set live workers to work producing automobiles, silk dresses, delicate food, horses, feed, dog kennels, and many other things.

The capitalists say they give work. They mean this in two ways. They let the workers work in their factories. They let workers work as servants and valets of the capitalists.

In the first instance the capitalists allow the workers to work in the mills which the workers built but which the masters own. They do this on harsh conditions. The workers, to get a chance to work, must give to the masters all the wealth their labor power produces beyond a bare living for the toilers.

The capitalists, through the private ownership of the means of wealth production, do not furnish work. They prevent workers from working except on slave conditions. That is all the capitalists do. Were the mills socially owned then the workers could work without let or hindrance from an idle non-producing class.

The capitalists do not furnish work. They do not mine the coal and bring it to the furnaces so that the stokers can fire the engines. They do not dig the ore so that it may be smelted. They do not work in the forests to fell the trees so that the workers in the saw mills may have the raw material upon which to work. They do none of these things. The workers do them all.

The capitalists simply own and will not allow the workers to labor except on terms of robbery. That robbery appears when it is announced that part of the possessing class will receive from part of the means of wealth production during the month of April \$12,500,000 in unearned revenues.

The capitalists say, in the second instance, that they furnish work by employing personal servants, jockeys, by travelling on trains and building magnificent palaces.

They furnish work in the same way that the burglar furnishes work who has broken into a bank, stolen several thousands of dollars worth of gold and spends that gold in travelling to Europe with a valet.

He furnishes work but by so doing he prevents owners from furnishing work. The capitalist who gets a million dollars unearned revenues and spends them in extravagant living is preventing the true owners of that wealth, the workers, from spending that revenue in educating their children, sending their wives on a summer vacation, and surrounding their families with an environment that will produce a strong race of citizens.

The capitalists are useless. Their plea that they furnish work is one that every successful crook can set up.

The capitalists are useless drones. Let us abolish them. Socialism will prevent a lot of lazy drones living off the labor of others.

In Response to Urgent Requests, the Time Limit for Subscriptions has Been Extended to MAY 1st, International Labor Day

STOCK SUBSCRIPTION BLANK

COTTON'S CO-OPERATIVE PUBLISHING CO., INC.
COWANSVILLE, P. Q.

I HEREBY SUBSCRIBE to..... Shares of Stock in
Cotton's Co-operative Publishing Co., Inc., par value \$10.00, and herewith enclose \$..... being..... payment on said stock.

Signed.....
Street or Box.....
City..... Province.....

Twenty-five per cent of the amount of Stock subscribed for must accompany Subscription Blank. Balance is payable in three equal payments of 25 per cent, at thirty, sixty, and ninety days.