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COWANSVILLE, P. Q., CANADA, AUGUST 18, 1910

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## Springhill Comrades Stricken by Class War. Cotton's Army to the Rescue

### THE GRAND TRUNK STRIKE

The Grand Trunk strike is ended. The smoke of the conflict has cleared away. In the calm dispassionate atmosphere of retrospection the results can be summed up and the lessons drawn.

The men were either beaten or betrayed. This is the only conclusion that can be arrived at.

The men struck for an immediate introduction of the standard schedules of pay. They got what the company offered in the first place as to present pay. They sacrificed their pensions; are not all taken back on, and those reinstated are forced to work with scabs.

It is not the business of a Socialist paper to interfere with the management of unions. The Socialists are first last and all the time on the side of the workers. If the strikers win the Socialists are jubilant. If the strikers lose the Socialists are sorrowful. The workers are fighting the hand to hand battle with their masters and the workers receive the benefits of victory and undergo the sufferings that come from defeat.

But it is a function of the Socialist press to point out the results of political action and to show where the present Ottawa gang stand in relation to the working class.

When the strike broke out the Grand Trunk was crippled. From reports from all over the Grand Trunk system the Grand Trunk was beaten to its knees. The scabs employed were incompetent drunks, discharged wage slaves or green hands. All over the system industry was paralyzed.

The manufacturers and employers of labor who wanted to circulate their goods over the G. T. R. found the circulation of commodities completely tied up. Thereupon telegram after telegram poured into Ottawa. It was the capitalist class who were complaining of the capitalist Hays who was stopping the wheels of industry.

Forthwith the Liberal government got busy. Laurier set the youngest King to tackle the problem. Sir Frederick Borden, the head slaughterman of the Canadian army, also was set at the job. King and Borden worked with a will and, either because Hays would not yield, or because they did not want to see the bosses lose, the two cabinet ministers got the strikers to go back in a worse plight than when they walked out. The only thing the men gain is the agreement of Hays to pay standard rates of pay in 1912 instead of 1913.

The Liberal government is trying to make the strikers believe that King saved them and brought them triumphantly through a great Red Sea of tribulation. What King really did do was to get the strikers to bend their necks to the yoke of the masters in peace and meekness.

King is being lauded by the master class and by the capitalist newspapers. For King serves the masters and their interests, as does Laurier and the other capitalist politicians.

### THE SPRINGHILL STRIKE

During the Grand Trunk strike King, Minister of Labor, was rushing round and sending letters and telegrams. Hays is said to have turned him down numerous times. King wrote letters reproaching Hays for his stubbornness. The Lemieux conciliation act was worked overtime on the G. T. case when its provisions were exhausted King kept right on working to finish the strike. Why all this haste? It was not for labor but because Ontario labor skinner whose operations were temporarily suspended were complaining. The strike involved three thousand two hundred men and lasted a bare two weeks.

There has been a strike in Springhill, N. S., of one thousand seven hundred men. The strike has lasted over a year. The strikers are miners. When the provisions of the Lemieux Act had been exhausted King sat down and, like Pilate, washed his hands of the whole affair.

At Springhill one thousand seven hundred men are idle. The strike is due to the stubbornness of General Manager Cowans. But King does not interfere. He does not remonstrate with Cowans. The miners must work out their own salvation.

This shows that King, like the

other cabinet ministers, is a puppet of the master class. Even the minister of labor is working for the interests of the bosses.

Coal is not affected by the Springhill strike. The other coal mines are running wide open. No trains wait for lack of coal. No labor skinner must shut down his slave pen for lack of fuel to drive his machinery. It is only seventeen hundred workers who are suffering. Let the dogs suffer. That is the position of King.

The boys of Springhill are great fighters. They do not lose their heads. They have been provoked by the sight of strikebreakers. They have seen the bull pen erected in their midst. They have had injunctions against picketing hurled at them. Cowans has squirmed and wriggled till he has got the military in the hopes of provoking a disturbance. The strikers have sidestepped all the pitfalls and even the eviction of women and children from their homes and the arrest of Jules Lavenne have not made them blind revolutionaries. Springhill is thoroughly revolutionized. The workers are awake. They know the class struggle and are fighting their fights along the lines of Marxian philosophy.

Comrades throughout Canada. Are you prepared to help your Comrades in Springhill? Are you ready to come to close grips with the capitalist system? Are you ready to fight the fight of the working class on the political field?

I have tried the Comrade Army when it was half the strength it now possesses. And it made Lemieux sit up and take notice. It made the henchmen at Ottawa frightened to touch further. I have not yet made Lemieux withdraw his obnoxious regulations but I have made him keep his paws off Cotton's and prevented further encroachments. I am not through with Lemieux yet, but other fights take precedence.

I know I can trust the Army. I know that every man and woman of you are enlisted in the fight for liberty of the wage slave. Therefore I take up the fight for Socialism, for Jules Lavenne, and for the suffering strikers of Springhill. I want each of you to feel that the winning of this fight depends upon you. This fight is not to be won in an hour. So let us prepare ourselves.

Down in Cumberland County, N. S., another strike is threatening. The Maritime Coal and Railway Company had an agreement with its men which expired August first. On the third of August the company notified the men that wages would be cut ten per cent. The men talked of striking and the company shut down the mine on the pretence that there were no orders for coal. The mine on August tenth was still idle. This is what the men get for voting for capitalist politicians and private ownership of coal mines. They give the means at which they work to a few men who do not work. These owners then can shut down the mines when they want. Under Socialism the miners will have free access to the mines and there will be no owners to deny miners a chance to apply their labor to the mining of coal for the needs of men.

The unemployed of Ontario can go hang. Let them starve in their misery. What does Hanna, Reaume and Whitney care for them. But let them commit a petty theft to get the means of life, and Hanna, Whitney and Reaume come to life. The police will arrest, the judge will convict and then Hanna, Whitney and Reaume will give the unemployed all the work he can tend to without pay. Has not the government established a prison farm in order to get work done by the unfortunate prisoners for which no pay need be given? Hanna weeping over the sad lot of the workless prisoners is a sight for devil's laughter. Hanna was weeping those salt briny tears because labor power was going to waste. He smiles glad smiles now because the labor power of the prisoners is being filched from them. And the capitalist papers of Ontario rejoice at the thought and Hanna is lauded to the skies.

William Lyon Mackenzie King, Minister of Labor, will do nothing to help the striking miners of Springhill. Socialists of Canada, get after him and MAKE HIM.

Socialism is in the air.

### EDGAR NELSON RHODES

Will each of you write to Edgar Nelson Rhodes, M. P., Amherst, N. S., and ask him to take up the fight for the strikers of Springhill? I want as many letters as possible to reach him. Each one of you has influence. Pass resolutions in the Socialist locals calling upon Rhodes to get busy. He is the representative of Cumberland County and is shirking his duty.

Edgar Nelson Rhodes, B. A., L. L., B. M. P. is a young advocate. He was born in Amherst on January 5th, 1877. He is therefore but thirty-three years old. He is not one of these old fogies who are dead timber, bound down by shibboleths of past ages. He is young and impressionable as yet.

He was returned as Member of Parliament for the County of Cumberland in the elections of 1908. Cumberland County was long represented by Sir Charles Tupper.

The total number of votes polled last election numbered 9,110. Of these Rhodes received 4,800 while his Grit opponent received 4,310. Rhodes is the Conservative whip for Nova Scotia.

When on June 30th, Roscoe Fillmore interviewed Rhodes with regard to taking up the fight for the striking miners, Rhodes' answer was practically the old Biblical answer, "I pray thee have me excused." He praised the strikers, declared that he considered them a fine body of men. They had learned how to work and strike in unison and that was a very important lesson. He was profuse in words but declared that he had little influence with Cowans of the Cumberland Railway and Coal Company and did not think he could do much. Rhodes seemed to forget that he was the Member of Parliament for his county AND THAT THE FIGHT IS A POLITICAL ONE.

Rhodes also declared that he had political ambitions and to join the Socialist Party would probably prove fatal to them. He also declared that he had come to the conclusion that Lemieux's postal regulations were discriminatory and that he had given notice of motion to bring the question up in Parliament.

For this I thank him. BUT WHAT IS HE DOING TO HELP HIS OWN CONSTITUENTS WHO ARE BEING DEPRIVED OF THEIR BREAD AND BUTTER BY COWANS AND THE LABOR SKINNERS WHO ARE SUCKING THE SURPLUS LABOR OUT OF THE WORKERS? That is the question I want you to ask Rhodes.

The Conservatives are talking radical. Rhodes is a radical Conservative. But he lets his own people drag out a miserable existence and does not bestir himself. I want you to turn the light of publicity upon Rhodes. I want you to make him do his duty by the striking workers in his own county. I want you to MAKE A MAN OF HIM OR KILL HIM POLITICALLY.

Rhodes may get provoked and withdraw his assistance from Cotton's in its fight for fair treatment from Lemieux the oppressor of radical papers. But Cotton's takes its stand with the working class and will rise or sink with them. I would scorn to stand in with Rhodes in a fight on Lemieux when Rhodes deserts the struggling toilers of his own county.

Write Rhodes a letter telling him to get busy and bring Cowans to time. Call upon him to move for the confiscation of the Cumberland mines for the good of the people of Canada. Shall the workers of Canada stand for recreant politicians who watch with complacent eye the breaking of workers by the labor skinning masters of our Canadian coal mines?

Wealth is based on labor. Without labor there is no wealth. Under the slave system the body in which the power to labor was wrapped up was owned by the master. Today the body is free. But the means at which the body must work to produce wealth is owned by the master class. The work of freedom will not be accomplished until the means of production are freed from the master ownership as well as the physical bodies of the workmen.

General Manager Cowans wants private racing stations for himself and unfair wages for his men.

### MACKENZIE KING

I want you to write to Mackenzie King, Minister of Labor, Ottawa, requesting him to see to it that the one thousand seven hundred men out of work at Springhill be given jobs under humane conditions.

The Honorable William Lyon Mackenzie King, C.M.G., M.P., M.A., Ph.D., LL.B., P.C., is Minister of Labor for Canada. He was born in Berlin, Ont., the 17th of December, 1874. He is therefore thirty-five years old. He is the grandson of William Lyon Mackenzie, the revolutionary of upper Canada. So there is revolutionary blood pulsating in his veins. How he can stand the Laurier gang is more than I can understand.

He has been engaged in settling more than fifty important strikes. He was elected to be a Member of Parliament from the North Riding of the county of Waterloo in 1908. He received 3,469 votes while his Tory opponent received 3,206 votes.

The Laurier government claims to be a friend of the workers. Behold the Minister of Labor, King, appointed to look after the interests of the slaves of the Dominion, that their shackles be not drawn too tightly, nor that the pay in their envelopes be too little.

This is the function of King, the government inspector of the slave pens and the slave conditions when the slaves rebel at the tasks laid upon them. Are not the Liberals good to the slaves. See ye not their Minister?

And even while the Laurier gang are persuading the wage slaves of the Dominion that their conditions are to be lightened, behold the voices of one thousand seven hundred wage slaves cry unto Heaven for redress. Their pay has been cut while the cost of living has gone up forty per cent. Their masters will not deal with them collectively as slaves but want to drive each slave to his task individually. The tally of coal they mine is not to be ascertained justly but after the manner of sneaking thieves and the users of false weights and balances.

Where is Mackenzie King? Where is the Grand Old Liberal Party? Where shall the oppressed of Canada cry for redress?

Laurier is in a far place and gives no heed. King takes his ease and sleeps lightly in a far city, drawing his nine thousand five hundred dollars a year salary while the slaves he should protect cry in vain for aid.

The slaves cry for assistance and the military is placed in their midst. They cry for living conditions and their wives and children are turned from their homes. They demand fair pay for fair work and detectives walk in their midst and the slaves who cry loudest are carried off to prison.

Socialists of Canada! Shall you let the suffering of your fellow wage slaves cry to Heaven in vain? Shall you let Mackenzie King pass his days in peace? Shall you let him be false to the blood in his veins, and recreant to the mission for which you are bled nine thousand five hundred dollars that his pay envelop may be glutted while the pay envelopes of your comrades go empty?

Come to the rescue. Call Mackenzie King to himself. Let the tale of the striking miners of Springhill echo from coast to coast until every false politician of Canada from Laurier down hear the cry of your anger and tremble.

Manager Cowans is not worth noticing in himself. But this insect is bringing misery upon one thousand seven hundred men of Canada. And the politicians allow the misery to continue. Shame on you, elected representatives of the people! The finger of scorn of future ages will be pointed at you.

And you, Laurier, doddering to your grave with the murder ships heavy on your conscience, will you not give one hour to the miseries of the people you are elected to protect? Or shall you go to your grave scorned by all true Canadians?

You are getting a cold reception out west. Your popularity is gone. Your own countrymen of Quebec, Laverne, Prevost, Bourassa, are holding your name up as a hissing and a scorn to the French. And the people of the West are pressing upon you with their anger because you betrayed them to the trusts against your pledged word. Do you not want

to do one good act before you go to the spirit world? Or shall the voice of the stricken wage slaves of Canada cry unto you in vain?

Socialists of Canada! What shall be your answer? Will you come to the rescue of your fighting comrades of Springhill. Then to the charge. And the first point of attack. Let it be King and Rhodes!

Wealth is produced by labor power being applied to raw material for the production of the things men want. Labor power is applied in that manner in which the powerful capitalist class desires and in a way to make unearned profit out of the machinery owned by the most powerful section of the capitalist class. In Germany one of the most powerful sections of the capitalist class base their power on ship yards and gun factories. Therefore the workers are set to work to produce ships of war and guns. These capitalists cannot see how labor could be employed were the ship yards and gun factories to go out of business. They think that vested interests must be protected. They could be put out of business and the country would become more prosperous. For the money now spent on navel armaments could be spent on old age pensions, feeding of school children, care of the sick and feeble, cleaning up the slums, and many other things that would benefit humanity.

There is a great outcry over vested interests whenever the question of Socialism comes up. Yet confiscation is going on all the time. The big business is confiscating the little business. The railroads are confiscating each other's traffic wherever possible. The refusal of a saloon license is the confiscation of the business of the license owner. The refusal to allow the Johnson Jefferies fight pictures to be exhibited in the moving picture show is the confiscation of the capital invested in the films. The gift to the railroads of hundreds of millions of dollars is confiscation of the people's money. All this confiscation goes on and nothing is said. Socialism simply means that what all the people decided shall be carried out. If the will of the people is to collectively own the machinery of production without being held up for exorbitant charges of expropriation, then the capitalists can whine about confiscation all they like. The people will just take the industries.

We have an anti-combine law which is made to deceive the people. It makes the people think they are secure from combinations, when they are not. There is the Manufacturers' Association; there is the Wholesale Grocers' Association. This is a perfect chain of combines. The manufacturers fix the price to the wholesalers, the wholesalers fix the price to the retailers and the retailers fix the price to the consumers. This goes on while the anti-combine law is on the statute books. Little reformers will probably get mad at this state of affairs and will want to bust the manufacturers' association and the other associations. But the Socialist fights no such losing fight. He aims at something more radical than this. He aims at taking the manufacturing establishments away from the manufacturers and vesting them in the collective ownership of the toiling many.

Sir Frederick Borden is Minister of Militia. It is his department that is called upon for troops when a labor war is on. In the recent Grand Trunk strike the troops were rushed to Brockville. At the same time that soldiers were prepared to shoot the citizens of Brockville, Borden and King were closeted with Hays discussing as to the best way of getting the wage slaves back to their tasks. And when the strike was called off King declared that Borden should share the honor. The Minister of Militia and the Minister of Labor yoked together shows where King stands in labor questions.

William Lyon Mackenzie King has revolutionary blood in his veins. But you'd never know it the way he helps the oppressors of labor and rolls over and purrs when the bosses scratch his back.

Socialism is a demand for responsible industrial government.

### KING THE DEGENERATE

William Lyon Mackenzie, the revolutionary, fought and suffered to bring about POLITICAL responsible government. He did his work well, and King, his grandson, is no doubt proud of the work his maternal grandfather accomplished. Now another fight is on in Canada. The fight is for the wider spread of democracy. The fight is for INDUSTRIAL responsible government. Were Mackenzie alive today he would be in the thick of the fight. His grandson, however, William Lyon Mackenzie King, takes his stand with the Laurier oligarchy. Mackenzie would not accept office. An offer of government position with rich emoluments threw him into a passion. King drops into office with the same content that graft drops into the maw of the corrupt politician. Mackenzie fought for the liberties of the people against the Queen's soldiers. King belongs to a government and shares the odium of ordering the King's soldiers out to fight the workers of Canada in their revolt and fight for INDUSTRIAL RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

Mackenzie would turn in his grave did he know that this King, his own grandchild, who bears his honored name, has taken his stand with the plunderers of Canada.

But it is with such material that we Socialists have to work. Mackenzie petitioned and demanded. We can petition and demand. Mackenzie denounced in many a fiery speech the corruption and despotism of the ruling class. We can denounce.

Shall the long suffering workers of Canada be patient forever? Shall they be led group by group to the slaughter? Shall they remain divided and let the capitalist class encompass their economic destruction, group by group.

A strike takes place at Fort William. The troops are called out and the workers are beaten back to their slavery.

A strike takes place at Glace Bay. The troops are called out and the workers are beaten back to their slavery.

A strike takes place at Springhill and the troops are called out. Shall they be beaten back to their slavery? Workers of Canada from Atlantic to Pacific rouse. Denounce, petition, demand. Let us rouse the revolutionary blood in King. And if he is recreant to his ancestry, let us tear the mask of hypocrisy from him and show him as he is, a crawling hireling of plutocracy masquerading as the workingmen's friend.

The Laurier organs are predicting a surplus this year. But there will be no surplus. It will be swallowed up in the navy which Laurier is piling on to the backs of the Canadian workers. This is how it plans out. The government expenditures are divided into two parts. One is called ordinary expenditure and the other is called capital expenditure. The cost of the navy and the guns for the fleet will be put into the capital account as Laurier considers that murder ships will make Canada that much richer. For Laurier is a capitalist hypocrite and his government hides its evil doing behind capitalist shams.

The Eastern press was filled with accounts a few weeks ago of a strike of Italians who were working for contractors on the city works of Vancouver. It was stated that the city had ordered the eight hour day and that the Italians were striking because they were not allowed to work ten hours a day and draw ten hours pay. As a matter of fact the contractors were working the Italians nine and ten hours a day and giving them the eight hour pay. But what does a little lie like this matter to the plute press when it is supporting the interests of the masters?

A Domestic Workers' Union is being organized in Great Britain. The organizer also threatens to keep a black list of undesirable houses from the servant's point of view. How the British employers will sigh for a man like Judge Drysdale of Halifax to hurl injunctions at the organizer.

Many capitalists have come to the conclusion that charity makes paupers. Many Socialists have come to the conclusion that capitalists make paupers.