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# Cotton's Weekly

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ROY WILSON, Associate Editor

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This paper is not published for profit. It is published by co-operative effort as an advocate of the co-operative commonwealth. Last week we sent the following number of copies

**30,100**

A divided, wrangling working class voting Grit and Tory is the joy of the capitalists.

Capitalism is international, solid, hard, and fast. So is Socialism, therefore Socialism is the only real enemy which has yet faced the batteries of Capitalism.

A machine in Detroit can reel off four feet of perfectly seamless steel tubing a minute. More wage slaves will be hunting a job when this machine gets into wide use.

What does the capitalist Borden government offer you? Slavery, and then more slavery. What would the Laurier government offer you? Same answer exactly.

Two great enemies of Socialism are prejudice and bigotry. These evils are fostered by the capitalist system, and money is spent by the bucketful to keep the people ignorant and superstitious.

Sir Edmund Walker said in Montreal in an interview: "The Canadian West has given us the best wheat crop the Dominion has ever seen." Sir Edmund is right, and "us" is certainly correct grammar.

The working class could be the strongest political force in the world if they chose. If they used their brains with the same facility as they used their hands, they would sweep the oppressing capitalist system out of their path, and would then have some chance of getting the full social value of what they produced.

The thirty-eight who control Canada are too busy grabbing profits to take any part in the government of the country. Their hired henchmen arrange an election every four years or so and see to it that a Tory or Grit government is returned to power. That is all that is necessary to keep the thirty-eight parasites sticking to the backs of the proletariat.

There is a lot of work to be done in the world in the future. Are you of the working class going to do it all, and let your masters sit idly by and reap in the profits, are you going to compel the lazy and idle parasites to get off your backs and help in the work? If you would rather the work be divided up a little and your load lightened, why study Socialism. It's simple, and rings true.

Capitalists do not much fear inquiry into their methods. They have the politicians, the police and the soldiery to protect any stunts they chose to pull off. What the capitalists fear is Socialism. They fear education of the masses. They fear the class conscious proletariat, and their vote for emancipation. The man who stands by his fellow slaves and looks with contempt upon the capitalist is the bugbear of the robbers.

The world owes every boy and girl a decent education. Under the present system only the children of the rich have a chance to acquire an education which will help to enrich their lives. The children of the poor, with a few exceptions, are taken from school at a tender age and forced into the shops and mills of the masters, where they create profits to keep the sons and daughters of their robbing slaveholders sucking at the fount of knowledge.

Uphill, downhill, through teeming cities and across country, the army of the proletariat staggers along under the insupportable burden of capitalism. Only the strongest shoulders may carry this burden. Those who bend low under the load or who cry out in distress are thrust from under and a new and strong young band takes their place. Those left behind starve and die, while the workers pursue their weary way with their burden to the hills of Mammon.

Lloyd-George states that Britain is spending on her navy a sum exceeding the cost of all the navies of the world in 1886. The masters have a strangle hold on old England, and are bleeding the empire to a finish. Krupp of Germany and the armament makers of Great Britain will soon be able to call on a human barbecue at a few hours' notice. The murder trust is waxing stronger in Europe. Socialists will stop future bloodshed and turn the cannon factories into places where useful machinery will be produced to lighten the labors of humanity.

What has capitalism done for you, Mr. Worker? Supplied you with a job, if you are lucky, and robbed you every day you worked on that job. Do you like it? If you do, stick to it, for capitalism will need all its friends in the near future, and will call on you and tell you how nice they have used you by giving you a "JOB." They will even ask you to take a rifle and shoot down your brother worker, as they have done in the past. Will you do it, or will you spurn the reign of gold and cast in your lot with the Socialists, who will see to it that you get the full social value of what you produce by your toil? It's up to you, and soon.

The official hangman of Canada has put up a wild howl against the commuting of the death sentence of a Toronto man. He moans vigorously about the "travesty of justice." The death sentence is mighty unpopular in Canada, and will likely soon be abolished, yet this miserable creature with his deformed mind would gladly see a row of condemned prisoners waiting for his rope. The lot of a hangman is no happy one, but this is the first instance we have come across where one was afraid of losing his job that he sets up as a pen a prisoner's sentence is commuted. Authorities dug him out of?

Two years ago there was a neck and neck race on between the Socialists and the non-Socialists for the election of officials of the Machinists' Union at Montreal, N.B. Wm. A. Johnson was elected international president, but the Socialists did not have complete control of the board. This year the vote on president stood as follows: Johnson, Socialist, 16,373; Wilson, non-Socialist, 7,497. On the general executive board four out of five were Socialists. The general labor committee is Socialist throughout. The delegates of the American Federation of Labor are also Socialists. D. D. Wilson, a Socialist, was elected editor of the Machinists' Journal, the official paper of the organization.—Eastern Labor News.

## The Montreal Herald and Socialism

The Montreal Herald is getting to be quite dignified since it has become the vest pocket property of D. Lorne McGibbon, one of the big labor skimmers of Canada.

Time was when it was fighting the battles of the Liberal party, when it was being supported by the Liberal politicians financially and sucking funds from the government, much to the disgust of the Liberal politicians who hated to see good money sunk in fooling the people, (not that the Liberal politicians hated to see the people fooled, but they wanted the people to pay for their own betrayal) the Herald was very testy. It was uneasy and worried and its business worries shone through its pages. The people did not take kindly to it, any more than the people like to listen to a man talking who is attracted by the worries of how he is to meet his real bill.

But that is changed now. McGibbon owns the controlling interest. It has financial backing. So it is adopting a dignified tone, an assertive tone, a self-confident tone. The economic change in the Herald's circumstances has made it a different paper.

It has recently been devoting considerable editorial space to Socialism. A few weeks ago it devoted an editorial to Cotton's Weekly under the title "Yapping." In its issue of October 14th it gives another editorial on the question in which it states, "The Herald is neither friendly nor unfriendly to Socialism, it is merely suspending judgment upon it until we in this country have been given an opportunity to test its working out."

Does not that sound fair and impartial? It has the smooth certainty of a capitalist judge. And yet it is a lie and the Herald writers know it is a lie.

### The Aim of Socialism

The very aim of Socialism is such that the Herald writers dare not discuss it, and as Socialism grows stronger, the Herald will be flung into the fight against it.

The following is an extract from the platform of the Social-Democratic Party of Canada.

"We, the Social-Democratic Party of Canada in convention assembled, affirm our allegiance to and support of the International Socialist Movement.

"By virtue of the ownership of the means of production and distribution (natural resources, factories, mills, railroads, etc.) all wealth the workers produce, accrues into the hands of the capitalist class. This property the capitalist defends by means of the state (the army, the navy, the judiciary).

"The object of the Social-Democratic Party is to educate the workers of Canada to a consciousness of their class position in society, their economic servitude to the owners of capital, and to organize them into a political party to seize the reins of government and transform all capitalist property into the collective ownership of the working class. This social transformation means the liberation not only of the proletariat, but of the whole human race. Only the working class, however, can bring it about. All other classes maintain their existence by supporting the present social order."

D. Lorne McGibbon is one of the owning class. He got his start in the formation of a holding company of two rubber companies. These two companies are still separate entities in the eyes of the law. They are presumed by the people to be competing companies. But the holding company formed by McGibbon owns the majority of shares of each. Both companies are practically one — and hundreds of thousands of dollars in stock certificates were issued to represent the enhanced value of the businesses owing to amalgamation.

McGibbon is interested in the new sugar plant at Saint John, N.B. He is interested in many other industries through sharing in the ownership of the means of production. He also owns the Herald and robs the slave writers thereon, and the slave printers and other slave workers connected with the plant. The workers produce the wealth, and McGibbon is one of those who reach out and grab it in. He does this because of his capitalist ownership.

The Socialists propose to transform McGibbon ownership into working class ownership. The Herald slave writers, even if they sympathize with the cause that will bring them their freedom, are muzzled. Their pens write as capitalist McGibbon decides.

In Cowansville, the editor of this paper was talking with a resident. "Do you mean to say," said this gentleman, "that you are going to have people put their hands in your pockets and take out my money and divide it among everybody?" "No," was the answer, "we propose that you take your hands out of the pockets of the productive working class, and let them keep what they earn." The resident jumped about two feet and shouted, "That's robbery. I won't stand for it."

The Herald is smooth and suave and dignified and apparently fair to Socialism. But when the Socialists get strong and demand that McGibbon takes his hands out of the pockets of the working class, McGibbon will pull the strings, the Herald writers will throw conniption fits and shout, "This is robbery."

### A Hundred Thousand Dollar Suit

In its issue of October 9th, the Herald flung a seven inch heading across its front page. It was headed with the flaming word, "CONSPIRACY." It announced in big type over more than the whole two front pages that Sir Hugh Graham and others had tried to wreck the Herald. Consequently the Herald was taking an action in the Superior Court of Montreal for one hundred thousand dollars damages against the parties concerned. This case and the facts published in the Herald are interesting to the working class, and their relation to politics.

The Herald alleges that Sir Hugh Graham, owner of the daily Star, the daily Telegraph and the weekly Standard, conspired with the Hearst forces of New York and others to deprive the Herald of access to news sources, and to news features. It alleges that when the Herald started its weekly Sunday edition

it competed with the Standard and the Boston American and New York Journal, and so the owners of these papers went to the sources from which the Herald was getting news and circulation features and through higher prices induced the owners of these sources to break their contracts with the Herald. Says the Herald in fine, indignant style, and also in big type:

"It is not to be supposed that the laws of Canada, whether invoked by this suit or by any other procedure, are such that any newspaper can persistently and as a matter of fixed policy seek to crush competition by intervening between a competing newspaper and every source of supply with which it may attempt to deal."

The Herald thus grandiloquently appeals to the freedom of contract and the maintenance of competition. Here again the Herald appears to be fair and open and standing for right and justice.

But reading further in the Herald article we find that Sir Hugh Graham and McGibbon, on the 20th day of June, 1913, agreed that neither should, without the written consent of the other, "EMPLOY ANY MAN OR WOMAN WHO WAS THEN OR THEREAFTER MIGHT BE IN THE EMPLOY OF THE OTHER PARTY."

The wage worker has to seek a master. If he be a printer or newspaper writer he has to seek employment on newspapers. The Herald raises a great outcry because competition was stifled against it, but considers it right and perfectly proper that the three English evening papers of Montreal, and the three big weekly papers, the Sunday Herald, the Weekly Star and the Standard, should stifle all competition among themselves in the hiring of slaves. How gleefully they got together. How joyfully they made a contract whereby they as masters would prevent their slaves from selling their labor power, their life as it were, to competing masters! When Cotton's Weekly lights into the Herald, the Herald says Cotton's is yapping. But here are facts acknowledged boldly and unashamedly.

The Herald sues the Star, Graham and others for one hundred thousand dollars, and as one of the reasons for seeking damages is the following, taken from the declaration of the Herald in the suit, "The Canadian Defendant (Sir Hugh Graham and the Star) in the furtherance of the conspiracy hereinabove set forth, have attempted to disorganize the service and staff of the Plaintiff Company (the Herald) by enticing from the employment of the said Plaintiff Company some of its best writers, printers and employees, and OFFERING THEM ENHANCED WAGES AND BETTER ADVANTAGES TO LEAVE THE SERVICE OF THE PLAINTIFF COMPANY."

The Herald says Cotton's is yapping when it speaks about the oppression of the capitalist class upon the workers. Yet the Herald makes a sneaking contract with Graham and the Star to keep the wage bill down, to prevent the slaves getting a bigger pay envelope, and when Graham breaks the bargain and some members of the working class are benefited, the Herald howls like a whipped cur and runs to the courts with crying eyes, saying, "Boo, hoo, hoo, naughty Mr. Graham has spoiled our nice little plan under which we agreed to intervene between almost all the slaves from which English newspaper men in Montreal might get a job, spank him, spank him, Mr. Judge." And while it is crying its eyes out over this it says newspapers must have free competition to get news.

This is how the Herald likes the working class. McGibbon would not be able to get so much surplus values out of his slaves if he had to pay them more wages. The Herald loves the working class like the goose-herd loves his plucked geese.

If being forced to pay higher wages makes the Herald run to court for damages, what fits the Herald will have when the Socialists get powerful enough to demand for newspaper men as for others the full social equivalent of the services they perform!

### The Newspaper Situation

The newspaper situation in Montreal is like a scene from a Gilbert and Sullivan opera or from Alice in Wonderland.

There are three English evening papers in that city, the Star, which is rabidly Conservative, the Witness now called the Telegraph, which is rabidly Liberal, and the Herald, which claims to be independent.

The Tory Star and the Grit Telegraph are both the slaves of Sir Hugh Graham. While his slaves on the Star are boosting for Borden and sneering at the Liberal politicians and principles, his slaves on the Telegraph are writing fiery editorials supporting the Laurier party and denouncing Bordenism.

To such a situation the Herald takes exception. It was indignantly cries aloud to the public that it is infamous for one man to control the organs of both parties in Montreal. For itself it is independent. It supports either party in those measures which it thinks good.

The situation is such as would naturally develop. The only difference between McGibbon and Graham is that Graham knows his sheep readers better.

If legend speaks true, Graham has learned his public from experience and rough experience at that. In the old days, according to legend current in Montreal, in the days long before the editor of this paper was born, consequently he cannot vouch for the facts from personal experience. Sir Hugh had a mighty tough time in establishing the Star. The old Witness published by McDougall was in its heyday. Graham had hard work, little revenue and many bills. It is not necessary to go into those old days of Sir Hugh Graham, the millionaire and friend of nobility, those days when the coal bill was a worry and the raising of the paper bill was a mighty problem. The Witness proprietor watched the struggles of the editor of the yellow Star with a sad complacency.

But Graham, from necessity, had to produce what the public would read. He had no Presbyterian followers to support him and he put up an article made to sell. He has succeeded, succeeded the best of any publisher in Canada. Having succeeded in one line of publication by giving them what they want, it makes him worry to find the Liberal public escaping him. If the fool Con-

servatives want the dope the Star puts out, why cannot the fool Liberals be put under tribute to an organ that will publish what they want? If the Telegraph is not giving what the Liberal public want, Graham will sack the present writers, and hire other pen slaves, until the paper is made a success.

Graham is a capitalist. He is a reactionary. But he knows that capitalism and reactionaries have nothing to fear from Laurier or radicals. If the radicals abolish one form of exploitation, it is the wise policy of a reactionary to come out on top by means of another and newer mode of exploitation. "Why," reasons Graham, "should I not add to my wealth by shouting for reforms?"

Graham worked from the bottom up. McGibbon is the son of a corporation attorney now deceased. McGibbon knows the hard knocks. He knows the game. McGibbon is of the younger generation. To Graham the system of robbery has no glamor. He knows its mockery, its callousness and its cynicism. McGibbon has a certain respect for labor thieves. He considers it dignified and proper. Consequently his paper supports it in a dignified and proper way. It is horrified at the shamelessness and naked self-interest of Graham.

All three papers support the robbery of the slaves. The Star shouts for the robbery of the working class under the guidance of Tory politicians. The Telegraph shouts for the robbery of the workers under the guidance of Grit politicians. The Herald is "independent." It is for the robbery of the working class and for any measure and party that will be the most successful in enforcing and increasing that robbery. All three papers are one in supporting the system which gives the wealth producers misery and the capitalist wealth takers huge revenues.

### Workers and the Law

All men are equal in the eyes of the law, if they have the price.

McGibbon has the price. Therefore the courts will listen abundantly to his pleadings.

He has the price, and he knows how to use it.

He has engaged, in the aforesaid case, as his attorneys, four firms of lawyers as follows: McGibbon, Casgrain, Mitchell and Casgrain; Lafleur, MacDougall, Macfarlane and Pope; Fleet, Falconer and Bovey; Atwater, Duroes and Bond.

He has the price, because he has his hands in the pockets of the working class. He robs the working class. Consequently when he wishes to enforce the robber laws against a fellow skinner, with the price which he has stolen from the workers, he can call a whole raft of lawyers to plead his cause before the capitalist courts of Montreal.

But you, the worker, you are the goat. You are the robbed one. You have nothing but your slave pay, which hardly covers your living expenses. When you are rough-housed by your master, when you are beaten, even out of your slave rights, you have no money to go into the courts with. The lawyers of reputation want nothing to do with you.

The dollar sign is over the courts of Canada and the judges enforce the capitalist maxim, "If you have no wad, keep out."

### The Herald and the Tramways

The Herald alleges that Sir Hugh Graham desired to capture the Daily Telegraph and to own or wreck the Herald in order to control the English newspapers in Montreal so as to influence civic opinion. The Montreal Tramways, it is alleged, is seeking a new forty year franchise. Graham wanted to stifle opposition in order that the deal might go through and the Tramways add another hundred million dollars of water to their stock. The Herald raises its voice against this deal. It fights the Tramways plans.

This looks like civic pride. This looks like the Herald was out to protect the public interest.

But we must remember the capitalist ownership of the Herald. It is most likely that McGibbon has a fish to fry.

Supposing McGibbon has bought land outside the city limits and wants cheap fares. If cheap fares come, his land would go up in value. If fares remain steep, his land will be inaccessible and remain low in price.

This is one possible solution of the Herald's opposition to the Tramways deal. McGibbon has been fighting Robert of the traction robbers. They are rival labor skimmers.

Let not the workers of Montreal be deceived over the roar the Herald is putting up on this question. If two butchers quarrel over who shall have the right to skin a calf, the calf's only sensible procedure is to try and get away from both butchers.

The workers of Montreal should endeavor to get away from the control of McGibbon, Robert, Graham, and all the other useless, plundering plutes.

The Socialist method is the only way of escape.

### Graham warns McGibbon

In the issue of October 15th, Graham warns McGibbon of the danger of his course. He does this through the Star editorial columns, and he does it with a cynical disregard of the working class. The working class of Montreal, in Graham's eyes, are so stupid, so easily fooled, so obtuse to their own interests, that he can publicly tell the game the capitalists are working on the working class and the working class will not see it.

"A machine, what of him? He sits in a back bench at Ottawa, and simply votes 'right,' and draws his salary. No trips abroad for him, no private cars, no servants waiting on his every move. When the session is over, he simply goes to Ottawa to vote as he is told—and does it. There are many circles within circles at Ottawa. Only those who have access to the sacred innermost circle are allowed to float on the sea of luxury, at the expense of the people."

The more the workers are exploited, the fuller the jails, asylums and pens become, the more millionaires are created, and the thicker swarm the real estate sharks, loan agents and mortgage fiends, the louder the howls from the capitalist press about the prosperity of the country.

—plunges us into the bottomless bog of utter human degradation—and no man knows where he stands. We had all rather deal with a convicted thief, with some notions of honor toward his associates, than with a man without honor, even if his thievery be all "within the law."

Further on Graham publicly declares that the "easy money" he and his class get comes through class consciousness on their part and the thieves sticking together. If the master class cannot have confidence in each other, their revenues will vanish. If the master class cannot trust each other the effect is obvious. Says Graham:

The effect of this upon all of us would be disaster and ruin. It is a commonplace of comment today how much more money most of us get than was dreamed possible thirty years ago. Where does it come from? Co-operation. And co-operation rests absolutely upon constant and ever-renewed and never-questioned mutual confidence. If big business men begin to distrust each other—to fear to depend upon each other's good faith—to dread betrayal by each other—the magic machine which makes all this "easy money" will collapse; and we shall all be back again in the old days where a dollar was a big round prize.

Let the slaves profit by the advice of Graham to his fellow skinner McGibbon. Let the working class of Montreal unite in one solid body with the working class of the whole of Canada to do away with the labor skinning fraternity, by capturing the political power, and taking the ownership of machinery of production and distribution away from McGibbon, Graham et al, and vesting the said ownership in the collective working class.

The worker fights for a living in the shops of the masters all day long, then goes to his home in the slums and fights bugs and lice all night long, then goes to his work in the shop and fights for a living all day long. And he is forced to pay rents to his masters for the privilege of fighting bugs and lice in the master's shack rented. Does the master fight bugs and lice? No, Cynth a, the home of the master is far and away up on the hills from the bug and lice district. The master and his family live in peace and plenty far from the miserable shacks of the workers. No flies, or dirt, no disease come his way. This must be right, for does not the master say that "the interests of capital and labor are identical?"

The world series of baseball has driven the Americans mad. Everything is being neglected for baseball. Funny how the masses will fall over each other in their efforts to boost any capitalist scheme. The baseball trust is flourishing like a green bay tree. The players are slaves and sign slave contracts. They are bought and sold and loaned like the slaves of the South formerly were. Nobody but a capitalist could gain control of even the tail end team of any league. It is big business, and is held up before the people of the U. S. in such a manner that they battle for the privilege of paying a heavy price to attend the games. The baseball trust sits back and smiles while the money rolls in in heaps. The beautiful points of athletics are drowned beneath a pile of dollars, while the public are hypnotized by the moans of finance, aided and abetted by the capitalist newspapers.

"How would you workers run the C.P.R. under Socialism?" asked a visitor at a Socialist meeting in Cowansville. "Do you imagine that a lot of workers could run such an institution as the C.P.R., and run it right?" This visitor was one of the unthinking kind. A comrade quietly answered him: "Do the workers not run the C.P.R. now? Do the working class not lay the tracks, make the cars, run the trains, buy all the supplies, keep the books, audit the accounts, and manage the railway from one end to the other? What does Lord Strathcona or any other stockholder know about railways except the drawing of dividends? Practically nothing. From the general manager down to the navy the actual work of the railway is in the hands of wage slaves. We run the railroad now from start to finish. Why couldn't we still do it under Socialism?" The visitor had nothing more to suggest in regard to railways.

A Russian grand duke traveling in the U. S. says that the Americans are not as free as the Russians. He claims the Russian peasant enjoys more freedom than does the American worker. This knocks all our preconceived ideas endways. But still, after a resume of the conditions in the States and Canada for the past few years, one must come to the conclusion that the grand duke is not so far out. West Virginia, Calumet and San Diego in the States, and Poreupine, and Vancouver Island in Canada have furnished examples and are doing so today which would make Siberia look like a counterfeit. Everybody takes a whirl at Russia and holds it up as a horrible example to the rest of the world, while overlooking conditions in their own country which are just as bad, and possibly worse. It is a good guess that we here in America head the list and have the largest percentage in the tyrannical league.

The masters see to it that their faithful political henchmen are given a good time when their duties at Ottawa are over. Private cars and trips abroad are handed out to those who are high in the masters' confidence, and who are the most adept at pulling the wool over the eyes of the voters. High salaries and everything made easy are the rewards of the professional politician of today. But the old faithful Grit or Tory farmer politician who stands pat with the party and votes as a machine, what of him? He sits in a back bench at Ottawa, and simply votes 'right,' and draws his salary. No trips abroad for him, no private cars, no servants waiting on his every move. When the session is over, he simply goes to Ottawa to vote as he is told—and does it. There are many circles within circles at Ottawa. Only those who have access to the sacred innermost circle are allowed to float on the sea of luxury, at the expense of the people.

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