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Mr. J. H. Kaufman and Capt. W. J. ...
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TORONTO, CANADA, MARCH 20, 1918

THE STREET RAILWAY QUESTION

THE city not being in a position to take over the street railway on the expiration of the company's charter on March 14th, owing to the delay in the completion of the award, an agreement has been arrived at with the company...

On the 16th of May, This gives two months more for the agitation and discussion of the question as to the final disposition of the road. We hope that the interval will be made good use of by our friends, and that every exertion will be made to impress upon the City Council and the public the crucial folly of granting this valuable franchise on any terms to a private corporation.

Apart altogether from the principle involved, that all such public services should be retained in the hands of the municipality and operated by some representative body responsible to the people, it would be an act of practical stupidity and almost thoughtlessness to make a lease for thirty years of every addition to the city's population. More than this, great improvements in the methods of street car service are continually being effected, which know the cost and increase the efficiency and consequently the receipts of the service.

It follows that in disposing of the privilege for a long term the city would be bargaining away something of which it did not know the value, while the company with whom they deal might always be depended on to keep well on the safe side and leave a ample margin for profits.

It is not possible for our representatives to learn anything from past experience in these matters: Who could have supposed that when the original charter was granted the City of Toronto would have assumed its present proportions and that the traffic of the railway would have grown with its growth until the profits represent nearly a quarter of a million annually? Had anyone at that time ventured to predict anything of the kind would not he have been laughed down as a fanatic? Yet we, with infinitely less wisdom than the parties to the original deal, march as we have the date of the city's past program as an index of future possibilities, are in danger of making the very same mistake and handing over for a necessarily inadequate figure a franchise of value of which cannot be estimated.

...the more than one opportunity at ...
...of this opportunity, it is to be ...
...of the city and management of a ...
...thirty years, were offered. It was ...
...to be made to be a public utility ...
...and bought for before the attention of ...
...those who take advantage of a group of ...
...public officials to induce a strong ...
...of some kind of handing the road ...
...over to them in monopoly. The fact must ...
...have been left to fight a bargain for ...
...the leasing of the road once concluded ...
...irrevocable no matter how dead ...
...weighting it may be to the city. The ...
...modern mythical monopoly, like its ...
...Shakespearean prototype, will have ...
...a big loud and nothing but his loud, ...
...whereas in the case of its being decided ...
...to operate the road under any control ...
...it false step can be rectified. Should ...
...the worst adaptations of the monopolists ...
...and their friends be rectified by ...
...the event which we do not for a ...
...moment suppose will be the case— ...
...should the experiment be found im- ...
...practicable or costly, it will then be ...
...conveniently easy to revert to the ...
...plans of leasing the road.

In the meantime it is to be feared that all who believe in the principle of civic ownership will continue their efforts to influence public opinion in this direction. There is every encouragement in the measure of success that far attains by persistence to the end. The price, which at first seemed almost unreasonably large, and there is a strong party in the City Council who take the same view. But the monopolists and other interested opponents of civic ownership are active, vigorous and aggressive. They have a great price to work for, and will use every influence to carry their point and bring their machinations can only be defeated by steady, resolute work, and all true Labor Reformers will do their share in the most important battle for popular rights against municipal autocracy.

VOTING ON MONEY BY LAWS.

THE LABOR ADVOCATE is pleased to note that the question of extending to all voters the right to vote upon money by laws is being vigorously taken up by the labor organizations. On Tuesday last a large number of petitions asking for a change in the law to this effect were presented to the Legislature by Mr. Joseph Tate, M.P., and the action will be followed up by continued agitation to rectify the anomaly embodied in the present law.

It is grossly unjust that the great majority of workmen should be deprived from exercising their legitimate influence at the polls when matters involving the lowering and expenditure of money apart from the ordinary annual outlay come before the citizens. The law, providing that none but real estate owners shall have a vote on money by laws, is a relic of the Old Country notion which attaches special dignity and privileges to land ownership, and is entirely inconsistent with the democratic idea of equality. The class who are now the disfranchised have just as deep an interest in the question as admitted to participating the outlay of money as has the wealthiest citizen. The idea that the man in whose name the property is assessed and also is primarily responsible for the taxes, really pays them is an absurdity. He is merely the channel through which the taxes are collected, and in the end all taxes are paid by the occupant, not the owner of property.

To deprive a workingman of a vote on questions vitally affecting the health, welfare and convenience of all citizens on the ground that the class who practically, in the long run, bear all the burdens of society have "no stake in the country" is a piece of meanness and injustice which cannot be too soon remedied.

Those labor organizations which have not as yet sent in petitions asking for a change of the law in this direction should do so without delay.

CAPITALIST MOBRIEY

On Sunday last eleven Italians died in jail in New Orleans on suspicion of having been concerned in a series of murders, concluding with the assassination of Chief of Police Hennessy, of this city, were deliberately and in cold blood, massacred by an armed mob, who broke open the jail and shut down the prisoners. The noteworthy feature about the affair is that the mob was not a gathering of street rowdies and toughs, but, avowed to the press dispatches, "a body of headed men, lawyers, doctors, merchants and political leaders, all persons of influence and social standing." There was no attempt whatever at disguise or concealment. The deed was openly and in the face of day with loudly expressed approval, both at the time and subsequently, of the influential and ruling classes of the community. The Cotton Exchange, Board of Trade, Stock Exchange and other representative associations passed resolutions deprecating the action of the citizens to have been proper and justifiable.

It appears that nine of the murdered Italians had been put on their trial for the murder of Hennessy, and after a protracted hearing the jury acquitted six of the number and failed to agree as regards the remaining three. This was regarded by the citizens as a failure of justice, brought about by bribery, hence the strong public sentiment in favor of the lynching.

This occurrence clearly shows the hypocrisy of the capitalist class in regard to the maintenance of law and order. They are always ready to invoke the law when it involves a class interest and to become a superstitious reasoner for authority as the best safeguard for their privileges. But when it suits them they are equally prepared to set the party of law breakers, and to fling to the winds all those fine scruples as to legality, which are so careful to impress upon others.

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD

On Monday last, the Canadian House of Commons passed a resolution which had taken the law into their own hands equally summary fashion by shooting or hanging a dozen monopolists or Pinkerton thugs with a demand for their summary punishment. Not being prominent and influential citizens and representatives of the money class and their parasites, the matter is taken very coolly. The protestants present merely outcry for their extermination, but, while denouncing the crime as a matter of form, sets to work to find excuses for the bloodthirsty but coolly respectable and gentlemanly murderers. Even ministers, who had once thought that such atrocities had been perpetrated by an ordinary mob, would have made their public ring with denunciations of "anarchy" and "outrage" on the ground that it was the work of the "lost citizens."

The impunity of the murderers of the New Orleans prisoners, and the complete powerlessness of public sentiment and legal authority in the face of an open and defiant open-class movement to suppress the law of the land by irresponsible tribunals, should be a lesson to the masses. It ought to teach them that government and law and order are not in the estimation, even of the classes for whose special benefit they usually operate, the sacred institutions which they would have us believe, that those who invoke them most loudly have little real principle or faith in these fetiches which they set up for the people to worship. The worst of the whole business is that the wealthy and ruling class, having got the upper hand mean to keep it either by means of the law or in defiance of the law, they care not in the least.

It is almost true that the working people are about that the notion of its being the duty of everyman to obey the law under all circumstances and submit to all sorts of legal injustice and oppression, until they resort to violence, is sheer humbug. Those who preach it

do not believe it, and most that they do. It will be no use doing it before long. The oppressed workers do not take a hint from the actions of the capitalist mob of New Orleans as to the most effective methods of dealing with classes which monopolize money and power to its remedy.

HOME RULE AND ITS OPPONENTS

The resurgence of Ireland's national everywhere, which has been celebrated anniversary by Irishmen with the customary enthusiasm, has directed the attention of friends and foes to the cause of Irish Home Rule. It is abundantly evident that, despite the temporary set back arising from the Parrell escapade, the movement has lost none of its vitality, and is destined to be a main issue in British politics until the Irish people secure the right of self government. In struggling for this end the Irish are entitled to the sympathy and the practical assistance of every fighter for human rights.

They are eligible for a prince dear to the heart of all lovers of freedom. The battle, in the words of Mr. Gladstone, is one of the masses against the classes. It is essentially a contest on the part of the people for the means of existence, against the few who claim, by reason of birth, privilege or position, the right to rule and to tax the many to keep them in silence.

The triumph of Home Rule over land lordism and tenantry will give an impetus to the labor movement and weaken the forces of capitalism all over the world. The ruling class know this perfectly well and hence the rabid, unrelenting hostility to the Irish cause shown by the capitalist thieves and their kindred, dopes and scoundrels in Canada. Hence the villainous efforts, only too successful, of clerical henchmen of the Pope, DaMoulin and Wild type, to import sectarian prejudices and hate into the discussion of the question, and the reason exhibited by every Irish player of the capitalist game.

The Canadian who opposes Irish Home Rule is either instinctively or deliberately an upholder of oppression and the robber privileges of the plutocracy, as against the right of the workers to political freedom and the enjoyment of the wealth they create.

The World of Ottawa publishes a dispatch from its Ottawa correspondent, stating that the Government are considering the advisability of proceeding against Edward Parrell of the Globe, and others on charges of high treason, with a view of banishing them from the country. All annexationists will rejoice to see them take this step, for nothing would more certainly precipitate a crisis and bring about American than any endeavor on the part of the scoundrels in power at Ottawa to enforce the medieval dead letter enactments which make it a crime to attempt to change the form of government. Annexation is in the natural destiny of this country. There is no particular hurry about it, and it probably will not be realized until the working people, to any extent. If the reactionary elements are contented to let things drift, it may likely be postponed for a generation or so more, but just so sure as there is any violent disturbance of the political equilibrium it will come with a rush. But it is greatly to be doubted whether the Government dare arrest Farrel.

At a meeting of Methodist ministers in Chicago, a resolution condemning the murder of the Italian prisoners at New Orleans was voted down. The following are a few of the expressions of those who opposed the motion as reported by the Chicago Mail. Rev. Dr. J. B. Jones said: "sometimes Lynch law was not the worst thing on earth. The very best citizen of New Orleans was in that affair, and surely not without reason." Rev. N. A. Uttall said: "from what he had read there were good reasons for the action taken." Rev. Mr. Schwartz remarked that "it does seem that on some occasions the

people must take the law into their own hands." When it is a Chicago anarchist who has a charge of having killed a public man in self defence, being balanced, no class founded the more liberally, or allowed more easily to influence public opinion, than those the preachers. In New Orleans murderers in the wealth, respectable, church class.

The English says — "Score again for the influence of Irish and Scotch agitators in the British Empire abroad." The Federation conference, now sitting in London, the representatives of Irish, they are Sir Nicholas Fitzgerald (Victoria), Sir Patrick Jennings (South Wales), and Hon. J. M. Macdonald (Quebec). Mr. James A. Connolly is a typical son of "Auld Scotland" and so is Mr. Duncan Gillies.

We would remind the English of feeding at the public crib is not "building up the Empire." The Irish have done their share of honest useful work, but the talent for political intrigue and office holding is owed to them. The work of the politician gives the public less benefit for the money than any other form of activity unless it be that of the specialist in the monopolist. The number of party politicians has produced as the result of any self respecting man at least of

That the Irish national movement is a class war was clearly illustrated by the St. Patrick's Day observance in this city. The adherents of the entertainments given by the genuine Irish societies were mainly composed of honest workmen and workwomen while the banquet given by the Society for the Encouragement of Social Legislation (the "Irish Educational Bazaar Society") drew the aristocrats and snobs, tax-evaders and parasites who delight in paying of the "loyalty which gives them the opportunity to live at the expense of the workers."

The principal slogan of the "Ulster band of loyalty" was the Annetonianist, Goldwin Smith, who has nothing but scorn and derision for the plastered Kaptan, Dominionist article.

The sincerity of the professions of friendship made by the Tory leaders of England for the workmen and the value of the labor commission just appointed may be estimated by the speech made by Lord Salisbury to the London Chamber of Commerce. He told his hearers in a very unambiguous way that the result of the commission would be to expose the "unwholesome" theories and theories cherished by the working classes and their leaders. The Tory leaders have been trying to make the people believe that the commission was going to do great things for them, and now Salisbury in his after dinner speech has given the whole map away.

It would have been an excellent thing for the reputation of Charles Durrant if the death sentence passed upon him as a rebel in 1847 had not been carried out. Then he would have been remembered with Lenin and Mathews as a true man and a patriot. It is a pitiable thing to see a man who had had spirit and manliness enough to take up arms in Lyon Mackenzie's cause, forsook, spending his latter days preaching "loyalty" and haterdash and getting the reputation of a traitor, some, drizzling old ass. The victim of Helver that the worst was to which you can put a man is to hang him, not invariably true.

Prof. Asbury, of Toronto University, is deservingly well paid for his lecture on Monday evening on the labor question, in which he not only upheld the right of labor to organize, and necessary to strike, but took the ground that it was entirely wrong to boycott the non-unionist. So far as the question of the union is concerned, he showed all that the most advanced Labor Reformers could ask.