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Cotton's Weekly

W. U. COTTON, S.A., B.C.L., Editor

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JANUARY is the BOOSTING MONTH.
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GENERAL ELECTIONS

Signs point to a general Dominion election shortly.

One of the questions at issue is the question of the navy.

Borden and his political associates are to give \$35,000,000 for three dreadnaughts to be built in England and to be part of the British fleet.

Laurier and his political associates want a navy built in Canada and maintained in Canadian waters.

Imperial navy, Dominion navy, this is the question as it is put before the Canadian people. The real question is not shown.

Armor plate steel is sold to the government of Great Britain for six hundred dollars a ton. You can buy the best American steel for twenty-eight dollars a ton.

Armor plate is ordinary steel with a little nickle and hocus-pocus in it. A battleship hull costs around \$4,000,000, the most of which is for armor plate alone. Profits from the sale of armor plate to the government per battleship is around a million and a half dollars.

Is not that a nice graft? Sure it is. Now see the question at issue.

Borden says, "Let us fling to the armor plate parasites profits of \$4,500,000 for armor plate for three ships, and profits of like ridiculous amounts on other things which go to the parasite shipbuilders of Britain."

Laurier says, "No, no, no. Let us fling those seventeen millions of profit into the maw of our own Canadian capitalist class. Their mouths just wait for it."

Borden replies, "You are not patriotic. You are not imperialistic."

Laurier answers, "Maybe I am not, but I am a practical politician."

This is the real question behind the navy squabble. The real question is, who shall get the graft?

The Liberals are predicting that, if an election is called, Laurier will be returned to power. The chances are he will. The Canadian parasites want those seventeen millions of graft.

The working farmers and the workers in the factory are to be sounded on the question. The two policies are to be presented to them. They will be asked to decide by their ballot.

But they will be given no chance to say whether they want a navy or not. They will be given no chance to say whether they would not rather have those thirty-five million dollars spent in education, or old age pensions, or for cleaning up the slums of our cities, or for educating the workers to a knowledge of their class position in society.

The workers and the farmers will listen in doubt as the spellbinders pour forth their respective floods of mud. The workers will not understand what it is all about. Neither will anyone else who does not know that rival capitalists are fighting for seventeen millions of graft.

And the workers will vote for one or the other of the old parties, and then when they go on strike, or a lockout comes, they will starve their bellies and their families will suffer and the pious politicians will talk about the will of God, while they guzzle the fat of the land the workers have voted they should have.

Oh foolish workers. Who will be able to open your ears and your understanding to the skin game of your masters, and their hired hands, your politicians, are playing on you?

A few years ago you were yelling yourself hoarse over the coronation of King George. Well, how are you getting along under George anyhow? Has your bank account grown to any extent? Are your conditions under the capitalist system any easier to bear? Has George ever mentioned anything about, or formulated any plan for the betterment of the conditions of the working class? Do you think George cares anything for the millions who are starving in the richest little island in the world? No. George is a real tidy little English gentleman, who knows his business, and does as he is told by his masters. He is having just one while of a time, and about the hardest work he has to perform is walking on carpet three inches thick. From recent photos of George dressed in a natty suit and wearing a dandy soft fedora, one would judge him to be a real lady-killer who would take a back bench for no one.

If an army went to Greenland to capture it would the natives protest? Hardly likely. They would probably say: "Go ahead, take it; we can always get a living here our way." "Well," you say, "their country is not rich while fighting for." Who is your country rich for? Who is it valuable for? Not you, surely. Like the Greenlanders, all you get out of your country at the present time is a bare living. What do you want to fight for it for?

The sight of Boy Scouts in Montreal cheering the police must have been inspiring. If a worker's son is affiliated with this infamous organization, it behooves that worker to take his son from the ranks without delay. These boy scouts are being trained to puncture the toilers with bullets, and if your son is told to shoot you, under the code of discipline maintained by those teaching him the art of murder, he will have to do it. He must obey all orders with out question."

Socialism is lifting the lid off the cesspool of capitalism.

Patriotism means only one thing for the worker—death.

The workers of Porcupine are feeling the sabre teeth of the capitalist tiger.

The army of capitalists is growing smaller; the army of toilers is growing larger.

When you are "loyal," who are you loyal to?—the capitalist class—those who exploit you.

The wage-earner and the farmer should be vitally interested in Socialism. What will benefit one will also benefit both.

The leavings of the rich are grabbed up by the children of the worker who helped pile up the coin for the rich who discarded the leavings.

HELPING THE FARMERS

The farmers are being helped magnificently these days to produce more crops, so that they may be skinned of more of the wealth they produce.

The C. P. R. has announced that no more of its lands will be sold to speculators. The land is going to be sold direct to settlers. The C.P.R. officials consider it foolish to allow land speculators to get a rakeoff. They want it all.

The Manitoba government and the C. P. R. are going to teach farming by mail. Demonstration farms are being established. Thus the farmers can become more scientific, will raise more crops, and can have more crops to be taken from them without an equivalent being given.

If any farmer thinks the government and the C.P.R. want to help him, let him read the following statistics prepared by Vice-President Carnahan of the American Society of Equity. These figures were prepared by Mr. Carnahan to show the farmers that scientific farming did not increase their income.

With regard to spring wheat, in 1909 there were 28,330,000 acres planted in spring wheat, producing 446,366,000 bushels, which were sold for \$459,154,000.

In 1910 there were 29,427,000 acres planted in spring wheat, which produced 464,044,000 bushels which sold for \$413,575,000.

In other words, while in 1910 there were 1,097,000 more acres planted in spring wheat, producing 17,678,000 more bushels, the cash returns were \$45,579,000 less than in 1909.

With regard to the corn crop, in 1909 there were 108,771,000 acres planted, producing 2,772,376,000 bushels, which sold for \$1,652,822,000.

In 1910 there were 140,062,000 acres planted in corn crop, producing 3,125,712,000 bushels, which sold for \$1,523,963,000.

In other words, in 1910, 31,291,000 more acres were planted in corn, producing 353,336,000 more bushels which sold for \$128,854,000 less than in 1909.

You see now why the big capitalists want the farmers to produce more crops, become more scientific and the like? It means less money for the farmers and greater revenues for the useless capitalist class.

You Canadian farmer, why don't you use your head and get wise to the fact that your place is in the Socialist ranks?

Go to the cities and see the wrecks of humanity the capitalist system has cast out by the hundreds. Skilled artisans of forty-five and fifty years who could not follow the speeding-up system are thick as flies. Drifting aimlessly around a huge city looking for a job they can't find, what lies before these useful workers? Is there anything before them tending to uplift humanity? Will they rise, or will they sink? The skilled worker is less in demand year after year. Hustlers are wanted who can show a big day's work and thereby secure big profits for the masters. Feed the market, never mind the quality of the goods, is the motto. Under the cooperative commonwealth these men will probably do the work where skill is required, and where honestly made goods are the sole object in view. The rush and bustle of today is caused by the greed of profits, and the jerry-made output generally lasts as long as it takes to produce it.

Don't hear much about the heroic Jap these days. A few years ago, the capitalist papers were full of the activities of the brown-skinned soldier who could march and fight for a week on a cup of tea and the hind-quarter of a smoked herring. Those Japanese who were not planted in the sun-baked slopes around Port Arthur or drowned in the sea in the glorious cause of war are now busily engaged in their native land paying interest on a war debt that would make Borden's \$35,000,000 gift to the British navy look like a broken pretzel.

Capitalism is trying its utmost to break the spirit of labor in Canada at present. As soon as the screws started to fly they put on the screws, and all the devilish machinations and trickery at which they are past masters have been brought to the fore. If they can break the Canadian worker's heart and starve his family the Canadian winter will do the rest, and the kept press of the plures will choke with glee. But labor is awaking, and their end of the see-saw will not be always down.

SPRUNG INTO THE AIR

How often you see some lawyer or notary or advertising agent, or commercial traveller, or small capitalist, or rent collector, or banker wanting to know what he will do under Socialism.

They seem to think that society cannot get along without their services. They think they must be given some nice soft job, or, by jove, you know, we won't stand for Socialism.

We would like to have these gentlemen with us, but the social revolution can and will proceed without them.

We cannot promise these gentlemen any special consideration. We would not if we could.

They are not useful producers. They are necessary, it is true, as part of the capitalist system. But they will not be necessary under the Socialist system.

Socialism is a proletarian, or working class movement, primarily. These gentlemen can come into the Socialist movement only in so far as they identify themselves with the aims and hopes of the revolutionary working class.

If these gentlemen really want to know what the triumph of the working class will do to their present occupations and themselves, let them read the following paragraph, taken from the Communist Manifesto:

"The proletariat, the lowest stratum of our present society, cannot stir, cannot raise itself up, without the whole superincumbent strata of official society being sprung into the air."

That is what is going to happen to you, gentlemen, lawyers, court officials, capitalist judges, slave drivers, rent suckers, you are going to be sprung into the air.

You have heard of the Irishman who entered a car which was full and a lady asked him, "Haven't you a seat?" "Yes," replied the Irishman, "but no place to put it."

These gentlemen will have nice occupations, but no chance to find a job, no place to exercise their special "ability" which they think should be rewarded so highly.

They will be sprung into the air, and will come down minus their old jobs. They will have to find some job in the co-operative commonwealth as useful producers.

Now workmen, get into the revolution, and you will have the lovely prospect of springing your masters, your employers, your exploiters into the air, and then watching them come to you, the triumphant working class, asking you to give them something to do.

Next time you go into your factory, tell your mates about political action, sure in the knowledge that your agitation will bring the day nearer when your masters will be sprung. Don't you want to see that day? Just think of your own bosses and get active in the movement.

The capitalists saw the approach of an industrial revolution which would abolish their life of luxury and ease. They saw their real enemy in the Socialists, who were attacking their much beloved system with irrefutable arguments of sound working man common sense. So they cast about with fiendish cunning, and taking one of their own unwritten laws, applied it to the Socialists, and said: "Socialists believe in dividing up." It was a good shot, and has caused more misunderstanding and trouble than almost anything ever charged against Socialism. It is working still, although Socialist editors have wasted columns of space, and vast stores of patience explaining to unenlightened readers the fallacy of this capitalist inspired bugaboo. Once again: Socialists do not believe in dividing up, as that is precisely what they are compelled to do now with the capitalist under the present system. They want to abolish the dividing-up process forever, so as to be enabled to secure the full social value of all that they produce.

The cause of Socialism depends on its success to a great extent on the efforts of the individual Socialist to propagate its teachings. If you as a Socialist possess a good understanding of its precepts, loosen your knowledge on your fellow worker. Show him where he is robbed, and who is the robber. Clear his mind of the teachings of the capitalists that Socialism will break up the home, and all the other fairy yarns that are floating around his think-tank. Don't bluff your knowledge to yourself. No one man ever yet "knew it all."

These are troublous times for the little capitalist. The big fellows are after everything in sight, and are making the risks of the little money-grabber so unsafe that he hardly knows where to turn in order to save himself. The big interests will show him as much mercy as he displayed when he smilingly swiped the flowers from the graves of the workers.

The wage slave lives from hand to mouth. The farmer has a slight advantage, as he has at least provisions to last him through the winter. The wage slave often envies the farmer, and says he has a soft snap in the winter. Many a farmer's face is wrinkled with worry figuring out how after paying notes due on his machinery, he is going to meet the mortgage shark who nearly owns the property he calls home. It is not all sweet cider and apple sass for the farmer.

ARE YOU FREE?

You think you are free, you workers. You are deluded.

You think your politicians are elected to see that you get justice. You are deluded.

The strike of the miners at South Porcupine and the conduct of the authorities prove that the workingmen have no rights which a capitalist is bound to respect.

The following letter, from the publicity committee of the South Porcupine strikers shows how the workers are treated.

South Porcupine, Dec. 31, 1912.
Dear Sir,—Referring to the outrageous and illegal manner in which the rights, privileges and liberties of the workers in this country are being ignored in connection with the Porcupine strike, I wish to ask the publicity through your columns which seems impossible to otherwise secure.

When things in this country have reached such a state that men can be compelled to submit to confiscation of their personal effects rather than betray their class interests by acting as strike breakers.

When hired mercenaries, imported by mining corporations from the United States in direct violation of the Canadian Statutes can shoot down Canadian citizens in cold blood, and still continue to walk abroad, unscathed by the law.

When the Government Railroad will consent to allow the thugs to terrorize over citizens of this country, who are locked in special cars and are being abused and false representations, are refused their right to leave the train en route, or the company's premises after their arrival.

When all these things can and are being done, then I say that it is the duty of every workman in this country to see to it that he himself does not become a part of the machinery of government is not being used with deadly interest against them and for the sole use and benefit of the corporate interests that are from day to day tightening their hold upon the throats of the working people.

The government went back into power last election pledged to make it their first duty to enact eight-hour legislation for the miners of Ontario; after a year of almost total inaction on their part we find them using all the powerful resources at their command to assist the mine owners to break an 8-hour strike.

The Dominion Administration have repeated out through the Department of Labor that the cost of living has risen in the last few years from 25 to 50 per cent, and yet consented to a reduction in wages of 25 to 50 per cent in five of the properties of this camp.

In order to substantiate my statements relating to the treatment being accorded the men being brought in, I enclose herewith a few affidavits sworn here by the men themselves. The affidavits may be seen at a few minutes application to the secretary of the Miners' Union, South Porcupine.

Trusting that in the interests of truth and justice, you will give these statements due publicity, I am, sir, yours faithfully,—H. E. Borden.

COPIES OF AFFIDAVITS.

I, JOHN CHEROCK, SOLEMNLY MAKE OATH AND SAY:—That on or about the 27th day of December, 1912, I was engaged by an agent of the Hollinger Mining Co. in Port Arthur, being represented to me that there was no labor dispute in existence in the Porcupine Mining District; that upon my arrival I found a general strike in progress, and that I was asked to act as a strike breaker; that upon my requesting the details of the strike, which was in the charge of the company officials, said delivery was emphatically refused; that appeal was made on my behalf to the representatives of the law in this town, but entirely without effect; that at this time my baggage is still held by the Hollinger Company, and that they still refuse to give it up.

(Signed) JOHN CHEROCK.

(X) Mark.

Sworn to before me at South Porcupine in the District of Sudbury, this 24th day of December, 1912. (Signed) CHAS. A. SEE, J.P.

Other affidavits of a similar nature have been signed by Frank Kowalsky, and Harry Ternowski.

The capitalist press have been making much noise about a riot that occurred at the railway station. The two following affidavits show that the police ejected citizens of Canada from a railway train although they had regularly issued railway tickets.

I, MIKE CONWAY, solemnly make oath and say:

(1) That on the afternoon of Friday, the twentieth day of December, 1912, I was personally present at the South Porcupine station of the Temiskaming and Northern Railway, and witnessed the arrival and departure of regular train number 47, and was intending to proceed thereon to the station at Timmins.

(2) That upon attempting to do this I was ordered to leave the train, and upon protesting was forcibly removed therefrom by an officer of the Provincial Constabulary.

(3) That I produced my ticket number 1234567890, and was refused permission to proceed upon my journey.

(4) Further, that it is my firm and solemn conviction that the disturbance which occurred at that time was entirely caused by the unwarranted and illegal action of the Ontario police force in interfering with the rights and privileges of the travelling public.

(Signed) M. CONWAY.

Sworn before me at South Porcupine, in the District of Sudbury, this 24th day of December, 1912.

(Signed) CHAS. A. SEE, J.P.

Similar affidavits have been made by John D. Barry and W. Krusiewicz. What do you think of that treatment, workmen of Canada? Have you liberties? You have them only so long as you crawl to your masters. The moment you provoke them, that moment the Whites, the Lauriers, the politicians, issue orders and what little liberties you are supposed to have are trampled under foot.

Will you stand such treatment, workmen? Have you no manhood in you? Is it not time you flung defiance at your masters? Is it not time you forsook their political parties and joined your own, the Social-Democratic party?

You must unite in your own interests. As long as you remain divided, your little big-bellied masters will herd you, will drive you, will exploit you. United, you can break the chains your masters have forged for you.

Bundle rates will still remain at the old figure during 1913. \$3.90 will pay for 12 copies per week for a year.

Eloquence alone will not break your shackles.

The Socialist press is the modern Daniel in the lions' den.

The capitalists hear the cry of Mother Cary's chickens, and are afraid.

You gave Borden your vote. Now watch him take everything else you have.

Every worker is not a Socialist, but it is a safe bet that every Socialist is a worker.

The people of Canada have as much use for a navy as the people of Switzerland, and no more.

When the master is clothed in furs, a good many children must shiver in rags for the cause which supplied these furs.

CONNING AT FOLLY

Under the two Antonines the Roman Empire enjoyed great prosperity and peace. The time occupied by their two reigns is known as the Golden Age of Imperial Rome.

Plutarch's nephew was the tutor of the younger Antonine. Antonine the younger, in his writings, declares that his tutor taught him to connive at the folly of the multitude.

In other words, the Roman Emperor allowed the people to rule themselves largely. He connived at their folly.

There are those who think that when Socialism triumphs, we will all be bound down in hard and fast rules. We will have to do this and that. We will have to think this way and that way. We mustn't do this or that. We will be in a terrible tyranny.

Bless your poor, little, trembling heart, there will be nothing of the kind under Socialism.

You will be free to do as you like, as long as you do not rob your fellow men. You can tip the high, fantastic toe. You can read Haeckel if you want to. You can spout your materialist monistic philosophy if you want to, or you can attend spiritualistic seances and talk with your departed relatives.

You can loiter at ease, or run bicycle races. You can gaze at the stars or conduct a public meeting and try and prove that the earth is round and that we live inside it.

But YOU MUST NOT ROB YOUR FELLOW MEN.

You can produce much or little. You can work many days or few, and you will be given the social value of the wealth you create.

You will not be allowed to rob, nor will others be allowed to rob you. Your masters know you do not understand public questions, so they purposely deceive you.

They tell you Socialism will be tyranny, and they make you so afraid of the future tyranny that you do not see the tyranny you now suffer.

You go into a mill or a factory or down a mine or onto a railway owned by your masters. There you work till you are exhausted each day. When you are exhausted, you are allowed to go home and rest up for the next day's grind. For this labor you are given a wage which will just keep you and your family.

You produce far more than this, but this is all you get. YOUR MASTERS KINDLY TAKE THE REST FROM YOU.

They rob you of all but a bare living. Socialism would give you the social value of what you produced.

Your robbers tell you this would be tyranny, and many of you believe them.

You live in a condition of slavery now. Socialism would free you, and yet your masters have persuaded you that you are now free and that you would be a slave under Socialism.

All of which goes to show that your masters possess great cunning.

The old cry that Socialism will do away with individual ownership will be listened to and believed only by those ignorant of the true condition of affairs at the present time. We do not have individual ownership now. We have collective ownership for the benefit of the few. Thus the Canadian Pacific Railway Company shareholders number 25,000 people.

The C. P. R. is a giant corporation owned COLLECTIVELY by 25,000 people. "Not one of these people can say 'I own this engine' or 'this three miles of railway track is mine.'"

Each, however, can say, "I, collectively with 24,999 others, own this railway system." That is not individual ownership. That is collective ownership. The aim of Socialism is to widen the collective ownership so as to take in all the people, to democratize the control and management of industry, and to abolish rent, interest and profit. We want to establish collective ownership for the benefit of all in the place of collective ownership which benefits a part of the people at the expense of the others.

IT'S PAID FOR.

If you receive Cotton's Weekly regularly and did not subscribe for it, it is paid for. You will receive a bill for subscription, and the paper automatically stops at the end of the time paid for.

With the high price of food, clothing, and the other necessities of life, and the low price of wages, the worker's brain is getting befogged. "E dunno where he are."

PELLATT, CENSOR

Sir Henry M. Pellatt has put himself at the head of a movement to provide moving picture films whose influence shall be "wholesome, educative and nationalizing."

Now the children of Canada's slaves will surely get a good dose of capitalist morality taught them.

Sir Henry M. Pellatt is one of the prominent labor skinner of Canada. In other words he is a capitalist.

He was until recently Colonel of the Queen's Own Rifles, of Toronto, and accompanied that body of bayonet stickers over to England at the time of the coronation mummeries of King George.

He is largely interested in the Steel Corporation of Cape Breton and is holding up both hands in favor of using Canadian steel to build murder ships, his company, of course, selling the steel, and the Canadian government paying for it.

Pellatt is going to provide "wholesome, educative and nationalizing" films. Glory be.

We will see the flag trotted out, and a lot of sentimental burlesque preached through the pictures about "our" country, which Pellatt and his class own, and which the working class make fruitful for Pellatt and his fellow parasites.

We will see the soldiery praised highly, and "patriotism" of a mawkish kind given forth. The butchery of workmen by workmen will be called heroic, if the workmen who murder for the benefit of British capitalists win over workmen who murder for the benefit of foreign capitalists.

The "wholesome, educative and nationalizing" films will teach the workers nothing of the class struggle.

There will be no hint of the robbery practised upon the working class.

The value of labor-power will not be taught. The education will not be along these lines.

It is a shrewd move on the part of Pellatt to capture the moving picture films to propagate the lies of the masters.

But I guess the working class have been thinking some these past few months, and when the "wholesome, educative and nationalizing" films are la Pellatt are trotted forth, the working class will say, "What rot."

Few people are aware of the number of provincial police, thugs and scum from the private detective agencies in Canada who are being paid by the capitalists to keep what they term "law and order" and jostle the workers into line. These creatures are abroad by the thousands, and the low resorts of the cities are raked with a fine-toothed comb for "rednecks" to swell the ranks of the "detective" agencies. The more vicious and unscrupulous these brutes prove themselves to be, the more highly are they prized by the class which employs them.

The average soldier joins the army because, as he says, he has all he can eat, a place to sleep, good clothes to wear, a monthly pay, and a medical attendance when he is sick. The capitalist class see to it that their vicious pets have an easy time while from the shelter of their protecting wings they wield the "cat" on the bent backs of male and female slaves alike. All that the soldier gets the toiler has to sweat ten or twelve hours a day to procure, and many of us do not fare as well as the soldier at that price.

"What would you do with the convicts under Socialism?" asks a reader. The convict problem is one that has occupied the attention of criminal experts for a great number of years, and is no nearer solution than it ever was. Jails and penitentiaries are filled to overflowing in every country on earth, and there seems to always be a supply ready to take the places of those discharged. Parole and numerous other systems are being tried, with varying success. A prison farm has been inaugurated at Guelph, Ontario, where the prisoners from the Central Prison, Toronto, are allowed to work out in the sunshine at agricultural pursuits. After confinement inside the four walls of that place, of horrors in Toronto the farm at Guelph must seem like heaven to these men. This farm appears to be the most humane way of treatment yet devised. Under Socialism prisoners would certainly not be exploited as they are today in prisons. The will of the majority would rule in the prison question. Under Socialism the convict problem would be a small matter, as the incentive to commit crime would be abolished, together with the other causes which fill the prisons of the land with our fellow creatures. When the capitalist system goes, so also will vanish the motive which causes crime today—want, greed, laziness, and lust for power.

A fool worker in Belgium once sat down and invented the automatic pistol. It was a success from the start. Everybody who wants to go into the slaughter business now carries this deadly toy. Gunmen, thugs, private detectives, and such carrion are not fully equipped unless they have a couple of these miniature machine guns on their persons. Many a toiler has felt the hot bullets of these devilish weapons tearing their way through his tired and weary flesh and bone. This is the incentive for invention under the capitalist system.