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W. U. COTTON, Editor and Prop.

Cotton's Weekly

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H. A. WEBB, BUSINESS MANAGER

This is No. 81

COWANSVILLE, P. Q., CANADA, MARCH 31, 1910

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LEMIEUX IS BEING GROOMED FOR THE PREMIERSHIP OF CANADA

HENCE COTTON'S MUST BE SLUGGED Like the Appeal to Reason with Postal Regulations Designed for the Suppression of Radical Publications

Thrice has Cotton's Weekly been discussed in Parliament.

Twice has Lemieux sought refuge in evasions and deceptions.

Lemieux is enforcing a set of postal regulations designed for the express purpose of putting radical papers out of business.

When he slugs Cotton's Weekly with his rotten regulations, he smiles sweetly upon the Members of Parliament and declares, that I have no cause to complain because it is his little regulations he is slugging me with.

Parliament enacted that weekly and daily papers from office of publication addressed to regular subscribers and new dealers shall be transmitted for one-fourth of a cent a pound if they are addressed to a bona fide subscriber or a known newsdealer in Canada.

Parliament enacted that the Postmaster General may make postal rates governing matters not specially mentioned in the act.

The Postal officials must have been sitting up all night just to find out how they could slug the Socialist publications and yet keep within the appearance of the law.

They think they have discovered one way.

Socialists subscribe for bundles of particular issues.

They pay in advance for these copies.

They are bona fide subscribers for these bundles.

But they are not regular subscribers.

Therefore Lemieux says, "Hit 'em hard. Soak 'em good and plenty." Although the law allows a newsdealer to get bundles on speculation without payment for them, at one-quarter of a cent a pound, a Socialist who is not a newsdealer, who pays for his special bundle and is a bona fide subscriber thereto, must pay four cents a pound.

Lemieux jumps the rate one thousand five hundred per cent on the workingmen of Canada, as compared with newsdealers.

The Montreal Socialists want me to publish a special May Day edition. They will take five thousand copies.

Sale price for five thousand copies, \$25.00. Postal charges for bundles shipped to bona fide subscribers thereto who happen to be private citizens, \$9.00. Postal charges if sent to a newsdealer on speculation would amount to fifty-six cents.

The Fort William Socialists want to know when I am going to put out another special edition exposing the rottenness of capitalism. "We take up a collection among the boys and get a big bundle and scatter them among the workers," say they.

Bundle prices, cash in advance, fifty cents per hundred copies. Postal charges under the Lemieux tax, thirty-four per cent additional.

Lemieux slugs Cotton's Weekly, and then when questioned about it he replies sweetly, that Mr. Cotton should not complain because he is simply being slugged with Lemieux's little regulations.

On the 23rd day of March Cotton's Weekly was again discussed in Parliament.

Lemieux declared that he fully explained to Mr. Cotton and his many friends in the country that he was only putting into force his little regulations.

Every one of those explanations sent out contained a falsehood. That falsehood was that Lemieux could not help himself as Parliament had restricted the 1/4 cent rate and that Lemieux could not apply that rate to bona fide subscribers of Cotton's Weekly. Lemieux can help himself. Moreover his regulation violates a principle of constitutional law.

When he was questioned as to the Star, Witness, Globe, World and Telegram violating the regulations he is enforcing against Cotton's Weekly by sending out bundles without stamps affixed, he replied that he did not enforce the regulation against these papers as they were big papers with a big circulation. But he enforces the regulation against Cotton's Weekly, and he declared in Parliament that Cotton's Weekly had no subscribers.

I have been treating Lemieux fairly decently in this discussion.

But it is time to open on him a little.

Lemieux is being groomed for the Premiership of Canada.

He has three ropes by which he hopes to be hauled into power.

The first rope is his French nationality.

I have nothing against the French nationality. I spent a year in France and learned to appreciate that French saying, "Every man has two countries, his own, and France."

I have nothing either personally or on account of his nationality. To me he is the type of the capitalist politician who is betraying the workers into the hands of the capitalist labor skinner.

This first rope of his is a powerful one. Laurier has worked it to the limit, and has succeeded beautifully under our undemocratic and reactionary electoral system.

In the Province of Quebec the Conservatives polled in the last election over two hundred thousand votes out of a total of four hundred and eighty thousand votes cast. Nevertheless the Conservatives have but ten or fifteen members in the House from Quebec while Laurier possesses fifty or fifty-five. Lemieux is being groomed to work the same trick.

The second rope is the power of the capitalists. The Laurier gang have served the capitalists faithfully. Pugsley just recently fought tooth and nail to give the St. Lawrence water powers to a company of labor skinner across the border.

Lemieux is a faithful member of the Laurier cabinet, and why should the capitalists not support him? Have not the capitalists been well treated? Have not bonuses and subsidies and high protection and nice little jokers in the labor laws been given them? Lemieux can look for their support.

The third rope is the labor vote. The Conciliation Act goes by the name of the Lemieux Act. Now if the workers can be made to believe that the Laurier cabinet is their friend then Lemieux will be safe.

But Cotton's is in the field. Cotton's Weekly is showing up how Laurier et al have betrayed the workers.

Cotton's Weekly is showing up how the money of the country is being given away to the capitalists.

Cotton's Weekly is showing up how the little jokers creep into labor legislation so that the workers have no protection.

In two year's time, when next election comes round, labor will not vote for Lemieux.

Nor any other member of the capitalist government.

Therefore Cotton's Weekly must be hampered and the little jokers in the Postal regulations must be swung against it.

When private citizens take extra copies of Cotton's Weekly and pay for them they must pay an additional charge of thirty-four per cent for mailing charges.

This will help prevent the spread of Cotton's Weekly.

When Cotton's Weekly attempts to send bundles of sample copies through the mails to Socialists who do not pay for them, at the one cent a pound rate the department interferes.

The law declares that sample copies shall be put up into bundles and delivered into the post office and shall be sent at one cent per pound or fraction thereof.

When I try this, Lemieux interferes and declares, that he has a little ruling which says that each sample copy must be addressed to a distinct individual and that the same individual must not get two copies in succession.

When I complain, Lemieux's underlings declare that I should not complain as it is Lemieux's little regulations that are doing it, not Lemieux.

Lemieux makes the same little excuse about his little regulations to the members of Parliament.

Lemieux says that I have started a campaign against him and his department.

It is not I, but Cotton's readers who are running the campaign.

They want bundles of Cotton's Weekly.

Lemieux taxes them a postal rate thirty-four per cent of the purchase price of said bundles.

Lemieux reaches down into their pockets for eighteen cents postage per hundred copies.

Cotton's readers yell "Police! Police!" to their members of Parliament.

And Lemieux says there is a campaign on against him.

When a footpad uses a sandbag to rifle a man's pocket the man is apt to shout for protection. Yet society does not sympathize with the footpad's complaint that a campaign is being waged against him when the police come running up.

Neither will the citizens of Canada sympathize with Lemieux when the members of Parliament get after him on the floor of the House.

I submitted a question to the department. The question was this, "When is a subscriber not a subscriber?" The department answered that by a subscriber the department understood a person who had subscribed in the ordinary way and who had paid or undertaken to pay in writing the subscription price.

The statute law declares that a paper to go at the 1/4 rate must be addressed to a bona fide subscriber.

Hence one man is not allowed to subscribe for another.

Recently the Post Office Inspector of Montreal wrote me asking about how papers were going to certain individuals who claimed they were not subscribers.

I replied that every paper sent out was sent out to some person whose subscription was paid, and whose name was furnished.

I have heard nothing more.

The bundle rate question is taking up all of Lemieux's spare time.

Cotton's readers rallied and the department is raising no more questions.

But I do not know when Lemieux will try to hit me with some more of his peculiar regulations.

He declared in Parliament that the department had no intention of discriminating against Cotton's Weekly.

I do not believe him.

Aylesworth suppressed the Appeal to Reason. But was forced to readmit it.

Lemieux, his successor, did not exclude it, but so manipulated the mailing rates between Canada and the States as to make it put a cent on most of its copies sent to subscribers in Canada.

The Post Office Department of Canada has a rotten record on the question of the freedom of the mails to Socialist publications.

Either Lemieux is trying to get the radical papers by unfair regulations.

Or he knows no more about newspaper practices and mailing needs than a blind cat knows about hard cider.

But I do not fear Lemieux.

Cotton's readers are protecting Cotton's Weekly.

When the German rulers were anxious to hurl German troops against France over the Algeiras incident, the Socialists prevented the war.

Bebel arose in the German Parliament and declared that war should not take place and added that thereafter the question of war or no war would rest with the German Social democracy. The German Kaiser has an army of three millions, but it is estimated that two million of these are Socialists. The rulers do not know how many Socialists there are in the army and that is what is worrying the war lords. The Socialists are for peace, not for war. An army, permeated with the peaceful doctrines of Socialism, cannot be relied upon to fight a war of aggression.

The Philadelphia strike is of tremendous importance to the workingmen of this continent. For the first time is seen in America the solidarity of labor. The workers in the steel works and the mills and in many other places struck in sympathy with the car men. For the first time in American history labor recognized its common foe and its common danger. This awakened sense of the solidarity of the interests of the working class is a tremendous gain for the Socialist movement of the continent. More than one hundred thousand names have been added to the rolls of the unions of Pennsylvania.

Many persons are not Socialists because of their ignorance.

The workers produce shoddy for themselves and beautiful cloth for the non-workers.

How would you like to never have to pay rent and to have a home of your own? If you would like that sort of thing, vote the Socialist ticket.

There is much discussion on the question of economic determination. There is economic determination at work in the world. But there is also cosmic determination.

There is one fact that cannot be got away from in modern life. The useful workers get little reward for toil, and the useless dividend receivers get large revenues without toil.

Capitalism looks upon Socialism in many cases as nothing but the snarl of the under dog. And capitalists have a great ability in the line of preying upon the labor of society. And society lets the capitalists become Senators to help make the laws which will give the capitalists a vested interest in their preying upon society.

A wild beast has a great ability in the line of preying. We shoot the wildbeasts or put them behind steel bars in zoological gardens. The capitalists have a great ability in the line of preying upon the labor of society. And society lets the capitalists become Senators to help make the laws which will give the capitalists a vested interest in their preying upon society.

Two bombs have been exploded under the street cars in Philadelphia. The plute papers are laying these outrages to the strikers, but more likely they are due to the thugs of the bosses who are trying to work up a cause for the interference of federal troops. The strike in Chicago sixteen years ago and the Cripple Creek strike in Colorado six years ago show that the bosses will do anything to create disorder so that peaceful strikers may be shot.

Socialism in my opinion is not a doctrine, system, or method. It is all that and more; it is civilization. Refusal to understand and to furnish the necessary solutions by legislative means will draw down upon us the thunderbolt of the social revolution which will be accomplished in one of two ways, either by force or by law. —Senor Canelejas, Premier of Spain in Humanite.

An advocate thinks he knows a lot because he can get up and talk much about musty laws. Yet the shoe-maker who can make a pair of shoes is more use in the world, and has more true knowledge than the lawyer. The so-called upper classes are ignorant in many ways. The working classes have more true knowledge than have the so-called upper classes who rest their right to merit upon their successful plunderings of the workers.

The coal companies of Cape Breton are going to import a thousand Belgian miners to take the place of striking United Mine Workers. The capitalist government at Ottawa will not protest or try to stop the importation. Why should they? What right have the workers to strike for the recognition of their Union? The workers can expect nothing else under a capitalist government. Let the workers unite on the political field and get a workingman's Parliament and there would be a great change with regard to the laws made and the method of enforcing them.

Workers build the mills and the capitalists own them. Workers work in the mills and the capitalists who did not build them get large incomes for doing nothing. Labor produces all wealth and the capitalists enjoy the wealth they did not produce. Were the workers to enjoy the wealth they produced the capitalists would get nothing. The capitalists would have to go to work. This the capitalists do not want to do. Therefore they do not want to. Therefore they benefit of their own labor. Therefore the capitalists oppose Socialism. But Socialism is bound to succeed because it is founded on the principles of justice applied to modern industry.

Cotton's Up Again In the House of Commons

Following is the discussion that took place on the floors of the House of Commons on March 18th, in regard to the unjust postal rates levied by the Postmaster General, as officially reported in Hansard:

Mr. LENNOX. I want to call the attention of the minister for a moment to some communications I have received in reference to 'Cotton's Weekly,' published at Cowansville.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Is my hon. friend a socialist?

Mr. LENNOX. That is not to the point.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Not at all. Mr. LENNOX. I do not desire to be a socialist in order to wish to do justice. I know not whether injustice has been done in this matter, but I am requested by some of my constituents to call the attention of the Postmaster General to what is alleged to be a grievance. I have a letter from Mr. McQuarrie, a gentleman in the town of Barrie who is an avowed socialist, but a man whom I hold in the very highest esteem. I have also a petition from some people who live very close to me in the little hamlet where I reside, and they represent that an injustice has been done. I shall send that petition to the Postmaster General. Now, I do not know whether this is a good publication or not, but my correspondents allege that discrimination has been practised against them. I see in a copy which has been addressed to me as well as other members, a letter addressed to the Postmaster General complaining that by a recent order the postmaster at Cowansville has charged sixteen times the amount formerly charged as postage on this publication. If this is an improper publication which should not have the privilege to go through the mails it should be shut out altogether, but if it is entitled to postal privileges it ought not to be charged more than the rates charged other publications.

As a public man representing these people who have communicated with me, I want to bring the matter squarely before the Postmaster General, and to ask him for an explanation.

Mr. CROSBY. I have had communications similar to those received by my hon. friend (Mr. Lennox) and I endorse the statements made by him. If this publication is not such as should pass through the post office, it should be stopped altogether, but if it is entitled to postal privileges it should be treated the same as any other newspaper. I ask, for those interested in this paper, fair and reasonable, and impartial treatment.

Mr. LEMIEUX. When I made a remark to my hon. friend (Mr. Lennox) a moment ago of course he understood it was a joke.

Mr. LENNOX. Oh, certainly. I did not resent it at all.

Mr. LEMIEUX. It is quite proper that my hon. friend should ask the reason for the complaints made by Mr. Cotton, the editor of 'Cotton's Weekly.' I have been deluged with letters from all parts of the country, not only from those who believe in socialist doctrines, but from other citizens, who want to see fair play done to every section of the community. I must say at once that there has been no discrimination, whatever, against 'Cotton's Weekly.' If there was anything published in that paper of a scurrilous character it would be prevented altogether from passing through the mails, as has been done in other cases, but 'Cotton's Weekly' is not a paper of that class. Through an error of the postmaster at Cowansville, where the paper is published, it was allowed to pass through the mails in bundles, paying the same rate as if the paper had been addressed to bona fide subscribers. There is a postal rate for bona fide subscribers, and there is a certain other rate charged for papers sent in bundles. As soon as the attention of the department was called to that fact the proper legal rate was exacted from the publishers, and hence all the trouble. I repeat that there is no discrimination, whatever.

Mr. Cotton is under the impression that we are discriminating against his paper, because it is a socialist paper, but the department has no idea of the kind in mind. The fact is that Mr. Cotton is sending his paper in bundles to certain individuals, who then distribute them to other parties.

Mr. LEMIEUX. They are not individually addressed?

Mr. LEMIEUX. They are not individually addressed. My hon. friend (Mr. Lennox) is a distinguished member of the bar, and he knows the legal definition of 'bona fide subscribers' used in this sense. The whole thing in a nut-shell is that Mr. Cotton addresses his papers in bundles to one individual, who then distributes, or sells, them to others, and that does not mean a 'bona fide subscriber' as set out in the Postal Act. There have been hundreds of complaints sent to me that there is an attempt by the Post Office Department to crush this paper because of its socialistic character, and I have answered every one of these correspondents, explaining the matter very fully. There is no discrimination in the Post Office Department against any respectable opinion which may be advanced by any citizens. I respect the views of the socialists, I respect the views of the labor people, I respect the views of all classes of the community, and I would not be a party to lending the authority of the post office to suppress any respectable opinion. Mr. Cotton is completely in error about this. He has written to his friends throughout the country telling them to write to the Post Office Department to state that we are trying to destroy his paper. Such is not the case. We are simply charging him the rate which is charged on every other similar case. The other day I gave more, in reply to a question, the legal aspect of the matter, which will be found in 'Hansard.'

Mr. LENNOX. Do I understand the Postmaster General to say that the rate imposed upon 'Cotton's Weekly' at Cowansville, in bundles without individual addresses, is exactly the same rate that would be charged to any other weekly paper issuing from the same place, whatever its opinions might be?

Mr. LEMIEUX. That is correct.

Mr. LENNOX. Then, if they were addressed to bona fide subscribers and put into a bundle, they would be allowed to go at a lower rate?

Mr. LEMIEUX. Yes.

Mr. LENNOX. And it was because this was detected, and they had been allowed to go at a rate which they should not have gone that the charge was made?

Mr. LEMIEUX. Yes.

Mr. LENNOX. The Postmaster General says that he has answered a great many letters. Has he answered Mr. Cotton?

Mr. LEMIEUX. Mr. Cotton wrote me yesterday a personal letter, in which I am sorry to say he abused me terribly; but I ignored the abuse and answered the facts. I signed the letter this afternoon. He labors under the delusion that he is discriminated against, whereas the department is simply treating him as it does any other editor in the country.

Here is what the Toronto Globe has to say of William Whyte, Second Vice President of the Canadian Pacific Railway, "For the man whose word is law up and down the 6,000 odd miles of the Canadian Pacific Railway system in Western Canada—for a man who holds the destinies of thousands of employees in his hand—William Whyte is delightfully companionable and human." There you have a capitalist sheet acknowledging that we live under an autocracy in industry. One man's word is law. The destinies of thousands of employees, to make or to break, are in one man's power. Is that democracy? Surely not. Democracy will not be here until the power of the few over the jobs of the many is broken, and the only thing that will break that power is Socialism.

The House of Lords is to be reformed. This is considered a revolution. But the revolution that will help the workers will not be accomplished until the workers are put in control of the machinery of production at which they must work for a living.