

Total No. of Subs  
for Issue of Dec. 9  
**4,600**  
Total Edition  
Last Week... **6,000**  
W. U. COTTON, Editor and Prop.

# Cotton's Weekly

NOTE THE RED ADDRESS  
LABEL on your Paper  
If it is **No. 67**  
Your subscription expires Next  
Issue. You should renew at least  
two weeks before your sub expires  
so that you will not miss any  
numbers.  
H. A. WEBB, BUSINESS MANAGER

This is No. 66

COWANSVILLE, P. Q., CANADA, DEC. 16, 1909

Sub Price 50c a Year 25c for 6 Months 10c for 3 mos. Trial

## THE FIGHT ON THE LORDS

The Liberals of Great Britain are going forth with what they think is a great war cry. They are saying many things and looking very fierce. They say, "Let us do something awful to the Lords." They do not specify just what they want to do but they say that if they are returned to power they will do it.

The fight of the Liberals on the Lords is a sham. The Lords do something the Liberals pretend they do not like. The Liberals immediately dissolve parliament and appeal to the country. If the Liberals had been in earnest about the budget and about the Lords they would have acted differently. They would have insisted upon their constitutional rights to pass finance measures. They would have ignored the veto of the Lords or they would have drawn up a resolution declaring that as the Lords had acted unconstitutionally the Lords had ipso facto ceased to exist.

But such a course would have been really a forward step and the Liberals do not want to take any forward steps. The Laborites and the Socialists are pressing hard against the power of the capitalists and the Liberals, are after a sham fight which will make the people think that the present Cabinet and government really want to do something when the government just desires to mark time.

The Liberals are drawing up resolutions against the Lord. They are saying that the Lords have usurped the power of the House of Commons and something should be done. As far back as the days of Cromwell the British Parliament put itself on record that the House of Lords was pernicious and dangerous and ought to be abolished. Three hundred years later the Liberals are working the same old gag and trying to persuade the Britishers that they mean it.

Had the Liberals really introduced a wholehearted measure for the social amelioration of the working classes they would be swept into power with an overwhelming majority. But such a policy would seriously interfere with the rent, interest and dividends both of landlords and of money capitalists. Therefore the policy is not introduced.

It will only be by the awakening of the British working classes to the class struggle and the socialist philosophy and doctrine of economic emancipation that the social amelioration will be brought about. Asquith and his clique cannot fool the people forever. Socialism is growing stronger every day in the old land. False cries of "Down with the Lords," will not save the capitalists to all eternity.

Another trust is striking Montreal. This time it is the pure milk company. The Ottawa Dairy Company, which controls Ottawa's milk supply, is starting up in Montreal and is going to give pure milk. This is what the Company says it is going to do. It is extremely doubtful if it will give pure milk. So much is this the case that Fisher, the Canadian Minister of Agriculture, has had laws and regulations passed practically preventing the investigation of the condition of the condition of Canadian cows. I know this of rottenness of cows. I know this and Fisher knows that I know this and he knows that I know he is scared to face the question. Shall I tell you what happened last year? A farmer near Cowansville sent his milk to Montreal and it was taken by a company that guarantees to give pure milk. This farmer found his cows were diseased and had all the diseased cows removed from his herd. He then wrote to the company that he could guarantee to give pure milk. The company refused longer to take his milk. They took it without question from the diseased herd and are no doubt taking milk from herds now diseased. But the moment the farmer acted honestly they refused to take his pure milk. Capitalism is one big sham. People die of tuberculosis from drinking diseased milk. Companies guarantee to give pure milk and diseased milk is readily bought by them to sell again. Capitalism is one huge sham, and in the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, Fisher is backing the capitalist to the limit and people die of tuberculosis while Fisher holds down his job at Ottawa and fights shy of the question.

The many work hard that the few may live easy.

"Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to teach my employer how to last shoes." George Collins, shoe laster, Philadelphia.

Senator Raoul Dandurand declares that the Senate is pretty near all right. Of course he does. Does he not get two thousand five hundred dollars a year for being a Senator?

The trades unionists when they become revolutionized make the best socialists as they have nothing to lose and all to gain by the coming of socialism.

The theatres of London regularly employ over twelve thousand persons. It is an old maxim that when the people are restive give them circuses.

The laborer should get all he earns. He cannot do this under the capitalist system where the laws force him to pay rent, interest and profit to the useless labor thieves.

Verville has had another reading of the eight-hour bill for workers on government work. Verville, if he had any snap, would keep the House of Commons tied up till the workers got their just dues. But Verville is content to hang on to Laurier and to speak up for the workers in a shamed way about once in a dog's age.

In the old days when implements were small the artizan owned his own tools of production by individual ownership. Now that the machinery of production has become so vast the worker, to own the machine at which he must work, must rely upon social ownership. Individual ownership by the worker of the tools of production is no longer possible.

Many a plute who drives an automobile will have to wear overalls under the Socialist regime. Do you wonder many plutes fear Socialism? But the plute need not worry. Socialists will not treat them as they treat workingmen under capitalism. Socialism will guarantee them work and will probably give them a four thousand dollar income with a four hour day.

M. J. O'Brien, owner of the Cobalt mine, O'Brien, wants seven and a half million dollars for the mine. O'Brien did not put the silver in the mine. The people want silver and our foolish laws gives O'Brien the right of holding up humanity to the tune of seven and a half millions to get next to the resources of nature. Under Socialism the O'Briens will have to work for a living like the rest of humanity.

Agnes Dewsbury, thirty years of age was found dead in bed in Toronto. Her death was due to hemorrhage caused by consumption. She was saleswoman in the book department of Simpsons. She worked to the day of her death. You see under capitalism sick women have to work till they die. A beneficent Providence has so arranged things under the capitalist system that strong men frequently get millions while the burdens of making profits for the labor thieves fall on the sloping weak shoulders of sick women.

There is a strike of coal miners on in Australia and the plute Canadian papers are chortling because Australia may import Canadian coal. Such importation would have the double effect of smashing the Australian strike and of giving the Canadian capitalists a chance of screwing more profits out of their Canadian wage slaves. Both of these results are contemplated with delight by the labor thieves of Canada. It is always delightful to capitalism to get profits and to smash labor.

A soldier up in Kingston deserted and got ninety days. This in times of profound peace when there was no internal disturbance. But suppose this soldier had deserted when the plutes had put him in Sydney with a gun in his hand to shoot some of the workers who were not contented to be robbed of four-fifths of what you produce? He would have been given a ten year sentence and if he had refused to shoot you down when called upon to do so the plutes might order his brains blown out. There is good reason why the plute rulers of Canada should dare love to see a big soldier army in Canada. The chances are they will need it in their business when you workers decide that you will not stand being robbed any longer.

## WILL WAR COME

Will there be a world war? That is the question that is worrying a good many Socialists as well as a good many capitalists. The failing markets of the world and the fight for them seems to presage war. The terrific taxation rendered necessary for military preparation seems to be another presage of war. Taxation cannot go on forever and the world rulers may decide that a war is better than suspense. Internal unrest on the part of subjects is another cause presaging war. It is an old trick that when the people at home are discontented with their lot, let them be distracted by fighting foreigners abroad. Moreover a war will be good pickings for the capitalists. A war means large contracts for embalmed beef and rotten shoes and paper clothing and defective rifles and cheap securities bearing high interests. All these causes lead to war.

But the causes for peace are also strong. Russia tried a foreign war and the Czar nearly got pried out of his job by the revolutionary forces at home. Spain tried a little war in Morocco and Alphonso had to hunt cover in short order. The rulers of the world have watched these two experiments and have drawn their conclusions accordingly. It is true that in the Boer war the English went war mad and supported the war party. But that is ten years ago and since then the English working classes have changed in temper. King Edward and his war lords have watched closely the London processions in favor of Ferrer and the lesson of the placards with the motto, "To hell with Alphonso," is not lost upon these scheming parasites in high places. Moreover Kier Hardie has declared that the crown may go into the melting pot, and there is no better time for placing it there than when the army supporting the plutocracy is in some foreign country shooting at other plutocratic armies.

If the Socialists were as ignorant as the capitalists and the trained diplomats of Europe, then a war must needs come. But the Socialists are intelligent men and they see how war can be averted. The delegates exchange fraternal greetings, and should a war be declared, it is more than likely that the proletariat of the countries ordered by their parasite masters to fight would go on strike. Such a condition of affairs would make the war lords ridiculous in the extreme. I do not have much fear of a war. If a war does come it will be confined. I do not think that the war will come from the attempt of the different plutocratic rulers ordering their subjects to go to war.

The war may come, however, from a totally different cause. It may come from the international money kings trying to put down the Socialist regime in the nation which first attempts it. Just as the French Revolution was fought by the allied monarchs of Europe, so, perhaps, will the first Socialist State be fought by the allied capitalists. If France were to declare herself a Socialist State and should repudiate her paper obligations to the London, Berlin and Austrian capitalists, the armies of these countries would not doubt be ordered to march against the French Industrial Democracy. The money lords and rent lords know well that if Socialism is allowed to get a foothold in one country and be actually carried into practice, it would spread to all countries. Therefore the rulers of the countries still under capitalist domination would wrench the powers of their states to suppress the new government. Then the fight would no longer be national but international. The fight would not be between one capitalist state and another, but between the powers of the capitalist states, torn by internal sedition due to the revolting Socialists at home, and the Socialist state.

Under such a condition, if capitalism were to die as hard as feudalism, we would see repeated the scenes of the conquering arms of France in the conquests of the French Revolution. The armies of the Industrial State would invade the territories of the capitalist states and would be hailed as deliverers by the Social Democrats of the invaded countries. During the French Revolution France did not conquer by her valor alone but also by the assistance of the Republicans within the invaded territories.

But war may not come. We have the ballot which the French Revolutionists did not have. We have representative institutions which the French Revolutionists did not have. The power of the capitalists is even now breaking up. Socialists are capturing more and more constituencies throughout the world. The revolution may be entirely peaceful or if by war, then by such a short sharp war as ushered in the new capitalist regime into Turkey.

## COMBINATIONS

The old competition in trade is going. With the going of competition comes the growth of misery for the working classes under the capitalist regime.

When there are a dozen factories all competing the one against the other, the working men have a chance to get competitive bidders for their labor power. The different mills will want hands and if a worker is kicked out of one mill he can go to another.

Moreover under competition there are many men employed in wasteful ways. This is bad for the bosses but it is good for the working classes as it relieves the labor market. There will be competition for trade and there will be a dozen commercial travellers covering the same territory. They will have to be transported and fed and clothed in return for their labor. This will keep many men and women busy preparing food and clothing and transportation. These men will each visit the same retailers and talk the same old dope to weary ears. There work is competitive and wasteful but their employment keeps up the price of labor.

But the bosses are not going to be so foolish to compete when they can make more by combining. The bosses start a merger. The competing commercial travellers are sacked. In the little villages the hotel keepers complain of bad business. The livymen complain of hard times. But those who entered the merger get fatter incomes and have to do less work.

Not only will the commercial travellers be laid off but mills will be shut down and employees sacked. Why keep up two or three establishments when one mill will do the work by keeping the machines going? The more men sacked the bigger the dividends, as long as the market lasts. And by sacking employees the rest will be willing to work cheaper just to hold their jobs. The merger, from the capitalists point of view, is a divine institution ordained by Providence for the increase of dividends and the reduction of the cost of the output.

In Canada we have had the cement merger and the cotton merger and the carriage merger and the railway mergers and the street mergers, and each merger is hailed by a plute press as a wonderful triumph of the creative genius of the Canadian capitalist; while in fact it is due merely to the desire of the capitalists to get more money.

As long as capitalism lasts, as long as the workingmen of Canada are willing to let the machines of production be held by the master class to shut or to open, to employ or discharge, then the workers will be in fear of unemployed misery. The profits go to the masters and the workers get shoved out of the factory doors. But let the workers resolve to take over the machinery of production and run it in the interests of labor and the doing away of competition will result in a higher standard of comfort for all who toil. The unemployed problem will be solved. Labor will come to its own. Humanity will be free.

A couple of months ago two men were arrested in Montreal for stealing a purse. Fifteen dollars was missing from the purse when the men were arrested. The men claimed they found it. The judge then declared that if they paid the money back within a certain time he would let them go. One paid back seven dollars and a half and went free. The other did not pay up and is to spend the winter behind prison bars. Does not this prove that our capitalist courts hold property rights higher than they do life and liberty? Were the men guilty of theft? Then why were they not jailed? Were the men not guilty of theft? Then what right has this judge to lock an innocent man up for six months? You see these men were poor devils so the judge could do as he liked with them. But if the men had money or were related to men who had money the judge would have been very deferential and would have scolded the detectives for arresting them. You workers are easy to stand for a system in which you get all the sluggings and are adjudged guilty of crime for not paying back seven dollars and a half and are held innocent if you pay up.

Socialism will establish the co-operative commonwealth in the place of competitive private poverty.

The nations are fighting for world markets when the world markets are glutted with their own goods. The folly of capitalist statemen is self evident.

Lord Stratheona has made a gift of three hundred thousand dollars for training Canadian school children in the art of war. Christ the Prince of Peace and Stratheona the Bloodhound of War.

Judge Winchester laments the growth of perjury. Owing to changing conditions the capitalist courts of justice are founded on a lie. Why should men not lie before a tribunal which is based on a lie?

Judge Winchester, up at Toronto, has been lamenting the growth of perjury. Is Judge Winchester such an intellectual baby as to think that men will tell the truth in the court room when they can make thousands of dollars by lying?

When corporations begin to cut down expenses they never touch the salaries of the men who get thousands annually. It is always the men who do the work. But what's the use in having slaves if you can't make them keep you in style?

The New York Central railway officials say that rates must go up if wages go up. Of course rates must go up if wages go up and the labor thieves are still to get their rakeoff. Under socialism rent, interest and profit will be abolished and consequently the remuneration of the workers will be increased beyond the wildest dream of a capitalist minded Gompers.

Many plute women think the struggle for existence and the inability of women to make an honest living are the fault of women themselves. These plute women say, "Let the women come and be our housemaids for us." If there is one thing that is hard it is to be a general servant for a middle class labor thief woman.

Agnes Dewsbury, thirty years of age died of tuberculosis in Toronto. She had been house maid for a family in Rosedale but some months before her death had to give up the arduous work and seek lighter employment in a departmental store. Plute ladies like to think that it is easier to be a housemaid than to be a departmental clerk. But here is a woman with the hand of death upon her seeking the department store as a place to earn her living until she died because housemaid was such hard labor.

A mad dog up at Galt created quite a scare. The inhabitants were alarmed because two children were lacerated. The dog was loose one day. Capitalism is loose in Galt every day of the year. The dog lacerated two children. How many children do the industries of Galt deprive of play and light and good food every day of the year? But as long as the work people of Galt will stand for the possession of capital by the capitalists and the exploitation of the workers, the plute papers will praise the capitalists and the churches of Galt will be their upholders and the one lone mad dog which runs loose will be more feared than all the responsible labor thieves.

The Hygiene Committee of Montreal wanted to make the bakers wrap each loaf of bread in brown paper before delivery. The master bakers, who want profits, declared that if this were done they would have to raise the price of bread a cent a loaf. The bread still goes unwrapped. Profits have become so sacred that diseased bread and diseased milk is sold and children suffer and die. But the sacred billkins of profit must be protected.

The Dunsmuir estate of from fifteen to twenty million in British Columbia is still in litigation. Lawyers are getting fat fees, and high salaried judges are working away at it, and witnesses and experts and court officials and a whole host of parasites are feeding out of the dead hand of that prince parasite, Dunsmuir. Under Socialism the dead would not be allowed to bind the living workers to the task of feeding parasite judges, lawyers, and the like. With the abolition of rent, interest and profit, judges would have to find some other way of getting their living than by deciding squabbles about private property in the machinery of production.

## THE INTERCOLONIAL SACKINGS

Three hundred and fifty men have been sacked from the Intercolonial. The Conservatives immediately raised the howl that these men had been sacked for political reasons. They thought that the workingmen would like that kind of talk. It sounds so sympathetic like for labor. The Liberals therefore ordered an investigation and an investigation was held. The learned and capitalist investigators gravely held their investigation and gravely reported that political reasons were not involved. As between the tweedledum of Liberalism and the tweedledee of Conservatism there was no impartiality or politics but as between capitalism and laborism the sackings were in the interest of the capitalists and against labor.

The reason given in the report was that the men were sacked to get rid of them. The road was overmanned and the government could not afford to keep the men under a business-business policy. You see the government needs the money for its pets the labor thieves. How can it pay interest to the usurers of Europe on the public debt of Canada if it is going to keep the workingmen on the Intercolonial employed? How can it give bonuses or pass laws giving profit to the labor thieves if it is to treat workingmen white? It cannot treat the wage slaves fair as long as it wants to support a system of rent, interest and profit.

The men are sacked. Kick 'em out, the dogs. We don't need 'em. If they can't get anything to do, let 'em eat snowballs. The Canadian government, let it be well understood, is not interested in the struggles of workingmen. Shaughnessy, Van Horne, Plummer, Mann, Sifton, these are the men the Canadian government must look after. The workmen may go hunt jobs from the labor thieves. If the workers will work for a wage that is one-fifth what they earn and whine enough they may get a job and again they may not.

You see the sack of these men was a purely political act. Politics is the fight for power and dominance. The capitalists are dominant now and hold the power. The interest must be paid on the Canadian national debt. When the Intercolonial needs rails or engines or steel or coal the government goes to the labor thieves and gives them a good big rakeoff before the coal or steel or rails are delivered. The Montreal millionaires get their riches that way.

So the labor thieves wax opulent and the workers get kicked off the cars and out of the shops. And honorable capitalist-minded gentlemen assert there was no politics in it. The wage slave who voted the Liberal ticket was kicked out with as quick energy and with as great gusto as was the wage slave who voted the Conservative ticket.

Wake up you workers. Come out of your trance. Think men, think. Are you going to hand over your jobs, the means of getting the bread and butter for your wives and children, to a gang of political pirates who will sack a workingman and fawn on a labor thief? Wake up. Refuse to vote your bosses and your bosses' henchmen into power. Elect your own men to Ottawa. Elect the comrade who sits beside you on the bench or stands beside you in the mill. Send them there with the strict injunction to vote first, last and always for your interests. When a gentleman goes to Ottawa he legislates for gentleman. That means that he legislates you workingmen into a deeper wage slavery. When you workingmen really wake up and elect your own men you will then get political justice and not before.

It is really pitiful to see how ignorant and prejudiced the people are about socialism or any co-operative movement, which leads to inaugurate the socialist system; everyone wants to make as much as he can out of his neighbor and does not see cause and reason for the "overproduction" of so many empty stores, factories and dwelling houses, unemployed people living on the charity of others and on the other side—multimillionaires! Most of the people seem to be blind, deaf and dumb, and let themselves be driven to destruction like a herd of cattle.—A Subscriber.

Let the little business men not worry about socialism destroying his business. Capitalism is doing that