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CLEAR THE WAY FOR THE CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH

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## COMPANY LAW

Many newspapers are criticizing the strikers in Cape Breton because they are reputed to have broken a contract made with the Dominion Coal company. The Ottawa Citizen speaks about the "dishonourable course of certain Sydney miners." The Montreal Gazette declares that while the men are within their legal rights they are morally guilty. Of just what they are morally guilty we have not been able to discover.

It appears that the Coal company made an agreement with an organization called the Provincial Workman's Association with regard to the rate of wages and hours. About one-third of the men belonged to this organization. Later on a rival organization, namely the United Mine Workers Association, desired to discuss wages and hours with the company. The company officials haughtily refused to recognize the U. M. W. They had made an agreement with the P. W. A. and that was sufficient. It mattered not to the company's officials that only one third of their employees were members of the P. W. A. The company would not recognize any other organization.

The members of the U. M. W. then struck for recognition of their union. The company with its capitalist press primed for the occasion immediately began to disseminate false statements about the real conditions of affairs. From the tone of the interviews it would appear that every workman had been a member of the P. W. A. and had all agreed to the compromise effected. Many members of the P. W. A. are at work. The members of the U. M. W. are striking. When the officials whine about men breaking their bargains they give a false impression to the world.

Some members of the P. W. A. left that organization and joined the U. M. W. These men are now striking. This defection is what the capitalist press and the company officials are howling about more particularly. Supposing that the whole of the P. W. A. members, officers, men and boys had struck after making an agreement. What would it prove? It would simply prove that the workers were following in the footsteps of the company itself. Did not the company through its officials make a contract with the Dominion Iron and Steel Company to supply coal. And did not the Coal company repudiate that agreement and refuse to fulfil the terms thereof? Did the capitalist papers call the company officials liars and dishonourable men and traitors? Not a bit of it. They regarded it with a perfect equanimity. It was a piece of rotten capitalism which passed unnoticed. Had the P. W. A. men made an agreement with the company and then broken it the howl would have been tremendous. Capitalists can break their agreements but if workmen follow their example they are traitors and liars and everything that is vile. This just shows how unjust the whole exploiting bunch of capitalist plunderers with their flunkey press is to the laboring man.

What actually occurred was that some members of the P. W. A. left the organization and joined the U. M. W. and struck. The Gazette of Montreal declares that the men had a perfect right to leave the P. W. A. but morally they were traitors to the cause of Unionism. Here is where the class distinction is shown again.

According to company law a corporation is something different than its individual members. Thus James Ross, president of the Coal Company can repudiate contracts with the Dominion Iron and Steel company and the Dominion Steel company can't get after him personally. It can only get damages against the assets of the Coal Company. If Mr. James Ross promised something in his capacity as President of the Coal Company he would be very indignant if you were to ask him to fulfil his promise personally. He would tell you to look to the Company and not to him. But the same man expects the men to fulfil personally the agreement made with the P. W. A. It was the P. W. A. that made the contract. Let the company look to it for the fulfilment of the contract and

not to the men. If the P. W. A. does not fulfil the contract the Company can hunt law like the Steel Company had to.

## THE FALL OF CLEMENCEAU

Clemenceau has fallen. The man who is supposed to have held France in grip, the man to whom bourgeoisie looked for safety and protection, the man who turned traitor to socialism, is no longer Premier of France.

There have been numerous scandals connected with the navy of France. Like all other capitalist government concerns it was rotten to the core. This state of things is chronic. It was an incident connected with these scandals over which Clemenceau lost his head. His fall has astonished France.

Before becoming Premier Clemenceau was a red hot socialist. He used to go out and harangue the workers. He used violent language. He was in the habit of telling the workers that the capitalists should be shot down like beasts, that the exploiters of the French laborers should be given scant mercy and short shift. He was a cool customer and had a long head. He would sit in parliament and cause cabinet after cabinet to resign. He would refuse to take power himself. One of his favorite points of attack was the French navy.

At last he was prevailed upon to accept power. The French laborers at once thought that the millennial dawn of socialism was at hand. The were soon undeceived. He camly told the workers that the only way socialism could come was by their keeping right on working under the old conditions. The capitalists breathed easy and rallied to him. Here was a man after their own heart. For three years he has held power.

The socialists have fought him. But they had a difficult task to perform. Clemenceau was professing socialism and declaring that he would bring about the golden regime as fast as it possibly could be done. If the socialists fought him and defeated him he could assume an injured air and declare that socialists did not really want the cooperative commonwealth because they had turned him down just when he was going to give it to them.

So the socialists fought him on his anti-labor schemes and supported him in his radical measures, relying upon the fact that if you give a devil rope enough he will hang himself. Clemenceau has turned armed soldiers upon striking workmen and shot them down in cold blood. He lied to the striking postmen of France. He has been as crooked as he could well dare be. Through it all he has kept a cynical air and biting sarcasm has been his chief weapon.

However, on Tuesday last, he forgot himself. The question of the navy scandals was being discussed. Delcasse, the former Minister of Foreign affairs who was sacrificed to pacify Germany, was attacking Clemenceau. His attacks angered the Premier and the old spirit in which he used to denounce capitalists burst through the crust of cynicism. He attacked Delcasse and declared that the policy of the ex-minister had humiliated France in the eyes of all the world.

It was an unfortunate break on the part of Clemenceau. Every capitalist government must live by hypocrisy. Every capitalist government must humiliate itself more or less. Every capitalist government becomes enraged when the shortcomings of any of its members are mentioned. The capitalist hypocrites back of Clemenceau immediately began an uproar. The Bloc split and Clemenceau was defeated. He has handed his resignation to the President.

The socialists of course rejoice. Jaures declares that with the fall of Clemenceau there disappears the most dangerous man in France. The false friend of the people has gone. Its true enemies can now be fought openly.

The business men want a government by commission for Montreal. They do not want democratic management. They want the city to be handed over to the business interests to be run. Under such a regime it would go hard with the workers.

## NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

There is an attempt to organize the workers of Canada upon a national basis. The Manufacturers are all in favor of the national ideas for the organization of the workers. There are also labor leaders who are making their bread and butter from the organization of a separate Canadian system of unionism. Naturally these leaders want their jobs to continue.

The Union men realize that the enemy they have to fight is international. They realize that Canada is being sold out to British and American exploiters. They realize that the interests of the workers of Canada are the same as the interests of the workers of America. Therefore the workers, or the vast majority of them, are hastening to join the international bodies.

As a general rule the little Canadian organizations are the vest pocket properties of the bosses. In the annual report of the Dominion Coal Company it is reported that the company had made an agreement with the Provincial Workman's Association, "representing our employees," as the company declares, as regards the rate of wages and hours. Every laborer knows how dissatisfied the rank and file of the men were with that agreement.

Capital has no patriotism. It will go where dividends are the largest. That is to say it will go where wage labor is the most mercilessly exploited. Anything that will stop the exploitation will be opposed by the bosses or the protectors of the interests of the capitalists. Therefore the bosses oppose international unionism.

The fight of the laborer is not confined to Canada. Lowell many years ago declared in the peculiar New England dialect that laboring man and laboring woman have one glory and one shame, anything that's done inhuman injures all of them the same. The atrocities perpetrated in Pittsburgh hurt the Canadian workmen because the workmen of Canada are the wageslaves of the competing Canadian institutions and the bosses of Canadian concerns, very frequently Americans, will see to it that the conditions of Canadian workers are on the same plane as those of the American.

The worker who stands by the national organizations is hurting himself. He wants to fight the bosses with a small body of workers. That is what the bosses want. They want to fight the workers little by little. The solidarity of international labor must be realized for the uplift of the last revolting slaves, the wage laborers.

## A GRAND FARCE

A great farce is being played. The stage is Washington. The actors are the Senators, the Congressmen and the President of the United States.

The Republicans were returned to power on the pledge of lower tariff rates. Revision of the tariff was the cry. The Congressmen and the Senators were called in extra session to fulfil their promise. Immediately the cunning talk began. The leaders who are bound hand and foot to the trusts did not want to give reduction. They wanted to stand pat. Therefore they began to boost the tariff. Schedule after schedule was raised. The people stoodaghast. Was this what they voted for? After the House of Congress got through with the bill it was sent to the Senate. Here the boosting process was continued. The people were more agast.

Now comes the President. It is given out that the President will not stand for the high schedules. This is intimated in the capitalist press. Immediately the Senators and Congressmen climb down. They cave in to the President. In fact the celerity with which they accept the suggestions of the President shows that their former talk was a put up game. The Senate and the House will do what they intended to do all along.

What was the use of all the fuss and talking. To fool and scare the good citizens of Uncle Sam. If you think you are going to be thrown bodily into the horsepond by a group of men and you find that they are only going to wet your feet you will in your

relief feel grateful to the men for their mild intentions. When the people thought the Senate and House were going to throw them bodily into the jaws of this trusts they were frightened. When they find that the Senate and House only intend to let the trust keep on picking their pockets they feel almost in a grateful mood to the Congressmen and Senators.

Moreover the whole scheme gives a chance to the Star actor, Taft, to stand in the limelight. The whole backdown of the Senate can be ascribed to the "initiative of the President." The common people will think they have a protector in Taft. He can stand out as the protector of the people against the wicked trusts.

According to the game of grab and politics and fool the people as played by the Washington gang, the farce has been well worth while.

## INDIA

Foolish dotting lords may hector and whine. The gutter imperial press of the old country may froth itself into madness. Asquith and his cowardly cabinet ministers may devise new terrors of repression. But all these things will not repress the new spirit of progress that has come over the East and is troubling the British rule in India.

Turkey has awakened. Her own people have been touched by the spirit of the bourgeois revolution and are doing away with the old regime. Constitutionalism has taken root and the old systems are being forced into the times that are past.

Persia has felt the touch of what Europe felt at the beginning of the past century. Her ruler is toppled into the dust. Absolutism founded on political power alone has gone by the board.

Japan became stirred. She matured her new power behind the calm of an oriental fatalism and burst upon the Russians with overpowering might.

China is awakening. Her young men are dreaming of freedom from European control. Java has long fought the Dutch. For a hundred and fifty years the islanders of the interior have defended their independence.

And amid all this turmoil and new thought, amid all the crumbings of the old systems the English expect the Indians to remain contented with a system of direct robbery.

England will either have to become suzerain of India in name alone or she will be ejected forcibly from the country. The English people have made for themselves vague phrases and relied upon them for safety. The immemorial east, the unchanging east, the irresponsible native, such terms can no longer comfort the people of Great Britain. They are proving to be false.

England got India by treachery and fraud. She has committed murders innumerable in the Indian Peninsula. She has imported European troops by the thousands and has forcibly taken the daughters of the East to be the playthings of the foreign devils. Lord Roberts has looked on and blessed the slavery of the Indian women.

England has plundered the East. She has fomented national hatreds that her rule might be prolonged. She has forced opium on India and has debauched the Indians for a profit. She has fattened and grown great on the sports and now her capitalists are building mills and are paying the millhands a wage of two dollars a month.

But vengeance is at hand. The mutterings of a revolt have stirred the air. The English have exiled the mutterers, destroyed their press and hanged some of them, probably on perjured police evidence.

Now comes the beginning of the terrorist activity. Indian students are beginning to murder the representatives of the alien master class. That terrorist activity cannot be stopped by words. The revolt is on and will increase till victory crowns the national aspirations of the Indians.

The Commission appointed by Governor Hughes for the reform of the New York Stock Exchange has reported that the Stock Exchange should be allowed to reform itself. It is to laugh.

## THE APPEAL TO REASON

A case has just been terminated at Fort Scott, Kansas which bids fair to rival in history the famous Dred Scott decision. The case is that of the United States against Fred. D. Warren, Editor of that fearless socialist publication, the Appeal to Reason. The history of the events leading up to the case and the case itself is as follows.

Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone, were wanted in the state of Idaho. They were in Colorado. No extradition papers were made out but the three men were seized forcibly, hurried on board a train and taken to Idaho. This proceeding was highhanded. They had been kidnapped. A writ of habeas corpus was obtained to release the men and let them return to Colorado where they could be apprehended in the usual way by extradition from one state to another. The case was taken to the Supreme Court where it was decided that although a crime of kidnapping might have been committed there was no offence under the laws of the United States. The proper tribunals, if any, were the Colorado courts.

These three men were wanted by capitalists. Therefore the Supreme Court decided that their forcible kidnapping was not illegal under the laws of the United States.

Warren saw his chance of proving that the courts of the United States were class conscious, that there was one law for the capitalists and another law for the workmen. At the time ex-Governor W. S. Taylor was wanted by the Kentucky authorities. He was under indictment for complicity in the murder of Goebel. The State of Kentucky had a standing offer of one hundred thousand dollars for anyone who would deliver Taylor to the Kentucky authorities.

What follows reads like a scene from a Gilbert and Sullivan opera. It does not sound like a report of what Roosevelt and the principal officers of a mighty nation would do. But listen.

Fred D. Warren offered a reward of one thousand dollars to anyone who would kidnap and return to the officers of Kentucky the person of ex-Governor Taylor.

Roosevelt and his gang had been laying for the Appeal to Reason and they thought they saw a chance to get at the paper. The Washington authorities telegraphed to Girard to have Warren prosecuted for sending scurrilous and defamatory matter through the mails. Remember that the Supreme Court had decided that kidnapping was no crime under the Federal laws. If kidnapping and returning criminals was no crime surely it was no crime to offer a reward for the commission of a non-illegal act. The District Attorney replied that there was no case. He was informed that case or no case did not matter. The authorities were after the Appeal to Reason and wanted to bleed the damned reptile to death with law costs.

So the case was started. Warren was prosecuted for sending scurrilous matter through the mails. The Kentucky authorities who had offered one hundred thousand dollars for the return of the gentleman in question were not prosecuted. Warren submitted hundreds of postcards, placards and letters from banks, constables, chiefs of police, and private detective agencies offering rewards for the capture and return of criminals. No attention was paid to these. No prosecutions were started nor warnings sent out. But the case against Warren was proceeded with. This clearly proves that the Washington gang were sore at the Appeal to Reason and wanted to get it some way.

The jury was packed with Republicans and socialist haters. With such a jury the verdict was a forgone conclusion. Warren was found guilty and the Judge who at the beginning of the case had declared that no crime under the U. S. laws had been committed fined Warren fifteen hundred dollars and sentenced him to six months in prison. Warren is appealing the case and will take it to the Supreme Court. He wants to put these capitalist gentlemen on record that whereas it is no crime to kidnap laborers by force and at the point of the pistol, it is a crime

to even hint that a capitalist gentleman who is wanted bad for murder should be kidnapped and returned to the constituted authorities, if the hinting is done by a labor supporter. Of course capitalists can offer a hundred thousand dollars and no notice will be taken of it.

The case has created widespread comment and indignation. It is proving to the workers of the United States that there is one law for the rich and another for the poor, and even if there are laws the rich can break them with impunity but the poor will feel the heavy hand of the law. This being the result Warren is content. His name is being written in the roll call of the leaders of new movements. Undoubtedly his case will react against the perpetrators of this judicial outrage and will rebound to the freeing of slave workers of the States.

There are many reasons why the authorities wanted to land one on the Appeal to Reason. In the first place it has shown up the tortuous career of Roosevelt and shown him in his true light. In the next place it has exposed the alliance between Taft and the Catholic hierarchy whereby two million Catholic votes were swung to Taft in return for favors and privileges and government funds rendered to the hierarchy by Taft in the Philippines, the U. S. and elsewhere. It has shown up the brutality of the butcher Diaz and exposed the alliance of the American capitalists with this murderer of men, women and children and enslaver of his countrymen. In short the activities and the exposures of the Appeal have been so numerous and varied that Roosevelt and Taft and their political supporters have their knives out for the little paper.

But the authorities dare attack only under cover. There is an army of forty thousand socialists behind the paper and the politicians are afraid. Our own politicians have tackled the Appeal and had their fingers scorched. The postal authorities of Canada resolved in their little capitalist brains that the socialist Appeal was not a fit paper to circulate through Canada and forbade it the mails because of its revolutionary and alleged antipatriotic utterances. The postal politicians had their fingers scorched in the process. Before the tide of angry letters which poured into Ottawa the authorities bowed and were only too glad to let the revolutionary sheet alone and go its way unchecked by vote-hunting, wind-trimming politicians.

## THE SUFFRAGISTS

The British Suffragists are in earnest. They feel that they are doing the thing best worth doing. To obtain votes for women to them is worthy of suffering and death. They are women moved by one great idea. Consequently the little cobweb rules and laws laid down by the capitalists government of Great Britain do not frighten them.

The Suffragists are conducting their campaign with great skill. They have focused the attention of the people upon their wants. They are winning the sympathy of the public.

The tactics most recently adopted were to petition the King. Every subject has a right to approach the foot of the throne with his or her grievances. Asquith had shut himself up in haughtiness and would not listen to a Suffragist. The Cabinet Ministers would not receive their delegations. Therefore the Suffragists appealed directly to the King. The King through his secretary declared that it was unconstitutional for him to receive complaints in person. It must be through the constitutional government.

This declaration has forced both Gladstone, the Home Secretary, and Asquith, the Premier to receive the petitions of the Suffragists. They have received the written petitions but would not receive the Suffragists in person.

In attempting to enter parliament with the grievances many of the ladies have been arrested. Some old fogey of a capitalist judge lectured these heroines in the roll call of honor upon the turbulency of their conduct and sentenced them to jail.

In jail the Suffragists refused to be bound by the prison rules. They talked and laughed, refused to wear the prison dress and broke the windowpanes in their cells. They refused to eat and objected with all their forces to being treated like ordinary prisoners.

They have been released. The authorities perceived that they would die of starvation if left in jail. Miss Roberts, one of the prisoners, refused food for one hundred and twenty-six hours.

Votes for women with the Suffragists is only the beginning. There are many problems to be solved which men will not solve. Women must be given the vote. Not only the women of property but also the women who work. There are vast social evils to be counteracted by laws and by social organization. Give the women the vote and let them aid in solving the problems in which they are so closely interested.