

RELIGION AND MORALITY

Look at the definitions of religion and see if you can see anything about morality in them?

You cannot, because morality has nothing to do with religion as such.

It is only a comparatively late development in religious ideas to associate morality with religion.

Formerly the gods were looked upon as wrathful beings who had to be propitiated with bloody sacrifices and all kinds of unholy exercises.

Later the will of the gods began to be associated with a sort of morality. That morality was the morality which was pleasing to the master class.

It was pleasing to the gods to have slaves obedient to their masters, to have heavy burdens placed upon the backs of the slaves and for the slaves to murmur not.

In the feudal ages the morality that was taught was the morality that was pleasing to the master class, the feudal barons. It was taught as a religious duty for the serfs to yield homage to the lords of the land. As the church owned one third of the land of France the church found it profitable to identify religion with the kind of morality on the part of the serfs that would give great revenues to the lords of the land.

When the bourgeoisie rose they began to teach a different kind of morality. It was a morality that would redound to the financial advancement of the bourgeois class. The religious upholders of the feudal state declared that the bourgeois morality was impious.

Today we have a triumphant capitalist class.

The Socialists preach a morality that will redound to the progress and benefit of the expropriated proletariat. For this morality to be exercised the capitalist class must be abolished.

The religious upholders of capitalism declare that the Socialist morality is impious.

The bourgeois preachers are playing the same kind of a religious game on the Socialists as the Catholic preachers played on the bourgeoisie.

And the Socialists who have studied history smile at the antics and moral maxims of our modern religious preachers.

The Socialists are neither for nor against religion. But they are against the moral precepts of the churches which declare wage slavery is proper and right.

And the Socialists do not bother with religious questions. All they want to do is to give each man the full value of his labor product.

And they do not bother with the religious exhortations of those preachers who want to cast a religious glamor over the operations of the labor skimmers and to shield robbery behind the skirts of God.

The Socialists let all such crawling creatures be. They do not stop to fight with shadows. They press forward to the conquest of political power for the abolition of wage slavery.

Improvement in Cotton's

Cotton's is going to improve. This summer I have been editing the paper on rafters. The building was far from completed when Cotton's moved in and it was impossible to find a quiet spot where I could trace the capitalist beast to his lair through the intricacies of government reports.

But now the carpenters are departing. I have an office away from all noise at the back of the second storey, and here I can stalk the graft of the labor thieves through the newspapers, public documents, and financial statements.

But you must do your share of the fighting. Cotton's has never carried itself. You cannot expect me to give my time without any consideration and in addition keep getting deeper into debt in order to pay for the regular deficit that the paper costs week after week.

This state of affairs cannot continue. If it does continue I will take it as an intimation that Cotton's is not fulfilling the idea of the Socialists of Canada as to what a Socialist paper should be, and go out of business.

The world is swinging to Socialism. Socialism is bound to come sooner or later. Every country has a Socialist press. Canada has two Socialist papers. Neither one nor the other is carrying itself and paying its way.

The only deduction to be drawn is that these two papers are not giving the Socialists the style of propaganda they want.

Do you want Cotton's? If you do prove it, not by words, for words are cheap, but by hustling in the subs and showing that you are willing to work and get readers so that there may be funds to carry on the paper.

Cotton's wants to put in a sub editor. There are many lines of investigation that should be followed up.

Roll in the subs as you should, and you will get your money's worth back in a better equipped fighting organ.

Socialism is a demand for responsible industrial government.

Socialism means the triumph of the working class.

The individual liberty of the capitalist means license to take unto himself the social labor produce of others.

The Ontario tour of R. L. Borden has been called off because, it is stated, there are not large auditoriums throughout the province to accommodate the crowds. Borden must have got a frost down in N. S. That is the real reason that Ontario is not to be stumped.

Earl Grey is to visit the West Indies in the interests of trade. Once upon a time the noble earls of the past would have looked in disgust at mere traders. Now the Earl trots off to the South as the paid agent of Canada's business men. This shows how triumphant has been the industrial revolution.

Sir Henry Pellatt, the labor thief and murder booster, announces on his return from England that he interviewed numerous bankers and financial interests while over there and that he found things promising. This gives the key to the motive that induced Pellatt to pay the passage of 632 legalized murderers over to England. He was listened to by the British labor skimmers with far more attention. His patriotism was a cunning advertisement scheme for his financial deals.

The Associated Charities of Toronto have a scheme on to stop begging. The beggars will be set to work and if they will not work then they will be made to get out of the city. This sort of thing is what the labor unions find they are up against. The charity organizations of the land are being turned into agencies for the recruiting of scab labor. It will only be by the coming of Socialism that this condition of affairs will be made to cease.

The population of Berlin, Ont., is 14,660. The assessed value of the city is \$6,764,551. This means a property valuation of \$476 per individual, or \$2,380 per average family of five. I wonder if each wage plug of Berlin owns that much value in real estate. But of course the wage plugs do not want to "divide up," so they let the bosses collect rent from them and then go and hire out to the bosses in order to get the money with which to pay rent. How nice and kind the wage plugs are to the bosses!

Roosevelt has won out in New York state. His man has been chosen as Republican candidate for governor. Roosevelt feels that if the riot of anarchy is allowed to continue among the nations' resources on the part of the plethoric rich, then there will be revolution by bullet and his pile will be swept away along with the piles of his wealthy friends. Roosevelt therefore is out to do battle, not against the greedy, but against the over-greedy. For they are killing the goose that lays the golden eggs.

The ladies of England are threatening that there will not be jails enough to hold them should they not be given the franchise this year. At the Copenhagen Women's Congress the English suffragettes wanted to pass a resolution favoring a limited suffrage for women. The continental delegates overruled the motion and voted for unrestricted female suffrage. This got the English delegates provoked. If the English suffragettes go to jail, therefore, over the question, it will show that the bourgeois class can still supply martyrs.

The cost of living has advanced tremendously in Vienna, Austria. The landlords have raised the rents and do not want to take workingmen with children. The night shelters for the homeless are crowded. The proletariat are facing a gloomy winter. Yet the capitalists continue to declare that the position of the workers is improving. The Socialists of Vienna are increasing in numbers, not because the workers love Socialism, but because their increasing state of misery is driving them into intelligent revolt against the domination of the possessing class.

Next Week

The coming session of Parliament the Bank Act will be revised. Finance is a thing which yields big revenues to those who do nothing. This is the year in which the banks will be given a renewal for ten years of their vast powers. Next week, therefore, Cotton's will take up the question of the banks.

This is an issue you want to see. It will be interesting.

Wage Slave Parsons

I was once in a group of five or six Socialists discussing social questions, when a minister walked in.

The Socialists at once began to talk about other things, but the minister said, "Don't mind me, gentlemen. Remember I'm a wage slave like yourselves and must sell myself for a salary."

That is the position of the ministers of the gospel today in Canada. They are wage slaves.

They have spent money in education. They can talk. They sell their talk like a lawyer sells his talk.

They must sell the kind of talk that will give them a job. They cannot preach what they want. They have got to preach what is pleasing to the bosses who pay their salaries.

Now the wage slave who sells the labor of his hands does not sell the words his tongue utters. He can soap box on the street corner after his day's work is done.

But the parson must sell the words of his mouth. His slavery is all the more severe and galling.

The lawyer sells his talk on the principle of piece work. He gets paid by the job. One day he is paid to talk one way and the next day he is paid to talk the other way. This gives the lawyer a rest and a change of thought.

But the parson must always talk the one way. He is hired by the year and must give the same line of dope the year round. This is monotonous.

Another thing. The lawyer is recognized as selling his talk for a fee. He is not supposed to believe what he pounds into the ear of the judge.

But the parson is not supposed to sell his line of talk. He is supposed to be working in the vineyard of the Lord not for pay, but because he is in love with the job.

So the parson is the most horrible kind of a wage slave. He sells his brains, not his hands. And he cannot let the people know that his brains are sold. If he did his job would be gone. He must make the people believe that what his brains give forth are the words of God and that men must be guided thereby.

He sells his brains for a salary from the petty bourgeoisie or the big labor skimmers of the church, and then he must lie about it and declare that his brains are not sold.

This is hypocrisy, pure and simple hypocrisy.

So the minister becomes a hypocrite for a salary.

The workingmen know a hypocrite when they see one. So they stay away from the churches.

Then the parson whose brains have been sold for a salary tells the masters that the workers will not come and listen to what the sold brains declare to be the words of God.

And the labor skimmers wonder at the decay of the churches and the plute press take up the cry and pretend to wonder why the workers do not go to church.

The Socialists know.

The ministers are wage slaves who have sold their brains for a salary and must be hypocrites to earn it.

Ministers of the Churches of Canada. Answer it. Is not this true?

There is competition among capitalists. The weaker capitalists go to the wall. Capitalism is as bad for many capitalists as it is for many workers.

THE BOOK YOU WANT

Cotton's Compendium of Facts will be the Greatest little Book ever printed in Canada. It will fill a long felt want. There isn't an agitator in Canada who hasn't felt the pressing need of a reference book that could be carried in the pocket, ready at a minute's notice to confound a whole regiment of supporters of the capitalist supporters of the capitalist system.

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The Compendium will be printed on good paper and strongly bound. It is to be a substantial book, and it is NOT for Sale. The biggest plume in Canada cannot buy a copy. But YOU can have one FREE of all COST, if you will send Cotton's 7 yearly or 15 half-yearly subscriptions, or take postal Sub Cards to the same extent or join the Bundle Boosters for a weekly bundle to the amount of \$3.00.

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Ready on or before November 1st.
Who will Be the First to Register?

A CAPITALIST DEAL

David Russell, a financial agent of Montreal, is suing James Green-shields, a lawyer also of Montreal for \$1,250,000. No. Green-shields did not earn that money practising law. He got it from the system of tolling the people for the benefit of the few. The squabble arises from political deals for the robbery of the people.

The Qu'Appelle, Long Lake and Saskatchewan Railway and Steamboat Company is the sonorous name given to a company framed to plunder the people of Canada and make money for a bunch of insiders. The government granted this railroad 6,400 acres a mile as a bonus to build the road. The government held back one-third of the land until the road was completed. Otherwise the bunch would have sold the acres without building the road and the politicians had to have some excuse to give the people for the deal. It would have been too raw to give the land and have no excuse for having given it.

The land held back amounted to 493,269 acres. This land the company sold to William Pugsley, now Minister of Public Works, Edmund Osler, M. P., and President of the Dominion Bank; Herbert G. Hammond, and Charles S. Melnes, prior to May 1906.

The government gives the land, and the Members of Parliament buy it from those to whom the land was given. No. There is no graft in this. The government gives the land and no Members of Parliament are interested. But after the transfer, two Members get one-third of the land by purchase.

These men sold the land to Russell and Green-shields and now the two are squabbling over the division thereof.

Do you see how money is made, you work mules who rise at seven a. m. and work till six p. m. for a plunk and a half or two plunks when you are in a job? Can't you see how your government is skinning you as close as it can and still keep the breath of life in your body?

You get a daily wage. Your masters get the land on which food is raised to feed you. Your masters through rent, take toll of your food. You elect Members of Parliament to look after your interests, and they straightway give the heritage of the people of Canada to a few favored ones and then get back part of what they had given away.

Keep right on voting for the Pugsleys and the Oslers and the other capitalist politicians and you will be kept hustling like blazes for a living and will get your bellies filled with lead instead of food should you revolt.

You are such wise guys, you anti-Socialist workers, that the Socialists can teach you nothing about the skin game played upon you. You know all about it.

Get your eye-teeth cut, you workers who are stolen blind by your masters.

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Socialism is in the air.

COTTON'S COMPENDIUM OF FACTS

1910

How hard it is for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of Heaven—or get off the backs of the workers.

Three Chinese banks have failed owing to rubber speculation. Did someone say that China was behind the times?—Wall Street Journal.

You don't like being called a wage slave do you? Hurts what you call your finer sensibilities? The remedy is easy. Help the Socialist revolution and prepare for yourself a way of escape by the overthrow of wage slavery.

In their material prayers certain Scotch Presbyterians pray, "Oh Lord, please keep the minister humble and we'll keep him poor." The Catholic clergy pray, "Oh Lord, please keep our Congregations humble and we'll keep them poor."

Capitalism is doomed. Socialism is everywhere advancing. The blind apologists for the system claim that the Socialism that is advancing is not revolutionary Socialism but a sort of meek thing that does not intend to bring about collective ownership. There are none so blind as those who will not see.

The Canadian manufacturers do not want free trade. They want protection. They claim to be patriotic. Their patriotism is easily explainable. They have a nice juicy melon they are sucking and they don't want any outsiders getting a suck. As far as the workers are concerned their aim is to stop the melon from being sucked by those who did not produce it.

There is a big merger on in Montreal among the public utilities companies. Nine have been swallowed and the two most powerful are now going to merge into one. The men with the backward look are frightened that competition will cease. The Socialist with the forward look will not worry, but will work for the awakening of the people and the confiscation of the trusts.

The Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen at Cleveland, Ohio, have set out a lot of questions to be answered by politicians. If the politicians do not answer the questions satisfactorily, then the railway votes will go elsewhere. This is as far as this organization has got. If you don't like one of your enemies, vote for the other. When will the trainmen wake up and elect proletarian representatives?

Even the capitalist apologists declare that a vast change is taking place in the mental outlook of the peoples. But they will not admit that Socialism is at the bottom of the change nor that Socialism is the end towards which society is drifting. They feel the changing outlook but do not know that Marx and the Socialists predicted many years ago what we are now experiencing.

The Diocesan Theological College of Montreal declares that it is easier to get money for the church than it is to get men for the ministry. This is because of the development of the capitalist system. Men make money out of the labor of others. Then they try to do good by having men go to preach to those who have been robbed. It shows the goodness in humanity that the ministry is shunned when it is led captive to greed.

In receiving the delegates to the International Prison Congress, President Taft cautioned them against making jail so comfortable as to tempt people to violate the law to get into jail. Taft knows what is good for the capitalist system. Wage slavery is so abhorrent that jail is almost preferable as it is. The humanitarians must look out not to encourage wage slaves to become jail birds. The former make money for the robbers. The latter cost the robbers money.

George Stephens, a Toronto night watchman out of a job, got despondent and committed suicide. Timothy Candy, a Montreal nightwatchman, stole a few boots and they are going to hang him. The plutes of Canada prefer the Stephens way of solving his difficulties. Stephens cost nothing to get out of the world. Candy has cost the plutes jury expenses and the time of a seven thousand dollar judge. The crimes of capitalism are many, including murders and suicides.

Mr. Justice Grantham has arrived in Liverpool after touring Canada. He declares that Canadians are intensely loyal, but that economic reasons might outweigh this. Did a Socialist declare that financial considerations came before sentiment the people would say, "shocking fellow." But when a judge of an English court says the same thing, then the people admire the words and give the judge credit for great insight. Economic determinism again. The judge is a plute. The Socialist is generally an exploited wage slave.

B. C. PROFIT-SHARING SCHEME

The Toronto Globe, a couple of weeks ago, published an editorial upon a profit-sharing failure. It calls this particular profit sharing scheme a socialistic one.

The employees of the British Columbia Electric Railway Company, Vancouver, B. C., were given a share in the profits of the company. In 1909 the wage slave share of the profits amounted to \$57 per employee. The men did not think they were getting enough and demanded bigger wages. The Globe draws the conclusion that the men prefer the certainty of fixed wages to the hope of a share in the profits. The conclusion the Globe comes to is that working males like wage slavery in preference to joining the bosses in the profits. As to the possibility of the abolition of profit, the Globe says never a word.

Let us look at the profit sharing and see how it worked out. The company allowed itself six per cent interest upon its capital stock. This amounted to \$500,000. Then there was four and a half per cent to pay on the bonds. This amounted to \$200,000. Here goes \$700,000 in interest and profit and the workers do not get a smell.

After these sums are paid there is left \$145,245. Do the workers get all this in bonus? Not at all. This sum is divided into three parts, two of which goes to the owner of the road. The other third part \$48,245 is divided as a bonus among 850 employees. The workers earn for their bosses \$845,000 dollars and they get as their share of bonus \$48,000, just a shade over a twentieth of the profits.

All the profits come from the unpaid labor of the workers. The company makes nearly \$1,000 net from the labor of each employee. And the Globe wonders why the workers are not thankful when the bosses offer five per cent of the robbery back to the robbed and grandiloquently call it "profit sharing."

The men were not satisfied. So the company abolished the bonus and raised the wages from two to three and a half cents an hour. As the men work nine hours a day week days, and eight hours Sundays, the average increase in the men's pay will be \$78 per year. As they were getting \$57 bonus which stops, the men are twenty-one dollars a year better off than they were under the "profit-sharing" scheme which has "proved a failure."

Profit sharing schemes and welfare plans are traps for the workers to be led into the capitalist wage slavery pitfalls. The B. C. boys recognize them for what they are and fight shy of them accordingly.

But whether wage slavery straight, or wage slavery plus "profit sharing" is better or not, is a side issue. The main thing is to abolish wage slavery in all its variations. Were wage slavery abolished, the wage slaves of the British Columbia Electric Railway Company would each be nearly a thousand dollars a year better off.

In the U. S. between 1881 and 1906 there were 36,757 strikes, involving 181,407 establishments. There were 6,728,048 strikers, and 8,703,824 persons were thrown out of employment. During these years there were 1,546 lockouts, involving 18,547 establishments; 716,231 employees were directly locked out and 825,610 persons were thrown out of work—47.94 per cent of the strikers were successful. 57.2 per cent of the lockouts were successful. Between 1890 and 1907 money wages rose 28 per cent. But real wages, measured in purchasing power, were highest in 1896. The strikes and suffering caused the laboring population in the hopes of bettering their condition has only succeeded in keeping wages at about the same level for those who have a job. If the workers would get possession of the means of production then their earnings would increase enormously and the benefit of improved machinery would go to labor.

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Under Socialism one man's loss will not be another man's gain.

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