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CLEAR THE WAY FOR THE CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH

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THE DEATH OF FERRER

On October the thirteenth Professor Francisco Ferrer was shot to death in the Fortress of Montjuich, Spain. It was the opinion of the humanitarians of every country that Spain would have spared her foremost educator and patriot. But they mistook the ignorance and folly of the Jesuits and capitalists of Spain. They forgot that Alfonso was a weak kneed creature, the puppet of his nobles. They forgot that Edward of England is only active when he can shake the hand of the bloody Czar of Russia and fasten the tentacles of the Rothschild banks more firmly on Russia. They forgot that Edward was against education and for the papacy. Edward raised not a word of protest and Ferrer went to his death.

But although the capitalist governments of Europe and America allowed the death, that death has stirred the hearts of the people of all the civilized countries. When it was announced that Ferrer was dead the storm began to rise. The people of Rome, Madrid, Paris, Berlin, London, New York, Philadelphia, Havana, Buenos Ayres, Amsterdam, Brussels, Milan and many other places met in protest. In many of the smaller municipalities of France the municipal buildings were draped in black by resolution of the municipal councils. In London, Rome, Paris and elsewhere troops had to protect the Spanish embassies and consulates. There is a boycott of Spanish goods on in Italy. French sailors and dock laborers refuse to handle the goods of Spanish make. The governments of the Latin countries are afraid of the temper of the patriots of their respective countries. Alfonso has been vowed to death by the terrorist section of the anarchists. The Spanish Cortes is in continual turmoil. Bilbao has become a danger spot to Spain as well as Barcelona. It is feared that the revolution in Spain will be complicated by a break of diplomatic relations with France. The French government cannot restrain the hostility of French citizens nor prevent them from expressing their horror and contempt of the Spanish authorities.

As to the European temper two utterances can be taken, that of Herve, publisher of "La Guerre Sociale," in Paris, and that of Victor Grayson, M. P. in London. The following is that of Herve to the monster mass meeting of Parisians:

"The royal young idiot, whose heart has not been touched by Ferrer's daughters' tears or the indignant protests of the civilized world, is an assassin. He will end like his neighbor, Portugal's royal hog. He signed his own condemnation, to death this morning, and when he dies like a dog no man of heart in the whole world will shed a tear over the royal carrion."

Victor Grayson to the thousands gathered in London declared that if the head of every king of Europe was torn from his body it would not pay half the price of Ferrer's life. He called the Russian Emperor a "dirty monster," and said that King Edward, who could have prevented the execution, was responsible for whatever might happen in England as a result of it. He demanded the expulsion of the Spanish ambassador.

The nations of Europe are in revolt and the rulers are afraid. Memories of the fiery Vergniaud's oration over the dead body of Louis XVI. of France must haunt their memory. "The kings of Europe have set themselves against us in battle array. We fling at their feet as gage of battle the head of a king."

The rulers of Europe now know that they made a mistake. The blundering Pope of Rome, lacking Leo the Thirteenth's craftiness, is now trying to persuade Europe that he tried to save Ferrer's life. Alfonso has been fighting his advisers like a pettish school-boy. Lord Grey and Edward of England know not what excuse to make. Europe is entering another cycle of revolution and the rulers tremble. The rulers do not want a revolution for revolution ends in greater liberty for the subjects and more freedom for the oppressed.

Turning to Canada we find that the

press is frankly capitalistic. The Witness of Montreal feebly raises its godly hands and babbles of law and order. The Toronto Mail and Empire cynically remarks that it was time for another riot in Paris and the death of Ferrer was seized upon merely as an excuse. The Montreal Herald adopts the holier than thou attitude and declares that while there are causes that create a spirit of unrest abroad happily we in Canada know nothing of the conditions that produce unrest. Blind fools. When the poor are huddled together in our slums; while girls are forced into prostitution for the sake of bread, while hungry men walk the streets looking for work which they cannot find, while in every large city and in hundreds of small hamlets the humanitarian socialists are exposing the conditions of oppression that rule right here in Canada. The Montreal Gazette, that organ of the oppressors, remarks that although Ferrer might have been a good man he had a lot of disreputable friends. The Gazette is a paper that would have fought Jesus Christ because he was destroying the profits of the slave markets of Palestine and would have pointed to Judas Iscariot as an example of Christ's activity.

The Capitalists of Europe and Canada cannot stop the work of Ferrer. The social revolution is on. The work of education must be done. The wealth of the Strathconas, the Booths, the Van Hornes, the Eatons, the Morgans must be taken from them. The social revolution claims its martyrs but the blood of those martyrs but dyes the crimson flag of socialism a little deeper and but makes it dearer in the eyes of those who follow after.

DESTROYING THE HOMES

The Duke of Northumberland declared in the House of Lords that "the provision of cottages is not an urgent matter, and it is much more important that owners should be safely guarded in the possession of their property." The Duke has recently had twenty-two of his cottages closed because of their uninhabitableness. The houses were occupied by miners of the Walbottle region from which the Duke draws twelve thousand dollars a year in mining royalties. Here is a description of the houses as given by Mr. Mundahl, one of the local councillors.

The houses consisted of one room downstairs, with an attic above. In the majority of cases the attics were totally unsuited for living in. In some cases attempts had been made to use these attics as sleeping-rooms, but in nearly all cases there was so little protection from the weather that the beds had to be protected by sacking or rags. The floors of the attics formed the living-room ceiling downstairs, and the boards were so laid that any attempt to wash the floors of the attics meant that water came through into the rooms below. The houses were of the back-to-back type, and there was no possibility of through ventilation.

To add to the comfort of tenants, many of the houses were damp, and the death-rate from tubercular disease in these cottages was over four times higher than the general average of the district. It would be interesting to know what sort of housing conditions would have to obtain before the Duke regarded the provision of cottages as a matter of urgency. Happily, we can at last see the dukes in their true light as bulwarks of the "homes" which Socialists are out to destroy. No wonder the Duke is up in arms against us. For Socialism prevents him doing what he likes "with his own" and interferes with his liberty to crowd miners and their families into insanitary homes unfit for habitation.—Ex.

The Japanese envoy to the U. S. declares that the Japs do not want to let any of their wage slaves go abroad. The Jap plutes need them for home exploitation and moreover if they went abroad they would not be content to live on rice and water, when they returned.

If a municipality can own gas works and sell gas why cannot it own clothing establishments and sell clothes?

The majority of the journalists of the United Kingdom are socialists.

Another merger is on the way. This one is for the ginger pop makers. In this age even bubbles are capitalized and trustified.

The death of Ferrer must have shaken European nations to their foundations. Otherwise I do not think the capitalist press of Canada would have mentioned the outrage.

Three million people are constantly seriously ill in the United States. The vast mass of this suffering is due to poverty and the lack of fresh air, good food, warm clothing and doctor's care. Under socialism the preventable suffering would be eliminated and the sick would be made well and given an opportunity to do healthful work.

If you workmen want to work in grimy factories and jump at the command of your foremen, vote the old party tickets. If you workmen want to work short hours in well ventilated healthy factories, be your own bosses and get all that is coming to you, get out and hustle for the coming of socialism.

The Montreal Star has begun a very weak campaign for the prevention of child labor in the factories of Montreal. The Star does not press the campaign. A capitalist organ cannot attack any of the evils of capitalism because if it did it would cut its own throat. The owners of the capitalist organs get their incomes by exploiting their wage slaves and they cannot prevent the exploitation of other wage slaves by other owners without having those other owners attacking them.

The C. P. R. are moving their shops from Farnham, P. Q., to Montreal. This means that four hundred working men and their families are going to be shifted a distance of thirty miles. These workmen have been working hard to purchase little homes. The C. P. R. is ruthlessly tearing these men away from their homes and forcing them to live in rented shacks. Talk about socialism destroying the homes. The C. P. R. by one order, is destroying the home of four hundred families.

The Montreal Star and the Montreal Herald used to give a labor corner. I pointed out to the workers how the capitalist press gave two pages of financial news and a half column of labor news. The labor thieves got two pages of information as to the state of profit from the slave pens while the slaves got but a little corner. The Montreal Herald and Star have dropped their labor corners. Evidently these papers felt the force of my criticism. Let the workmen support the socialist press, their own press and let the masters support the capitalist press.

A few weeks ago the capitalist press was crawling at the feet of the C. P. R. officials. It was informing an apparently awestruck world what wonderful welfare work the C. P. R. was doing for its employees. Just a little later the C. P. R. tears up four hundred families and forces them to leave their homes and get into the tenement life of the city. Was the welfare work story put forth by the capitalist press a bunkum game in order that the public would think well of the C. P. R. and not kick when it tears a whole community to pieces and moves the workers to strange localities even against the will of the workers?

PAID IN ADVANCE

Every copy of Cotton's Weekly is paid for before it leaves this office. If you get Cotton's through the mail with a little red address label on it, your subscription has been paid by some friend who wishes you to look into the socialist doctrines. You need not hesitate to take Cotton's from the post office as no bill will be rendered, and the paper will be promptly discontinued when the subscription expires.

SUCCESS

The apologists of the present system hold that it is unwise to change the present rule because the present order gives a chance for ability to be recognized. How often do you hear stories of poor bare-footed boys going to the big cities and becoming multi-millionaires.

Carl Marx has declared that any system of slavery is unwise to endure must furnish an opportunity to the more energetic slave to escape from that slavery and to join the master class. When escape from slavery becomes impossible the strong slaves are forced to fight, not for their own freedom alone, but for the freedom of all the slaves.

With the concentration of capital, and with the vast organization of commerce, it is becoming more and more impossible for the wage slave to escape from his condition of slavery. There has grown up in Canada a master class and a slave class. The social line is strongly marked. It is almost impossible for that line to be crossed.

The strong spirits among the wage slaves now become labor leaders. The intelligent wage slave sticks by his comrades and fights his boss. What with the organization of socialist locals and revolutionary unions in Canada, a widespread slave revolt is beginning. The master class, under whose control are the government and police and soldiers, are becoming anxious and in many cases are adopting violent means to keep their wage slaves in objection. The class war is a Canadian fact as well as an American and an European fact.

THE MEANS OF REALIZATION

By W. R. SHIER

There are three methods by which the proletariat can gain control of the machinery of wealth production. They are (1) parliamentary action, (2) military action, (3) economic action. In other words, the methods suggested for the expropriation of the master class are those of the ballot, those of the bullet, those of the general strike. All these methods, be it said, are political, if the aim, or one of the aims, is the conquest of the public powers by the revolutionary movement.

In the opinion of the present writer parliamentary action may fail. That is, the capitalist class, outnumbered at the polls, beaten in the legislatures by overwhelming majorities, may nevertheless maintain their position by brute force. This they would do by establishing a provisional government, by becoming a state within a state, by refusing to vacate office, by defying the laws and ignoring the resolutions passed by the proletariat "in parliament assembled." Or, before it comes to a "show down," the capitalist governments may entrench themselves in power by disfranchising large sections of the working class in one way or another.

However, this, at best, is a speculation. We need not cross our bridges before we come to them. If parliamentary methods fail, the Socialists can be relied on to devise other methods of warfare. As long as we have the ballot, our propaganda should lay all the emphasis on its intelligent use. An armed uprising or a universal strike cannot be produced by steady education. They result only from exceptional circumstances.

China is about to spend \$200,000,000 on the rehabilitation of her army and navy. She is borrowing thirty millions from European nations and is about to borrow twenty millions more for the immediate purchase of munitions of war. These loans and purchases of war material help to sustain the market and put off the revolution.

Chas. Morse the convicted embezzler and bankrupt of New York city was let out on bail to do business while he was being tried and during the period of his liberty he "made" seven million dollars. Did any of you workmen by working hard and saving your money ever make that much in a few months?

If the city of Montreal can furnish free streets for the people why cannot it furnish free homes?

The class war can only end in the triumph of the socialist movement or the slavery of the working class.

Capitalism stands for the rearing of palaces for the robbers and hovels for the workers.

Another merger is about to take place. The large cotton companies of Canada are amalgamating. The organization of industry and the elimination of competition are pointing the way to the triumph of socialism.

The machine when controlled by the plunderers is a curse to labor inasmuch as it takes jobs away from workmen. The machine if controlled by the men who do the work would be a blessing to labor inasmuch as the hours of labor would be cut down and the incomes of the laborers would be increased. Under socialism the machines will be worked for the benefit of all who work.

The market of real estate is being spoiled by the British budget. This declares the plute papers. This is erroneous. The budget is so gentle that it would not hurt a fly. But suppose the budget to be confiscatory and the real estate market to be spoiled, why should patriots grieve? Did not the freeing of the slaves in the United States spoil the slave market and was the nation any the worse?

The capitalist press of Canada have been describing what a great man Eddy is. Eddy is going to settle the budget and get Asquith to agree to let the lords still rob the people without hindrance. The socialists of the House of Commons have plainly told the little man that as long as he looks wise he will be tolerated and allowed to draw his pay of a million or so for doing it. But if he goes poking his nose into politics for the sake of the plunderers their fate will be his. Eddy had better take the hint.

Taft has been travelling over the states looking at the property of the capitalists and sizing up the state of subjection of the wage slaves. He has got a frost and the capitalists are beginning to sigh for Roosevelt. Even if Roosevelt occasionally did jump the trusts he was their firm friend and approved the looting of the people if the looting was not too brazen and crude.

A carriage merger is being brought about. The E. N. Henry Co., Limited of Montreal and Quebec; the Tudhope Carriage Co., Ltd. at Orillia, Ont., the Canada Carriage Co., Brockville, Ont., the Munro and MacIntosh Carriage Co., Limited, Alexandria, Ont., are being united in the Carriage Factories Company, Ltd. This means a saving in management and the doing away of competition. These mergers are the necessary preliminary of socialism. The next step will be the ousting of the proprietors and the running of the mills by the men who do the work.

Harland and Wolf are starting a shipbuilding plant in Canada. The government of Canada is discussing the advisability of lending eighteen million dollars to the Montreal Harbor Commissioners. The government, moreover, is going to spend twenty million dollars on a navy. The capitalist surplus of stolen labor is so great in Europe that it accumulates by the millions and floods over into Canada. Canada, however, will soon be sending abroad instead of attracting it. That will either mean a huge destructive war or socialism.

THE UNION LABEL

Cotton's Weekly would carry the union label, if there was a typographical union in the Eastern Townships. We have not enough employees to form a union, so we are forced to wait till such times as an organizer of the I. T. U. gets through this district and brings the printers up to the mark.

YOUR GODS OUR DEVILS

In Persia, there once existed two tribes who were enemies. These two tribes had their gods and their devils. The peculiar fact about the worship of these two tribes was that the gods of the one tribe were the devils of the other. In primitive times this is common. Thus the Jehovah of the Israelites was hated by the Philistines as a devil, while Dagon the fish god of the Philistines, was hated by the Israelites.

We do not need to go into ancient history to find this state of affair exemplified. Modern economic conditions produce the same result in the capitalist society. It is the nature of man to love those who help him, and to hate those who interfere with his plans. Right here in Canada we have the capitalists worshipping certain men almost as gods and the wage slaves hating those men as devils. The scab is an instance. The scab who will break a strike and force strikers back into horrible conditions of slavery is glorified by the capitalist as a hero, a patriotic citizen and almost as a god. To the striker the scab is a demon, a being with a malicious desire to do evil to his class. To the striker the scab is a moral pervert, a devil. On the other hand, the staunch labor leader, whom the capitalists cannot bribe with flattery, money or position, who stands by his class and who ever endeavors to bring greater freedom to them is hailed as a hero by his fellow workers. But to the capitalists such a man is a dangerous agitator. He is refused employment and all the might of the capitalist power is hurled against him to ruin him and to make him and his loved ones suffer.

Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone are undesirable citizens in the eyes of Roosevelt. A capitalist press has painted these men as ogres at the bidding of the capitalists. To the workers of the United States these three men are heroes. In former ages, they would have been worshipped by the laboring men as gods.

Ferrer, who has been recently assassinated in Spain by Alfonso and his Jesuits is another example. To the common people, Ferrer was a hero. He had endeavored to educate the people of his native land and to raise them from their low position. To Alfonso and his black-hearted Catholic priests Ferrer was a devil. Even the capitalist papers of Canada have called him an anarchist, an agitator, a rebel.

The men whom the laboring men love and honor are hated with a bitter hatred by the labor thieves of Canada. This but repeats under modern conditions the history of the two old Persian tribes, who looked upon the gods of each other as hateful devils.

The C. P. R. was given a bonus of forty-five thousand dollars by the town of Farnham if it would establish its workshops in that place. The little bourgeoisie shopkeepers and landlords and saloon keepers were willing to have the town taxed that much if the C. P. R. would only bring a few hundred of its wage slaves to Farnham where the local capitalists could get the pickings after the C. P. R. had taken the flesh and blood. The C. P. R. moved its workshops to Farnham and got its bonus and having got its bonus it is moving its workshops to Montreal. The local bourgeoisie of Farnham are mourning sadly. They have been done and have no remedy under the capitalist laws. I have little sympathy for the bourgeoisie but I have sympathy for the workers who bought their homes in good faith and paid blood money for them and who are going to have to forsake their homes or lose their jobs. If they lose their jobs they will lose their homes. The C. P. R. has too much power. It should be confiscated by the people of Canada for the benefit of the workers.

To New Subscribers

All subs received up to Monday night go in this week's issue. Those received after, will go on next week. This is unavoidable, as subs must be entered and put in type in a systematic manner.