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W. U. COTTON, Editor and Prop.

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This is No. 70

COWANSVILLE, P. Q., CANADA, JAN. 13, 1910

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CHARLES W. MORSE

Charles W. Morse, the one time ice-king and multimillionaire, has been sentenced to fifteen years in the penitentiary. There are many persons who consider that the conviction of a rich man shows that justice is yet powerful in the States. Gustavus Myers, in his History of the Great American Fortunes, however, puts a new interpretation on the events leading up to the conviction of Morse.

There is a plutocracy in the States which have gained their power by corruption and fraud. Morgan founded his fortune by purchasing condemned guns from the American government during the civil war for a mere song, and then selling those same guns back to the U. S. as new and safe guns. The history of the great fortunes has been one of corruption, thievery, and fraud.

Morse started out to become rich. Heinz and others joined him. They got copper mines and a string of banks and a railway and a line of steamships and the ice trade of New York set out the most approved style of corruption and thievery. They were becoming powerful and were cutting into the profits of the real plutocracy, the Morgans and Rockefellers. That was the trouble. They were getting too powerful. So the more powerful gang set out to break them. A money panic, a run on the banks of the syndicate, a raid on copper stocks, the arrest of Morse for using the funds of his bank to sustain the market, these were all swung against Morse and his gang at one and the same time.

Morse was a new comer. He had not had the time to have his judges elected in New York. Heinz had been able to capture Montana, but New York was a different proposition. The little gang were fighting the big gang in a territory where the judges were controlled by the big gang. The result was almost a foregone conclusion.

Morse, just before the closing of the doors of the penitentiary upon him, let out the truth as to his conviction. The jury were drunk. The jurymen had been picked by the private detectives of the big gang. His conviction was certain.

His appeal was not listened to in the court of appeal. The big gang had been sure of his conviction from the very start.

The conviction of Morse does not prove that the U. S. Courts are the dispensers of justice. It proves rather, that they are the special instruments for the protection of the plundering plutocracy.

Capitalism is top heavy in the U. S. It is rampant and predatory. It has bought judges and legislatures and voters. One thing it cannot buy, that is the Socialist spirit in the hearts of the protesters against capitalism. It is trying its best to down this new force. Socialist papers are suppressed or harassed, Socialist speakers are arrested, Socialist meetings broken up. The capitalists can down the little grafters who poach on their preserves, but they will have to yield before the onrushing tide of Socialism.

Socialists believe that material bread and butter, and vegetables will stave off that material state of the body known as hunger. Socialism wants the food of the people to be produced at cost for the people. Capitalism wants food to be produced for the profit of the labor thieves.

A street car ran off the track in Montreal and ran into Police Station No. 4. That is the station where I put in a night in the police cells for not obeying a policeman who wanted to break up a Socialist demonstration. I knew something was going to happen to that police station when they dared lock up a Socialist in it.

The switchmen's strike in the U. S. is nothing much according to plute reports. Nevertheless many cities are suffering from coal famines.

If a workingman wants to see his income double let him hustle in the Socialist state. Under capitalism his income is apt to dwindle.

Secretary of Agriculture Wilson declares that the farmers are not getting the benefit of the increased cost of living through higher prices. Of course they are not. The working farmer is not in the plute class. He gets skinned along with the ordinary day wage plugs.

In the French Chamber of Deputies the members are going to vote by pressing an electric button. The members, however, show no sign of a desire to have their salaries lowered because they will have less work to do. They are going to get the same old pay.

Socialists are materialists. It is true. They consider that warm clothing is more apt to keep out the cold than thin shoddy clothing. Socialists want warm clothing to be made for the bodies of the people, not to be made for profit.

Capitalism produces corrupt millionaires, over-worked laborers, and broken-backed hoboes. Socialism will produce a robust race of co-operative workers who can look all men in the face without fear, because of their economic freedom.

The judges of capitalist laws decide according to these laws in Canada. The workers think those laws are fair. In the Worker's Issue of Cotton's Weekly I will quote the workers the law of the land that will make their eyes bulge out of their heads. Don't fail to order a big bundle of this issue. It will do more to make Canadian Socialists than anything that has yet appeared in Canada.

"The increased cost of living" is the subject of a concurrent resolution offered in Congress by Representative Hull, of Tennessee. It provides for a joint committee of seven members of the House and five members of the Senate to investigate conditions and report upon them, and as to what remedies may be effected through legislation. The resolution sets forth that during the past twelve months there has been an advance in the prices of commodities of from 11 to 30 per cent., and during the past thirteen years of more than 50 per cent., which is entirely disproportionate to the increase in wages, making it difficult for millions of people to procure food, clothing and shelter consistent with their needs.

You give the printing presses and coal mines and railways to a lot of greedy-fisted men who want to make money. You then elect men put up by those owners of the printing presses and coal mines and railways to make you laws against you. You then go to the owners of the machinery of production and ask to be allowed to work at the machines and raw material you have given to the bosses. You get a job on condition that you will work for just enough to keep up your muscle so that you can work again and to bring up children enough who will work in the same way. Then you wonder how it is that your bosses have the palaces and the best seats in the theatre and automobiles and private cars while you live in rented shacks. Say, you working plugs of the Dominion of Canada, you are the easiest things out. If the plutes had any spark of manhood in them they would be ashamed to rob you. It is like stealing milk from babies.

A LESSON FROM HAWAII

The American government exists for the purpose of assisting the labor thieves in squeezing the workers. The American government usually succeeds in doing what it sets out to do, thanks to the simplicity of the squeezed workers. Sometimes, however, the purposes of the government are frustrated temporarily. Hawaii is a case in point.

The American exploiters thought they saw a good chance in sugar in Hawaii. The natives were cheap and sugar was high and the amount of profits that could be realized seemed to be big. So the United States government took the islands and the labor thieves rushed to the feast. But difficulties arose. The natives would not be exploited. Capitalism came into contact with a backward race and could not conquer it for the purposes of capitalism. The race could be exterminated but not exploited.

If home labor could not be exploited then cheap foreign labor could be imported. Japan seemed to be running over with cheap docile laborers so it was resolved to import Japanese. They were imported and set to work. Profits appeared to be in sight. The territorial government was an instrument in the hands of the exploiters. The Japanese were exploited a little to hard and last summer they struck. The planters did not fear the strike as they thought government by force would soon make the Japs see the error of their ways. But the Japs would not see. Here is the story as told by a plute paper.

"Employers in the extreme west who have been looking with more or less favor upon the importation of Japanese laborers, on the ground that they are more tractable than white or black workers, may learn to their sorrow that the 'yellow peril' is not a mere bugaboo conceived by American labor fearful of Asiatic competition.

"I have been informed by a U. S. government employe at Honolulu that the strike of some 10,000 Japanese plantation laborers in the Hawaiian islands was one of the bitterest struggles ever waged in any land. The money losses mounted high into the millions.

"When the strike started the Japs had no union and the employers expected an easy victory. However, the Jap laborers not only formed a union, but they introduced military tactics and their organization operated like clock work. The thousands of strikers were divided into squads, captained by the most intelligent among them; the roll was called twice a day; leave of absence could only be obtained by securing a pass bearing a time limit; a commissariat was conducted, supplies purchased through bidders, meals were wholesome and regularly served, and the housing was carefully looked after. Even court martials were introduced and offenders were penalized in various ways.

"Finally the plantation owners who imported the Japs were compelled to make important concessions, after losing millions of dollars, to end the strike. In Honolulu the people are saying that the Asiatics have taught the Americans how to strike."

After the concessions were made the planters began to hunt round for other workers who would be more amenable to the argument of the big stick. Portuguese were hit upon. The American government was petitioned to bring in Portuguese and the plute government sent agents to Portugal to inveigle Portuguese into the web of the Hawaii planters. As to the success of the planters, the following press despatch will give fair impression.

When the immigrant ship Swanley arrived from the Azores last Tuesday with only 874 Portuguese instead of 2,500 expected, the board of immigration and sugar planters were inclined to think they were badly done. Now they are convinced of it. For almost without exception the new arrivals declined to go to work on the plantations, preferring to go with their relatives and friends to the sunny slopes of Punch Bowl and live as city residents.

New arrivals were persuaded not to fulfil their contracts by Portuguese here who were imported several years ago and who are now small shopkeepers and laborers in Honolulu. The result is that probably no more Portuguese will be imported to work on sugar plantations.

Verily the way of the exploiter is thorny when such creatures as the patient Jap and the oppressed Portuguese can escape the lash of the slave driver to the detriment of dividends.

KEEP YOUR EYE ON TAFT

There are things going to be done in the U. S. shortly. It will pay every Canadian worker whether farmer, wage worker or small trader, to keep his eye on the States.

Roosevelt talked much and did little. The influences were too powerful for him and he was by birth and training on the side of the exploiters against the exploited. He believed in exploitation of the workers providing that exploitation was not too brutal and raw. So he was a failure as a radical.

He had a hanger-on by the name of Taft. For some reason he took a fancy to this chap and shoved him on. Finally he had him shoved down the throat of the Republican party and elected as President.

Taft has no backbone. He is putty in the hands of Cannon and Aldrich and Ballinger. Taft has betrayed the interests of the people at every point. He is weak and like weak men thrust into high positions, he has petty dislikes and takes vengeance on his personal opponents.

Taft came into power pledged to a revision of the tariff downwards. Whether this will benefit the people or not is not the question here. The people thought it would and Taft said he would see that the will of the people was carried out. The tariff was revised upward by Cannon and his gang, and Taft meekly signed the Tariff bill.

There are seven Republican Senators who are now in insurrection against the Republican machine. They come from the West where the people wanted lower tariffs. These Senators wanted to fulfil their promises and want still to keep faith with their constituents. Taft took a trip out west and spoke at numerous places. He got a frost. Like a weak man he is mad and went plugging with the insurgent Senators any more. He has petulantly announced that he will not appoint any official recommended by the naughty Senators who are not nice to him.

The richest coal seams in the world have been discovered in Alaska. These coal fields have been grabbed by the Guggenheims and U. S. Senators and other high personages in finance and politics. These grabbers have not a shadow of right to the coal mines. They belong to the United States government. The coal thieves are threatening to bust Taft and to put prison stripes on United States Senators. Ballinger is trying to protect the criminals from prosecution and to let them keep the coal fields, valued all the way from two to six billion dollars in coal profits. Pinchot has been trying to keep the coal fields for the public. Taft, the puppet of the trusts, has sacked Pinchot and whitewashed Ballinger.

Taft went down and shook hands with Diaz on the American border near Mexico. Under Diaz rule every crime known to man is committed in the name of stable government. The Appeal to Reason exposed the rottenness over a year ago. As that paper is a Socialist paper its charges were ignored. Now the American Magazine is exposing the conditions in a series of articles under the title of "Barbarous Mexico." These crimes are committed against workers and women and small landowners. The people are robbed of all they possess and the property is given to American financiers in the shape of haciendas, cheap oil lands, railroad franchises, and slave labor. A billion dollars of American money is in Mexico earning immense dividends because of the slave labor they can get. Taft was directed to go to Mexico and shake hands with Diaz the Butcher. He obediently went.

The radical and Socialist periodicals have tackled him hard. He don't like it one little bit. He dare not come out into the open and answer the charges like a man. He is too weak and flabby. He is going to put the papers that attack him out of business by raising the postal rates on them. It is announced that there is a deficit of seventeen million dollars and that the deficit is due to the carrying of second class mail matter. This matter in Canada goes for a quarter of a cent a pound. In the U. S. the government charges a cent a pound.

Taft does not want to hit the local weeklies nor the daily papers. The local weeklies have no influence, so they are carried free. No postal charges are made for local weeklies within the county in which they are published.

The big dailies are bound by their advertising matter and dare not expose the corruption of the government. So Taft does not want to hurt them. He proposes to increase the rate on the weekly and monthly publications of general circulation. The increase would practically amount to a government tax on radical thought.

Taft could prevent the deficit if he would bring the railroads to time. The railroads charge the government five cents a pound to carry mail matter. They charge the express companies a cent a pound. Moreover the railroads rent mail cars to the government at an annual rental of over fifty percent on the original construction price of said cars. Taft makes no mention of cutting down the exorbitant charges of the railroads. He is after the radical papers that attack him.

The free speech fight in Spokane is a side issue of the main fight. Spokane is corrupt to the heart. It is in the hands of a gang of freebooters who have stolen public lands and public timber and water power, and who have shared in the Alaska coal thefts. These corruptionists were on the point of being tried when they attempted to focus public attention on a free speech fight. Their minions began arresting men who spoke on the streets. The corruptionists were attempting to raise the cry of anarchy by provoking peaceful citizens to retaliation by brutal police attacks. But the free speech fight has roused the nation against Spokane and Taft instead of turning public sympathy towards them. The free speech martyrs have suffered the outrages of the police with patience, and the whole American nation are beginning to see the true nature of the fight.

Taft is getting to the end of his tether. Keep your eye on Taft and his crookedness and watch the revolution in the U. S. The common people are getting tired of their government, and the long nosed Americans are not patient under the yoke of despotism.

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP

With the advancing demand for government control the governments are forced to take up the task of government ownership. To many persons, government ownership appears to be a cure-all. But from the workingman's point of view, government ownership in a capitalist state will not cause exploitation to cease. The worker will be robbed and the profits will go to the bondholders of the government or to those friends of the government who are exploiting the workers. Government ownership without control by the working classes simply means state capitalism.

The Ontario government has been boasting about its government ownership policy. It owns the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Ry. which runs up through Cobalt. This road has paid the state well, but the Cobalters are complaining that they pay the profits through exorbitant charges. The government has gone in for a government owned railway and is busily engaged in squeezing big profits out of the operation of the road.

The Ontario government has just recently given a practical monopoly of the cartage business of the railway to a company known as The Northern Transport Company. Independent carters in Cobalt have been taking the goods from the railway and delivering them to the local companies and stores. Hereafter the Northern Transport Co. will do this work, thus freeing the teamsters out of business.

Along the waggon road to Gow Ganda, recently opened by the Ontario government, there are small eating houses, operated by men, who have put up rough buildings and who are supplying food to the prospectors. These people have been ordered to vacate as the privilege of feeding people along the road has been handed over to a company.

The Ontario government has gone in for state capitalism, which means that the state will exploit the workers directly instead of handing over the privilege to a private railway company. The workers will not be the less exploited because the province exploits them.

Government ownership by a capitalist state will not increase the wages of the workers nor will it diminish the number of the unemployed. Government ownership simply substitutes state exploitation of the workers for the benefit of the labor thieves, instead of direct private exploitation by the labor thieves themselves.

A FREE PRESS

The free press is necessary to keep the people informed as to the conduct of the officials. When a tyranny arises a free press must vanish. The fight now is for a free press.

In another column will be found an account of the arrest and imprisonment of Elizabeth Gurley Flynn-Jones, written by herself. This account was sworn to and published in the Industrial Worker of the World. Spokane police confiscated the paper, and refused to allow it to be further published in Spokane. Police brutality and immorality were too clearly shown up to please the prison and police officials who are the special agents of the land thieves and employment sharks and corruptionists in general.

Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, said an old orator. A free press in the U. S. will last only so long as the working men unite to back up their publications. The I. W. W. is suppressed in Spokane, but the workers of the U. S. are swinging in to line to make the allied grafters and official thugs allow free speech and a free press.

In New Castle, Pa., is published The Free Press with a guaranteed circulation of ten thousand copies. This paper gave a detailed account of the capers of Sheriff Waddington with female prisoners. The Free Press was not suppressed nor was there any libel action taken against The Free Press. The I. W. W. were backing the paper, and the officials were frightened. Waddington is still Sheriff. The Steel Trust need such men to do its dirty work and to make dividends for Morgan et al.

The Appeal to Reason is exposing the rottenness of the American Judiciary. It is showing how judges of the courts are bought and paid for by the big corporations. It declares that Judge Pollock was beastly drunk on the Bench, that he is a law breaker and that he has been bought and paid for by the Corporations. It has begun an exposure on Judge Grosscup and promises to show where he was bribed to give decisions in favor of the corporations. The Federal authorities are doing their best to put the paper out of business by high postal rates and expensive law suits. It dare not suppress the paper as it has too much backing. Our own little tuppenny officials at Ottawa a few years ago forbade the mails to the Appeal because of its alleged seditious utterances. But such a tide of protest rolled into Ottawa that the officials crawled and let the seditious paper in. The character of the paper had not changed. This shows that the Ottawa officials were either acting unjustly in refusing the paper in the first instance, or they were recreant to their trust in letting a seditious paper through the mails. This little incident shows that a free press can only be maintained by making the henchmen of the labor thieves frightened for their jobs.

In Canada we have and have not a free press. A little paper down in New Brunswick published the fact that a judge was drunk on the bench. The Editor was jailed. The truth of the matter did not matter. It was less majestic to the bulwarks of the plutes. In Canada we have a press free to flatter the plutes. We have a press free to hammer the plutes, if the press does not hammer too hard. But the moment the Socialist press of Canada begins to hammer the labor thieves so that they will feel the effect on their pockets, then the Socialist press will need the eternal vigilance of every lover of freedom to maintain itself against a reactionary Ottawa government hastening to do the bidding of the plunderers of our workers.

No one thinks of blaming a stone mason because he busies himself in building the foundations of houses instead of looking up at the stars. The mason sees the stars when he looks at them and he knows they are there. In the same way Socialists are busy at the economic foundations of society. They know there are stars and sunsets and music and art, but their work calls them to foundation work. A socialist is a materialist in the same way that a mason is. Both know that structures cannot be reared by star gazing.

Decadent capitalism produces nascent Socialism.

The Workers Issue

COTTON'S WEEKLY, Cowansville, P. Q.

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