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**Cotton's Weekly**

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### CROTHERS ON LABOR

A speech made by the Hon. Tom Crothers at the Trades and Labor Congress held in Guelph, Ont., last year has been going the rounds of the radical press. This speech was a curious mixture of life and death, of optimism and pessimism. He praised the lot of unions and yet clung to individualism. "I agree," he said, "with Tolstoi's process of uplifting humanity. It is a very slow one, but very important, but slow because it is by uplifting the individual." This shows that Tom has reached the stage of the "uplift" stuff.

Crothers went on to point out how very much we have advanced, really a wonderful advance, don't you know and all the while he was soft peddling on any radical advance. Among other things he declared:

"In 1872, a bill was enacted by the British Parliament forbidding children and women to work in the mines underground. I need not refer to the conditions then obtain in the factory system in England during the last forty years. We have made great advancement in Canada and would not tolerate the same conditions here today. We are not perfect here, but we are trying to apply the remedy to existing inequalities. There is no class of wage workers in the world better off than those in Canada, but this does not excuse us from doing our best to improve existing conditions. What has done this? The trade unions have done a great deal to improve the conditions of the wage-earners. We do hear occasionally some opposition to the organizations of the workers into trades unions, but, generally speaking, there is not much opposition today. They say that all other classes have a right to combine."

"If the condition of the wage workers of Canada are the best of any, then God help the slaves of other countries."

Crothers holds that the wage workers' improved conditions in Canada are due to the trade unions in part, and says "we" (meaning the politicians) must do their best to help make conditions better.

This kind of stuff is poured forth by a clever politician. Imagine Bob Rogers or Tom White or Borden or Doherty doing anything really beneficial for the wage slaves of Canada! It is to laugh.

How, then, are the conditions of the wage workers of Canada any better than elsewhere? A short quotation from Marx's Value, Price and Profit will give the answer. Says Marx, "In colonial countries the law of supply and demand favors the working man. Hence the relatively high standard of wages in the United States. Capital may there try its utmost. It cannot prevent the labor market from being continuously emptied by the continuous conversion of wages laborers into independent, self-sustaining peasants. The position of wages laborer is for a very large part of the American people, but a probational state, which they are sure to leave after a longer or shorter term."

That was written in 1865, when American homesteading was in full blast. Today the homestead age there has passed and the wage workers are crowded into the cities. The slums grow apace. The wages of laborers have sunk below a living level in many places. The workers are beaten so low that in despair they turn on their masters in the mass strike.

Today in Canada the homestead rush is on. Consequently the wage market is continuously being depleted, and wages must be relatively high in many places in order to hold the workers.

The Laurier government did nothing to help the working class. They have passed no old age pension law nor eight hour day law, nor any kind of legislation for the working class. The Borden government has just as bad a record. Both governments have done their best to pump in the immigrants. Millions have been sent to get all kinds of immigrants. The Salvation Army has been invoked, and is filling Canada with slaves to compete for the slave jobs.

Because of the free land yet left, in spite of all these immigrants, wages remain relatively high. Although his government is doing all in its power to fill the labor market with propertyless slaves, Tom coolly appropriates to the politicians of Canada a part of the credit for the relatively favorable labor situation in Canada. He is either ignorant or a very cunning politician.

The age of free lands in Canada is about passed. Herbert Ames, M.P., eight years ago travelled through Eastern Canada with lantern slides showing how quick free land would be exhausted. The western boards of trade have been passing resolutions about the necessity of importing artizans and placing them in the cities, as the free land is about exhausted.

Moreover, the machine age has come to the farms, and the industrial conditions have changed on the farm since 1865. It takes machinery to run farms now, and the non-capitalist farmer suffers. An article on the financial page of the Toronto Globe declared that only about thirty-five per cent. of the implement farmer was being met by western farmers. The small farmer who is trying to climb into the capitalist class on credit is finding it almost impossible.

So the level of living of the wage workers of Canada is sinking. The wage slave condition is becoming harder. Tom Crothers, an elderly gentleman with a tendency to be largely pleasant and inexact in his remarks, cannot change the conditions by

### THE TOOL OF THE SYSTEM

In the centre of this page is printed an article taken from the Toronto Star of March 8th. This shows slightly what the capitalist class do with their wealth. This article lets a little publicity into how the gentleman who rob the working class get rid of their enormous revenues.

Slums grow apace in Toronto. The working class find it harder and harder to live. Their employers pocket over a couple of cents while in pay an hour for their slaves while pouring out thousands of dollars upon luxuries a workingman hardly knows exist.

Capitalist apologists have a way of saying that it is their "brains" that give them their fortunes. Their apologists declare that the workingmen are rewarded for the labor they perform, and that what the capitalists get is their due reward for the ability they exert. When we Socialists declare that it is the system of wage slavery which piles up huge fortunes for the managers, we merely declare that the robbery of the working class is excessive, the capitalist apologists say our statements are wild.

In this article I shall endeavor to estimate the total amount of unearned revenues enjoyed by the master class of Canada. These figures will no doubt be an understatement, for there are many more forms of robbery which are practised and which are not enumerated here.

In "Conservation," a publication issued by the Dominion Conservation Commission, a government body, the following estimate is given of the total amount of wealth produced per year in Canada.

**ANNUAL CANADIAN WEALTH PRODUCTION.**

Field Crops and Dairy Products	\$684,000,000
Forest Products	161,000,000
Minerals	182,000,000
Fisheries	29,000,000
Value added to raw products by manufacturing	563,000,000
Total	\$1,461,700,000

If we take the population of Canada to be eight million people, this will only give a per capita annual production of \$182 for each man, woman and child. The capitalist, however, of course, will take these figures as they stand and declare that the average income of a family of wage workers is \$900 per year, and so the robbery is very, very small.

**TORONTO'S EXTRAVAGANT RICH**

By R. B., in the Toronto Star.

ONE MINK COAT FOR WIFE	\$3,500
TWO SILVER FOX SETS FOR WIFE AND DAUGHTER	\$14,000
CATERER'S SERVICES AT DAUGHTER'S WEDDING	\$1,000
MONTHLY SALARY FOR CHEF	\$150
THREE HATS FOR DAUGHTER	\$450

No, these prices are not stolen from the cost of living booklet issued by the Motormen's Union. Neither are they "Exhibit A" in a bespecked husband's suit of divorce. They are merely the prices of luxury in Toronto for the rich men and women who live in the city. They are the prices of the rich men and women who live in the city. They are the prices of the rich men and women who live in the city.

When Toronto passed up the ladder from Little York, about twenty years ago, the quantity of surplus wealth and the disposition to spend it slipped the sort of thumb-screws from which the patient poor are spared.

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### Decadence of the Country Press

By R. Winn.

Just as surely as the small retailer is being squeezed out of existence by the department stores, so the country publisher is being shouldered to one side by the ruthless power of the large city dailies.

When the pioneers and railroads opened up the country, there soon followed in their wake the small printing plant, and newspapers were founded in every town where a printer decided he could make a living.

These papers grew up with the country, and served their purpose in distributing the news and gossip of the countryside.

But with the immense growth of the cities, came the large daily, backed by unlimited capital and the politicians of both the old political parties. These politicians saw in the daily paper a powerful influence in their favor, and they nursed them with tender pride. Laws were passed favoring the big publishers, and government paper flowed their way from all quarters.

The country publisher was entirely overlooked. Big interests needed big sheets to support them, and the country paper could not cover the slimy tracks of the crooked politicians. The city papers are getting more numerous and more powerful, and the little fellows in the country are fast being starved out of business.

The one-horse printers are just at the end of their tether. They patronize the patent inside, and get boiler plate from the city dailies with news anywhere from two days to two weeks old. They fill up the remaining four or five columns with silly news picked up by schoolgirl correspondents. If they have any opinions to express about the way their town is run, they keep them to themselves for fear of losing another subscriber or two. They hire the cheapest possible help, and turn out the worst possible output.

The newspaper directory gives these little fellows a good show, but there are hundreds of them in Canada who have not gained a hundred subscribers in ten years. They are going backward. Their sheets, both daily and weekly, contain no live news, no individual opinions, no comments on the political affairs of the country; they are simply a rehash of the big papers served up to a public who generally read no further than the heading of the sheet.

The little fellows wax wroth when they see the piles of dailies dumped on their station platform each morning and evening from the cities. They howl when they see the department store ads in these papers coaxing the money out of town—and getting it, too. They babble away about being patriotic to your own home town; but pleadings fall on deaf ears—the people send their money in tens of thousands of dollars to the mail order houses, and continue to support the city dailies with cash in advance.

There is another phase of the question not generally noticed. The little publisher invariably has a job plant, the revenue of which used to help pay the bills till back subscriptions and old accounts could be collected. This old order is rapidly changing, however, and the job presses in the towns are standing silent, mute witnesses to another branch of big business eating its way into the vitals of the little printer.

At regular intervals an alert traveler jumps from the train at a once proceeds to call on the business houses with samples of printing done by his city-house. This man transacts his business in the least conspicuous manner possible. He jots down an illegible name and address on the hotel register, and tells his business to no one but his prospective customers. He works fast and "sews up" the business men of the town in short order, and departs.

Doctors, lawyers, bankers, all people who need commercial printing, patronize the printing house represented by the traveler, and each trip he carries away hundreds of dollars worth of work from under the nose of the country printer, who often gets a bill from his physician printed by a city office.

The little fellow kicks, but to no avail. He pleads with the politicians and toadies to the churches for patronage; but it never comes. He is being pushed to one side, and is generally too blind or politically prejudiced to recognize a calamity until it has overtaken him. He is marked to fall with the rest. It is only a matter of a short time. He is already starved into submission. Big business has chased him over the hurdles of the competitive system for a long time, and now has him about to take the "water jump."

Professor Abderhalden, of Berlin, has brought the production of synthetic foods to a point never before attained. He has kept dogs fat and strong on artificial food made by chemistry. Chemical food means that the farmer will lose his occupation. Instead of growing food, it will be made in the factory just like we make dyes. Food is produced by plants taking certain elements from the earth and air and combining them so man can eat them. This will eventually be done artificially.

**HOW TO KICK.**

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