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# Cotton's Weekly

W. U. COTTON, S.A., D.C.L., Editor

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## BLUFFING THE WORKING CLASS

### Capitalist Government at Ottawa Hand in Glove with the Labor Skinners

Last week Cotton's published an article upon the construction camps at Foley, Welch and Stewart. Stewart has bought fifty thousand acres of land from the Duke of Sutherland in Scotland.

Complaints of the treatment of workers in the camps of this firm along the Fraser River in British Columbia have been reaching civilization for the past year. The Minister of Labor, the Hon. Thomas Crothers, who nods and sleeps and sleeps and nods in the House of Commons, was appealed to. The cry from labor rose insistent.

When the cry could no longer be disregarded, Crothers listened. Something had to be done, or the working class voters would cease to vote for their masters' interests. Moreover, the foreign consuls were protesting. Italy and America had made representations at Ottawa. These foreign governments were shocked at the stories of the treatment of workingmen they had heard.

The great hypocrite Crothers, came forward. A henchman of the labor skinners, he knew the game his masters wanted him to play. He has played it well.

He made statements in public. He declared the cry of the oppressed had reached his ears. The oppressed had only to come to the Tory government and their grievances would be redressed. Government inspectors would be placed in the construction camps, and they would stand as vigorous defenders of the wage workers.

Some foolish workers hoped. These foolish ones are ever ready to look for hope to the politicians their masters employ to keep them in slavery. The inspectors have travelled and have reported, and the report is a complete whitewash for Foley, Welch and Stewart. The men have nothing to complain of. They are treated fine. This is the statement given publicly and heralded by the capitalist press of Canada. The following newspaper despatch has been telegraphed and published all over Canada. It was taken from the Winnipeg Free Press. It could have been taken from dozens of other capitalist sheets.

Ottawa, March 17.—Complying with a request from the royal consuls for Italy in Canada, that an investigation be held regarding the way his laborers were being treated on the Foley, Welch and Stewart construction work along the Fraser river, the department of labor instructed its fair wage officer at Vancouver on Dec. 15th last, to make a report on the subject.

The officer's report, tabled today, states that the men are being fairly treated and paid on the average \$3 a day. Of this they have to pay \$1 a day for board. In taking up the complaint about charges for transportation and employment agencies the officer states that the allegations made by the complaining laborer, were absolutely false. The contractors did not deduct, however, the railway fare from the men's wages, but if a man remained for more than six months this was refunded to him. This was done simply to protect the contractors from "job jumpers." The only complaint he stated was that the contractors paid their men by cheque. When the men started out to civilization they had to cash the cheque to cash their time cheques at a discount of ten per cent.

The department wrote to the contractors regarding the subject and they replied that it was impossible for them to keep enough money on hand to pay the wages in currency. They did, however, cash small cheques for the outgoing men, and they had an arrangement with the G.T.P. whereby their company took cheques in payment for tickets.

The minister of labor communicated on December 16th with Sir Lomer Gouin regarding the operations of employment agencies in his province and more particularly the Northwestern Employment agency in Montreal. This agency charged from \$6 to \$10 fees and had mulcted \$10,000 from laborers last fall.

The department has sent \$5,000 for names and addresses of laborers on the Foley contract. These forms are to be filled in and in case of sickness or death are to be sent to the department so that they can communicate with the men's relatives. This is in compliance with the regulation passed last summer.

### THE OTHER SIDE

That looks as though everything was rosy and good. It looks as though only a few disgruntled slaves, the chronic kickers, were objecting, and of course, you know nothing can please such low creatures.

This press despatch was put out with the calculated intention of lulling the working class of Canada to sleep, to let brutal exploitation continue while the tyrannical Tory government works hand and glove with labor's foes.

Under the title of "Conditions in Canada," Solidarity, of New Castle, Pa., publishes the following exposure of the real conditions. Note the reference to Crothers' inspectors and how they stand in with the employer. Crothers picked for this job men who would shut their eyes to the condition of the men while opening their ears to the words of the contractors.

### CONDITIONS IN CANADA

Edmonton, Can., March 10.  
Would you be kind enough to put the following few facts in your valuable paper, so that the public will be aware of the conditions men have to endure along the construction camps of the Grand Trunk Pacific. I shipped out to the G.T.P. through one of the employment offices of this city about three months ago. After arriving at the end of the steel I had to "hike" with my bed on my back to Camp 148. When I got there I worked as a common laborer on the "dum." My wages were the munificent sum of thirty cents per hour, and I had to work ten hours per day seven days per week. I was charged 25c per month for mail tax, although I never received any; \$1 for hospital

tax; and I may say that there are hospitals situated at the following points: Miles 52, 114 and 160. I paid \$1 per day for board which was simply unfit for human beings to eat.

I would like to know why the B. C. police do not enforce the Lord's Day Act in regard to working on Sunday. Does their work only consist of hunting out blind pigs and looking after houses of assignation there? Have they looked up the laws in the safe or thrown them in the river? I have seen posters in the camp stating that if you did not work on Sunday one could "beat it" on Monday.

I know of a case of a workman who fell off a trestle bridge and was knocked unconscious. He was taken to a hospital at 160, still unconscious. When he came to himself he found he was relieved of \$100, and after he was better he was turned out broke. Another case: A man at Mile 148, got his leg badly burned, and laid in the bunk house several days. When his funds were exhausted he told the foreman to get him out. He started for the hospital at Mile 160, but was unable to continue beyond 150. He laid at 150 for several days. The men there fetched him a little to eat once in a while. After that time the superintendent was ordered by the men to take the sick man to 160 in a sleigh. Another man was burned about the face by a carbon lamp, and when he got to the hospital at 160 he was told that any man who could walk would not be allowed in there. The doctor (F) in charge gave him some lemon powder and told him to go back to the camp at which he worked. He had to lay around 13 days, and at the end of that time he was charged up \$13 for board for the time he did not work. A man got his fingers crushed at Mile 148 and laid off work several days. When his funds were exhausted he was told to get out by the foreman, and had to go to Mile 114 to the hospital. The hospital would not take him in. Leaving 114 he walked to 152, during which time he had only one meal to eat, which he begged. At Mile 152 he laid his case before the officials of the company for whom he worked. They turned him down. He then went to Foley, Welch & Stewart's office, and they gave him a line to take to his original camp so that he could get a soft job. The job was to take care of a sick mule. Oh, the irony of it!

The commissary is also a sore spot with the men. Shirts which cost \$1.75 and \$2 in Edmonton cost \$5 from these contractors. Socks in Edmonton at 40c.; the company's price \$1; Mitts at 40c in Edmonton, at company, \$1. Underclothes at \$1.75 in Edmonton are \$5 at company; pants \$3.50 and \$5, respectively. Rubber \$4.50 and \$5, respectively. Blankets \$2 and \$3, respectively. And so on. Will the government inspectors, who are now making investigations, deny this?

We have had several government inspectors along this line during the last year, which has not amounted to as much as the wind blowing from the south. There was one last month (February). The first thing done when arriving at the end of the steel was to make arrangements for a team to convey him over the road.

Followed to Mile 148. He did not enter one bunk house, but slept in the offices with fine accommodation. Eating with the foreman and timekeeper and not with the men; and all these so-called inspections are the same. What have they amounted to? Nothing. Conditions are worse than ever. (Signed).

### A WORKING MAN ON THE JOB.

### WITH THE MASTERS

Crothers is with the masters. If he had the slightest sympathy with the producing class of Canada, Borden would not have selected him to be Minister of Labor.

Crothers, it is true, is investigating the case of the Northwest Employment Agency in Montreal for charging workers \$6 and \$10 for a job. He is doing this, however, not for the sake of the man, but at the behest of the big capitalists who know that if employment agencies charge big fees many slaves will not seek the jobs, and the big thieves, above all, want plenty of slaves competing for the chance to work.

Crothers also has sent 5,000 forms to Foley, Welch and Stewart to get filled out so that if any person gets sick or killed his relatives can be notified. The contractors do not want sick men around, if a slave gets sick, his family is to be notified and will probably have to put up funds to pay the contractors out of the wilderness and home.

When will the slaves of Canada waken and realize that they have put their enemies into office? Is it not time that Canadian labor realizes what the German working class have realized now these many years, that only a working class united upon the political field for the overthrow of the profit system will give justice to the men and women who do the world's work?

THE LIGHT SPREADS.  
A Manitoba publisher writes. "We enclose you a postal note for the four coming fortnights. They are parties who will have more than the average moulding influence here. Our exchange is the only copy of your paper that has been coming to this town so far, and it may do good to get a few more."

"The revolution is a fact. It is here now. Seven million revolutionaries, organized, working day and night, are preaching the revolution; that passionate gospel, the Brotherhood of Man."—Jack London.

The future belongs to the working class.

The brotherhood of man is an impossibility as long as capitalism exists.

A Liberal politician is as great an enemy of the working class as is a Tory one.

The capitalists will do many things for the working class—as long as they find profit in so doing.

Laurier and Borden firmly believe that the working class should be robbed by the capitalists.

Every dollar of rent, interest and profit is taken out of the hide of the wage workers and working farmers.

The capitalist class like to "give work" to the working class. For the more work they give the harder a time the worker has.

There is no such thing as an honest dollar. Every dollar is divided into twenty-five cents for the producers and seventy-five cents for the legalized grafters.

Mr. Farmer, if you want to see the interest on your mortgage put an end to, help vote in the Socialist party. They will abolish all rent, interest and profit.

Every time you vote for any candidate other than a Socialist you do worse than waste your vote. You use it to fasten the chains of slavery upon yourself and class.

Have you been reading about the white slave traffic and sweated labor and peonage camps and police thugs and armed deputies in strike regions and breadlines? These are a part of the stench emitted by the dying capitalist system.

The capitalist class can only exist by killing itself. The more its members grow powerful, the more it concentrates industry, the sooner it brings the day when the people will realize that the capitalist class is not necessary to production.

One of the owners of one of the big manufacturing establishments of Berlin, Ont., admitted to a stranger that it was only a question of time when the factories of Berlin would be forced to work their employees only eight hours a day. Do the slaves of Berlin realize this? When they force the shorter workday from their bosses?

Socialists of Montreal will carry the famous red flag through the streets of that city on May Day. Time was when the police would snatch the red flag out of the hands of anyone who dared carry it. This was only a few years ago. The growing might of labor is driving a little fear into the city henchmen of the exploiters.

The Hon. G. R. Coldwell, Minister of Labor in the Manitoba Cabinet, is on the Winnipeg advisory board of the National Trust Company. This company last year collected \$242,000 in net profits. Surely the propertyless and exploited working class are foolish in voting into political office where the laws are made, the men who advise as to the best methods of carrying on the skin game of unearned revenues. When will the working class awake?

Dr. C. Wardwell Stile in his report to the American Senate, declares that in the U. S. 1,500,000 lives are needlessly sacrificed every year, and 3,000,000 more break down yearly in consequence of overwork, and laboring in unsanitary conditions. The home of the brave and the free seems to have degenerated into a hell on earth under the rule of the capitalist class.

Some ministers of the gospel declare that Canada is money mad. The madness is due to the fact that we live under a system which gives poverty to the useful producers, and wealth to the useless owners. Hence there is a mad scramble for title to the means of exploitation. If the ministers desire to remove the money madness they will work for the overthrow of the unjust profit system.

Great Britain is a land of millionaires and poorhouses, of sweated industries and flaunting, extravagant parasites. Premier Borden wishes that Canada should contribute \$35,000,000 for a navy to protect such conditions. Does he think the working class of this land has gone completely crazy?

The House of Commons at Ottawa is the directorate of the political affairs of the plundering capitalist class. The Borden cabinet is the executive committee. Laurier feels sore and Pugsley and Clark and Cochrane have been acting nasty round the House of Commons simply because Laurier and his associates are no longer the executive committee of the legalized thieves.

D. A. Gordon, M.P. for Kent East, Ontario, has purchased the Wallaceburg-Chatham line, ostensibly for Mackenzie and Mann. We discover this little item of news in the Courtwright Outlook. Are Mackenzie and Mann, the railroad multimillionaires, the friends of the working farmers? Are they the friends and allies of the wage workers? No. Yet we see D. A. Gordon, who was voted into the lawmaking body acting as the agent of these gentlemen. Are not the plundering class foolish to vote for the henchmen of their exploiters?

"The revolution is a fact. It is here now. Seven million revolutionaries, organized, working day and night, are preaching the revolution; that passionate gospel, the Brotherhood of Man."—Jack London.

The class struggle is a fact, not a theory.

An intelligent working class will set the capitalist class at useful labor.

Words break no bones; but the teachings of Marx are going to put a big crimp into the power and income of the exploiters of labor.

When the class struggle is ended, and we have production for use instead of for profit, a new era will open in the history of mankind.

Ontario farmers are combining to buy their seeds wholesale. They say they will save at least \$100,000 in middlemen's profits. The evolution of industry is eliminating many persons who found their living in the niches of the capitalist system.

The members of Parliament are amending the Bank Act. Members of Parliament draw \$75,000 a year from their ownership of bank stock. Any amendments they may make will be such as to leave the banking graft unredressed.

New York is appointing a purchasing agent for the whole city. By this means it is expected that millions of dollars now wasted will be saved. The millions saved will mean that a lot of little sellers will find their occupation gone. Capitalist development is introducing state Socialism for the benefit of the big capitalists.

The city of Winnipeg may take over the milk business within its limits. Ten years ago this would have been fought as being Socialistic. Today it attracts no attention. The capitalist system is proving itself so inefficient that the collectivist steps in and performs the function of distribution.

The Hon. A. E. Kemp, M. P. for Toronto East, is President of the Sheet Metal Products Company, of Canada, Ltd., and director of the National Trust Co. Being in the labor-skinning business, Borden picks him for one of his Cabinet Ministers. Is not the working class of Canada foolish to support politically men who live by robbing labor?

Are you against graft? Why not then work to stop the biggest graft that was ever invented or historically unfolded? This graft is legalized. It contributes to churches and missionary societies. It pays campaign funds and supports newspapers. This is the graft which money lenders, landlords, profit hunters, and the various sections of the master class extract from the toiling many.

The Governor of Wisconsin has sent a message to the legislature requesting that body to establish state markets where the farmers can sell their commodities to better advantage, while at the same time the consumers will be able to pay less. More and more, as capitalism develops, the state is forced to take over function after function. The old idea of the state was to govern as little as possible. Now it is more and more becoming the heart of the economic life. The state is growing in power. Whether you like it or not, evolving capitalism is flinging us into State Socialism.

The French Socialists have just held their annual convention in Brest. On March 24th a resolution calling upon France and Germany to agree to a proportional disarmament was adopted. The resolution declared that the present rivalry in arms in the name of peace was provocative of war, which could be prevented by a treaty to reduce the armies of the powers simultaneously. The capitalist governments watch the Socialist movement closely. As a result of this declaration of French Socialists, Winston Churchill on March 26th, when he submitted the British Naval Estimate in the House of Commons, offered that Great Britain would build no new battleships for a year, provided other nations did the same.

What will Socialism do for the farmer? Will it take his farm away from him? This is the question frequently asked. Socialism proposes the collective ownership and democratic management of the means of production and distribution. This, however, does not mean the confiscation of the small farm which the farmer operates himself. For Socialism proposes the collective ownership of the things collectively operated. But the small farmer is having a hard time of it under capitalism. The farmer feels his farm a burden. In Hastings county, Ont., according to the Weekly Sun, twenty-five per cent of the farms are for sale. This shows that whatever may happen to the farmer under Socialism, his condition would not be any worse than it is now. Under Socialism, his condition will be infinitely better for the mortgage fiend, and all the hosts of plunder which live off the workers will be removed.

FATE OF THE WAGE SLAVE.  
Look at my face, told me, I'm a slave. Look at my calloused hands. Master, I've done Thy bidding. Wrought in Thy many lands. Wrought for the little masters. Big-bellied they be, and rich. I've done their desire for a daily hire. And I die, like a dog, in the city. —From Service's Song of the Wage Slave.

"As labor is the common burden of our race, so the effort of some to shift their share of the burden on to the shoulders of others, is the great durable curse of the race."—Abraham Lincoln, July 1, 1851.

HILLQUIT'S DEFINITION.  
Socialism is a criticism of modern social conditions, a theory of progress, and a practical movement of the masses. —Morris Hillquit, New York's Socialist attorney.

## Socialist Member Prevents Poll Tax

### Only C. M. O'Brien's Protest Prevents Alberta Slaves Being Taxed Simply to Live

In the neighborhood of one hundred bills, some of them so large that it cost two hundred dollars to print even one, were introduced during the last session of the Alberta legislature. Naturally it is impossible, during the few weeks that the house is in session, for any member to familiarize himself with all the details of all the bills.

While C. M. O'Brien, the Socialist member of the Rocky Mountain division, was busy with the new Mines Act, the Minister of Municipalities introduced a new Village Act, and a bill to amend the Towns Act and the Rural Districts Act. The Village Act had passed the committee stage of the whole house, and was up for third and last reading, when one member on the government side asked to have it re-committed to the Committee of the whole House, as he wished to introduce a slight amendment. About this time the miners' delegates, C. Stubbs, J. J. Jones, and J. Carter, had the government asking for time to reconsider amendments to the Mines Act. This enabled the Socialist member to review several of the other bills, including the above named three. He soon detected that each of them had a clause re-establishing the poll tax.

He made a vigorous attack on this antiquated method of fleecing slaves out of their miserable earnings, and introduced an amendment to have the clauses referring to poll tax struck out of the bills. The deputy-speaker called for a vote on the amendment. The yeas were so many that the minister in charge of the bill jumped up and asked to have it remain over until he could consult with the other members of the government.

When the village, town and municipalities bills again came up for consideration, the minister asked to have the poll tax struck out. He explained that the poll tax had been put in each bill at the request of certain individuals from the Crow's Nest Pass, who had said without a poll tax they could not raise sufficient taxes to pay for the administration of schools, etc.

His department had sent a man to

investigate, and he reported that there was not enough revenue, but he also found that the lands belonging to the coal companies were not assessed at their full value; that it appeared as if the local authorities were timid about taxing the coal companies.

The minister said that the Crow's Nest towns were the only part of the province that had asked for the poll tax, but as the honorable member for that constituency opposed poll tax, and as it did not appear to meet with much favor among the other honorable members, he had decided to withdraw the obnoxious clauses.

It is worthy of note that if the Socialist member had not protested, the minister would have made legal the poll tax without opposition from any of the other members; the slaves would have been burdened with a poll tax and they would not have known it until the elections were all over.

The government introduced a bill to make legal direct legislation.

In speaking of this bill, Comrade O'Brien pointed out that "direct legislation" cannot benefit the slaves while they have the capitalist class conception. What the slaves need most is the modern or working class conception that is a consciousness of the slavish class position they occupy in capitalist society. To cram into their already overcrowded, miserable, little shacks a lot of capitalist class literature on "direct legislation" is to retard rather than advance human progress. The bill is misnamed. If put into operation it will be "indirect" and not "direct legislation." In addition to the referendum the bill if it becomes law, provides that ten per cent in each constituency (of the electors who voted at the last provincial election) may initiate legislation provided that such legislation DOES NOT CALL FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF MONEY. The bill is introduced solely to catch votes. The last clause provides that the lieutenant governor or in council shall determine when "direct legislation" shall be put into force, which means that it may never be used.

## FOOLING THE VOTERS

A special despatch from Ottawa states that at the instance of the Hon. J. D. Reid, Minister of Customs, an Admitting-Council has been passed admitting Passover bread and matze free of duty between March 24th and April 23rd. These are made in New York, and the Jews use it for the Passover season. The admission free of duty will save the Jews of Canada hundreds if not thousands of dollars.

In St. Lawrence division, Montreal, are many Jews. I had been nominated by the comrades to run on the Socialist ticket in that division in 1911. There are many Jews residing in the division, and the henchmen of the Liberal politicians praised Robert Bickerdike, the Liberal candidate and present M.P., very highly. They told how much he did for the Jews. Why, it was only through his influence, out of his love for the Jew, that he had succeeded in getting the Passover bread relieved from the duty during the Passover season. Leave him at home, and the poor Jew would have to pay 25 per cent duty on this article. Elect a Socialist and the Jew would suffer.

## A LITERATURE CAMPAIGN

(By G. H. Lockwood, in the "Billy Goat")

I recently saw some statistics purporting to show how our comrades were attracted or converted to the Socialist movement. The figures follow:

64 per cent began by reading books, pamphlets and papers.

19 per cent by discussion.

8 per cent by street meetings.

7 per cent by lectures.

In my judgment these statistics are subject to criticism. They do not necessarily cover the entire ground as a separate analysis, for these questions are inter-related, and all these factors have had some part to play in each individual case. For instance—a man may have attended a lecture that made no profound impression on him, but a good Socialist who has not read extensively on the subject. Books, pamphlets, magazines and papers, they all have a most important mission as the speakers, and the work of individual discussion—we cannot well get along without all of these methods of propaganda.

I do believe, however, that we have not yet fully appreciated the strength of a literature campaign.

As compared with other methods of propaganda it is undoubtedly the cheapest, and for many people the most effective.

A ten-cent pamphlet will contain as much subject matter as a lecture. The prospective convert can take the pamphlet to his own home and study it. If he will only read a part of the pamphlet that is indelibly impressed upon his subjective mind and will have its influence in forming his opinions. Impressions taken to the brain through the medium of the eye are very powerful, often more so than the spoken word, and the printed word is a power, that gives the capitalist press and the Socialist press alike a means of reaching the masses.

It is this that gives the capitalist press and the Socialist press alike a means of reaching the masses. It is this that gives the capitalist press and the Socialist press alike a means of reaching the masses.

The following is an outline of a plan that the writer is sure will accomplish wonderful results in propaganda at the least possible expense. The movement has, moreover, reached the masses by this method can be worked to the best advantage, for we have a sufficient number of Socialists to write and to spread this literature into every home and reach every person, excluding none, not even the master class itself.

This plan is a plan for an individual member's library, which should be full of standard books for the comrades themselves, but is a plan for an individual member's library, which should be full of standard books for the comrades themselves.

Like the danger is lurking profound. Hugh fleets they demand from the toilers. While the landlarks laugh on in their glee. For they cripple the homes of the workers.

They are not for you or for me. Humanity's surplus is crowded; The populace grows poorer and more; Old England has scattered her children. And Germany's waiting to score.

Like the danger is lurking profound. Hugh fleets they demand from the toilers. While the landlarks laugh on in their glee. For they cripple the homes of the workers.

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to hand out to someone and ask them if they will not please look it over and return it to you. The writer has loaned books all his life, he has many books that he keeps for this purpose only. The following wording is one of the forms he has used.

Dear Friend: This book belongs to the "Circulating Library" of

It is cheerfully loaned to anyone who will read it, and return it to the owner within a reasonable time—that it may be sent on another mission. Should you be interested enough in these books I will certainly be pleased to sell you a copy, or take your order for similar literature.

THE MEANING OF BOOKS. A good book is the purest essence of a human soul. The good book is not alone the facts that can be gotten out of it, but the kind of resonance that it awakens within our minds. A book may strike out of us a thousand things, or make us know a thousand things which we did not know before. A good book becomes a wise man. He knows the world, and the world knows him. A collection of good books contains all the nobles and wisdom of the world before us, for every heroic and virtuous soul has placed his stamp therein. A collection of books is the best of all universities.

I am sure that the effectiveness of our propaganda can be doubled, tripled and increased a hundred fold, by the systematic and earnest use of literature. I do not believe in giving books away, they should be loaned or sold, otherwise they are apt to be wasted.

You should also have a regular "following" of books. I am sure that all of you can do such work, and most of you can do more than you have been doing.

TOPICAL TOPICS They build up their mansions and castles. The combines and trusts own galore. They tell us if we build a navy The world will be at our feet. We must guard the land that we fought for.

That our forefathers' life blood was shed. There may be some terrible battle— They have to sell metal and lead. We'll keep mammoth ships on our waters.

All foes we will easily dispel. And our fathers and sons shall be slaughtered. Watched the looters play ping pong in hell.

If you have not a crust in your cupboard. You must keep a big ship on the sea. And mothers, wives and young children Widowed and fatherless be.

Japs menace Australian waters. Their ships silent patrol around. Like ghouls of the night they are passing. The danger is lurking profound.

Hugh fleets they demand from the toilers. While the landlarks laugh on in their glee. For they cripple the homes of the workers.

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## Will they put this Gray Head in a Noose?

Mother Jones, that wonderful old woman of labor, now bent and gray with 80 years, but with a smile on her wrinkled face that tells of peace of soul, is on trial for her life in that jungle of injustice and feudal despotism, West Virginia.

When her "boys," the underpaid and overworked miners, who live in shanties on the hillsides and rear their children in enforced squalor, that such as Katie Elkins can flit some months ago, the aged "angel of labor" hastened to their rescue, and she has been leading them, preaching to them about union organization and fighting their battles as best she knew.

Ah, what a woman is this! I know her well. I saw her in the great coal strikes of Pennsylvania, leading the silent host over the dusty roads and the black fields that crust the black diamond deposits.

Knowing something of the good this woman has done in the past twenty years, my heart is sick to-day as I think of her in a prison cell in darkest West Virginia—this sweet old woman that any man might be proud of as a mother or grandmother. Yes, the heart of labor in this country over will bleed for her in this dark hour of peril and suffering.

HER MESSAGE. But how about her? What wires tell us that she is brave. They say she said, only day before yesterday: "This is all right, boys. You know I have committed no crime. You know why they have locked me up charging me with inciting to murder. It is merely because they can't bear to permit me to talk to you. I am an old woman, and I have not long to live. I am ready for the eternal sleep. If they take me to the gibbet it will be all right, and I will die gladly, because it will cause thousands of millions to think of the misery of all of you poor workers, your miserable wives and your children, who are denied the comforts and blessing that you should have in this great country. String me up to your tree, you soldiers and detectives and judges, if you will. That is the only way that you can still my voice."

Wonderful old woman! Years ago, in her quiet home, she read of the injustices that plague the great majority of men and women in this age of greed. At that time she was a quiet and as conventional woman as any housewife of Philadelphia. She was childless and her heart was big.

DEFINITIONS OF SOCIALISM H. Martin, National Secretary, S. D. P. SOCIOLOGY. Sociology is a scientific inquiry into the actual conditions of society. It is a new conception of society, including its development, in strict contradiction to the theological theory of society.

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ROBBERY UNDER ARMS Driven to extremities in their effort to procure the necessary funds for the recent enormous increase in expenditures, the German Government, it is stated, has decided to raid the treasuries of the trade unions, as well as the coffers of the increased expenses.

When it is remembered that the bulk of the German trade union membership is intensely Socialist, and, as a matter of course, anti-militarist also, it can readily be seen that if the government insists on carrying out this policy, it will have "started something," with a vengeance.

And it isn't likely, either, that those unions which are not Socialist will view with complacency the sight of the government plunging its talons into their coffers extracting money therefrom that was gathered for the special purpose of fighting the exploiting class and using it to fight the battles of that class.

It doesn't seem probable that the German Government will resort to this last and most dangerous folly of all, but it may be perhaps that the "crazed" for armaments will ultimately drive the bourgeoisie beyond the orthodox limits of exploitation to levy directly upon the workers to aid and abet them in their lunacy.

Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad, it is said, and one of the quickest ways of insuring destruction is by making a powerful Socialist working class mad by confiscating its funds.

The Labor party in Great Britain was largely the result of the Taff Vale decision mulcting the union treasuries of that country, but if the game is tried on 5,000,000 German Socialists, with the added indignity of using the stealings to perpetuate the craziness of capitalism, something may drop so heavily that the Kaiser and his capitalist thieves will never comprehend what struck them. Or, the whole, we should like to see this thing tried in order to note what happens afterwards.—New York Call.

B. C. Socialists! Notice! The McBride Government has cancelled the voters' lists. If you do not register before April 7, 1913, you are disfranchised. Warn every worker you meet to register. They have also extended the life of the legislature to five years. Get ready for an election, and make good. Remember it will be the last chance in five years. McBride, glutted with power, gorged with pride and lured with the possibilities, means to lose no chance or leave no stone unturned in order to hang on to a good thing. The Liberals are out of business in B. C. Socialists! Unite against the Conservatives, and make it a worthy campaign!

THE CLASS STRUGGLE. This is a struggle between two classes in modern society. On the one hand the capitalist class, and on the other, the working class. The former to retain the wage system and prevent any change in the economic structure of society, the latter to destroy the wage system by abolishing capitalism.

Between these two warring classes in modern society, stands the STATE (the army, navy and judiciary). As long as the capitalist class retain full possession of this STATE, the power of coercion, they are able to use it as a weapon to defeat every attempt to alter the economic structure of society. Hence every attempt to destroy economic privilege and establish industrial democracy inevitably leads to a political struggle (the capitalist class) and the exploited class (the working class) the capitalist class to HOLD, the workers to TAKE.

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Her husband died and her home, her kitchen, her pots and kettles and needles seemed futile to her. She determined to cast her lot with the underdog. And she became a labor organizer.

If she were to come into your presence now you would be amazed at the audacity of the brave soldier men and strong-armed detective of West Virginia who would dare to put such a woman under the shadow of the gallows. She would be dressed in a simple watered-silk dress of ancient fashion. A bit of crisp lace would encircle her withered throat. A little black bonnet with a black ribbon on it would mount her gray head. She could be smiling and holding out her embowing hand and she would say, in her pretty Irish accent, "How do you do and how are you getting on?" even if you were a perfect stranger.

SHE LOVES ALL MEN. How are YOU getting on? That is her mind. That is how she views life. She loves all men with great self-sacrificing love and proves it by giving her life that others may be more comfortable.

I have known her when she had no place to lay her weary head. I have known her when she had long been without food. But she never known her when she was NOT SMILING or not sacrificing.

For hours, in the dingy hotels in strike-swept towns, I have sat and listened to the quaintly told and thrilling stories of Mother Jones' service to labor. How, one time, in West Virginia, she induced the wife of a judge to give her a pair of the judge's boots and then took them to the jail and put them on the feet of a miner whose bare feet were on the stone floor of the cage where that very judge had sent him for violation of some cooked-up injunction in favor of some rich coal mining concern.

The last time that Mother Jones was in Philadelphia she called at one of the labor headquarters and overheard some of the leaders talking about an entertainment they were to give. He said: "I have rented a piano for the hall and it cost me \$5." spoke Mother Jones. "Five dollars, do you say? Five dollars for music. Give it to me, for I know a family up in Kensington that's starving."

That's her. That's the spirit of the woman whom West Virginia would put to death on a detective's trumped-up charge of inciting to murder. —Marian E. Pew, Editor of the Philadelphia News-Post.

On the ground of the class struggle we are invincible; if we leave it we are lost, because we are no longer Socialists. The strength and power of Socialism rests in the fact that we are less than a class struggle; that the laboring class is exploited and oppressed by the capitalist class, and that within the capitalist society effectual reforms, which will put an end to class government and class exploitation, are impossible. —Liebknecht.

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The manager of the Coldstream Estate Co., Limited, Vernon, B. C., advertises for sale in the Vernon News of March 6th the following articles:

Three teams, four-year-old colts; broken; 11 head aged horses, good workers, all in good condition, having been stabled all winter; also a number of Acme and Disc harrows, and walking plows. The reason for selling is given bluntly in the ad, as follows: "Selling because we have no further use for these, as we are working and cultivating with gasoline machinery." That advertisement is a portent and a sign of the passing of the small farmer. The machine age has come to agriculture. The little farmer's condition will become harder and harder just as the lot of the small independent producer in industry became when plant production revolutionized industry. Capitalism is going to expropriate the small farmer. His only hope of escaping suffering during the transformation is to usher in the abolition of rent, interest and profit before the big producers skin him to death.

Tight Hour day for Miners On March 20th, the Ontario government introduced into the Ontario legislature its eight-hour-day bill dealing with the employment of miners. The bill, which applies to all mines in the province employing more than six men, and makes exceptions only in special cases, such as accidents, etc., is practically the incorporation into a bill of the recommendations of Samuel Price. Price was chosen at the end of last session as commissioner to investigate the eight hour day proposition.

Price found that miners, even in non-union mines, and in those mines where the workers were alleged to be benevolently governed by their employers, wanted the eight hour day. He took a secret ballot among the miners and found 332 wanted the shorter day while only 12 opposed it. He was surprised to find that the workers whose income depended upon how much they could do.

Mr. Price came to the conclusion that working underground was unhealthy and injurious, that a shorter work-day would allay unrest and remove a frequent source of costly trouble between the employers and the men, that it would tend to a greater efficiency among the men, encourage a more permanent class of residents because men would bring their families in, and lessen the large remittances of wages now sent out of the province.

Some of the mine managers opposed the compulsory legal eight-hour day, but Mr. Price investigated the results which flowed from the legal shorter day in the provinces, states and countries where such a law was in force for a number of years. The opinions he obtained all endorsed the act, and many were satisfied that the law had not increased the cost of operation or diminished the output, OWING TO THE INCREASED EFFICIENCY OF THE MEN.

The Whitney government has introduced the law from this fact alone it can be safely deduced that it will in no ways reduce the amount of rent, interest and profit flowing from robbed labor to the parasite masters of Sir James. It will rather have contrary effect.

The long hours injure the health of the workers. As all profit comes from the robbery of the working class the deterioration of the human work-beasts is a serious matter for the master class. This is reason number one for Sir James to grant the act.

The long hours, wearing out the men, make them irritable and fighting mad; they strike, and the master class lose their current profits; the mines deteriorate, and armed thugs have to be employed at much cost. Shorter hours tend to stop these things which interfere with the profits of the master class. This is Sir James' reason number two.

The miners of Ontario are likely to the sellers of commodities have a greater market, thus increasing the surplus values stolen from other divisions of the robbed working class. This is Sir James' reason number three.

Fourthly and lastly, the output of the men is, not diminished one whit. It may even be increased because of the increased efficiency of the men.

The miners of Ontario are likely to get the law they have long fought for, but it is granted in no spirit of friendship to labor. It is granted because it will prove more profitable to the exploiting class. This is nothing but the exemplification of the law of capitalist government—that they will grant reforms to the workers only in so far as such reforms will benefit the employing class. To get anything beyond that the working class must unite upon the political field and overthrow the rule of the capitalists.

THE TRUE HOME. I believe in the home, the Christian home, not the tawdry mansion of the idle rich, nor yet the crowded, germ-infested, disease-breeding tenement of the suffering poor. I believe in the home, not the gilded palace surfeited with luxury and inhabited by selfishness personified, nor yet the place scant in room and poorly furnished, where tired and weary and heart-sore parents find a place to eat and sleep and where ragged and dirty and half-fed children grow up in poverty and ignorance and vice to become vagrants and criminals and a menace to society. I believe in the home where love lives, where the one man loves the one woman and the woman loves the one man, where there is a merry prattle of innocent childhood, where there is work enough for all to keep the body strong and healthy and the mind clear and clean and bright, where there is leisure for reading and study and recreation, where there are all the comforts of life and none of its brutal luxuries.—Rev. Wm. Hamilton, former opponent, now advocate of Socialism.

HELPLESS WITHOUT IT. I cannot forget that the laboring class, so-called, must like any other class, fight for its own rights, or be content to see them trampled under foot; and that the strength given it by organization, superinduced upon members, is its only effectual defense against the unchecked tyranny of capital eager for the profit and reckless of other's rights. The power developed by combination may be abused like any other power, but labor is helpless and a prey without it.—Hosack Greeley.

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