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# Cotton's Weekly

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COWANSVILLE, P. Q., CANADA, JULY 21, 1916

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## THE Crack of the Slave Whip will be Heard Over the Backs of the Prisoners of Ontario. This is the Decree of Hanna, Whitney and Reaume

### PRISON LABOR

The capitalists of Ontario are chortling with joy. The weak minded reformers are clapping their hands in glee. The politicians are preening their feathers and blushing with conscious pride. For, behold, the Ontario politicians have discovered what the Egyptians knew four thousand years ago, that prisoners and criminals can be made to do the work of a parasite master class to advantage.

The Ontario government has established a prison colony farm of eight hundred acres near Guelph, Ontario. Here short term prisoners are set to work at farm labor. A hundred and five prisoners are being employed in milking cows, building road ways, installing a telephone system, and doing other work. A forge, carpenter shop, brick kiln, stone crushing quarry and other machinery of production are being operated by prison labor.

The prisoners seem to be productive workers. And the politicians who serve the master class have great schemes on foot. The stone quarry, run by prison labor, will aid municipalities in the construction of roads and boulevards. The dairy will supply milk products for provincial institutions. The prisoners will eventually be put to work on public buildings. Magnificent structures will arise out of the unrequited labor of prison slaves.

But this is not all. Northern Ontario is to be opened by roads built by convict chain gangs. Up into the Northern wilderness, into the terrors of the bog belts and the black fly areas will be driven the prisoners who have been caught in the meshes of the damnable criminal law of Canada. There, hundreds of miles from the watchful eyes of the public will be worked the chain gangs of the miserable wretches who have been jailed for some crime committed against the legalized thieves of the parasite profit mongers of the capitalist system.

Free workers are not free. They are economically bound. But they can unite to protect their own interests. They can strike. They can vote. They can at times compel a raise in wages. They can at times unionize shops and improve the condition of labor. None of these things can the prisoner do. He must work when Hanna tells him. Get up when Hanna rings the bell, whether at three, four or five in the morning. Eat when Hanna tells him. He cannot quit his job. He cannot organize with his fellow workers. He is a slave, bound, hand and foot, voice, and body to the will of Hanna. Hanna declares that this prison slave is to work in competition with the free laborers. Hanna says he is doing this out of kindness to the prisoners. Rot. Hanna is serving the labor thieving capitalists. Hanna cannot make any sensible worker of Ontario believe that prison labor is in the interests of the prisoners.

Argentina is going to do what the experience of nations through the ages has proven to be impossible. It is going to stamp out certain ideas from the heads of people by means of force. A new law just passed by the Senate and Chamber of Deputies in Argentina provides that residence of Anarchists in Argentina shall be rigorously interdicted. All Anarchists are to be expelled. This persecution of a certain brand of people with a certain brand of thought will defeat the aim it is intended to serve. Anarchism thrives on persecution. Anarchism will become a live, potent force in Argentina now that the authorities are resolved to stop it. The blood of martyrs will be the seed of Anarchism.

The Montreal Daily Witness was quite shocked at the patriotic issue of Cotton's Weekly. It called it unwholesome and tried to combat the ideas therein set forth. To prove the spirit of patriotism in Canada the Witness mentioned the glow that comes over the faces of school children when they sing The Maple Leaf Forever. This glow, however, does not prove patriotism. It proves the reaction of children to sensational stimuli. I have seen the same glow come over the faces of youngsters when singing around a posy, or easy melody miny mo. But thus ever do plute apologists twist and misinterpret the facts of life to fit their fallacies.

The plunderers of Ontario want prison labor, for such is the kingdom of profit.

Electing a capitalist politician to protect the interests of labor is like setting a wolf to guard a sheepfold from harm.

The capitalist system is full of contradictions. The lightning of the lot of the prisoner means increased burdens for the wage workers.

Prison labor degenerates into peon camps. Does Hanna think his little brain can devise schemes of utilizing prison labor and escape the experience of all countries? If he does then he is puffed up vainly with his own conceit.

### HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES

Whitney, Hanna and Reaume, the politicians responsible for this innovation, are either arrant hypocrites or infants in wisdom. Hanna and Reaume have become humanitarians. They are glibly talking about the humanity of the prisoners. They have actually come to the conclusion that prisoners are really living, human, loving, hating men. They have actually perceived that prisoners are not devils but are just like other men.

They announce this discovery to the world and then they attempt to apply it. And, being the thorough capitalist henchmen they are, they immediately do the thing which is pleasing to the master class. They fling prison labor into competition with free labor.

Of course this side is not dwelt upon. The hatefulness of dark prison cells is painted to shock the public mind. The old treadmill is shown up in its ugliness. The dull routine of the prison life is illustrated. The new order of things is shown in glowing colors.

Take the prisoners out of the prisons. Prisons are bad for prisoners. Let them get where God's free air abounds that their lungs may be filled with oxygen. Let their bodies toil so that they may become fine specimens of humanity. This is the plea. This is the humanitarian principle which Hanna and his mates are claiming to enforce.

And the newspapers rejoice. The capitalists cry amen. Prisons are bad. Of course they are, because prisons cost money and the capitalist plunderers do not like to pay taxes. Therefore it is good to empty the jails, providing you can do it so that the terror of the law remains, the fear of which allows the capitalists to garner their unearned dividends and profits in peace.

Whitney, Hanna and Reaume have found the way. It is no new way. It is the way as old, if not older, than the pyramids of Egypt. Let the prisoners be turned into slaves for the creation of comforts for the master class.

The prisoners are going to be made to till the land. They are going to produce the food to feed the governmental institutions. They are going to quarry stone and do other things now done by free labor. Taxes will not be so heavy. Therefore the owners of the machinery of production are more than content with the humanitarianism of the Ontario executive.

The movement has been met with acclaim. Great is Whitney who turns the criminals, the byproducts of capitalist plunderings, into productive muscle to heap higher the share of the capitalists and to beat down the wage laborers. The capitalists have looked upon the work of Whitney and found it to be good.

So Whitney spreads the system. The prisoners are marched north to the wilds. There camps are established and the men are set to work doing the heaviest kind of work, whether they are accustomed to it or not. Men bred to the city are turned into pawns. If they die there are fresh prisoners being caught in the meshes of the capitalist law and the dead will make less prisoners to feed.

The humanitarianism of Whitney is only in appearance. Take the stripes off the clothing of the prisoner, not make him work like a wage slave. Remove him from the walls of the prison and put him where he will be useful to the profit lords. While lips are dripping kindness to the prisoner, let him be driven forth to work like a slave.

### THE ENSLAVING PROCESS

There are three possible ways in which the experiment of Hanna, Whitney and Reaume may work. The experiment may be a success from the capitalist point of view. If the experiment proves a success and is continued to its ultimate conclusion, then all the workers of Ontario will become prisoners. The prisoners, in the second place, may be used not on productive work, but on works of magnificence. In that case, the province may raise grand structures on the slave labor and re-inact in Ontario the ancient custom of raising mighty structures on the misery of men. In the third place, the experiment may be a failure. Free labor was introduced simply because it was more economic than slavery. Let us consider the first case first, and see what will happen should the experiment prove a success.

The capitalist system is based upon the robbery of the workers. The worker gets in return but a bare living. The rest goes to the capitalist class. The cheaper worker displaces the more expensive one. The fight in Spain against the monks is an economic one. The religious institutions are untaxed. The religious brothers produce many things for sale. Owing to non-taxation, and the fact that the monkish workers can work cheaper because they have no families to support, make them able to produce goods cheaper than the free workers, thus depriving the free workers of a market and a job. The monkish workers displace the free workers.

In the same way prison labor, provided it is as efficient as free labor, will displace the free laborers. The government feeds, clothes and shelters the prisoners out of taxation. The government therefore, has a huge supply of labor power for the production of articles for sale. These can be sold at a price below that of regular industrial establishments employing workers whose wages must cover the cost of their own keep and the keep of their families. Prison labor can out compete free labor, providing always it is as efficient.

The basic fact of the capitalist system is that the workers must find a market for their labor power. The labor power is sold to a boss who in turn must find a market for the commodities produced. If the market of the boss is monopolized by prison made commodities, the boss will not be able to employ wage workers and the wage workers will become jobless. Without a job the workers become vagrants and are liable to six months imprisonment. Even if the worker is not jailed on this charge he will later on become committed on some other charge for the jobless worker will have to get a living in some illegal way, his legal method, the sale of his labor power, having been taken away from him.

Thus begins the enslaving process. Prison products displace commercial products. Some free workers lose their jobs and become criminals. They are jailed and set to work with the other prisoners to produce a greater quantity of prison products to displace more workers, who are jailed to produce a greater quantity still of prison products.

Once allow the process to start, its logical conclusion will be to turn all the Ontario wage slaves into prisoners and the work of Ontario will be done wholly from jails or prison farms under the guns of guards.

Are Whitney, Hanna and Reaume fools, or are they resolved to introduce into Ontario the peon conditions which have made Mexico a disgrace to the world? Are these three men simpletons, or are they crafty enslavers of the workers of Ontario?

It looks as though they were crafty enslavers. The prison farm at Guelph is an experiment. If it succeeds other farms will be started. It is intended to supply government needs from prison work. This will cut out contractors and free laborers. These politicians, whether they be fools or traitors to the hard won bodily liberty of the workers, have started out to do their utmost to beat back to chattel slavery the wage workers of Ontario.

Rockefeller, Carnegie, et al are doing good work with their fortunes according to their light. But their light is a mighty poor one.

### MAGNIFICENT STRUCTURES

The Honorable W. J. Hanna, Provincial Secretary of Ontario, addressing the Legislature on February 26th, 1907, declared that he wished to find a solution of the question of prison labor that would avoid all possibility of its being put into competition with free labor. That solution has certainly not been found by Hanna. The solution is impossible within the capitalist mode of production. It can only be solved by the abolition of the wage system. The attempted solution by Hanna et al is to put prison labor on works which are now not being done. Short sighted Hanna does not realize that new work, new structures, new modes of employment must be continually put into operation to keep the wage workers employed.

No matter what work prisoners are employed in the form of productive enterprises, prison labor is bound to compete with free labor. In primitive Rome, the workers were so productive, that not only did they produce their own needs, but they produced the luxuries of the patrician, and also equipped and fed vast armies for the conquest of the world.

But let us imagine that the workers are taken out of competition with free labor. What would result from their labor? Only such things as the pyramids of Egypt, vast heaps of stone useless for all purpose of life could be produced.

No doubt Hanna thinks that Northern roads, city pavements and provincial public buildings can be built by prisoners without hurt to the wage workers of Ontario. This is a mistake. As long as capitalism lasts; as long as the worker must seek a job from an employer, just so long will every blow on a quarried stone, every hammer tap on a public building applied by the fettered arm of the prison slave, be so much less chance of work for the wage worker seeking employment.

But there is a spiritual degradation in the building of great works by slave mortals. The pyramids of Egypt, the temple of Karnak, the ruins of Babylon, speak mournfully of men driven to their task, slaves worked to the limit of their strength and against their will.

Slowly through the ages the idea of liberty has been conquered. In pain and tribulation and strife, the freedom of human effort has been struggled for. The fight for freedom has been a long one. And from the fierce strife has risen the conception that luxury based on slavery is a thing that should be abhorred. Hanna must either fling the prisoners into competition with free labor or else set them to work building magnificent structures that will rival the slave glories of the kingdoms of past ages. In the latter case, he will base magnificence upon misery, luxury upon slavery, and he will teach the master class of Ontario to consider it a goodly thing to have great structures reared by the destruction of freedom.

The protest that is rising throughout Ontario shows that the ideals won through long ages are still cherished. The fight for economic liberty is too near won to have this liberty flung into the far distant future by the crafty minded politicians of Ontario basing a new economic despotism on the world old idea of forced labor.

Mrs. Ella L. Palmer, near Boston, hired an immigrant girl for \$2.50 a week. When the girl found that she was underpaid according to the scale of wages for servant girls, she quit. Her mistress sued her for damages and was awarded over a hundred dollars damages against the girl. Slave girls must live up to their slave agreements or the slave courts will know the reason why.

There were free workers in Rome at the time of the wars of conquest. When Rome conquered foreign nations the Roman market was glutted with slaves. No employer would hire free laborers. He would buy slaves. Thus the free workers became masterless and drifted into the slums of Rome. Today Reaume is trying to produce in Ontario the same decadence owing to the smashing of the power of the workers. Reaume is doing the trick through peon labor. He is building magnificence upon slavery. And calls it progress.

Socialism is the new civilization.

The dreams of the humanitarians lead the world upward.

The discontent throughout the world is the most hopeful sign of the times.

The brotherhood of man can only be realized by the cessation of the class struggle.

Man was made to mourn, and the capitalist system is on to the job of making men mourn all right.

Men are not prosperous because of the capitalist system. The capitalist system produces misery and poverty.

The capitalist, under the capitalist system, is a capitalist. Under the Socialist system he will be a fellow worker.

Socialism aims at the abolishing of all forms of economic parasitism. Let the people who do the work spend the money.

The strong arm of the law lets the capitalists escape its grip. The laws were made to keep the petty thieves in order, not the big ones.

Prison labor is being thrown into competition with free labor. Prison labor can enslave free labor. Therefore the capitalists need it in their business.

Men should work to live seems to be a simple little maxim. Yet the capitalists do not like the doctrine when applied to themselves by the Socialist agitators.

Many capitalists are kind, lovable men in their own family circles and among their own friends. Nevertheless they are parasites who live off the labor of others.

A vote for a Socialist candidate means nothing if the voter does not know what he is voting for. Happily few but Socialists will vote for a Socialist candidate.

Socialism means the abolition of wage slavery. There are many good men who are pained at the exuberance of the Socialist venom. But the task of freeing slaves is not conducive to the cultivation of drawing room amenities.

How do you like the prospect of competing with prisoners for jobs? That is what the capitalist politicians hand out to you. Yet you still vote for them. Get wise to the game. Get into the Socialist Party and vote for your own interests.

In Canada there is a strong movement for government ownership of public utilities. Public ownership and democratic management of the means of production with the abolition of rent, interest and profit will relieve distress which government ownership under the Liberal or Borden gang will never do.

There are many who think that Socialism is immoral. But Socialism is a political movement for allowing people to have access to the machinery which is necessary for the production of things for the sustaining of life. How can it be immoral for men and women to be allowed to earn an honest living?

A bunch of Toronto reporters went out to the prison farm at Guelph and were smitten with astonishment at the wonderful cheerfulness, briskness and happiness shown the prisoners. The farm is a plaything now and moreover was on its best behavior. For were not the eyes of the 'boosters of slave labor on the prisoners? But wait a few months when the prisoners get tired of working for nothing. Then will there be practised revolting cruelties in secret.

Lord Sholto Douglas, brother of the Marquis of Queensbury, has gone broke and is working for two dollars a day for the C. P. R. on a surveying crew. This news is printed in many plute papers, and many persons sympathize with the noble Lord for having tumbled off the backs of the workers. But ordinary wage plugs can work all their lives for one fifty per diem and nothing is said. For according to the gospel of the capitalists it is the duty of the workers to support the parasites.

### FAILURE

There is the third alternative. The experiment may be a failure. Prison labor applied to productive enterprises may be found not to be so profitable after all. Moreover the protests of the toilers, the contractors and other interests involved may prove effective.

So far through history one mode of production has given way to another mode because the new has been found to be more economical. Feudalism did not give way until rising capitalism became the more powerful. Chattel slavery in the States was overthrown because it was more wasteful than wage labor. Prison labor partakes of the essential nature of chattel slavery inasmuch as the prisoner has no control over the disposal of his body and no choice of the work to which he is to be put.

The experience of the human race has shown that free labor with the incentive of reward for labor is the most productive kind of labor. It is for this reason that Socialism will make labor free indeed and give it the full product that results from applied labor power. Wage labor is more productive than slave. The wage laborer has some slight choice as to the occupation he will select and he has some slight choice in the selection of a job. He has the power to combine to raise wages and to collectively better his condition. The wage laborer works to better advantage than the slave and is consequently more profitable to the master class.

Prison labor, therefore, will not be popular with the wage earner or with some parasite bosses or with the middle class member. A chain gang on the streets is now considered a disgusting sight. Human instincts are against it. The wage worker feels his job is being taken. Some bosses will feel that their profits are being lowered. The middle class feel that prison labor that earns no money will buy no goods from the store, employ no doctor, give fees to no lawyer. Therefore the chain gang is not liked. The economic interests of the many are against it.

As is well known, moral sentiments are based upon economic interests. Slavery and torture endured as long as they were profitable. When they became unprofitable the moralists of the master class awoke to the horrors of the institution of slavery. Of course the economic interests of the slaves were against the institution of slavery, and slaves also had their moralists. But these moralists, as long as slavery stood, were regarded as pestiferous fellows who attacked the basis of the state and the social order, and they were killed with a vim by the master class and their killing was applauded by the moralists who moralized in the interests of the masters.

Prison labor being inefficient, it is possible to draw moral lessons which will help show why prison labor will fail. To work well there must be incentive. Socialism will give a full incentive because the worker will get the full reward of his labor. Wage labor gives a partial incentive as the worker gets a part of his labor. The prisoner has no incentive as he must be kept fed, clothed and sheltered anyway and he gets no reward for the labor the provincial executive will exact. Incentiveless labor is poor and inefficient. Prison labor will be this.

Now comes the inevitable result of slavery and unrewarded toil. The incentive of gain is lacking. The incentive of fear must take its place. Wherever slavery or prison labor flourish, their flourish floggings, oppression and cruel task masters.

Hanna and Reaume are now weeping salt tears of pity over the idle condition of the prisoners. They must be set to work for the good of themselves. Soon, however, Hanna and Reaume will be gleaming hate and wrath at the prisoners. "The poor prisoners do not know what to do. For pity's sake let us give them work," is the public cry of Hanna and Reaume. "The prisoners won't work. For God's sake give them the lash," will be the wrathful secret cry of Hanna and Reaume when the prisoners are set to their appointed tasks and lie down on them. Thus tyranny will be born and moralists will thunder against the tyranny to excite the powerful wage labor skinner to exert influence against the weak prison labor skinner.

Hanna, Reaume and Whitney are foolish mortals. Oh that our politicians had only the power to think and reason, instead of being the blind fools they are.

## THE BATTLING FARMERS

By Milla Tupper Maynard.

"You did not tell the full story," said a prosperous looking gentleman to a Socialist speaker, after a lecture in a farming town of Missouri.

"What did I leave out?" answered the speaker.

"You said the landlord farmers had nothing to gain from Socialism and a good deal to lose." The man replied. "Now, I am a retired farmer. I own several farms that other men rent and their work gives me my income."

"I know Socialism would stop all that, but I contend that since it would insure a chance to work for full pay to my children, I should be the gainer. My farms might slip out of my clutches. I'd rather have Socialism for my children than any fortune I could leave them. If it comes before I die, so much the better."

The speaker realized the truth of this. For the man whose self-interest can see beyond his own immediate door yard there is ample reason for even the landlord to wish an emancipated society.

An Indiana man was entertaining a Socialist speaker. He was one of the main speakers in the Lafayette local.

"Do you want a good illustration for your speeches?" he inquired.

"Every time," came the answer.

"Well, do you see that basket of eggs? I was out to a farm I own this morning and brought them back. The wife of the tenant got them for me. I said something about fresh eggs being pretty good diet this time of the year. 'I don't know,' she said, 'we can't afford to eat them at present prices.'"

"Yet I, who do nothing at all but go out and take away my half of the crop every year, can afford to buy her eggs."

"But that isn't the worst of it," the landlord "farmer" continued. "How do you suppose I got that farm? It was this way. My first wife's father used to own it. She inherited it. When she died, it came to me."

"Pure beneficent Providence, then," laughed the listener.

"Well, I should say. Not an hour's work have I ever done on that land in my life. Yet here I am able to take off half the crop every year. Talk about graft!"

"Is your tenant a Socialist?"

"Not yet, but he will be before long, I hope. I have got an argument to use on him that hits home. I don't have to be very wordy and learned to convince the men on my farms. I am afraid I should bounce them if they didn't see the point in time. A man who couldn't, wouldn't have sense enough to farm right."

A Kansas farmer owning a full section of rich land is one of the most aggressive Socialists in the state. "I tell my fool tenants to remember what Mrs. Lease used to say and 'raise less corn and more hell,'" he chuckles, "but the blamed fools won't all see it."

These men are not typical capitalist farmers, of course, but they are more frequently found than in other lines of proprietorship. Such an attitude is common enough to make it seem true that "the farmers are natural revolutionists."

The Appeal to Reason counts its devotees among the farm owners by tens of thousands, to say nothing of the farm laborers and tenants, who swear by it.

The farm populations are to be with the Socialists in any event. Nevertheless, we need special study and special literature for the farmers. No Socialist literature could ever please any one who wished to buy his rent, interest or profit. This every one knows and only misrepresentation can imagine anything of the kind.

But the imagination of the farmer seeks satisfaction. The industrial laborer sees the trust, the labor armies, the big developments everywhere and the Socialist future in every reading.

Not so the farmer.

The class struggle which carries its own solution in factory and railroad, is not so definite a help in specific solutions for the farmer. The class war is on just the same. Its plan of campaign in the increasing responsibilities of possible success is not so clear-cut.

If we stop thinking that every move is an effort to cajole and compromise, and face the actual problems on their merits, there would be far more success and less misdirected energy.

The refusal of the party to say that all land shall in the future be publicly owned and administered (except as the final title is always collective) is only an effort to avoid utopian prophecy about which there can be no certainty till agricultural evolution is more pronounced. The one thing we know is that exploitation must go.

## THE QUESTION OF RIGHTS

You say that the Carnegies and Rockefellers and Harrimans and Astors and Vanderbilts and Goulds are entitled to their immense riches because they had the ability to amass such fortunes.

Very well then, you are no doubt prepared to assert that pirates, highwaymen, swindlers, safe-blowers and pickpockets are entitled to their "earnings" since they too have "ability" and "assume risks."

"It is just as sinful," John Ruskin once said, "to steal with a long head as it is to steal with a long arm."

If it is right for Carnegie to fleece me by paying me in wages less than 1-3 of what I produce, it is right for him to prevent Rockefeller from doing so by laying hold of his industries.

If it is right for Rockefeller to organize an army of men to produce wealth for him, it is right for this same army to organize to retain the wealth which its labor produces.

If it is right for Rockefeller to appropriate the lands and forests and railways for their own organizations, it is right for the people to do likewise.

If it is right for one set of capitalists to oust another set of capitalists from the field of industry, it is no less right for the masses to do the same thing through a politicians party.

If it is right for capitalists to use the governments to enrich themselves, it is right of the people to do likewise.

The struggle between capital and labor is a contest of wits. It is a test of power. We must put brains against brains, meet cunning with cunning, fight organization with organization.

The capitalists laid hold of the industries of the country through force, cunning and fraud. The people must regain control of these industries through force if need be.

W. R. S.

## THE REASON.

Mary E. Marcy heard a miner say he got \$2.00 a day digging out \$10.00 worth of coal. A big strapping teamster who heard his remark asked:

"Well, why do you do it?"

"What are you doing about it?" the miner replied. "The boss owns the mine."

And therein lies the reason WHY those who actually do the work never get rich.

Since the mine itself and the machinery in the mine belongs to a capitalist, so does the coal dug out.

The capitalist buys human labor-power the same as he buys electric power or horse-power, namely, for the things it can be made do.

The things produced by electric power do not belong to the owner of the electric power plant. Neither do the things produced by labor-power belong to the laborer. They belong to the man who bought the power.

If the miner extracts from the earth 4 tons of coal a day, and those 4 tons sell at the mine's mouth for \$10.00, that \$10.00 belongs to the proprietor of the mine, not to the man who dug it out.

But a part of that \$10.00 must be given the miner to enable him to buy himself and family the necessities of life. That is the purpose of wages.

The competition among the workers for the jobs is so great that they underbid each other for employment and thereby keep wages at a very low level. All over and above what is required to support the working class is appropriated by the capitalists for their own enjoyment.

W. R. S.

## THE ANTI-SOCIALISTS.

The employers of labor may be expected to fight the Socialist movement (1) because it will enable their workpeople to command higher wages, shorter hours and improved conditions, and (2) because it will ultimately put them out of business.

The contractors will bear a grudge against the Socialist party because it will insist upon administrative bodies doing their work without passing it out to middle-men.

Investors will be wary of Socialism since its growth will cause depreciation in the value of stocks and other securities.

Merchants may be expected to combat the movement when Socialist municipalities start municipal fuel yards, municipal dairies, municipal slaughter houses, etc.

Only the workers can carry out the Socialist program.

Amicus.

## THE EMPLOYERS.

Employers of labor may be expected to fight the Socialist movement with great bitterness because in the transition period their material interests will be imperilled by (1) the loss of discipline among their wage slaves due to the inculcation of revolutionary principles, (2) the general reduction of hours, (3) the employment of the unemployed by the state enabling the workers engaged in the private industries to command much higher wages, (4) the factory legislation they will be compelled to obey, and (5) the ultimate loss of their economic and political power.

Amicus.

Ever have that hungry feeling after reading Cotton's? Hungry for more dope. Can't get it till the next number comes. And if your sub has expired it won't come. Renew at least a week in advance to get your issue.

## Toilers and Idlers

Our Serial Story

Copyrighted, 1907 by John B. McMahon.

### SYNOPSIS.

A rich young man goes to work in a foundry which he discovers to be his own property. He learns social conditions and gets next to union people, anarchists, settlement workers, inmates of orphan homes and other types. He faces the problem of his relations to his employees, complicated with a strike and riot.

### CHAPTER XXIV.

(Continued.)

"Anyhow, we must and will go back for further instructions from the union," said the business agent, "stating the extraordinary conditions learned."

"The strike was your fault," cried Tom, glaring at Rensen. "You acted like a damn spy. The strike and riots was your fault. So was the murder of Blackwash Zienski—a better man than you ever thought of being."

"Our business is done here," said Mr. Long, taking his hat.

"As for the death of Zienski—" began Rensen, somewhat indignant. He thought it over deciding that now and ever it could serve no purpose to tell what he knew. It had little to do with the problems to be solved; knowledge of it would not aid a friendly coming together with the men.

The grave condemnation of John Day hurt him beyond all else.

"Are you still against me?" he asked. "Can't you see what I'm trying to do?"

The old man shook his head. "I'm sorry enough to find such behavior on the part of the man I thought so much of."

Rensen flushed. "Did I ever tell you or anybody a direct lie?"

"No, son—no, sir—but lying direct, that's not the worst kind. The struggle of pride and aggreivement lasted only for a moment. Rensen had vowed to let no obstacle balk his purpose, especially such an obstacle as himself.

"Let me tell all of you," he said quickly and resolutely, "that whether I have been to blame for anything or not, I have had no other object but to attain justice for myself and the men. And by justice for myself I do not mean adding to my property. I came to work in the foundry mostly for amusement; I stayed because it did me good and I saw a chance to do right. What has happened has been due to various causes—my illness—the hostility of the superintendent, whom I have removed—especially, no doubt, my own indecision and ignorance. So, after all, I am to blame. Now I want to straighten out matters."

"That sounds mighty good," observed the business agent.

"Do you not believe me?"

"It sounds like the tune of all bosses in a hole," said the other, pursing his lips.

"That evidence do you want?"

"Deeds speak louder than words," said Mr. Long.

Rensen made reply by signing his name at the bottom of a sheet of legal cap.

"If you gentlemen will kindly fill in the terms of the agreement," he said, and left the astonished committee in the office.

At the end of half an hour, during which the transom gave report of boisterous exclamation, fluent argument and quiet counsel, the committee sent word that it was ready.

Day stood by the window, rather gravely non-committal. Tom Locker, chewing a cigar in excitement, straddled a chair. The business agent was pressing a blotter over the legal cap with a dubious sarcastic smile.

"I hope you have had enough time, gentlemen."

"Time enough, unless there is some trick," replied Mr. Long.

"I'll bet we're fooled," muttered Tom.

"Anyhow, there's the paper," said the business agent, "made and signed according to law."

Rensen read the terms and was amazed; for upon reflection it had seemed a questionable matter to leave a signed blank in these unfriendly hands. The terms merely stated recognition of the union; privilege of the delegate to visit the shop on business; back pay for the time of the strike; arbitration of future difficulties; the agreement "to hold for three years."

The temptation to draw up another agreement, far more liberal and in accord with his ideas, was put aside lest such a step be taken as a certain evidence of an unsound mind.

Mr. Long, in fact, drawing his own conclusions from the serene, persual, hastened to remark:

"This committee, sir, ain't inclined to be high-handed. There may have been mistakes on both sides and perhaps we can agree with a few concessions."

"But I have nothing to complain of," said Rensen smilingly.

"The back pay, for instance, it's enough if the men get it just for the official time of the strike, ending today."

"Oh, no, I understand it for the period until they return to work."

"May take a month to put in a new cupola and fix up the shop," said Mr. Long.

"All the better. The pay roll won't get rusty. But as a matter of fact we shall have the foundry in working order next week—that's arranged—and there will be a dinner to all the workmen and their families."

"That ain't in the agreement—I mean, the back pay, sir—Well, anyhow, I'll make a copy of the document. . . . Much obliged, sir. . . . Did you say, a dinner? . . . Deeds speak louder. . . ."

Tom Locker squirmed his bulk apologetically in the doorway. He took another cigar. His large forehead wrinkled in competition with a struggling grimace. Finally he crushed Rensen's hand and darted:

"So long. See you later."

When Rensen was left alone with John Day he found it easy to explain his purpose to him, concealing nothing, telling all from the beginning.

The distance and reserve faded from the old man's eyes. There was a little moisture in them as he offered a warm hand clasp.

"Of course I had no right to deceive you," said the young man.

"Life's too short to split hairs, son," replied the other cheerfully. "After all your deception has turned out an inception. Never mind. When I first saw it I liked the metal—guessed the cleaning room wouldn't show any flaws in the cast."

"Let's wait till they finish scraping and hammering."

"No, no-son. Don't need to. But I'm getting to be an old man and I never thought to see the beginning of the millennium. It's a grand sight. It's especially grand to see it in our trade."

"Mostly a millennium of problems, I think," said Rensen, lightly.

"What else do we want? The millennium don't mean laying on your back—it means something to work for, hopeful hearts, working together instead of working apart."

"Yes, it will be a glorious task for us all."

The main difficulty, John Day conceded, was how to establish the oasis of equality in a vast desert of injustice: how to plant and water that small green spot and save it from the trespass of dry sand. Yet the thing could be done. It had been done and was being done elsewhere. The world would never have progressed if universal evil had been allowed.

While they were discussing these matters, the men that had been telegraphed began to arrive. The dozen veterans stood in the office and Rensen told them that the strike had been settled and that hereafter the affairs of the Works would be guided by a council for the mutual benefit.

There would be no profit-sharing in the sense of stock allotments liable to depreciation, a partnership in risks impossible to the wage earner; nor any system of feudal prizes; nor a gift of a minute percentage of owner's profits. The workers, in fact, would be the owners. He asked their confidence and aid, the frank expression of opinion concerning the management of the new enterprise.

The men were rather silent; evidently not unappreciative, but unwilling to consider such a large plan.

It was suggested that for the present more would be gained by a detail study of the plant and its needs. So the party went through the various departments and noted advice of improvement made by the foremen of veteran workers. The machinists pointed out the false economy of old tools and asked for better lighting (incidentally it was learned that they were the most poorly paid of skilled tradesmen); the pattern makers showed the disadvantage of inferior supplies; the core makers and foundrymen made several suggestions. It was necessary to remind one of the department heads that the object was to increase the human dividend.

Among these men Rensen found several who seemed to be especially broad-minded, able as John Day in detail and generality, and he asked them to meet him privately for further conference. The loyalty of these gray-haired men and their zeal in the interests of an employer during so many years was an affecting guaranty of success in the larger enterprise.

For certainly they had not been loyal and zealous while, like the children of bondage, lacking knowledge of a better system. It had been their creed to wait and hope, to labor under inevitable conditions with cheerful diligence.

That night Rensen went to his lodgings utterly tired—scarcely having slept for forty-eight hours—yet satisfied and glad.

As he opened the door there was a noise in the closet. The lamp stood lighted on the floor, and strewn around were articles of dress, silver-backed brushes and odd bric-a-brac, tiptoeing to the closet he beheld Ohio Jimmy on his knees, busily packing a valise with valuables. The boy jumped up and tried to run past him.

(To be continued.)

### TO MY COUNTRY.

Let not the loud cheers of the patriot

Make thee oblivious to the needs of men;

Ensigns and colors, after all, are not Gifted with souls. My country! When The noisy clamor of the false appeal Calls forth the rapture of the fickle throng,

May there be yet a thoughtful few To feel

Sad truths, that plead above a nation's song.

VERNE DEWITT ROWELL, London, Ont.

### Helpful Directions

Please assist Cotton's staff by signing your name and address to everything you write. Make all money orders payable to Cotton's Weekly.

Write book, bundle, card or sub orders on separate sheet of paper from letters on other matters, in order to ensure prompt attention.

### EVERY WEEK

You run across a paragraph or an article in Cotton's, which you ought to mark and hand to a neighbor. For this purpose you should have a bundle of five or ten copies coming to you each and every week. For \$1.00 you can get five copies for 6 months or ten copies for 3 months. Send in your order now and get the full benefit of the Special Issues.

## POEMS FOR THE PEOPLE

### WORKERS OF THE WORLD. UNITE.

Workers of the world unite,  
Let your manhood know no fear;  
Yours is manhood's holy right—  
Freedom which to all is dear.  
Long the toilers' tired brain,  
Tried to solve this problem hard,  
But while neutral they remain  
Its solution they retard.

Workers of the world unite,  
From the office and the mines,  
Tis not man that you must fight,  
Tis his fetters, the combines.  
'Tis the system's awful curse,  
All the human race enslaves,  
'Tis the class dividing force,  
And all classes it depraves.

Workers of the world unite,  
Men are brothers one and all,  
Swell the ranks and press the fight,  
Freedom is the bugle call.  
Shoulder unto shoulder laid,  
Heart to heart and hand to hand,  
Till our cause, so long delayed,  
Ring with victory through the land.

Workers of the world unite,  
Crush wage slavery, sound its doom,  
Let the sun of freedom light,  
Every hovel called a home.

Neath the burden borne so long,  
Thousands fall amidst the fight,  
Fill their places swell the throng,  
Workers of the world unite.

MRS. B. J. SEAMAN.

### LINES WRITTEN IN A FACTORY.

The ceaseless whirr of the busy wheels  
Beats ever into my weary brain  
And I seem to hear in the anguished stir,  
The grinding out of lives in pain.

Oh, well for the lordly rich  
Who fawn on the helpless poor,  
And lash their slaves to the straining point,  
That their brothers can endure.

Oh, well for the pompous great,  
While they yawn o'er their cards and wine,  
The fettered toilers murmur not.  
In factory, mill and mine.

Oh, well for the churls of hate,  
Who dwell in their stately homes,  
That never a moan from the murdered dead,  
Breaks from the dreary tombs.

Verne Dewitt Rowell, London, Ont.

### THE WOLF AT THE DOOR.

By Charlotte Perkins Gilman.  
There's a hunting horror near us,  
That nothing drives away—  
Fierce lamping eyes at nightfall,  
A crouching shade by day;

There's a whining at the threshold,  
A scratching at the door—  
To work! To work! In Heaven's name!

The wolf is at the door!

The day was long, the night was short,  
The bed was hard and cold,  
Still weary are the little ones,  
Still weary are the old.

We are weary in our cradles,  
From our mother's toil untold,  
We are born to hoarded weariness,  
As some to hoarded gold.

We will not rise! We will not work;  
Nothing the day can give  
Is half so sweet as an hour of sleep;  
Better to sleep than live!

What power can stir these heavy limbs,  
What hope these dull hearts swell?  
What fear more cold, what pain more sharp,  
Than the life we know so well?

To die like a man by lead or by steel  
Is nothing that we should fear;  
No human death would be worse to feel

Than the life that holds us here.  
But this is a fear that no heart can face—  
A fate no man can dare—  
To be run to the earth and die by the teeth  
Of the gnawing monster there.

The slow, relentless, padding step  
That never goes astray—  
The rustle in the underbrush—  
The shadow in the way—  
The straining sight—the long pursuit—  
The steady gain behind—  
Death-wearied man and tireless brute,  
And the struggle wild and blind!

There's a hot breath at the keyhole  
And a tearing of the teeth!  
Well do I know the bloodshot eyes  
And the dripping jaws beneath!  
There's a whining at the threshold—  
There's a scratching at the floor—  
To work! To work! In Heaven's name!

The wolf is at the door.

This paragraph is a jogger about those Sub Cards you have on hand still unused. Get them into service.

## GOING UP

The sub list climbs a hundred and eighty-five. Manitoba drops under the thousand; mark and Nova Scotia goes over it with plenty of room to spare.

We are settling down to business in our new building, and are getting prepared to make things hum. Nothing less than a twenty-five thousand sub list in the near future will satisfy us now.

Cotton's has the equipment, the sub hustlers have the fire and energy and the two combined are going to dump the Dominion of Canada into the cradle of Socialism and rock the capitalist system into a permanent sleep with a series of Johnson punches.

Somehow or other the Socialists are a hustling scrappy crowd. Full of vim and energy. Will work overtime on the job of rousing wage slaves to the glorious task of expropriating the machinery of production from the master class. That hustle is not for sale. That energy is spent for the freedom of humanity. If the corporations of dividend hungry parasites could only corral that energy and grab the surplus value from it dividends would jump ten per cent, stock brokers would go mad with joy, and the master class would look upon the present fortune of Morgan as paltry.

But it can't be corralled for profit. It has been corralled by the spirit of liberty. Cotton's has tapped a little of that energy. That is what is making the sub list climb. When I have tapped a little more of that energy I will have a geyser spouting tens of thousands of subs.

Enclosed find a copy of the Socialism. It has been corralled by the spirit of liberty. Cotton's has tapped a little of that energy. That is what is making the sub list climb. When I have tapped a little more of that energy I will have a geyser spouting tens of thousands of subs.

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### Circulation Statement

Following is the statement of circulation for the issue of July 14th.

	OFF	ON	TOTAL
Ontario	45	64	2883
British Columbia	105	35	1358
Manitoba	47	7	960
Nova Scotia	16	139	1085
Alberta	10	82	898
Prov. of Quebec	7	77	677
Saskatchewan	24	37	514
New Brunswick	16	5	261
Elsewhere	—	4	97
Yukon Territory	—	5	37
Prince Ed. Island	—	—	19
Newfoundland	—	—	5

## THE FIRING LINE

## THE TOP NOTCHERS

Heilinger, Montreal ..... 40  
 Berlin, Ont. Local ..... 30  
 W. Mollison, Govan, Sask. .... 20  
 Campbell, Courtenay, B. C. .... 12  
 Karppinen, Gull Lake, Sask. .... 10  
 Evans, Michel, B. C. .... 8  
 P. Green, Valparaiso, Sask. .... 7

A yearly neatly nabbed by Comrade C. Riley, Celista, B. C.

Comrade V. A. Hintz, Berlin, Ont., Sec. Treas. Berlin Local, forwards two dollars and a half for bundles.

Comrade J. J. Chickly, Guelph, Ont., graces the scalp pole with three yearlies.

Comrade F. Winegardner, Regina, Sask., floats in with a halfer tucked under each arm.

Ten sub-cards will do their work for Comrade John McKiernan, Cobalt, Ont.

If you are not getting your paper regularly, write to Cotton's about it. A post card will do.

Comrade Harry Asson, Port Moody, B. C., renews his bundle of ten copies for another spell of three months.

Comrade Chas. H. Louthian, Elk Lake, Ont., sees to it that two halves get a taste of the dope.

Comrade H. Martin, on behalf of the Berlin local pays up for twenty-seven halves and three yearlies.

"Enclosed find one dollar for which send bundle of five for six months."

Comrade Chas. Sandquist, Dominion, Y. T.

Our New Book Catalog is out. Send for a copy, and get in touch with the finest books published on Socialism.

Comrade H. Garpin, Sifton, Man., increases the Manitoba list by two, and Comrade W. R. Scott of Winnipeg does the same stunt.

Do you see the name of some hustlers reappearing in the firing line week after week? That is because they are everlastingly on to their job.

"Please find enclosed one dollar to renew my bundle for another three months." Comrade G. Heal, Victoria, B. C.

Comrade Ellen Jickling, Carman, Man., hopes there will be no more drops in the circulation and forwards a yearly and two halves.

Three yearlies and a halfer is the way Comrade W. Norwood takes a fall out of the capitalist system at Elmira, Ont.

Comrade H. J. Graham wants to see the Ontario list climb over the three thousand mark, and boosts with six yearlies.

Comrade R. Heilinger, Montreal, did not like the way Quebec sub list had been dropping, so turned round and boosted with forty trials.

Cotton's is now in its new building and ready to handle subs by the thousands. Send in a bunch to keep things going and the staff busy and happy.

"Please find enclosed five dollars for sub cards. Yours for the Revolution." Comrade P. A. Askew, North Vancouver, B. C. And the bulldog barked a glad sweet bark.

Comrade Wm. V. Saunders, Crystal City, Man., forwards a bone for the bulldog and wants five halves in-lodged with the gospel of discontent.

Four yearlies from Comrade Rudolph Doering, Fernie, B. C. The plutes want like the way the wage slaves are continually shoving up the sub list of Cotton's.

Comrade J. A. Kendall, New Westminster, adds two yearlies. These two subs go to enlighten Newfoundland. Thus does the west missionize the east.

Send for five more half-yearly sub cards. Most convenient things in landing subs. Just fill 'em out and drop in mail box. \$1.00 will pay for them either before or after selling.

"I congratulate you on the fight you are making against capitalism. Enclosed find a list of five yearlies and two halves to help the cause." Comrade L. P. Green, Valparaiso, Sask.

Comrade Thos. Karppinen, Gull Lake, Sask., lives forty-five miles from a post office. Yet manages to pick up eight yearlies and two halves for Cotton's to fill full of revolutionary ideas.

Here is another B. C. hustler. Comrade David Evans, Michel, B. C., swats the capitalist system to tune of eight plunks. All for sub cards. The B. C. list will be climbing out of sight pretty soon.

Now that Cotton's is in its new building, comrade, see that you take full advantage of a good plant, and an intelligent eager staff, to boost the movement. Do something now. You have never had such a fine opportunity before.

Go out and land a bunch of subs on the head of the new home in which Cotton's is being fitted. Keep the press busy chewing paper, and the plutes reading the output. You'll take deep draughts of satisfaction before many moons.

"Please forward to my address twenty-five copies of your paper for three months. I find your paper very interesting and I might say I have quite a lively time over it each week." Comrade J. H. Campbell, Sidney, N. S.

Two yearlies from Comrade A. Fogal, Brantford, who suggests that Cotton's invite its readers to write a short letter for publication on "Why I am a Socialist." Good idea. Will the Comrades explain why they are Socialists? Do it briefly and clearly.

Comrade D. Campbell, Courtney, B. C., does not like the capitalist system. Not one little bit. So moseys out and snaps up five yearlies, and takes seven half yearly sub cards to capture some half weaned ones with.

"I have been a Socialist for fifteen years. Commenced to learn when

Wayland printed the Coming Nation. So you see I am ready to go out and fight for the cause of humanity; and will soon sell literature." Thus writes Comrade Geo. W. Mollison, as he takes twenty six month sub cards.

"Three hungry souls, hunting truth, have at last awakened to the fact that this great mutual protective association is necessary in order that humanity should survive. No solicitation was needed. The three voluntarily subscribed right on the street corner now known as the Socialist hangout." Comrade A. G. McCallum, Ottawa, Ont.

"A short time ago I saw a torn part of your valuable paper. Before this I was not aware that we had such a paper in the country. I remember seeing the editor's name was Cotton's of Cobalt, Canada. Also that 25c paid for a six month's subscription. Enclosed find twenty-five cents for same." Comrade W. H. Murphy, Tyvan, Sask.

Turn your printing orders to Cotton's Job Printing Department. Best work at low prices. Send for samples. Secretaries of Socialist locals are requested to send to Cotton's Job Printing Department for samples of printing. All kinds of Socialist printing at usual socialist prices. Good bright Red ink on hand. Union label too.

"Send to the following three think boxes your high class brain food for six months. Keep up the fight against the plutes, and for the intellectual advance of the wage slave. Remember that you are fighting for the grandest army the world has ever seen: the army of the workers of the world; the maker of the plutocrat and his ultimate destroyer; the producer of all the necessities of human life, and the ultimate ruler of all its destinies; the army which will immortalize the names of its pioneers, and right all wrong committed by man against his brother man." Comrade B. J. Seaman, Sackville, N. B.

One of the factors in the U. S. fall campaign of the Socialist party will be "Political Action," a new weekly Socialist paper, published every week for the purpose of disseminating Socialist news, propaganda and educational literature, as is stated in a preliminary circular. The paper will be published in Milwaukee.

Five hundred dollars of the fine against the six men of the committee publishing The Free Press, New Castle, Pa., who were convicted on the charge of violating the state publishing laws, were remitted. The committee paid a fine and costs of \$188.41 instead of \$688.41, and the defendants were released from a prison sentence.

Pablo Iglesias, the first Socialist Deputy to speak in the Spanish Cortes, created a sensation by a violent revolutionary speech about the Barcelona riots. He proclaimed the innocence of Ferrer, and avowed the Barcelona Socialists, who are affiliated with the international organization, had precipitated disorders to stop the war in Melilla. He declared that if Senor Maura, the former Conservative Premier, returned to power, he would be assassinated.

Fashionable Chicago society women will be unable longer to evade the tax ferrets and claims of the assessors. A big scrap book, containing clippings taken from the society columns of the daily papers here has been compiled by the board of review. Clippings telling just what society women wore in the way of diamond brooches, tiaras, pearl ropes and pendants have been put in the book. The book will be used as a guide by the assessors.

The political convention of the Socialist Party of Nebraska, as required by the state election laws, will be held in Lincoln July 26th. The regular organization convention will be held in the same city the following day, both at the G. A. R. Hall, 132 South 12th Street. The local comrades of Lincoln will provide sleeping apartments for the visiting delegates. It is expected the convention will last four days.

The California campaign was started off with a meeting addressed by J. Stitt Wilson, candidate for Governor, at the Labor Temple in Los Angeles, Sunday, July 3, followed by a big picnic at Del Ray, near Los Angeles, on the 3th. Two hundred and fifty new members were added to the party organization at these two meetings. The California "Red Special" started on its career of enlightenment July 5. It will continue until election, making from two to a dozen stops a day to hold meetings.

The International Socialist Congress, to be held this year at Copenhagen, from Aug. 28 to Sept. 3, will be an important event in the history of international Socialism. The following subjects, among other matters of importance to the working class movement, are down on the congress agenda for discussion: The question of the relations between co-operative organizations and political parties. The problem of unemployment. Arbitration and disarmament. International results of labor legislation. International solidarity.

One more Socialist will take his seat in the reichstag shortly. The man is Heinrich Busold and he comes from the Friedberg-Budingen election district. Busold will be the forty-ninth Socialist member in the reichstag. The election of Busold is hailed by the Socialists all over the German empire with extreme satisfaction for the reason that the Fried-

berg-Budingen district has until this election been impregnable to all Socialist agitation. The land owning classes invariably controlled and won in every election.

The election of Friedberg-Budingen has been added to the list of Socialist victories in Germany. Reports from the secondary election show that Busold has been elected by a vote of 11,545. This district has been a threatening stronghold on the side of the opposition and its capture has added to the enthusiasm of the Socialists. The press of all the parties is commenting on the results in Friedberg and the "Gazette de Vose," a liberal paper, predicts the election of from 129 to 150 Socialist representatives at the next elections. To Landau, Kiburg, Halle, Eisenach, Usedom-Wollin, the Socialists have now added the Hessian election district of Friedberg-Budingen.

Members of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters of the United States and Canada, in convention at Atlantic City, N. J., on July 6th, openly declared against the enlistment of members of the body in the national guard. A resolution calling on members of the organization to discourage the rank and file of workmen joining the citizen soldiery, which was defeated last year, was passed by a unanimous vote. Speakers who supported the resolution claimed that it is being used to protect greedy corporations in their efforts to attack organized labor and prevent formation of unions instead of its proper purpose of defense from invasion or the preservation of peace.

"There are two great rocks in the way of progress for the working class of India: one is the caste system, the other is capitalism." This is the way the problem of the Hindu worker is summed up by H. A. Talechkar, secretary of Kamgar Hitwadhak Sabha, or the Indian Workman's Association of Bombay, India, who was recently in New York. Talechkar is at present on a tour of America and Europe studying the labor movement of the two continents, with special attention to trade union organization and the way the unions do things. He left Bombay last January and proceeded across the Pacific to Vancouver, where he remained some time studying the conditions of the Hindu laborers there. Thence he came by way of Seattle, Portland and Chicago to New York.

At the municipal elections of Milan, Italy, which took place recently, the Socialists won a great victory. The entire list of candidates on the Socialist ticket, twenty-five in number, was elected by a vote of 10,500. The Constitutionals received 7,000 votes and the Radicals 5,500. The Socialists also won four seats in the provincial council. Continued reports of Socialist victories in Italian cities are coming in from all parts of the country. Italy now rivals France in the predominance of Socialists in public office. To the great victory in Milan, Socialists were elected in Faenza, in Medecina, and in Castagnella, where both the majority and the minority lists were victorious. Also in the provincial elections in Turin, Cuneo and in many other districts the Socialists gained a number of additional seats. The united People's parties were successful in Verona, Pisa, Viareggio, Civita Vecchia and in many smaller towns.

The coremakers in one of the local foundries followed suit a few days after. This gave an excellent opening for the boys here to push the propaganda along. A few of the local comrades visited as many of the strikers as they could locate, gave them sample copies of Socialist papers and leaflets and pointed out the lessons to be learned from the strike.

This proved to be a most effective piece of work, for the men were all in a receptive mood for Socialism. When a man comes out on strike he can't very well bluff you by saying, "Oh, I'm all right. I've got a steady job. I've got a good boss. What are you fellows bothering about anyhow?"

No, he don't say that, as we know so many of the wage workers do. Things are not all right. He has not got a "good boss," nor yet a steady job! He begins to realize vaguely that he is being robbed and wants more money, or less work! Naturally he appreciates the Socialist who visits him and talks the thing over with him in his hour of need. More so, as the Liberal manufacturer whom he elected to Parliament does not come around and give him pointers on the commodity nature of his labor power, etc. Neither does the Tory lawyer, who sits in the Legislature in Toronto by virtue of working class votes. Oh no. These fellows have got all they want of the working mules: Political Power, and with it in consequence, the economic power—the power to rob the working class of that which labor creates.

So, under these circumstances it is not surprising that a goodly number of the workers turned out on Brantford Market Square to hear Dick

## World-Wide Socialism

Two Socialists were arrested for speaking on the spot where was fought the battle of Bunker Hill.

The Chicago police are again arresting Socialists for street speaking. Three were arrested at the corner of Dixon and Division streets.

One of the liveliest state campaigns being pulled off by the Socialists anywhere in the United States is on in Iowa for the fall elections.

James Eads Howe, the "millionaire hobo," has been arrested for speaking on the streets of Philadelphia. The magistrate offered to let him go if he would discontinue his attempts to speak in public. Howe refused and is held on five hundred dollar bail.

The Italian senate has finally decided, in spite of the vigorous opposition of Senator Grassi, to ratify the participation of the Italian government at the Berner convention in action relative to the prohibition of the use of white phosphorus in the match industry.

In Spokane the Socialists fought for the right of street speaking and won the right of speaking under regulated permits. Now the authorities are assigning dark and deserted corners for the Socialist speakers. There may be hot times in Spokane again as the Socialists will not stand for this treatment.

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One more Socialist will take his seat in the reichstag shortly. The man is Heinrich Busold and he comes from the Friedberg-Budingen election district. Busold will be the forty-ninth Socialist member in the reichstag. The election of Busold is hailed by the Socialists all over the German empire with extreme satisfaction for the reason that the Fried-

berg-Budingen district has until this election been impregnable to all Socialist agitation. The land owning classes invariably controlled and won in every election.

The election of Friedberg-Budingen has been added to the list of Socialist victories in Germany. Reports from the secondary election show that Busold has been elected by a vote of 11,545. This district has been a threatening stronghold on the side of the opposition and its capture has added to the enthusiasm of the Socialists. The press of all the parties is commenting on the results in Friedberg and the "Gazette de Vose," a liberal paper, predicts the election of from 129 to 150 Socialist representatives at the next elections. To Landau, Kiburg, Halle, Eisenach, Usedom-Wollin, the Socialists have now added the Hessian election district of Friedberg-Budingen.

Members of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters of the United States and Canada, in convention at Atlantic City, N. J., on July 6th, openly declared against the enlistment of members of the body in the national guard. A resolution calling on members of the organization to discourage the rank and file of workmen joining the citizen soldiery, which was defeated last year, was passed by a unanimous vote. Speakers who supported the resolution claimed that it is being used to protect greedy corporations in their efforts to attack organized labor and prevent formation of unions instead of its proper purpose of defense from invasion or the preservation of peace.

"There are two great rocks in the way of progress for the working class of India: one is the caste system, the other is capitalism." This is the way the problem of the Hindu worker is summed up by H. A. Talechkar, secretary of Kamgar Hitwadhak Sabha, or the Indian Workman's Association of Bombay, India, who was recently in New York. Talechkar is at present on a tour of America and Europe studying the labor movement of the two continents, with special attention to trade union organization and the way the unions do things. He left Bombay last January and proceeded across the Pacific to Vancouver, where he remained some time studying the conditions of the Hindu laborers there. Thence he came by way of Seattle, Portland and Chicago to New York.

At the municipal elections of Milan, Italy, which took place recently, the Socialists won a great victory. The entire list of candidates on the Socialist ticket, twenty-five in number, was elected by a vote of 10,500. The Constitutionals received 7,000 votes and the Radicals 5,500. The Socialists also won four seats in the provincial council. Continued reports of Socialist victories in Italian cities are coming in from all parts of the country. Italy now rivals France in the predominance of Socialists in public office. To the great victory in Milan, Socialists were elected in Faenza, in Medecina, and in Castagnella, where both the majority and the minority lists were victorious. Also in the provincial elections in Turin, Cuneo and in many other districts the Socialists gained a number of additional seats. The united People's parties were successful in Verona, Pisa, Viareggio, Civita Vecchia and in many smaller towns.

The coremakers in one of the local foundries followed suit a few days after. This gave an excellent opening for the boys here to push the propaganda along. A few of the local comrades visited as many of the strikers as they could locate, gave them sample copies of Socialist papers and leaflets and pointed out the lessons to be learned from the strike.

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No, he don't say that, as we know so many of the wage workers do. Things are not all right. He has not got a "good boss," nor yet a steady job! He begins to realize vaguely that he is being robbed and wants more money, or less work! Naturally he appreciates the Socialist who visits him and talks the thing over with him in his hour of need. More so, as the Liberal manufacturer whom he elected to Parliament does not come around and give him pointers on the commodity nature of his labor power, etc. Neither does the Tory lawyer, who sits in the Legislature in Toronto by virtue of working class votes. Oh no. These fellows have got all they want of the working mules: Political Power, and with it in consequence, the economic power—the power to rob the working class of that which labor creates.

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Dear Comrade—I was instructed at the last meeting of the S. P. Local to write you in connection with the sending of convicts to work on the government roads up towards Porcupine, and to request you to appeal through your paper, to Socialist locals and trade unions throughout Ontario to enter protest against the chain gangs.

It appears the magistrates of this district have received orders that any man sentenced for six months or less be committed to the chain gang. I believe this is only a feeler—an experiment, and if it works satisfactorily will be introduced on a much larger scale all over the province; and of course if successful in Ontario, the other provinces will lose no time in copying from the premier province of the Dominion. If the people of Ontario allow this matter to go ahead soon all the public works of Ontario will be done by convict labor. The scheme is, as far as I can see, to farm out prisoners all over the province. The question was broached and discussed in capitalist papers a year or two ago and it was asserted that it was the health of the prisoner that was being considered. If the jails are unsanitary the ruling class alone are responsible, and it is up to them to provide jails which will not undermine the prisoners' health.

As for punishment, confining a man and prohibiting him from intercourse with his fellow beings or from following any of the pleasures of life should satisfy the vengeance of the class he offends, without putting him to labor and thereby deprive some unoffending citizen of a job. If he needs must work let it be at some unproductive work which will suffice to satiate vengeance and will not deprive the honest workingman of the opportunity of earning his bread.

But though jail labor is bad enough the establishing of convict settlements is a more serious proposition. When the roads and other works at which they are at work are completed what will be done with the convicts? It will in all probability be found very convenient and profitable to turn them over to mineowners and other capitalists, thus doing away with free labor in privately owned industries. They will probably then make prisoners of the very men that are thus thrown out of work on a vagrancy charge of having no visible means of support. If we are going to prevent prison colonies, we must act quickly and decisively and show the Ontario government we are not asleep.

Hoping you will use your influence against these convict settlements, I remain

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## PRISON LABOR IN PORCUPINE

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## SOLDIERS AT SPRINGHILL

Two hundred soldiers, members of the Royal Canadian Regiment, are now in Springhill helping the labor skimmers of the Cumberland Railway and Coal Company break up the homes of the workers.

There are those who say that Socialism will break up the home. They have nothing to say when capitalism breaks up the home. The Cumberland Company has begun the eviction of families from the company houses. About twenty-five notices of eviction have been served. The men, who want roofs over their families, and their comrades who felt that their turn was coming next, objected. They did not like to see homes broken up. But property rights of the parasite owners are paramount. The workers cannot have homes if the labor skimmers say no. They must vacate what homes they have at the dictates of the bosses. For this is the law of capitalism which runs throughout the slave territories of Canada.

The men protested against being forced out of their homes. Their comrades assisted in the protest. Forthwith fear entered into the hearts of the Springhill plunderers. Troops were requisitioned from Halifax. The Mayor of Springhill refused to sign the order for troops. The Mayor is elected by the votes of the people. He refused to do the bidding of the bosses. The judge is appointed, not elected.

Thereupon recourse was had to a judge. The judge under our capitalist laws is the paid henchman of the plunderers. His function is to protect rent, interest and profit. Judge George Patterson, of the county court, affixed his signature to the order for troops. There was the frenetic Drysdale at Halifax hurling injunctions at the strikers. There were the strikers in Springhill disobeying the injunctions. There were the courts serving eviction notices on the strikers showing signs of not getting out of their homes. The majesty of the laws for the keeping of the wage slaves in subjection was being held in contempt. Judge George Patterson rushed to the protection of the outraged slave laws. He ordered the troops up from Halifax.

And it was the Royal Canadian Regiment that came. Before a bunch of legalized butchers can have the name Royal attached to them they must get the consent of the King. These Halifax butchers had been graciously granted the privilege of connecting themselves with royalty. They have also adopted the title of Canadian. Is not Canada in the grip of the parasite lords of rent, interest and profit? And are not these armed men paid, equipped and drilled to shoot Canadian working plugs when they attempt to become free and escape wage slavery? Then why should they not have the titles of Royal Canadian?

The troops are in Springhill. The Cumberland Company is importing wage slaves from Europe. When Canadian wage slaves become restive then they are turned loose and workers from overcrowded Europe work them from their jobs. If the workers refuse to work until conditions are slightly improved, then their jobs are to be taken by slaves from Europe directly imported for the purpose.

Now Cowans feel secure. Now the plunderers are rejoicing. The guns of the official murderers are ready to be aimed at the hearts of Canadian workers. Now scabs can be put to work without fear of danger. Miserable conditions for the workers can be maintained and all the gathered power of militant force is prepared to keep the workers in their misery.

Workers of Canada, what lesson do you gather from the treatment of your fellow workers in Springhill? Laurier is parading the west and talking of the wonderful prosperity of Canada. Your fellow workers in Springhill are suffering want and hunger. Borden has paraded Ontario and talked about many things, but not one mention of the slavery which the toilers of Canada endure. You have nothing to hope, workers of Canada, from Laurier, Borden or the other capitalist henchmen, but slavery when you toil, and hunger, jails, and machine guns when you do not work.

Unite among yourselves for the conquest of the political power of Canada. Let the roar of your mighty protest echo from Atlantic to Pacific. Let the plunderers of your bodily labor hear the united protest of your revolt and tremble for their parasite position. You have nothing to hope from your masters but chains. To free yourselves you must unite on the political field for the ousting of your masters from the possession and control of the mines, mills, forests and machinery of production at which you must work for your daily bread.

Every bunch of sub cards sent out, carries some of our new picture post cards. Five half-yearly cards, \$1.00. Five yearly \$2.00.

How do you like, when applying for a job, to be told that you, a free worker, can't have it, because a prisoner is doing the work for nothing? That is the game Whitney, Reaume and Hanna are playing on the workers of Ontario.

A revolution takes place in the means of production. There necessarily follows a revolution in the mode of thought owing to changed economic conditions. Thus a new era is born and many persons erroneously consider that the great thinkers did it. The great thinkers may have helped, but the times must have been ripe for the change or the change would not have come.

What say you, workers of Canada? Are you going to stand for Whitney and the peon gang and chain gang? Are you going to let your jobs taken from you by the labor skimmers? Have you sunk so low that Whitney and his henchmen can replace you by slave labor and you raise no protest? The spirit of Canada will rise in protest against the slave chain gang of Ontario.

The railroads want laborers. Prison labor is handy. The manufacturers wait for help. Behold the jails are full. Free labor is expensive. Prison labor can be had for little. How the months of the capitalists water for prison labor! How the profit ledgers are scanned over wage bills! And Whitney, Hanna and Reaume are on to the job ready to throw prison labor into competition with the job holder.

If the workers of Ontario do not protest against the competition of prison labor the system will be introduced into the other provinces. For the capitalists of Canada are watching the spirit of their wage slaves. If the workers protest then the experiment will be stopped. Hanna will quit. Reaume will draw back. But if prison labor can be introduced into Ontario the whole of Canada will become tainted with the competition of slaves.

The Liberal government is exacting the possession of twenty-five dollars from immigrants other than farm laborers going to a job. This is hailed as a great reform for the protection of labor. Now British immigrant societies are lending twenty-five dollars to the immigrants who want to come to Canada. The Laurier government will give no real advantage to labor. The Laurier government is too much interested in seeing the capitalists get their profits out of the hides of the workers.

Mortals are blind-creatures so far as the future is concerned. We learn slowly from experience and we have to learn the same lesson over and over again. In slave countries the incentive to work is removed from the slaves. The spirit within does not move the hands to labor, the brain to think, nor the feet to run. The master class takes the resultant product of the thinking brain, toiling hands and running feet. Why therefore should the spirit of the slave be active to work? The spirit of the slave being sluggish, the incentive must be applied from without. The feet must be tingled with the bastinado. The lash must make the bare back quiver. This comes to be the ordinary mode of exacting work. The bosses see no other way by which industry could be carried on and they announce that without slavery you could not flog the workers and without flogging the workers would not work. The Ontario government is starting on the first step to this point of view. They are setting slave prisoners to work. Pretty soon the slave whip will be in evidence. Oh Hanna, Hanna. Get wisdom, man, and a little understanding.

One of the schemes under way is to let out prisoners in Ontario to municipalities to crush stone for roads. More political patronage will now be on tap. Those polling subdivisions which do not support the government will get no prisoners. Those who support the government will get roads built by criminals. Does not this open a beautiful vista for bribing counties? The wage workers will get fewer jobs and have to tramp the streets as prison labor becomes more generally applied and those counties which support the government most enthusiastically will get the most prisoners to take the jobs of the wage earners who will have to hit the ties to another town for a job? Will the workers stand for this? Of course they will. Have they not whooped it up for the politicians of their bosses every election? And have not the workers always got hit in the neck for so doing? Why should they change now? If they will stand for wage slavery why not for prison slavery?

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This is how it works out. Criminals

## TREATMENT OF CRIMINALS

The whole idea of criminology is changing. With the revolution in the method of producing the necessities of life comes a revolution in the mental concepts in all lines of thought.

In the days of chattel slavery cruelty was practised on all sides. Therefore prisoners were inhumanly treated. In the days of feudalism obedience and submission were taught. The innermost thoughts of a man had to be submitted to his feudal lord or to the lord's religious supporter, the priest. The man accused of crime had to plead truthfully to whether he was guilty or not. If he refused to plead, "stand as mute of malice," as the old English law puts it, he was, according to English law, laid in a dungeon with a weight about his middle as great and greater than he could bear. He was fed on insufficient mouldy black bread and stagnant water and thus he remained until he pled or died. On the contrary, Europe, even when a prisoner was not guilty, he was nevertheless tortured because he might be lying and torture might make him tell the truth. Many an accused person has confessed himself guilty of a crime of which he was innocent to escape the torture.

Then rose capitalism and the abolition of torture. This gave rise to the classical school of criminology. When Cesare Beccaria in 1774 published a book against the barbarism of the mediaeval laws he was met by a storm of abuse. The abbe Jachinei published four volumes against him calling him the destroyer of justice and morality, simply because he had combated the torture and the death penalty.

The middle ages were dominated by the feudal idea of class distinctions ordained by God. Those who rebelled against such class distinctions were impious wretches who merited tortures and death by the most excruciating methods. The bourgeois revolt overthrew these ideas and established what is known as the classical school of criminology. The bourgeois system maintained the idea of the freedom of the individual apart from heredity and environment. A man is what he is because he wants to be what he is. A man has a free will and he who succeeds has exerted that free will and should be honored. A man who commits a crime does so because he so willed and is morally responsible and should be punished. This is the basis of the classical school. Rewards and punishments proportional to the mildness or severity of the offence.

The new school is called the positive school of Criminology. Cesare Lombroso and Enrico Ferri are among the originators of this school. This school maintains that the criminal is not free to commit or not to commit crime. Ferri divides the influences which go to produce crime into three classes, anthropological, telluric and social. The first is the race of the man and his heredity. Italians are more prone to deeds of blood than are the English. In one year there are three thousand deaths from violence in Italy as compared with three hundred in Great Britain. There are also born criminals who are no more responsible than are insane persons. Lombroso dwelt upon the anthropological nature of crime. And this side has been pushed forward by the rich criminals of America in their own defence. "Dementia Americana" played a great part in the Thaw trial.

The next influence is telluric. A hot sun produces less crimes against property and more crimes against persons. "Crimes Passionels." Cold produces property crimes more than crimes against persons.

The third influence is social. In Naples the poor are very poor indeed and they unite together into bands to compel the property owners to give the means of life to the men and women who would otherwise die. This is the famed Camorra. The roots of this society lie in the social poverty of the many.

Man is a product of these three things and the crime is the reaction of the individual to the influences around him. He is not responsible.

This is the basis of the new science. This is what Whitney, Hanna and Reaume realize but dimly. They feel that our whole criminal system is based on an error and that the criminals are victims of society rather than its outragers. Consequently we have their attempts to do some justice to the criminals by getting them out into the open air.

But the Ontario executive is victimizing the victims of society and victimizing society also in their proposed remedy. The prisoners are to be turned into temporary slaves under the pretence of doing them justice for society having victimized them.

This is how it works out. Criminals

are victims of heredity, of their country, of the capitalist social order. For being victims of society, society shuts them up behind stone walls. Whitney et al in order to do justice to the victimized criminals, makes chattel slaves of them. Hanna, Reaume, and Whitney, are foolish mortals indeed.

## Words of Abraham Lincoln

"I see, in the near future, a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of war, corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption, in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all the wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of our country than ever before, even in the midst of war. God grant that my forebodings may be groundless.

"Monarchy itself is sometimes hindered as a refuge from the power of the people. In my present position, I could scarcely be justified were I not to raise a warning voice against the approaching return of despotism. It is not needed, nor fitting here, that a general argument should be made in favor of public institutions; but there is one point, with its connections, not so hackneyed as most others to which I ask brief attention. It is assumed that labor is available only in connection with capital; that nobody labors unless somebody else owning capital somehow by the use of it induces him to labor. Labor is prior to and independent of capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor, and could not have existed had not labor first existed. Labor is the superior of capital and deserves much the higher consideration. I bid the laboring people beware of surrendering the power which they possess, and which, if surrendered, will surely be used to shut the door of advancement to such as they and fix new disabilities and burdens upon them until all of liberty shall be lost.

"In the early days of our race the Almighty said to the first of mankind 'In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread,' and since then, if we except the light air of heaven, no good thing has been or can be enjoyed by us without first having cost labor. And, inasmuch as most good things have been produced by labor, it follows that all things belong of right to those whose labor has produced them.

"But it has so happened in all ages of the world that some have labored and others have, without labor, enjoyed a large proportion of the fruits. This is wrong and should not continue. To secure to each laborer the whole product of his labor, as nearly as possible, is the worthy object of any government.

"It seems strange that any man should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing bread from the sweat of other men's."

It is said that Christianity triumphed by ceasing to be Christianity. The organization grew at the expense of the things taught and upheld. Laurier triumphed in politics by ceasing to be a Liberal. The platform of 1896 was made to be broken. The capitalists of Canada demanded service against the interests of the people and Laurier evidently made a secret compact to serve the capitalists instead of the people of Canada. Today the Conservatives expect to win the next elections. But they feel that they cannot win under the leadership of Borden. Therefore there is a constant struggle among the Conservatives to get rid of Borden. Borden stands for public ownership which the plunderers do not want. There is a well defined movement to call McBride from the premiership of British Columbia to put him at the head of the Tory party. McBride comes from a reactionary government. He is pliable. He serves the capitalist interests. His contract with the C. N. R. by which the province of British Columbia took all the risks of the enterprise and the C. N. R. takes all profits makes him dear to the hearts of the capitalists. The Conservative party may succeed next elections. But it will be under the leadership of a safe politician who will allow the plunderers to plunder the workers.

There are many miners and prospectors up in Northern Ontario who would be glad of a job. They would be willing to work as navvies on the roads to get the bread by which to live. But Hanna, prison labor loving Hanna, forbids. Prisoners are to do the work.

The politician wants to have nice public buildings and spacious offices in which to promenade his carcass. Public buildings take labor power and labor power means money and money means taxes. Therefore, happy thought, the politician in Ontario is going to utilize prison labor to do the job.

## Paid in Advance

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There are many miners and prospectors up in Northern Ontario who would be glad of a job. They would be willing to work as navvies on the roads to get the bread by which to live. But Hanna, prison labor loving Hanna, forbids. Prisoners are to do the work.

The politician wants to have nice public buildings and spacious offices in which to promenade his carcass. Public buildings take labor power and labor power means money and money means taxes. Therefore, happy thought, the politician in Ontario is going to utilize prison labor to do the job.

Col. Sir Henry M. Pellatt was fined twenty dollars at Toronto for speeding his automobile on Dundas street. Thus do the parasites have even a branch of the criminal law applied for their exclusive use. Under the private ownership of public property which now prevails, what workman could be fined for speeding his automobile?

The Bank of Nova Scotia is increasing its capital stock from three to five millions. This means that there will be two million dollars worth of promissory notes which the bank can put out in the shape of bank notes and draw interest on. Great are the trickeries by which the profit hunters get profit for nothing.

Many settlers were attracted into the wilderness of Northern Ontario. Settlers in a new country find it difficult to make a living until their lands are cleared and they are raising their own food. They were attracted by the assurance that they could get work from the Ontario government in the building of roads. This is now taken away. The work is done by prisoners.

Whitney, the Conservative Premier of Ontario is throwing prison labor into competition with free labor. This tickles the plutes and Aylesworth, Liberal Minister of Justice at Ottawa, is going to help along the job. When it comes to smashing the power or labor, there is no division between Tory and Liberal politician. They are both anxious to help break the power of the workers.

There are many in Ontario who rejoice because public buildings will be beautified by prison labor and roads made. Prison labor is slave labor. In Egypt the pyramids were built by slave labor. In Rome the roads were utilized for the passage of troops to quell slave rebellions. Yet there are blind fools who rejoice that slave labor is to be introduced into Ontario.

The capitalist system relies upon the unemployed for its continued existence. Give every worker a chance of employment and the power of the capitalists would be broken. It is competition among wage slaves for jobs that keeps wages down to the bare subsistence level. The workless hunt jobs. There are not enough jobs to go round. It is upon this fact that the capitalist system bases its plunderings. Now for these already too few jobs Reaume is going to furnish prisoners. That will make the competition all the keener among the workers for what jobs the prisoners do not take. O wise Hon. Dr. slave driving Reaume.

The government has to feed, clothe and shelter the prisoners. The free workers have to find food, clothing and shelter for themselves and families. The government owns the jobs and are turning them over to the prisoners. Thus the free workers can't get the jobs. The prisoners get them. The free workers can't get food, clothing and shelter. The prisoners get them. The only way the masterless worker can get these necessities is by some illegal method. They commit some crime, and get jailed. Then food, clothing, shelter and a job are open before them. Is it any wonder that crimes are increasing? The very methods Reaume is adopting to benefit the criminals are producing criminals by the score. Yet Reaume, by some, is thought to have some brains.

This is the routine of the prison farm at Guelph. The men rise at 5 o'clock in the morning, breakfast, attend roll call, and scatter to the fields. At noon the shrill whistle of Sergeant Lyons, who is in charge under Warden Gilmour, calls them in to dinner. An hour later they resume work until the 6 o'clock call for supper. From 7 o'clock to 9 o'clock are hours for recreation. At the latter hour the evening roll-call takes place and the men file away to bed. Sunday is a day of service and rest. How nice that is. The routine of the wage slave is being practised on the prison farm. The mediaeval system of prison conduct is giving way to twentieth century wage slave conduct. And it all takes place under the eyes of the authorities. And this is capitalist reform.

## Editorials from Cotton's Hustlers

### ARE WE FREE?

We very often hear the statement boastfully made that this is a free country, yet nevertheless, in spite of this frequently declared fact, every man, no matter what may be his standing in the intellectual scale (provided he be not a simpleton) is aware of the fact that his exercise of liberty and freedom is seriously limited by circumstances over which he, as an individual, has very little or no control.

The present unsatisfactory condition of individual liberty is undoubtedly due to the fact that although the endeavors of past generations toward the solution of the social problem have resulted in constitutional declarations of individual liberty, nevertheless the social problem has remained purely an economic one for the simple reason that all privileges rest upon economic supports.

This apparent impotency of constitutional decrees might lead some of the wise ones to say, "has the struggle of our forefathers to secure the boon of constitutional liberty been in vain?" Not at all. All this was but a means to an end. But the end is not yet. It has to yet be achieved. While vast combinations of capital, formed into trusts and other conditions of monopoly are rapidly placing the wealth and resources of the country in the hands of the few; while the vast majority of productive laborers have not at any time much over a week between them and starvation, it is a moot question that we, as intelligent citizens, began to ask ourselves the question, "Is this the glorious result for which our fathers strove?"

In the philosophy of Democracy we have a medicine that can cure our ills. We have here a deliverer that can right our wrongs. The past few years have wrought a revolution in the industrial world which is of vital importance to every man. An industry is the channel through which the means of life must flow, it behooves us as intelligent men to keep it from obstruction if we would reap results of peace and freedom.

It is rapidly becoming patent to the mind of every thinking man that under our present system of operation the laborer is robbed of the produce of his labor and compelled to toil for a bare living; while owing to the injustice of the system, his oppressors are rolling in wealth and magnificence.

It is evident that any effective protest against the injustice of this system must come from the laborer himself. He must through political organization exert his influence upon the powers that be and with the mighty club of an enlightened franchise make the political gong resound with giant blows for freedom.

The development of the human intellect has awakened in the breast of man sentiments of equality that can never be realized under existing conditions of society. The question is a simple one—"are you going to assist in a reconstruction of society in greater consistency with those rights or are you going to lie down on the job?"

PHIL LEEDER.  
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At the prison farm at Guelph the prisoners are being freed from the jail garb. They are being dressed as ordinary wage plugs. The guard with rifle and the turnkey are not in evidence. Therefore it is said that Hanna trusts the prisoners. How Hanna must smile at the glibness of the public. What need of guards in this day? The telephone and telegraph are guards enough. Where can the prisoners escape to? Not to the States. The escaped prisoner will be sent back to Canada as an undesirable person. The whole of Canada is a jail for the prisoner if he tries to escape. Every policeman, detective, government agent, will be out to nab the fleeing one and will only be too delighted to act as jailer to the prisoner when his brief day of freedom is up. You turn a plug horse out of its stall into a barnyard with a gate open into the back pasture and the plug horse will not run into the pasture if it is harnessing time. It knows that it can be caught in the pasture and does not waste its strength in useless effort. The same with the prisoners at Guelph.

Capitalism is a dividing up system. It takes away the earnings of the energetic and active and gives them to the idle, vicious and lazy. Capitalism is robbery and should be abolished.

Rent, interest and profit, behold the three thieves.

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