

Extraordinary Offer Four-Years Sub \$1.00

FOR \$1.00 we will give you a Four-Year Subscription to **Cotton's Weekly**. This is a chance for each of our subscribers to BENEFIT PERSONALLY from the Club Offer of Four Years for a Dollar. But only for a limited time—TILL JANUARY 15TH ONLY. After that date the four year rate for \$1.00 will be a thing of the past. The 25 cent sub is to be cut to Forty Weeks. Take advantage of this Four Year Sub Offer at \$1.00. You will never have the chance again.

IF No. 224 IS ON THE RED LABEL, RENEW AT ONCE AS YOUR SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRES NEXT ISSUE

60c a Year
25c for Six Months
Clubs of Four or more (one year) 25c

Cotton's Weekly

W. U. COTTON, S.A., S.C.I., Editor ESTABLISHED DEC. 3RD, 1905 H. A. WEBB Gen. Mgr. Published Every Week at Cowansville, P. Q., Canada Thursday, Dec. 19th, 1912

This Paper is not Published for Profit. It is published by Co-operative Effort as an advocate of the Co-operative Commonwealth. It is the only Canadian Weekly Paper at the low Subscription Price of 25c. In Clubs of four or more. Single Subscription 50 cents.

25 CENTS Per Year

Total Number of Subscribers for week of Dec. 12th.....28,265
Number of New Subs.....481
Number of Existing Subs.....28,786
GAIN FOR WEEK.....184
Total Edition Last week 30,500

Parliament Has Opened —Weary Piffle of a Stupid Assembly—

Parliament opened on the 21st of November. Since then it has been talk, talk, talk. The weary flow of words makes the heart sick. There is so much to do. There are so many wrongs to be righted, and the only positive thing of the whole proceeding has been to fling \$35,000,000 into the maw of war.

On November 21st the speech from the throne was delivered. In this speech the outline of the sessional work is supposed to be given. The speech from the throne contained very little. It foreshadowed the ratification of a trade agreement with the West Indies, national grants of money to aid the provinces to give better roads, national grants to aid the provinces to advance agriculture, increased representation for the west in the Senate, and money for battle-ships.

There is not a word about any of the things which a modern government, even a capitalist one, concerns itself. Not a word about old age pensions, or proportional representation, or abolition of the election deposit, or workmen's insurance, or abolition of the Senate, or national insurance, or state grants to motherhood. Our Borden government is on a par with that of Russia. It is not even equal to that of China.

The capitalists want better roads, so that the commodities which labor produces and capitalists sell may travel more cheaply. Agriculture is to be aided because the capitalist class wish to reduce the cost of living without sacrificing any of their revenues. Hence the farmer is to be made to produce more so that he may get less for what he produces. Increased representation of the west in the Senate is purely a party trick. The Liberals have a big majority in the Senate, and the Tories take this method of pulling it down.

Those who voted for the Conservatives, lost their votes, that is, if they are workers. Those of the same class who voted Liberal also lost their votes. For of all the dreary, piffing, insane, sideswagging speechmaking ever put forth upon a long suffering public, the debate upon the speech from the throne is the limit.

Laurier has evidently lost what little sense he had. In his address upon the amendment, he attacked the government for lowering the duty upon cement during the summer months. He attacked this reduction on the ground that an election was being held in the west, and the reduction was made as a bribe. Good Heavens, could anything be more fatuous! Laurier attacking a lower-tariff measure on the ground that it was done to make votes! Surely the high gods of laughter will be rooking their sides in mirth at the queer little antics of Laurier. You who voted for Laurier and the Liberals, what do you think of your grand old leader? That cement duty reduction was handed back and forth and hammered and pounced upon till the poor thing had no life left. But then the members wanted to talk and they talked. Laurier also attacked the corruption in Macdonald, Man. Rogers answered, and other cases of corruption were dragged forth. It is a pity any Socialist will have to eventually go to Parliament. He will have hard work to stay in the game at all. The record of both parties is black with corruption, secret and open. When either side tries to act the purity stunt, they make a poor showing.

To one who wades through the dreary mass of Hansard, there comes an occasional solace. Occasionally a fact is gleaned, which is of interest. It is always interesting to find out just what kind of a private interest the various members of parliament possess. On page 160 of Hansard, Major Currie of North Simcoe declared he is President of the Imperial Steel and Wire Company, that his company manufactures over 50 tons of wire daily, and employs over 200 skilled workmen. If a strike takes place in his works, do you think he will side with the workers? If the farmers want cheaper wire, do you think Major Currie will want them to have cheaper wire? Honestly, what do you think of wage slaves who will vote for one of their bosses to REPRESENT workers in Parliament? What do you think of a farmer who will vote for a manufacturer? Surely it can hardly be true. This old world has seen many queer sights but when our children shall be living in the co-operative commonwealth, they will read the old history of their country, for it will be theirs then, and wonder how their working ancestors could ever be so stupid.

On November 28th, Frank Oliver interjected the profound remark that trusts have no politics (Hansard, p. 311). James McKay, of Prince Albert, Sask., and the Minister of Finance, White, were trying to tag each other's party, with the friendship of the cement combine. As a matter of fact, one-third of the directors of the cement combine are Liberals and two-thirds are Conservatives. Oliver told a truth, but the common garden variety of voter seems to think that it makes a difference to him whether the trusts control Laurier and Laurier runs the government, or whether the trusts control Borden and Borden runs the government.

W. F. Maclean, of South York, Ont., got off his annual speech on December 2nd. He declared, "There is a new slavery coming in this coun-

try; the Canadian people are being put into slavery in the interests of foreign capitalists." (Hansard, page 435). He is also afraid of the big home capitalists. "We are allowing these new men in finance, these men of enormous fortunes, to concentrate wealth and to get control of us." (Hansard, page 461). His remedies for the evils are, state regulation of companies to prevent stock watering, state-owned cables, senate reform, naval contribution to the mother country, cheaper railway rates, parcels post, and state control of telegrams and express. Maclean's program is a weak and watery one. In any other civilized country Maclean would be laughed at as a frivolous joke. In our Canadian House of Commons he is looked upon as a wild and impractical radical. Truly we Canadian people are the easiest marks the financial vultures and international labor robbers have struck in many a day.

There is a strike on at the Algoma Steel Works, Ontario. The strikers asked their Member, Mr. A. C. Boyce, to help them. He said he would do all in his power. On Dec. 3rd, Alphonse Verville, Labor M. P. from Maisonneuve, asked the Minister of Labor if he had any information about the lockout at these works. Crothers replied that he had received no communication, either from the men or the employers. Boyce, the Member, had kept quiet. He had said nothing. He gave the workers words. The votes of the workers put Boyce where he is. They get the cold turn-down. Yet they think that Boyce represents them. Boyce is a lawyer and gets his living through the twists and turns of the capitalist laws. The capitalist law puts the power into the hands of the capitalists. Boyce represents the workers as much as the hang-on of the patrician class would have represented the slaves of the patricians in any dispute that might have arisen between the two classes in ancient Rome.

On December 3rd, the first parliamentary division occurred. This was upon Laurier's amendment to the address from the throne. This division took place strictly along party lines. Then A. A. Monou, of Yamaska, Quebec, introduced a resolution pledging parliament to take efficient measures to defend Canada while declaring Canada was not justified in defending the empire as long as Great Britain reserved the exclusive control of imperial politics. Both Laurier and Borden were against this measure. Borden declared that such a resolution would have prevented the government of Canada from sending a man or a gun to fight the battles of this country in South Africa ten or twelve years ago. (Hansard page 596). The South African war was not Canada's war. It was a war of a diamond syndicate against the Boers. It was a war of big business against peasant proprietorship. It was a war to fill the Rand mines with Chinese coolies under horrible conditions and later to shut native Africans up in guarded compounds. Yet Borden calls this Canada's war. Foolish Borden.

On the division, Achim, Barrette, Lamarche and Maudou were the only ones voting for the amendment. The whole Liberal and Conservative bunch united to vote down this amendment. This is illuminating. The moment a measure is introduced which big business does not wish pass, every member with the exception of four Nationalists, show whose collar they wear. Even Verville, answering to the crack of the whip of big business, going back upon the international working class declaration against war, voted with the labor-baiting members. If labor thinks it is represented at Ottawa, it is mistaken. Should a Socialist or two break into the House of Commons, and introduce a measure that would really benefit the working class, the two capitalist parties would fuse to vote down the measure. Labor must rely upon itself. It must choose its own candidates and know its own aims. For Borden and Laurier, Oliver and Rogers, Crothers and Graham are all against the working-man, save as he is a beast of burden to bend his back to do the will of the master class.

The Parliament at Ottawa is purely a capitalist one. It is more, it is a stupidly capitalist one. It has sunk to a very low level. There are Parliaments and Parliaments. We can have an intelligent Parliament, or we can have a foolish one. After wading through eight numbers of Hansard, the official reports of the debates, after wasting valuable time reading page upon page of "dreary drivel," I could not help but think how true was the remark of J. J. A. Wayland to me in 1906 when he visited Cowansville, "Your government and members of parliament are nothing but little children. They are only infants at the game of politics."

The masters demand the very highest efficiency, combined with a speeding-up process that is killing; then hand you a dollar, which has so shrunk in size that it will barely buy two "cats."

"Burbank should try to cross a centipede with a monkey to produce an animal that could tend to 100 machines at the same time." — Industrial Worker.

The working boob is the honey bee for the capitalist drone.

"All the world comes to him who knows how to wait"—and vote.

Did you ever see a poor man's son at the R. M. C. at Kingston. No. Why?

Mr. Worker, the Red Coat and the Ross Rifle stand between you and freedom. Abolish them.

Labor has a half Nelson on capitalism, and is slowly but surely forcing both its shoulders to the mat.

What is the use of the capitalist class raising your wages when they raise the prices of the commodities you consume?

Time was when a wee bit of difference in a tartan would cause blood to flow in Bonnie Scotland. 'Tis different now. The big bloodfests are started by capitalists only. They know when, and why. No tartan counts any more. Just money.

Judge Leet, of Montreal, told a group of strikers that he was not so sure that picketing is legal. The scab is the darling of the masters, and Leet is hunting up just how far the capitalist law will allow him to cuddle the darlings.

Suits of armor are now exhibited as curios. The time will come when pictures of boy scouts and soldiers will be displayed to the enlightened gaze of a people who will wonder what could have possessed their ancestors to have countenanced such a horror.

Not long ago an employer in an Ontario town gave \$1800 to a new church. One of his employees wanted to bet they would get a reduction of wages inside a month. A safe bet. They got it in exactly two weeks—10 per cent. There were 600 employees. Figure it out.

A patriotic parasite in England has a number of old-fashioned cannon stuck muzzle down in the pavement along the front of his residence. Socialists would like to see all the cannon of the world stuck muzzle up in the ground, filled with earth, and all the beautiful flowers God has given us planted in them.

It is commonly reported among Canadian workmen that the employers' black list is being circulated freely, even among the smaller industries. You should have an employers' black list, and use it at the polls. There is where you can free yourself of any pressure being brought upon you by the masters.

"Do your duty," said the chief to his police, as they were breaking up a Socialist meeting on a street corner. He should have said, "Do the capitalists' duty." If the policemen did their own duty they would throw their guns and clubs away, put off their uniforms, and join the ranks of the useful producers of the country.

Does the worker in the big shop ever stop to realize that that man may be a spotter hired from one of the so-called detective agencies? All large industries have them. The masters say it pays. They pay the agency \$5 per day, and wages to the "detective." This is one of the means they have of quashing any attempt you may make to better your conditions.

There is one class of worker whom we have all seen, and pity. He it is who lays off work election day, and races around amongst his fellow men soliciting their vote, driving them to the polls, and working like a horse to elect the candidate put up by his masters, who will sit at Ottawa and make laws to benefit his masters—and then only. A peanut shell would make a sun-bonnet for this boob.

The price of pig iron has advanced. This news in the capitalist press will not interest the average worker. But it will affect him in a very short time. It means that all the multi-farious tools of iron and steel he uses daily will have advanced in price also. Capitalists may advance the price on this and the other commodities and nobody concerned seems to trouble much, but let the workers ask for a little advance. "Oh, listen to the band."

Capitalists say, "We gave you that hospital, that park, that library, and founded that university. What are you kicking about?" Let the worker make no mistake. The average capitalist's heart is no bigger than a flea seed. He gave you nothing. It was not his to give. All his wealth came from the one and only source it possibly could come from—the exploitation of labor. If you don't believe this, sit down, put your head between your hands, and try to think. It might hurt, but try it.

A few years ago the workers in an Ontario town elected a Socialist mayor while the capitalists were enjoying their afternoon nap. When they awoke the fur flew. They ran to the newspaper offices and supplied columns of calumny against the chief magistrate the workers had elected. Who was he to probe into accounts of finance? What right had he to question every deal that was being put through, etc.? Then they fused, and employers who were too miserable to pay a fair living wage to workers, threw money "high, wide and wicked," and brought all the underhand, dark-room methods possible to bear at the next election to defeat the choice of the workers. If the worker would only follow the tactics of the master class, and vote for his own pocket, he would have the world between him.

Millions for Dreadnaughts —NOTHING FOR POVERTY—

Borden has made public his much-heralded navy policy. On December 12th he introduced a measure in the House of Commons the purport of which is to grant from the monies of the Dominion government a sum of \$35,000,000 for three Dreadnaught battleships, to form part of the fleets controlled by the government of Great Britain until such time as the Canadian government decides otherwise.

There have been much laudations among the Canadian papers over this measure. Politicians and so-called statesmen have praised it highly. Our Canadian labor skinner have considered it a fine measure. Yet to each honest man, there comes a heart pang. Even Borden and Laurier, hardened politicians as they are, must feel regret. \$35,000,000 is a big sum of money for a young country to spend. This is more than the average income of seventy thousand members of the Canadian working class for a year. It is not to be spent to clear up slums, to create better conditions for the mass of the people. It is to be used to build murder ships so the British exploiters may not fear for the safety of their bloodstained incomes.

The excuse given for Canada joining in the war game is that the old land needs a rest. She has borne the cost of the navy, and it is proving too great for her. This is all nonsense. The parasites of Great Britain are perfectly able to pay for a far bigger navy. They do not want to do it, if they can get anyone else to do it for them.

According to "The Economist," the "new capital" of Great Britain for the year 1911-1912 amounted to over \$950,000,000. This is the amount of additional capital the British labor skinner have to invest. This means that the working class of Great Britain and other countries paying tribute to the useless class of the tight little isles have not only borne the whole burden of the land-lords, rent lords, interest lords, profit lords, king foppery, hangerson of capitalists, government wastage, army and navy; not only have the working class fed, clothed and sheltered these classes, paid for their luxuries, their yachts and automobiles and palaces, and their vices, but they have also paid almost a billion dollars over and above all these expenses which the parasite class have not been able to spend. This immense sum furnishes the "new capital" which the parasites invest to bring them additional revenues. Of this \$950,000,000 over \$200,000,000 came to Canada to draw an additional \$10,000,000 every year in the way of tribute from the working people.

Canada, a young country, where the workers gather on the streets of Vancouver without jobs, or in the breadlines of Winnipeg or the slums of Montreal; where the home-steader is forced to face bleak winters in a sod shack, is giving \$35,000,000 to help the parasites of Great Britain protect their swag. The heartless rogues of the master class are crawling on their bellies to Borden in their joy. Asquith and Lord Roberts and the Dukes and goodness knows how many other like creatures are slobbering their praises. The parasites of Great Britain are saved a tax of three per cent upon their additional capital. Their joy, their patriotism, their religion, lie in that three per cent. Touch a capitalist in his pocket book to hurt it and he will howl. Save him three per cent and he will go wild with joy. Had these British gentlemen the heart of manhood in them, they would refuse the money. But as they are capitalists, they take it and hope for more. But not only are the British parasites rejoicing; our homegrown labor skinner are praising the gift of Borden. The reason is plain. Our multi-millionaires and our lesser breeds of parasites feel their future to be protected by the reactionary system of government fostered in Great Britain. They are, along with Americans and Britishers and Germans, getting a grip upon our water powers, our railways, our lands, our cities, and they have got their sucking apparatus working overtime drawing revenues away from the producers. They feel they must protect their revenues, both by army and navy. Hence they want to start a fleet. They want an army. So Borden

den on the seas and Sam Hughes gnaw land are preparing the forces with which to prevent the rise of the working class to power. The imperialist spirit which is being sedulously cultivated in Canada is done with malice aforethought. Kier Hardie, in his recent tour through the States, was surprised at the wonderful progress of the spirit of revolt there. He considers Socialism will triumph there first of all. Thus the tremendous publicity campaign carried on to stampede the people into an imperialist spirit is done with the purpose of keeping us from joining in with the revolutionary spirit of the States. Canada is no longer exempt from military burdens. The navy was sure to come. It was part of the unfolding of the system of exploitation, of the spirit of hate and oppression and murder which ever accompanies tyranny. We now suffer along with the German workers, the French workers, the British workers, the Austrian workers, the burden of militarism. We take our place by their side in fighting the military spirit. While the flags wave, while the cheers of our masters in their banquet halls come faintly to us, while the diamonds gleam at Ottawa and the members of the master class, male and female, through the halls of Senate and Commons, we, the exploited workers, upon whose bent backs the masters dance, who go into the mines to get them the gems, whose women are sweated in their mills and their places of revenues, unite against militarism. Borden enjoys his hour of triumph. The poor, weak creatures may enjoy his temporary hour of glory, like Pilate did in Jerusalem. But as Pilate's willingness to bend to the will of his rulers, nailed Christ to the cross, so Borden's willingness to be the cat paw of the capitalist class, has nailed the flesh of the workmen upon a cross of militarism. And as future ages have looked with horror upon Pilate, so future ages will look with horror upon the name of Borden.

BANKS AND FARMERS

The Bank of Montreal held its 95th annual meeting in the city of Montreal on December 2nd. This is the bank which does the biggest business of any in Canada. Hence the remarks of its president, Mr. R. B. Angus, are worthy of consideration. We will quote a few of the remarks which will show how the banks regard the farmers.

He quotes with satisfaction the production of grain in the west. He says, "The better condition of the grain renders it easier to handle and to market, and the returns to the producer are quicker and safer. . . . A conservative estimate of the value of the crop of the three provinces is given at \$207,000,000." Why should Angus be so happy over the production of the western farmers? Angus does not raise wheat. He does no work. The bank does not produce wheat. The reason is simple. The working farmer is the goose that lays the golden egg which the banks enjoy. Of that \$207,000,000 Angus and his parasite associates hope to get a goodly bit through interest on loans. They hope to get the graft this year and next year and the year after, just so long as the farmers will stand for being robbed. They hope for unearned revenues just so long as the farmers will vote for Roblin or Sifton or Scott. This is seen by what he says later on in his address, "Loans to farmers, if sometimes slow, ARE WELL PAID." No wonder he takes an interest in the wheat raised by the sweat of the western farmer.

But the farmers are not the only ones from whom the banks take toll. There are sources of revenues from exploiters of wage slaves who are forced to borrow from the banks. The high cost of living has been making these wage-payers unhappy and the banks have been feeling the high cost of living indirectly. They want the wage bill to go down in order that there may be less wages paid and more money for bank interest. Hence Angus says, "Wages are high, as is the cost of living, but the condition may be greatly mitigated by the farmer, if he will only go into mixed farming. . . . Angus wants the farmers to go into mixed farming in order that they may produce more AND GET LESS FOR IT. He does not say so directly, but this is his inference of how to reduce the cost of living. This but goes to show what Comrade Smith says, that the capitalists want the farmers to produce more and still get but a living wage.

The farmers are considered to be more prosperous than the wage workers. Yet they are not so well off as a class. Angus, in discussing the high cost of living says, "I am of the opinion that the root of the matter may be found in the fact that the percentage of population engaged in the production of foodstuffs is not increasing in the same ratio as is that of our manufacturing wage-earners and salaried officials." The propertyless worker is a rover. Labor power is a fluid commodity, flowing to the places where it is needed and

where the returns are favorable. In the west the land is free. Yet labor does not flow on to the land. The only reason that can be given is that the wage worker finds a better sale for his labor power in the mills and industries than in farming. The "prosperous" farming class is a fiction of the politician and the newspaper liar.

Now comes the gem of the whole address. Angus says, "I have noticed at different times, in certain newspapers, paragraphs calculated to give the impression that the banks in this country are not affording the farmers the financial assistance to which they are entitled. Such statements are erroneous. There are in Canada some 2,500 bank branches, the great majority of which are located in towns and villages supported by the surrounding agricultural population, and no unimportant part of the business of the banks is derived from this class. As for this bank, I may say that our loans to farmers and small traders amount to many millions."

Notice how nicely Mr. Angus side-steps the demand of the western farmers for cheap money? He has not heard that demand. All he heard (which he will publicly admit) is the demand for more loans. He says the farmers have enough loans, they have their share. If this be true, then what does the demand mean? It means that the farmers are going bankrupt, that they have to get into the banks deeper, and that the banks shut down on them.

The banks are prosperous. But the plucked farmer is not. The majority of the plucked farmers, however, think that Socialism, which would stop all robbery of the producers, means that the farmers would have to divide up their paper titles to the land they till with non-owners, something which Socialism does not stand for at all. The capitalists allow the farmers a paper title to the land, and then rob them, through rent, interest and profit, of the greater part of the wealth they get from the soil. Is not Socialism, which will allow the producer the social value of the wealth he creates, better than the capitalist system of paper titles and robbery?

Borden's boats are expected to cost \$35,000,000. The people of Canada will pay this wealth for the privilege of having a few useless steel-clad palaces of sin and misery patrolling the high seas. Will these battleships ever contribute one iota towards building you a home? Will they help to educate your children? Will they make life in any way brighter or better for you or your kind? Will they impress anything on your mind except death and destruction? Surely not. Canada is the fall guy for the British war lords.

Strikes, lockouts, poverty, slums and misery will continue as long as one class owns the machinery of production and another class does the work. There will be continual battling over the respective share of each. Peace will only come when the working-class become also the owning class.

WHO CONTROLS THE NEWS?

A comrade writes: "I wish you would start a series of articles on the 'Tricks of the Press,' as per pamphlet 'Rip Saw.' Show them up. The press is so universal, and such a deadly enemy. The worst in fact. The Roman church is nowhere compared to the newspapers. No doubt you could insert much original matter on the subject. You do a little occasionally. Very few outlets about the suppression of news, the falsification, and so on as lib. The pertinent question being asked now in many quarters is, 'How did Melville E. Stone, manager of the Associated Press, earn his decorations, viz: 1. Officer Legion d'Honneur (France); 2. Officer Order of the Prussian Crown; 3. Grand Officer Crown of Italy; 4. Knight Commander of the Polar Star of Sweden; 5. Order of St. Stanislaus of Russia; 6. Imperial Order 'Sacred Treasure,' Japan?'"

When the absolutist governments of the world grant their decorations to the head of the Associated Press which operates in Canada and the States it is safe to say that it has been for favors received. Popular movements are misrepresented. As an instance of what the Associated Press does we can give the relation of Japan to Korea. The Japanese rulers are evicting the Koreans from their country to make room for the Japanese. The Associated Press suppresses the news of this. The news of the oppression of the Russian people is suppressed. In Canada, when a strike takes place, the side of the strikers is misrepresented and the cause of the employers is played up. Thus the opinion is created that the capitalists are always in the right, and the workers in the wrong.

Let the working class remember this in reading the daily papers. "Old clo" men are no longer to be allowed to rubbage in Montreal garbage barrels. Complaint has been made to the Board of Control that they scatter the rubbage and the householders are blamed and are fined. Chief Campeau is ordered to have all "old clo" men found digging in garbage barrels arrested. Is not such an order a sad commentary upon social conditions in Montreal? In a city of a hundred millions, in a land of bursting elevators and abundant harvests, men have to be arrested for rummaging among refuse and scraps? Borden can give millions for murder ships. So there is plenty of wealth. Surely no one can really think that the present system of wealth distribution is a good one.

IT'S PAID FOR.

If you receive Cotton's Weekly regularly and did not subscribe for it, it is paid for. You will receive a bill for subscription, and the paper automatically stops at the end of the time paid for.

Why not treat yourself to a real good Xmas present—a Life-Time Sub to Cotton's? Only cost \$5.00. Good for all days and always.

