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Cotton's Weekly

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This paper is not published for profit. It is published by co-operative effort as an advocate of the co-operative commonwealth. Last week we sent the following number of copies

25,500

Waste—the Safety Valve of Capitalism

H. Martin National Secretary.

It is generally believed that capitalism is a sane organization of society. This view is prevalent because it is the idea expressed by capitalist economists and reflected through the school, public press and especially by capitalist politicians (Conservative and Liberal).

A little study of the prevailing system—in the light of scientific thought, will reveal the fact that capitalism thrives on waste and therefore the only sane and logical conclusion is that, until we have a social system that expends the least human energy deriving therefrom the greatest possible good, such society is not a perfect organism, will not stand the test of time, and is doomed to go down and out.

With each recurring crisis, what capitalists and business men apply call "money stringency" (and it is true that money is tight with the producers the working class) factories are run on short hours or are shut down until the surplus, the overproduction, which the workers produce but cannot buy back, is used up, wasted or destroyed. This is one kind of waste.

If we survey this system a little closer we observe that large sums of money are being spent on military and naval equipment. A sum so large to be almost beyond the computation of the average person. Eight billions of dollars is the annual expenditure in the preparations for war by the nations of the world. Every dollar expended in military and naval purposes is purely waste, but it is at the same time absolutely necessary for the preservation of the capitalist system. This is another waste.

Then if we take into consideration the millions of men required in the building of war vessels, manufacture of guns, rifles, ammunition and projectiles and the other millions who stand idle serving the master class as standing armies and navies, one is impressed with the fact that it is not only money that is being expended in this feverish preparation for destruction, but the energy, physical and mental, of millions and other millions of men taken away from useful production and where the product by them would swell the surplus-product to be disposed of in foreign markets. The taking away of these millions of men from ordinary production relieves the labor market by that number of men, and at the same time creates a demand for the product produced by the working class and serve as a prolongation of the capitalist system, which permits the capitalist to take his PROFIT, the landlord his RENT, and the Christian Shylock his INTEREST. This is another waste.

How long will this condition last, if the surplus product can only be gotten rid of by waste and the kind of waste pointed out above? With a constantly increasing surplus falling into the hands of the capitalist class, which they cannot use, and cannot sell, and with the necessity of keeping up large armaments, military, naval and auxiliary forces, we must eventually reach a stage when it will be impossible to dispose of this surplus product, because, every country will not only produce sufficient to feed its people (such as a slave class receive under a slave system) and have a large and ever increasing mass of products for foreign exportation. When this stage is reached the system will mechanically come to an end.

It must be remembered, however, that social advances are accomplished through a struggle of classes. The economic conditions, the present method of wealth production, where the entire product accrues into the hands of the capitalist class, produces a dominant ruling class, but at the same time a subservient slave class. The ruling class is able to determine the laws and morals, political, financial, educational and religious institutions. As long as the ruling class are in accord with the social advance, conditions are more favorable to the wealth producers. But immediately the interests of the ruling class become opposed to social progress, an economic struggle arises between the ruling class, an ever decreasing minority, and the rest of society.

The working class, then, have a mission to perform, and that mission is none other than to abolish the capitalist system, which has become out of joint, serving the interests of a small percentage of society. The system has outlived its usefulness and is becoming every day more rotten ripe, for destruction. We see therefore, how economic conditions determine the right for any system to continue. That capitalism is breaking down is witnessed by the necessity of the enormous waste pointed out above, for no other reason than that, this system has reached a point where it thrives upon waste, the greater the waste the longer lease of life.

But intelligent people cannot long uphold this wasteful system, simply because a few multi-millionaires desire that it shall so remain in their interest. Any thoughtful person must after a little careful reflection, decide that the capitalist system has about run its course and is doomed to be destroyed.

This is the message the Social Democratic Party is pointing out to the workers of this country. This explains why the party was organized, why it appeals to the working class to organize politically with the expressed purpose of overthrowing the existing wasteful system and organizing in its stead a sane and rational civilization with a collective ownership of the social means of production, to be run in the interest of the people by the people themselves. Just as in the present capitalist system the benefits accrue into the hands of the owning class, so in a collective owned society the benefits will accrue to all people, because the people collectively own the means by which they produce and distribute the necessities of life.

We therefore appeal to you to assist us in the organization of a society basis upon a realization of the highest form of the true, the beautiful, the good and useful, with the least expenditure of energy. Not to merely economize energy but to attain the highest and best results to all society with the right expenditure of energy. Let us be conscious of the great work to be accomplished. Only in this way can mankind accomplish the best with the least waste.

Apple buyers pay farmers \$1.50 a barrel for No. 3 apples, and oftentimes less. These apples are being sold over the counters for from 25 cents to 40 cents per dozen, which means \$5 to \$6 per barrel. Is there any sense in a system which allows such deals as this?

Karl Kautsky on The High Cost of Living

A little book has just appeared from the Chas. H. Kerr & Co. press, Kautsky's contribution to the discussion of the high cost of living.

Kautsky is the foremost German writer on Socialist questions. He is the literary executor of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. Anything he has to say on economic questions is well worth perusing.

He holds that the primary factor in the high cost of living is the cheaper cost of gold production, not so much labor power being wrapped up in a pound of gold as formerly. As commodities are interpreted in terms of gold, and as gold has decreased in value, the result is shown in the higher price of commodities.

This is the primary cause. Secondary causes are the filling up of free lands so that ground rents are rising. Trusts and armaments also contribute to the high cost of living.

A lower value to gold brings about feverish activity. More money is afloat, there is more demand for goods, prices rise, wages rise, the capitalists turn over their capital quicker and there is prosperity, which is followed by a sharp reaction after prices equalize themselves with the lower value of gold. He holds that we are in the period of reaction, and that the recovery is bound to be harder than ever, and the effects upon the working class will be more severe.

We would advise Canadian Socialists to read this book, we can only give the broad outlines.

Basis of Value

We know that the basis of value is the socially necessary labor time incorporated into a commodity. If a pair of shoes take five hours to make, and a suit of clothes takes ten hours to make, and it takes five hours to produce the amount of gold in a five dollar piece, theoretically, the pair of shoes would exchange for the five dollar piece, and the suit of clothes would exchange for four five dollar pieces.

However this does not work out simply. For gold production is a lottery. The big mines pay well, poor mines yield little profit. The hope of the big prizes make men spend much money. The result is that gold is never paid for at its social value. The return for capital invested in gold mines is less than in industrial enterprises. For example, in 1902 the U. S. statistics of 1902 in that year there were \$1,017,000,000 invested in gold and silver mines in the U. S. upon which dividends were paid of only \$10,000,000 an average of one per cent. In other mines \$100,000 upon which \$82,000,000 were paid in dividends, or 82 per cent. So gold and silver mining is not remunerative.

Although gold is not paid for at its value, owing to the lottery nature of such mining, nevertheless, it is the basis of money, the universal medium of exchange. The money capitalist is the only capitalist who can buy before he has sold. A maker of cloth must sell his cloth before he can buy the materials for further exploitation. But the money capitalist has that which all capitalists want.

When Gold Becomes Cheaper

When new process of gold extraction are brought into being (cyanide process was introduced in 1890) and when new gold fields are discovered (the first mine in the South African Rand was opened in 1886 and in 1897 the Yukon gold fields were discovered) the profit in mining rises and capital is attracted. Gold is produced at a lower cost, and more gold flows upon the market. The result is that more money is in circulation. More money being in circulation, the demand for commodities increases. Increased demand for commodities produces industrial activity. Prices rise, wages become higher and the workers being more steadily employed, have a greater annual income.

The rise in the price of commodities is not identical with the increased amount of gold. It is liable to be greater. And the activity in industry is greater than the new amount of gold would seem to indicate. For with centralized banks, payments in gold become very small. The credits and debits of the various industrialists largely cancel each other. So a small amount of gold can be the basis of a far greater degree of activity.

Moreover, with an increased demand for commodities, the capitalist turns his commodities over more quickly. Whereas in sluggish times he may turn over his capital twice a year, in good times he turns it over four, five and six times. So the increased amount of gold sets in operation a great industrial boom.

Thus in the beginning of the increased gold production, prices rise, and the rising prices are coincident with increased prosperity. Everyone is busy, trade is brisk, the unemployment vanishes, the reserve industrial army being called upon to make the commodities for which the demand has risen.

But there comes a reaction, unless the supply of gold constantly increases in and is constantly diminished. For with the higher profits arising from mining, capital flows into this region, and with higher profits profits increase, and we see an era of stock speculation. Wildcatting becomes rampant. The workers are drawn off from productive enterprises into unproductive ones. More profits appear to be realizable in other ways than in the making of food and clothes and steel. Thus production falls off while the cost of living goes up.

When the reaction comes and the boom bursts; when the prices have risen to the new lower value of gold and even higher, there has to be a readjustment. Prices may not fall very much, but hard times sweep over the world. The workers feel the pinch. They are thrown out of work. Capitalism breaks down. And the old unions with their trade agreements find they are not as strong as they thought they were. Revolutionary activity becomes rife. The misery of the people becomes oppressive.

Kautsky holds that we are at the beginning of this stage of reaction and the workers can expect a more severe crisis than has yet been.

Examples

Kautsky cites examples from history. In the sixteenth century gold and silver were discovered in the New World. Peruvian treasures flooded Europe. Spain was the nation that was first in the field. The riches of America captured the imagination of the Spaniards. Many of them ceased cultivating the land and went to the Spanish Main. The result was that prosperity filled men's minds. But agriculture and production languished after a time, for in proportion as men were drawn from productive agriculture and handicrafts, the national prosperity declined. Spain was flooded with gold and silver and became poor.

The cheapening of gold had a profound effect on European history. In Saxony and Bohemia and in the Austrian Alps mines were carried on. American gold and silver made these mines unprofitable. The decline of mining weakened the Protestantism of these countries. The miners lost their jobs. "In Tyrol, Salzburg, Steiermark, etc.," says Kautsky, "mining was completely stopped, and with it was lost the only progressive thinking elements in those regions. The districts which had, in 1525, risen victoriously against the noble and the priest, became the stronghold of ecclesiasticism and absolutism."

Again in Great Britain, the chartist movement had assumed formidable proportions. It rose to great power in 1848. Misery was rampant yet chartism died out. In 1849 gold was discovered in California. The turbulent spirits, the ones most active in resistance, were drawn to the American goldfields, gold depreciated in value, prices rose, demand increased, and slave prosperity reflected the prosperity of the rising capitalist class.

From 1860 to 1880 the production of gold remained stationary or sank. It was not till 1892 that gold production again equalled the production of 1860. It has been rising steadily ever since, the only set back being during the labor war. The increased gold supply affected prices from 1896 on. They have risen ever since.

From 1860 to 1890 the production of gold prices and stagnation, this period of falling prices and stagnation, says Kautsky, "caused many of us, I admit, that I was one to think that the capitalist system had already fallen into a condition of chronic overproduction." The annual production of gold rose in value from \$119,000,000 in 1890. Times grew good. These good times, "permit the organization of the proletariat to strengthen its feeling of power, but blunt the spur of class antagonism and weaken revolutionary compulsion to the overthrow of the whole capitalist system and the power of the state, which protects it."

"Under these conditions," says Kautsky in another place, "there arose that view which we call revisionism, that theory, that the capitalistic method of production develops tendencies, to continually improve the condition of the proletariat, to limit the exploitation of it, and so put an end to all the tendencies of misery, without a political revolution."

This phase has passed. We are in the other. Says Kautsky, "The period of stagnation or increasing misery sharpens the spur of class antagonism and strengthens the revolutionary compulsion of the proletariat as the conditions are more unbearable."

It is for the Socialists to point out the conditions and the only way to escape, namely the abolition of the wages system, and production for use instead of for profit. Then hard times will be over forever.

Gold Production and Price

From 1810 to 1849 the gold production annually was under or around \$16,000,000 per year. With the discovery of California gold, the production rapidly rose to \$147,000,000 in 1855. From then on it remained stationary or declined till 1890 when it was \$119,000,000.

Sauerbeck has calculated the prices on staple commodities on the London Market. If we take 100 to be average price from 1890 to 1900, prices in 1819 were 183 declining to 112 in 1849 when California gold was discovered. With increased gold, prices rose to 159 in 1857. During the period of stagnation in gold production, prices declined to 108 in 1890, and to 93 in 1897 when gold production had risen to \$236,000,000 per annum.

From then to 1910 prices rose to 117 while the gold production rose to \$455,000,000 per annum. Compare the rise in prices from 1849 to 1855 while gold production increased \$130,000,000, with the increase from 1897 to 1910 when gold production increased \$236,000,000. In the former case the rise was 47 points and in the latter it was 24. The rise has been a good deal smaller, although the production was a good deal larger. The stimuli of increased gold is not working so well. Drunken capitalism is not feeling its liquor like it used to.

Secondary Causes

There are secondary causes for the increase in the cost of living. One of these is the vanishing of free land. Railroads opened up immense areas of free land for homesteading. Workers went onto these lands and worked without profit, getting a bare living. Now with the vanishing of the free lands, ground rents can be exacted, and this added charge makes farm produce higher. "Ground-rent," says Kautsky, "a mark of high prices of agricultural products, grows and becomes itself the cause of still further increase in those prices."

Another cause are the trusts and monopolies which stifle competition and raise prices by getting control of the whole process of production in their line.

Another cause is the expense of armaments which draws men from productive enterprises. Says Kautsky, "The capacity of gold production to raise prices is enormously increased by all these movements."

Conclusion

Capitalism is nearing its end. Increased gold production is failing to stimulate. The final struggle is upon us.

Kautsky concludes, "A look back over the last two decades impresses us that the party and the unions have done their duty. So we

may confidently enter upon the conflict which the new era of capitalism has for us, in which no rapid addition to gold production can longer interfere with the sharpening of class antagonisms, in which capital extends its domain only at the expense of the growing misery of the mass of the population, and the latter is more and more compelled to cause the overthrow of the capitalist system on pain of its own destruction."

The Stolen God

By Gerald J. Lively, Islay, Alta.

They took him and clothed him in purple and gold. Setting him high on a throne. Deck't him with jewels, and gave him a sword And called him a god of their own.

Then they wrapped him around with fable and myth.

With magic and mystery; Gave him a cross that was jewels and gold— They knew not the rough wooden tree.

They fashioned a god who would do as they bid. Set him on high to obey. When they wished peace he was high prince of peace.

"War—and their god echoed slay. Then brought they the image to where I was bound. Fettered—a slave—to the sod.

Bidding me worship the thing they had made, My masters' most dutiful god.

But, oh I grew sick of the purple and gold. Sick of a symbol and name. For though they had taken the sign of my woe.

They left me with all of its shame. And, oh I grew tired of the cold god—they brought.

Tired of the promise to save. When I saw through the trappings of lies and old time.

The form of a Crucified Slave. The night of the Pit settled down on my soul Blotting the light from the day.

For I saw they had murdered a Promise of Life. And stolen a Saviour away.

But whispers came down from the Greater Outside. Sang through the gratings and bars, Filling my soul with the doubt of the gods, Hunger, and Hope, and the Stars.

Two workers of Winnipeg walked into the police station and asked to be locked up for the winter. They had no place to eat, they had no place to sleep, and one of them had pined his boots for the price of a meal and then barefoot. They said they hoped they would get three months from the magistrate.

Vancouver Island Defence Fund

Cotton's Weekly has received the following appeal from the Defence Committee of the Vancouver Island striking miners. A good plan for the comrades would be to paste the appeal on a piece of paper, and tackle Socialists and union men for contributions, sending them forward to the Secretary of the Defence Fund.

FELLOW WORKERS

We, as brothers of the two hundred miners at present in jail awaiting trial on Vancouver Island, at this time appeal to you members of the working class for moral and financial help, that we may free from persecution and the brand of criminality men whose chief offense is the prominent and active in the labor movement on this portion of the Pacific Coast.

The miners, in their dealings as individuals with the corporations in the past, have realized their utter helplessness. Time and again explosions occur with the loss of human life. The mining laws provide for the appointment of a Gas Committee by the men. This committee on examining the mine and reporting gas, was discharged. The Government, in lining up with the mine owners, refused to enforce the laws. They are therefore the violators of their own laws.

The men were thus forced to organize, and on the 1st of May last the mine workers of this Island came out for recognition of their union.

The governments, Dominion and Provincial, in their eagerness for industrial expansion (profits for the master class), encourage a constant stream of immigration from Oriental countries. With the aid of this reserve army of labor, whose wants are few compared with those of white men and the enactment of

Brought forward \$ 51.45
Mrs. S. Fiddick, South Wellington, B. C. 2000.00
Per W. Pryde, Nanaimo, B.C. 20.00
Per G. Lively, Islay, Alta. 5.55
Per Local No. 2, Victoria S. P. of C. Canada 3.25
Bricklayers' and Masons' Int. Union of America, Edmonton, Alta. 25.00
Amal. Society Carpenters and Joiners of America, Edmonton, Alta. 4.75
Robokhyj Narod, Winnipeg, Man. 5.00
Per G. Lively, Stretton Local, Islay, Alberta 5.00
Edmonton District Council Carpenters, Edmonton 10.00
Local 18, Brockville S. D. P. of C. 5.00
Local 488, Journeymen Plumbers, Edmonton, Alta. 10.00
Local 322, I.W.W., Vancouver, B.C. (Tom Mann) 34.15
Local Victoria No. 2, S. P. of C. 2.00
Local 227, Edmonton, Alta., J. B. I. U. of America 10.00
Per J. Jackson (Philpotts) Nanaimo Local 45, Vancouver, S. P. of C. 8.45
Local 2633 U.M.W. of A., Coleman, Alta. 100.00
Local Rossland, S. P. of C. 10.50
Fred Macgowan, Delaware Ave., Toronto 2.00
Local Cammore, Alta., S. P. of C. 3.25
Local Lindsay, Ont., S.D.F., per W. A. Goodwin 2.00

The Policeman's Club a Great Treasure

By Chester M. Wright, in the Workers' World.

Never was there a more forcible example of the effectiveness of two-fisted fighting against capitalism than has come to us from Schenectady in the last ten days. Absolute and unqualified victory is the Schenectady story.

Fifteen thousand workers in the General Electric Company's Schenectady plant walked out. Here, in tabloid, is the story of what Socialist Mayor Lunn did to help win that strike.

Scarcely had the wheels stopped running before he issued a statement saying that no striker should go hungry. "We'll feed them," he said.

Then he issued a statement saying that if picketing became necessary he would see that every right was preserved to the strikers.

Next, he had thirty-two STRIKERS sworn in as DEPUTIES, and next he placed Socialist Commissioner of Public Safety John E. Cole in charge of the policing forces.

Then he offered his services to aid in settling the strike in any way that might best serve the workers.

By Saturday the bosses saw the hopelessness of their position and gave in to the workers. It was a clean-cut victory for labor and the battle was won by the JOINT USE OF THE POLITICAL AND INDUSTRIAL ARMS OF THE WORKING CLASS. It was a TWO-FISTED fight, and the victory was one of the easiest won in a great strike. Here is what probably would have happened had the strike not been called until Mayor Lunn left office. Indianapolis furnished the illustration:

On Monday the Indianapolis teamsters struck, tying up the city's hauling business. Mayor Shank had resigned under Big Business pressure, and the Comptroller Wallace became mayor. Big Business said it wanted a mayor that sympathized with Big Business, and their O. K. is on Wallace.

When the teamsters walked out they faced a police force recruited to special strength, and ordered to "shoot to kill" the moment "property" was molested. In every struck place of business guns and bullets were stored, READY FOR USE. And the mayor was in hearty sympathy with the bosses and ready to crush labor by BRUTE FORCE for the sake of profits.

That is probably what would have happened in Schenectady if the strike had come AFTER Lunn left office. It is what happens in every city where capital controls the political power.

In these two cases labor has a concrete illustration of HOW POLITICAL POWER WORKS OUT IN PRACTICE; how it works out not only toward the final overthrow of the capitalist system, but how it works out to help labor NOW in its fight for a little more at the factory gates.

How the masters chuckle when the unthinkable old grit and Tory voter drops his ballot in the box. It is like money in the bank to them.

drastic criminal laws, which are intended to render the workers powerless during a strike, all the forces of the State are at the disposal of the capitalists involved.

Today the militia are encamped in our streets, and bodies of them with fixed bayonets patrol them, and act as a shield to hundreds of special police who are here to guard strike-breakers.

The jails are crowded with our most active workers. With the exception of a few, bail has been refused.

Among the men in prison are many earnest and active workers, who are eligible for provincial and municipal office. Also J. Place, P.E., of the working class, representative in the Provincial Parliament. The workers of this district have attained the most advanced political position of any of the Dominion. In the event of these men being convicted, they are deprived of all political rights for five years.

FELLOW WORKERS

In this life and death struggle with the Master Class, help us to keep the Banner of Labor flying triumphant over what we have already attained. It is our turn today; it may be yours tomorrow. In the name of the solidarity of the working class, help is urgently needed at this time. Do all you can, and aid us to hurl those from place and power who, in their greed would force us to the standard of Orientals, or to become homeless tramps.

Forward all monies to Defense Committee, G. A. Moore, Secretary, Box 830, Nanaimo, B.C.

Donations will be acknowledged in Western Clarion, Cotton's Weekly, Appeal to Reason, and other Labor papers.

Jas. Jackson, Wharf St., Nanaimo Local Victoria, No. 2, S. P. of C. 1.00
Edmonton Local 1016, Int. Brotherhood Painters and Decorators 10.0
Local Moose Jaw, S. P. of C. 20.5
Local Secuin, Wash., Socialist P. 3.0
Local 61 Hamilton, Ont., S. D. P. of C. 3.00
Per S. S. Oostso, Local 28, Lund, B. C. 14.25
Edmonton Trades and Labor Council, Edmonton, Alta. 65.00
Per J. Tucher, Winnipeg, Man. 1.00
Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council South Fort George, Local S. P. of C. Sandstone, Alta., Austrian, Polish, Russian and British sympathizers M. and N. Nicolaeff, Morningside, Alberta 50
Mission City Local S. D. P. of C., No. 24, B.C. 19.40
T. King, Manse Street, Montreal 1.00
J. T. Hartley, Manor, Sask. 1.00
Finnish Local S. P. of America, Clinton, Ind. 5.60
Dom. Exec. Soc. Dem. Party of Canada, Berlin, Ont. 25.00
Local No. 4, S.D.P. of C., Berlin, Ont. 10.00
Ontario Provincial Executive, S. D. P. of C. 30.00
Finnish Local No. 6, S. D. P. of C., Nummola, Sask. 4.25
\$2632.10

The British Fair Play Myth

The following form was posted in the car starter's office at the street railway barns in Edmonton, Alta., setting forth the reason for the dismissal of Conductor J. White, who was a member of the railway men's committee in the recent fair wage agreement negotiations. Mr. White corrected a statement made by the mayor of the city from a public platform concerning their committee.

EDMONTON RADIAL RAILWAY

1st December, 1913

DISMISSAL

NAME	SUSPENDED FOR	DAYS SUSPENDED
Motorman	Conductor	
J. WHITE #34	FOR GETTING UP AT A PUBLIC MEETING AND CONTRADICTING THE MAYOR. IN THE BIJOU THEATRE.	DISMISSED

THOS. M. HEDDS, Traffic Superintendent

A cut similar to the above was submitted to the Edmonton Journal as ADVERTISING immediately after the occurrence. It was accepted and printed in several hundred copies of the paper. The press was then stopped, the advertisement taken out and those papers which had left the office gathered up as much as possible.

The Edmonton Bulletin people were more wide awake to their masters' interests, and absolutely refused to print the cut as advertising or otherwise.

The street railway men want to know if this is British fair play.

Certainly it is.

The workers have elected those out of their masters to rule them; they have fought and quarrelled over the elections; they have voted down those of their own class who had the temerity to mix into politics; they have always looked up to the man with a wad or to the man whom the man with the wad selects to be elected by the workers; they have fought and died for the rule of gold and lust and blood and murder. This they have done for so long that the masters are certain (and who can blame them) that the Henry Dubbs of the working class will always be plentiful enough to clothe them with silk and elect their chosen tools at the head of the polls.

Fair play!

British fair play!

The workers' idea of fair play and the masters' idea of fair play are far, far apart.

The masters believe that blacklisting a man who does not bend the knee to them is fair play.

They believe that shutting him up in a lousy dungeon for weeks without the semblance of a trial is fair play.

They believe, like McBride of B.C., that employing Chinese gardeners while white men are roaming the streets hungry and cold looking for work, is fair play.

They send soldiers when the worker strikes to intimidate him and shoot him up if the least opportunity presents itself, and the soldiers are allowed to insult the wives and daughters of the strikers with impunity. This is an old sample of British fair play.

British fair play allows robbing employers to send to the U. S. for thugs and professional gunmen to come to Canada and shoot down and beat up strikers who have spent their lives in building up the country with the sweat of their brows and the brawn of their backs. These heroic polecats are paid large salaries with money robbed from the workers who are beaten and shot.

Fair play under the rotten, bloody old Union-Jack says that one set of laws must be made for the poor, and they must be harsh and oppressive and misery-making, while the parasite rich are enabled to escape by the back door and dodge all the laws of the land.

The masters believe that throwing away \$14,000,000 each year by a nation of 8,000,000 people to train a pack of misfit specimens of somebody's carelessness to shoot up workers who rebel at rotten conditions is British fair play.

A few men practically own the Island of Vancouver with its immense natural deposits of wealth. Men are forced to dig in the bowels of these mines under the most dangerous conditions; they are bludgeoned and shot up; their families left in want and distress. This is fair play (and good business).

If you lay your hand on another man's shoulder he may have you arrested for assault, and fined. But if you are a striker and meet with others in your hall to hold a discussion, a bunch of fellow British workers' sons are allowed to bang on the door and order the whole assemblage to disperse in one minute or a machine gun trained on the door will riddle you and your fellows with the nickel ball. More fair play.

The worker's lad is snubbed at school. He is snubbed in church (or he used to be before he quit going).

He is starved mentally, morally and physically.

He slaves in his youth in the mills and sweat pens of the masters. If he gets married he is the victim of every boss who allows him to work in his employ and create him profits. He is the sure enough sure thing. He is paid a wage that will barely keep him and his family. If he runs into debt, and his kind boss takes him, he is tied for life. If he stays on his job he is looked on as a servile tool, and treated accordingly; if he tries to make a getaway, he is a crook, and the police are told off to watch him.

Altogether the worker from the cradle to the pine box has one hell of a time.

If the worker told an assemblage of capitalists what his idea of fair play was they would laugh at him. They would not understand what he meant.

Fair play according to Conductor J. White and the street railwaymen of Edmonton, and Traffic Supt. Hedds who fired White age not born of the same philosophy.

Conductor White and his fellows probably think that a decent wage and short hours and a chance to earn a home for themselves and their families is fair play. The street railway company think that a bare living wage, a rented shack, and ragged, hungry children for their workers is fair play.

There will never be the least semblance of fair play (if there is such a thing) under capitalism. Capitalism demands rent, interest and profit, and is so internationally organized that a bare living wage is all that the workers get, no matter in what country they may live and toil. The workers are organized in bunches and are the prey of the parasites the world over. A few rebel, and organized capital with all its brutalities is at once directed to the place where the workers are, and doses of "fair play" q.s. dealt out

to them till their spirits are broken and their minds dulled with oppression and hunger.

Is there fair play in Great Britain? Is there fair play in India? Australia? Canada or South Africa? There is plenty of it, according to the standard set by the masters and their political tools.

The worker has just to rub the lamp and wish, and the whole rotten structure of capitalism will fall to the ground.

Conductor J. White has a vote; the street railway men of Edmonton have votes. They by their votes send a mayor to the chair who is arrogant enough to make false statements in a public meeting. He is a henchman of the masters, else he would go through fire and water to prevent a useful worker being fired for correcting a statement which was not right. He is a selection of the masters else he would have a devil of a poor show to sit in the mayor's chair of Edmonton.

Why do the voters send people to power whose interests are not with the workers, or of the workers? Why do they uphold the Borden and the Lauriers and the tools of the parasite class when they know that all they may expect is a continued era of wage slavery and serfdom?

Workers of Edmonton, select your own candidates. Vote for them. Stand by them with your money and muscles against the machinations of the capitalist system which tacitly declares that no worker shall be a lawmaker.

Do this. It is your only chance to free yourselves. When you free yourselves as a class you are freeing your children and all who may come after. So long as you are blinded by the spellbinders of the masters and their foolish promises and predictions, you will be slaves, and your progeny will be slaves, and their ideas of fair play will count as much with the capitalist class as that of the herring disappearing down the gullet of the shark.

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Activity at Little Bow

T. Edwin Smith, Yetwood, Alta.

Comrades—The Reds in this neighborhood cannot dead yet even though you have heard nothing from them for some time.

The Municipality of Little Bow was organized lately and the election for councillors was held Monday Dec. 9. That subdivision which includes Black Spring Ridge was one of the few in which there was an election. The Reds around Ridgeway school house decided to contest the election and nominated Hugh E. Blue as their candidate. The Liberal Machine had very quietly had a heeler nominated and plans were prepared to step him in by acclamation as the U. F. A. candidate but same good Socialists overheard part of the programme over the telephone and blocked their game as mentioned.

In spite of all protestations to the contrary the Liberal organization had a card up their sleeve and on election day Jas. McNaughton M.L.A., was out with his auto hauling voters to the polls and distributing cigars to the voters.

The result of the election was Scott 35, Blue 19.

In the last Provincial election Plainfield polling division pretty nearly coincided with this division. In the election on April 1913, Borden the Socialist got 7 votes. This time the Red vote was nearly trebled. These votes were all class conscious farmers who have got wise to the skin game practiced upon them and decided to register a kick.

Alec Fraser, an intense hustler was debarred from voting but put in a hard day talking to voters and stirring things in general. He manoeuvred Scott into an argument and finally put him in a trap in a very few minutes. At the conclusion he handed him this one in front of a large crowd.

"You know, Scott you remind me more than anything else, of a bug inside a glass turned upside down. You go round and round and never get anywhere. The only difference is the bug is trying to get out."

After the votes were counted Fraser rushed to the phone and called up McNaughton the M. L. A. for Little Bow.

"That you Jim. This is Sandy. I just called you up to congratulate you on winning the election."

"But Sandy, the election was nothing to me. I had interest in it. Mr. wanted to get out to vote and so I thought I would take him up in my car."

"Don't apologise, Jim."

"I'm not apologising. Really the election is nothing to me."

"Say, Jim, did you know I was something of a singer?"

"No are you?"

"Just put your ear to the telephone and listen."

And Sandy sang the Red Flag completely through for his benefit, with half the population rubbinging on the line.

The Comrades in Alberta would do well to watch these municipal elections. There is enormous power vested in a few men, and they can erect buildings, bridges and appoint cities as quickly as possible. Used intelligently, a beautiful political machine can be built up to help swing provincial and Dominion elections.

The Attorney General of Alberta has sent out word to his henchmen that the Liberal party must capture all the municipalities and cities as quickly as possible and already they are at it. The Conservatives are letting the Liberals have everything their own way in the country and nothing but the Socialists can prevent the Liberals from seizing all our governing bodies.

A local of the S. P. of C. has just been formed at Ridgeway school with nine charter members, and they have determined to capture every possible position and fill all the offices with reds, and this election was the first step in accord with that program.

I would like to urge upon all comrades the importance of filling all offices with reds. The school board and councilors are especially important, as experience will show.

ALSO GET CONTROL OF AS MANY UNITED FARMERS' ASSOCIATION LOCALS AS POSSIBLE, AND TRY TO GET REFINED AND AS DELICATE TO THE ANNUAL CONVENTION, TO BE HELD IN JANUARY, 1914. The U. F. A. has degenerated into an unpaid auxiliary of the Liberal Party, and the Socialists must shake off the shackles and make it an institution for the uplift of the farmers rather than a drag upon them.

The farmers near here are beginning to see the hopelessness of trying to beat the game with the cards all stacked against them. Though they are all hard up they are beginning to look about a bit for themselves, and that is encouraging.

An Episode in a Butcher Shop

Last week a little colored boy asked the butcher for five cents' worth of liver. The butcher said: "I haven't got any, my boy. liver don't lay around very long these days."

The little chap departed with a sorrowful look upon his face. There was apparently no meat for that day's dinner at any rate. Here was an illustration of the wonderful prosperity that Canada is experiencing. Why, at one time the butcher had to throw the biggest half of his liver away. Now he can get as much for it as he once got for hamburger steak with the bones out. This talk about hard times is all rot. Why, it takes forty per cent more to buy things now than it did five years ago, and we fill up on stuff that our house cat would formerly disdain to nose at. Those fellows who persist in talking about hard times are unpatriotic and enemies of society, and the cop should run them in. How can times be bad when prices are away up? "Do you think we don't know?"—Industrial Banner.

The miner slaves his life away in darkness and death to keep the world warm, and he and his family live in a tent or shack and suffer with the cold.

Hunter Blair, of Toronto, was thrown out of his house and could get no more. He took the short route to liberty by turning on the gas.

H. C. of L. stands for high cost of living, or high cost of lunacy, whichever you may choose. It's all the same.

The farmers of the west grew 75 per cent more wheat this year than last. Are they 75 per cent richer?

TORONTO READERS PLEASE NOTE

The S. D. P. has 10 local and 1000 dues paying members in Toronto. It is a fighting organization only. We are all working. Please send your dues to the S. D. P. Box 25, Toronto. Come to local No. 1 (Ontario) Room 5, Labor temple, 1st or 3rd Tuesdays of the month, in the first instance, or write Secretary, Social Democratic Party, Labor Temple, Toronto. If you are tired of the present system, join. Only organizations affiliated with International Movement. All languages welcome. Telephone Central 2627. 27

Thinking the Point

By H. B. F., Brockville, Ont.

At the present time there are lots of towns and villages squabbling over local option. Some are for, and some against it. The hotel keepers are doing their utmost to kill it, while the clergy, manufacturers, and the class of men who look at all matters from one point of view only, are trying to force the issue. It matters not what public issue is to the front, always take into consideration who the leaders are, what their business may be, the church they belong to (if any), and the aim and objects of their mission.

Now speaking for Brockville, we have two very prominent gentlemen at the head of the present local option campaign, gentlemen who when I notice them to be very prominent, I reach for my microscope, place them under it, and look at them with great care and caution. I find by so doing that they are very peculiar creatures, and have some very funny ideas and notions, always selfish and at most times hypocritical. Both of these gentlemen are manufacturers in a very extensive way, employing hundreds of men. They ride in automobiles, carry their babies, and keep a little liquor in the cellar in case of sickness, should it unfortunately visit them.

It is truly a picture to notice the hundreds of men and boys as they leave their work. Some are eaten up with lead, and look like death itself. Then others look like wet rags after a hard day's work in the intense heat of a moulding shop. Both firms are noted for the wages they pay.

But why are they spouting local option? Let us examine it. As in most factories, a certain percentage of their men take a glass of beer, and in most cases the men are not able to afford it, and thus somebody has to go unpaid.

I must look through my glass once more at these local option curiosities and notice their workings. I discover just this. There are hundreds of men underpaid, consequently underfed and poorly clothed. They insist upon drinking a mixture called beer, whiskey, etc. They insist upon wasting their money upon tobacco; in fact I have known them to hire a boat and go up the river in the summer time.

Now, those working men cannot afford such luxuries on the pay they get. So the local option manufacturer says, "I must stop their beer drinking anyway. That will give them a few dollars more to keep house on, and I won't be bothered by them asking for more wages. This is the main object these manufacturers have in view. What do they care about the welfare of their men, or of Brockville, either, for the matter of that? They have shaken the town pretty well financially, what care they?

The question is worth a good deal of study. In the first place, what comes the saloon to be in existence? Why, for profit. Why does the government issue licenses? For profit. Why do they fine a man ten dollars for getting drunk? For profit. And why do his children have to work in the sweat shops? For profit, of course.

Cut out profit, and the saloon in its present state will vanish. Show me the man that will fill another up with booze if there was no profit to be had. Why are these men who are spouting not men enough to come out and tell the people that the present rotten capitalist system is to blame? If they are at all intelligent they know it to be true, why act the hypocrite? Every one knows the saloon to be a curse, so why beat about the bush to abolish it? Cut out rent, interest and profit, and what little will be drunk will be pure. You who want to see drunkenness cease, vote for Socialism. You who want pure liquor and beer, vote for Socialism. You who cry out, "Save the boys," vote for Socialism. As long as capitalism lasts, the evil will last. You who have your beer and wine in the cellar and are members of the court house avenue club, set a good example. Cut out the booze yourselves, and then come out and spout against the profit system, which is the root of the evil, and intelligent men will respect you. The microscope today shows you to be tyrants of the worst kind. Be men or mice.

Counsel for the various trunk lines are at Ottawa howling about poverty of their respective lines, and urging no reduction in the freight rates. The counsel for the C. N. R. says the railways would face a deficit of over \$26,000,000 for 1914. He appears to know the inside business of all the lines. The C. P. R. has been given choice grants of land all through their route in the Northwest, they have sapped the Dominion treasury for \$16,000,000 cold cash; McBride of B.C. wants to hand them a pot of \$20,000,000 more; and everywhere they have built the line they have been granted almost anything they wanted. If a railway cannot make things pay with their exorbitant freight rates, coupled with the above handouts, the people should take over the road, and run it for the benefit of the masses.

The "in right" farmers out west have been greasing the grimy paws of railway brakemen and engineers to secure their cars out of their turn. The little homesteader who draws his wheat thirty or forty miles is compelled to wait around the town for days and days till a car is allotted him. The capitalist supplies him with the incentive to hustle like the devil and grow lots of wheat so that he may become a big farmer and be able to stand in the crooked line.

The suffragettes of London, Eng., attended Covent Garden theatre at a play where King George and his wife occupied the Royal box. They unfolded a huge banner on which was inscribed "Women are being tortured in your majesty's prisons." The suffragettes were ejected, while the king and queen merely smiled. What else could be expected of them? Are they not superior to the common people?

Vancouver is full of men out of work and lacking the price of a bed and "pod out," yet the C. P. R. are taking on Chinese to man their boat, the Empress of India. The company claims that the Chinese are more reliable. Now, you skilled workers who ranted and raved and voted for the masters at the last election, what do you know about that?

Somebody started a report that the city of authorities of the city indignantly deny this, Winnipeg was feeding 17,000 idle people. The and say they are no soup kitchens established in the city. Well it is worse than we hoped for. The 17,000 are there all right it remains a mystery where they eat and sleep.

If a cop should strike a horse with the club that is made for the worker's head, the S. P. C. A. would be after his scalp, but the same society will sit idly by and see cops beat up men, women and children without a murmur.

Yes, the worker still has rights—he can work or starve.

The Satan in the Box

Once in time a reform wave was going on among the rich and powerful on the earth. The world was full of wickedness and sin, and preachers had been preaching every Sunday that the world was going under if it would be let continue, and the people would serve the root of all evil, the Satan. So believing the preachers of the Gospel, there was arranged a mass meeting of all the powerful and wealthy and rich and a discussion was held how to be liberated from the evil and sin created by Satan and his imps. And the resolution was passed:

To liberate the earth from all evil and sin, the only way is to denounce the allegiance to the Satan and lock him up with all his imps in a strong box on an isolated island.

This was put in force and Satan and all his imps were herded together and locked in a strong box. And behold! All the evil and the sin disappeared from the earth and the powerful and rich rejoiced over their wisdom and over the coming happiness.

But again, behold! With all the goodness there came hard times and before long the earth was hit by it were wholly unused to the hardness of it. The locking up of Satan had namely made idle millions and millions of people. "Thou shalt not kill!" said the Lord, and millions of men from the armies of the great powers had to lay down their weapons and lose their occupation. "Thou shalt not steal!" had the same Lord said, and tens of thousands of big factories and commercial houses had to close their doors, as their owners could not pursue their business without stealing. And same way: "Thou shalt not bear false witness," etc., and hundreds of thousands of lawyers, doctors, preachers and like had to leave their work, all allowed now being only good and truthful.

And a terrible wail of distress went through the earth. Everyone was asking his neighbor how this was going to end. At last a passage of the Lord's sayings was discovered: "With the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat thy bread!" However, it was impossible. All the millions now in distress had never learned to earn their bread with the sweat of their brows, being used to getting it from the sweat from others, and a great howl was raised against it.

And again the wise and the powerful and rich got together and held a mass meeting and with great applause was adopted the following resolution: "As without Satan, our real Lord, the life would be a real curse to us and we would lose our easy livelihood, be it resolved, that Satan and his imps be liberated from their captivity and let them make occupations with calm conscience."

And on the same day Satan was let loose from his strong box on the isolated island, and started his former work with his imps, and the powerful and rich were happy and satisfied again.

In this parable can be contained the struggle of the modern ruling class against Socialism and what it stands for. The abolition of the private ownership would be the same as the dethroning of the Satan for the ruling capitalist class, as it would mean for them the same as the lordly command: "With the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat thy bread," and in the same way it would make unnecessary and impossible many of the occupations and businesses now very profitable to the members of the upper class. The powerful and rich of the real life understand that the present order of things—the private ownership of everything—is a question of life and death to them in the same as the reign of Satan was that in the parable. And this being the question, you can understand Mr. Worker, why they will fight with their teeth to preserve the private ownership and to strangle Socialism which is going to overthrow the private ownership and the upper class rule for the benefit of real workers.

It is up to you, Mr. Worker, what stand you will take. You will fight for the overthrow of the Satan's kingdom it is for the overthrow of private ownership, or will you preserve in power, the Satan and his imps, found to be so profitable for the rich and the powerful on the earth?

If you are for the first, be one of us, join the Socialist ranks; if you are for the Satan and his kingdom, slave and oppose us and socialism.—Rob. Woodhouse, Echo Bay, Ont., Dec. 7, 1913.

Windsor, Ont.: physicians have organized and boosted the price of their services 100 per cent. When a gang of skilled workers organize and humbly ask for a measly little ten or fifteen per cent raise in the price of their labor power, all the dogs of capitalism are let loose on their inoffensive heads. Now the high cost of illness is just doubled, and the worker must pay the shot.

Because of the lax system of identification of the insane many of these unfortunates have been punished to an extent that is almost incredible. There are 80 or 100 insane convicts in the penitentiary—Dr. E. H. Young to the Prison Reform Commission at Kingston.

There are 40,000 vacancies in the British Army, and the authorities are advertising for recruits. There are not 40,000 soldiers in all Canada, despite the fact that the militia department draws over \$10,000,000 a year for its upkeep.

The red cross of Socialism on the capitalist ballot is what makes the masters sit up and think. If you have no candidate of your own class, decorate the ballot with the insignia of freedom.

Galicians are flocking in Canada because of poverty at home. Formerly they suffered poverty in the midst of poverty; here they will suffer poverty in the midst of plenty.

Think Right

C. S. Robertson, Montreal.

The secret of the worker's might is when they get to thinking right. And when their power they can show. The capitalists will feel like melting snow.

The ones that always will insist that no one should be a Socialist. Are the ones who fear the power. Of the working revolution of the hour.

Soon will end these days of spoil. Then we'll get the produce of our toil, And then will fly crime and vice, And times of living on boiled rice.

The dailies report that the Duke of Connaught took tea with thirty old ladies. They should have said "Thirty old ladies."

Twelve years ago in Ottawa the price of milk was a dollar for twenty-two quarts. Today it is just twice that sum.

