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## THE BENEDICTION

By Gerald J. Lively

(Dedicated to the "Christian" Churches)

"He is blessing us in the name of God, the Merciful. He is blessing our rifles that they may not fail us; . . . he is blessing every precious cartridge, lest a single bullet wasted, lest any pass idly through the air."—Wilhelm Lamzus, in "The Human Slaught-house."

Hear the organ's solemn notes, quivering above,  
Listen, we are praying 'loud to the God of Love.  
Hear, our earnest orisons rising up on high.  
Mark! ye human-butcher-men going out to die.

Listen, we are asking aid, asking aid Divine,  
Blessings on the reeking tubes, down the bat-tle-line.  
Hear us ask the Crucified—listen while we pray—  
That your hands be strong to kill—slay, and slay and slay.

Yet again another prayer—Mary—Mother, aid!  
Steer the shrieking segment shell; guide the dripping blade.  
May the Holy Spirit pour blessings on each hand,  
That ye dine and sup and sleep 'midst the swollen dead.

Rise! ye human-butcher-men, stalwart, unafraid;  
We, who serve the Lamb of God, bless your holy trade.  
Build your "mattered earthworks up, with your brothers—dead.  
Deck each triumph bayonet with an infant's head.

We have blessed your handiwork; burn and raze and flay;  
May your automatics plough, deep, the shrieking clay.  
Courage! human-butcher-men, courage for the fight,  
We have blessed the lyddite fumes, blessed the dynamite.

We have blessed your bandoliers—lest a cartridge fail;  
Blessed the chattering metraillouse, blessed the nickel hail.  
We have blessed each wire-built gun, bayonet and sword.  
Know ye that your brother's blood pleaseth well the Lord.

Pile the rotting corpses up, pile them up on high.  
Pour the reek of burning flesh—incense to the sky.  
Bring the Lord, as offering, loaded red-cross trains.  
Heap around His altar-rails entrails, blood, and brains.

Grind your brother's twitching limbs in the cannon maw;  
Use the image of your God for your rifle butt.  
For we're blessed the mangled slain, blessed the blood-mired sod,  
Let your shrapnel covies burst—in the face of God.

Courage, human-butcher-men, courage yet again,  
We have made a halo bright of the brand of Cain.  
Drive the dipping lance points home when the foemen flee.  
For the glory of the Lord—Benedicite.

Question not, O butcher-men, ask no reason why,  
Mammon calls, and you must go—starve and rot and die.  
As for us our creed holds good, never fault or flaw.  
We have struck "Thou Shalt Not Kill" from the ancient law.

## Farms as Banking Securities

"Can you tell me the reason why a farmer who owns a farm unencumbered by debt of any kind is prohibited by law from going to a bank and getting a loan, even an insignificant one on his farm without any other security? Are not the farmers the backbone of the country? I have not found any reference to this matter published."—H. L. Frank, Kitsum Kolum, B.C.

A bank is an institution that lives off its debts. It gets deposits from people for which it pays nothing, or but three per cent. It lends these deposits back to other people and gets from seven to twelve per cent for these loans.

Suppose the depositors want their money from the bank? The bank has to get the money. It calls in the loans it has made. The lenders have to pay up. If the lenders cannot pay up, the bank takes the securities which have been given to guarantee the loan and sells them on the stock exchange. These securities are usually in hundred dollar shares and enough shares can be sold to pay the loan and the unsold shares can be returned to the borrower.

Now suppose a farmer worth seven thousand dollars were allowed to borrow a thousand dollars from the bank on security of the farm.

Suppose hard times came, a panic struck the country, and the farmer could not pay the note, and the bank had to have the money. How could the bank get the money? Would it take the farm and sell it? Would it take a mortgage against the farm and sell the mortgage? Suppose the bank had two hundred thousand dollars loaned to farmers on security of the farms in one place and a hundred thousand in another place and so on. When the bank has to get in its loans and the farmers could not pay, where would the banks turn to sell the farms? A farm is not a thing that can be sold off hand. A farm often waits months for a purchaser. If a hundred farms at once were thrown on the market, they would sell for a mere nothing.

If the mortgages were taken and they were endeavored to be sold, no one would buy. In hard times the man with the cash can get blood money for his cash. He will not part with his cash for farm mortgages when he can be picking up industrial stocks cheap.

It has been found that land is not a banking security. That is the reason, why farmers cannot borrow money from banks on their land.

However, farms are going to become banking security just as railroads and mills and cities have become banking security. This is going to be so by turning mortgages into the form of hundred dollar bonds.

The Royal Commission, appointed by the Saskatchewan government to study the question of agricultural credit, has made its report. One scheme put forward is for a co-operative credit society to be formed, and loans made to the members, the money for these loans to be secured by bonds guaranteed by all the members of the association.

These bonds would pay a certain rate of interest per annum with coupons attached just like railway bonds or municipal bonds.

While a farm mortgage has to be transferred in whole, bonds can be sold in hundred dollar denominations. They become banking security then just as industrial bonds are banking security.

The Saskatchewan Commission thinks that money could be borrowed on such bonds at four and a half per cent per annum, and the charge of management of the co-operative credit society need not be over one and a half per cent, so the farmers could get credit at six per cent per annum.

The Socialist contention is that interest should be abolished altogether.

"The capitalist royal commission offers a scheme whereby the farmers will pay six per cent.

Socialism offers to the producing class the full social value of what they produce.

If the western farmers want to pay toll to the owners of capital, let them support Socialism.

If they want to pay no toll at all, let them vote the Socialist ticket.

## National Ownership of Railways

Government ownership of railways will be the burning political issue in the United States before the government's railway appraisal is completed. This was the prediction of Chairman Clifford Thorne, of the Iowa Railroad Commission, to the National Association of Railway Commissioners at Washington, D.C., October 30th. He declared that instead of giving the railroads the privilege of raising their freight rates five per cent, the government could issue three per cent bonds, buy the railways, and raise wages \$100,000,000 per year without increasing rates.

No doubt the nationalization of railways is shortly to take place, and a tremendous struggle will take place to keep the producing class from benefiting by national ownership. An attempt, which will be largely successful, will be made to unload railroad railways on the government at exorbitant prices. Then a demand will be made to reduce freight rates so that the manufacturers and steel and coal barons may get cheap profits. Lastly if any profit is made, the capitalist class will drain it away for useless battleships and other forms of graft.

Naturalization will benefit the producing class only when the Socialists are entrusted with the government.

## A Wider View

The question as to how all workers may produce abundant wealth has been settled by modern machinery and methods.

The question as to how those who produce the wealth may get it, and have the opportunity to produce at all times, remains to be settled.

Wealth (for the most part) is today produced by collective, co-operative, associated, social labor—for the benefit of a few.

Socialism means the same kind of production for the benefit of all.

Socialists look upon the combination and concentration of capital as logical and inevitable in the natural development of the capitalist system, and have no intention or desire to aid in any movement that has as its object a return to the days of production on a small scale.

Everywhere the Socialist Party seeks political power for the immediate purpose of using that power to better the conditions and increase the advantages and education of the working class while capitalism lasts.

And everywhere the Socialist Party boldly proclaims its ultimate purpose of completely abolishing the system under which a few are allowed to monopolize those things upon which all depend.

While this is distinctly a movement of the modern wage-working class, yet many of its supporters come from the professional class, and even from the capitalist class, and particularly those individuals who realize the drift of the times and recognize the fact that the only alternative for the monopoly, tyranny and inequality of capitalism is collective ownership, democratic control and equal opportunity, which is Socialism.

The International Socialist Party has become strongly organized in all the so-called "civilized" countries of the world and everywhere it stands for the same fundamental principles, though the different conditions in different countries may necessitate different tactics.

Speaker Warren, of the Newfoundland House of Assembly, has been defeated by Business Manager Grimes, of the Newfoundland Fishermen's Protective Union. The vote was: Grimes, 571; Warren, 697. Canadian papers admit he is a Socialist. The Fishermen's Protective Union is a labor organization. At first it was intended to form a third party, and capture the balance of power. Later, however, it decided to form a coalition with the opposition party headed by Bond. In this measure the F.P.U. allies itself with capitalist politics. We are confident when the fishermen of Newfoundland become a little more class conscious, they will adopt the maxim, "No Political Trading."

## WOMAN UNDER SOCIALISM

### Woman in the Past

A Victoria, B.C. Comrade asks: Under Socialism what kind of reform will there be for women? They are slaves of the slaves now. What will their lot be then? Please answer through Cotton's.

To understand the future position of woman we must understand her present position and her past position, in the light of economic determinism. For woman's position is not what it was, nor is it what it will be.

In the past woman was the plaything or drudge of man. Man ruled supreme. In the anarchy in Europe which followed the inroads of the Goths, Vandals and Huns, in the rise of the Frankish and Germanic tribes from wandering nomads to settled tillers, force was the arbiter of destiny. The strong tribe with powerful swords robbed and pillaged the other tribes. In such a condition woman was put in the back ground. She became the prey and the sport of the powerful. The sword gave wealth, and woman did not yield the sword.

Then the tribes became settled and pillage gave place to tillage. The warlike leaders became dukes and nobles and owners of estates, counties, kingdoms. The tillers of the soil became the serfs of the masters, and the women were the drudges on the estates. The men had no vote, no political power, and the women were still further degraded by being considered the inferior of man. Ideas die hard. The momentum of a system carries the ideas of that system on when the original impulse is dead. The weaker strength of the woman could not very well be exploited in war. Therefore economic determinism shoved her to one side in a warlike age. But when war gave place to feudal security, the woman, while exploited and robbed along with the serf, was still considered inferior. Such ideas still hold sway in the heads of reactionary archaic brains like those of Laurier and Borden and Roblin.

Feudalism has given place to capitalism and the status of woman has changed. The economic interests of the master class is freeing woman from being the slave of the slave.

### Women in the Present

The feudal system tied the worker to the soil. The capitalist system frees the worker from all bondage in appearance, and gives him the apparent right to do as he pleases. But man has certain needs if he wishes to live. He must have food, clothing and shelter. The capitalists control the food, clothing and shelter of the working class. They control the places where the food, clothing and shelter of the workers are produced. The workers therefore must go to the master class to get these things. The masters drive a hard bargain. They say, "Labor for us as long as you can each day and give us all the wealth you produce and we will give you enough food, clothing and shelter to keep you alive while you are working." This perpetuates slavery. The workers through hunger must go to the master class and sell themselves into bondage day by day, week by week, and year by year.

Now the male slave has the unhappy faculty of wanting a wife and children. Consequently the master class have to pay their married help more than their single help. A man when he takes a job wants enough pay to marry on. If he is a married man, and has to provide for his wife and children, he must have enough pay to feed, clothe and shelter his family. The slave must feed his female slave whom he calls wife.

A woman, however, when she seeks a job, has only herself to support. She looks forward to marrying some man and having him support her. So her pay is based on the single life. She gets what she can live on alone.

So the masters employ female slaves. Their pay is less. There is more profit to the owners of capital.

SO THE MASTER CLASS IS MAKING WOMAN CEASE TO BE THE SLAVE OF THE SLAVE. Preachers preach against the invasion of industry by the old-fashioned people cry aloud that the place of the woman is in the home. The capitalist class relentlessly tear women out of the home. The capitalist class, being the owners of the means of life, can force the slave class, male and female, to do their will.

Women, therefore, are replacing men in industries. They work cheaper than men. And they support themselves.

This has a twofold effect. In the competition for jobs, women are getting more jobs and displacing men. Competition among men for the remaining jobs becomes keener. The price is lowered. And men take the jobs at the lesser price, because the women that would otherwise have been their wives are now furnishing profit direct to the masters, and the men remain single. It is easily to be seen how this benefits the capitalist class. Instead of employing and skinning one male worker to whom they must give enough wages to support himself and a female slave and the children, to come the master class a female slave as well as a male slave producing profits for him, and he has to pay the male slave a single man's wage only. The capitalist class, in their insane rush for profits, are breaking up homes by the thousands.

But men are men and women are women. The sexual desire is strong. Wherefore men seek women outside the marriage bond. Houses of prostitution are established, and sexual desire is placed on the market for sale. This further reduces women's wages, for she can in many cases be hired for less than a living wage. She is supposed to make up the balance by selling herself to her gentleman friends. This pleases the capitalist class, for it makes the wages they pay to their female slaves below the cost of living. Profits are enlarged to the joy of the master class. Divorces rise and Borden and Laurier tell of our marvelous prosperity.

Borden and Laurier, Roblin and McBrice and Gouge and the other political henchmen of the capitalist class make laws to maintain laws to advance the interests of the private owners of capital are the chief producers of white slaves, white slaves, immorality and sexual disease.

### The Future Woman According to Reformers

Such are the conditions at present. If a change is not brought about, human society is headed for the scrap heap. Barbarism faces us again.

The capitalist reformers see where we are

heading. They see that prostitution taking the place of the marriage bond and the female slave being exploited in the factory instead of preserving the race by raising children, will cause society to disintegrate. The falling birth-rate is alarming the far-seeing capitalists. The birth-rate declined first in France (France always seems to lead the world). Now the birth-rate in Germany and England and Ontario and the United States has declined.

Wherefore we find the cry going up to abolish immorality. If the working class produce no more children, the slaves of the future will not be on the market when the present slaves are too old to work.

In ancient Rome, the Roman armies went forth to conquer. They conquered Frankish tribes and Scythians. They brought their captives to Rome to be sold. When Sandinia was conquered so many Sardinian slaves were thrown on the slave market of Rome that no one would buy.

Life became cheap in Rome and in the other slave markets. So cheap was it that the slaves were killed in the arenas. They were torn by lions, trampled by elephants, or killed fighting one another.

On this continent life has been cheap. Hordes of immigrants have been pouring into New York, Montreal and other industrial centres. As pagan Rome fed slave lives to beasts so Christian America and Canada have fed lives to profits. If a mine blew up and killed a hundred slaves, if rock fell on them and crushed them or if they died poisoned in the slums of American and Canadian cities, what mattered? Plenty more came.

These immigrants drained Europe. Europe has been faced with a falling birth rate and immense emigration. Wherefore Austria forbids her subjects to come to Canada. Wherefore Lloyd George warns British slaves not to come to "barren Canada." He wants them to stay at home where British labor skimmers can rob them.

The masters of Canada, therefore, have to look to breeding their own slaves. They are waking. They want conservation of the human race. Just as the Southern planters bred negro slaves, so the Canadian capitalists want to breed white slaves.

This is the explanation of such phenomena as the appointment of Judge Choquet of Montreal, over a juvenile court. This is the explanation of his horrified expressions when young girls who have gone wrong come before him. He thinks it is his moral sentiments which are aroused. Really it is the realization by him that such conduct of very young girls will cause the wage slave class to fail his masters, that makes him horrified.

Capitalist reformers like Choquet are busy trying to remedy some of the worst evils of capitalism. They want women to have a living wage. They want workers to have a living wage. They want slums abolished. All these they want so the workers will be stronger and better fit to produce surplus values for the master class.

### Women Under Socialism

The lot of the woman under Socialism will be far different. She will be free. Her equality with man will be recognized. The workers will own and run industry for themselves. Plenty for all will be assured. There will be no slavery.

Woman will be economically free. She will not be robbed if she is a producer of wealth.

And she will be provided for liberally as a mother.

Socialism means sex equality as well as economic liberty. If woman is economically bound to man, she is not free.

We must recognize the right of a woman to marry whom she will. We must recognize her right to comfort and freedom from worry while she is about to become a mother and during the infancy of her children.

Under Socialism woman will not be the slave of any master, nor of any man.

Production for use instead of production for profit will work a profound change in the status of woman. Prostitution will be swept away. Loveless marriages for a home will no longer exist. The double standard of morality will disappear.

Woman will be the equal, the friend, the companion of man, free to choose her life mate or free to live single if she so desires.

## The Labor Question

In Great Britain Lloyd George is attacking the land monopoly. He points out how commerce is hindered, countryside depopulated, and workers housed in shacks because of the greed of the landlords.

In Toronto a movement has been initiated to provide cheap houses for the working classes.

In Montreal the question of high rents is agitating the people. Many capitalists complain and want the rents for workers reduced.

The question of rents and houses and cheap living quarters for workers seems to be Socialistic. However, Lloyd George and the Toronto philanthropists who are building working class houses are agents of capitalism, not of Socialism.

Karl Marx declared that capitalism made all things in its own likeness. The capitalist mode of production is to put workers into the mills of production, give them a bare living wage, and take as profits all that is produced by the workers above their living expenses.

Capitalist robbery takes place in the process of production.

The landowner does not take part in capitalist production. He simply charges for the use of the land he owns. He takes toll of the employing capitalist who takes toll of the working class.

If the land question is a question between landowner and employing capitalist, why do we see many working people cry out against the land expropriators? Why do we see them with acclaim the Lloyd George land program in Britain?

Karl Marx has given the answer. Throughout the ages the working class have fought one set of exploiters only to be ridden by another. The time is rapidly approaching when the workers will free their capitalist masters in the final conflict.

The landlord is the enemy of the employing capitalist. The employing capitalist is the enemy of the working class. When the working class fight the landlord they are fighting the enemy of their enemy.

When the landlord is conquered the workers will still be in slavery. When the enemy of their enemy is defeated, the workers will see their true enemy—the Socialist has not previously educated them to the condition of affairs, and the workers have not abolished the profit system.

It is out of the question that the wage worker can become a capitalist, at least in the ordinary course of things.

## 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 and awaiting trial on Vancouver Island, at this time appeal to you as members of the working class for moral and financial help, that we may free from persecution and the brand of criminality men whose chief offence is their prominence and activity 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, and lining up with the mine owners, refused to enforce the laws. They are therefore the authors of their own laws.

The men were thus forced to organize, and on the 1st of May last the mine work 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 wages are low compared with those of white men and the enactment of 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 strikers.

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, M.P.P. the working class representative in the Provincial Parliament. The workers of this district have attained the most advanced political position of any in 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 Defence 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.

Trustees of 1325, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, Edmonton, Alta.	\$25.00	A. Milner	50
Local Union No. 322, I. W. W., Vancouver, B.C.	9.00	Raskin	50
D. Bowie, Saanich, B.C.	3.00	Savinor Sisters	50
Collected at the Meeting of the Workmen's Circle, Br. 356, (Arbeiter Ring), Vancouver, Oct. 12,		J. Nard	50
Abe Rothstein	1.00	W. Freeman	50
Nathan Tansman	1.00	L. Gorosh	50
A. Rosen	1.00	Miss G. Shapiro	50
P. Barenstein	1.00	Y. Gorosh	25
B. Bernhardt	.75	J. Rochlin	25
P. Falkoff	.50	N. Glesin	25
L. Rosenberg	.50	A. Volehok	25
		Mrs. Silverman	25
		Rothenberg	25
		M. Frankin	25
		P. Frankin	25
		L. Freeman	25



# Capitalism the Curse of the World

Harry Wilson, Toronto, Ont.

Capitalist writers always claim that the present system is more economical than a Socialist system would be. According to them this is the best of all possible systems.

Let me give you some instances of the waste going on today, one instance quoted from non-Socialist sources. In the report of the National Conservation Committee, U. S., we find it stated:

"The daily waste of natural gas, the most perfect fuel known, is over one billion cubic feet, or enough to supply every city in the United States of over 100,000 people."

"The waste and losses (of petroleum) through misuses are enormous."

"54,500,000 tons of coal were coked in the old style. This involved a waste of 148 billion cubic feet of gas, worth \$22,000,000; 540,000 tons of ammonia sulphate, worth a similar amount, and nearly 400,000,000 gallons of tar, worth \$9,000,000."

"The waste in the extraction and treatment of mineral products during 1907 was equivalent to more than \$300,000,000."

The report of the 12th Census of the United States:

"Lighting plants convert less than one per cent of the heat value of the coal into electric light."

It is agreed by engineers that water power is a most valuable asset to a nation for the purpose of generating electricity. Mr. Koester, the eminent engineer, says: "It has been estimated that in the U. S. more than 30,000,000 horse power are available, and this amount can be increased to 150,000,000 horse power."

Over 3,000,000 horse power are being used from the rivers, etc., the rest all being lost. When you realize that it would need 600 million tons of coal to develop 30,000,000 h. p. in steam electric plants, this being 5 per cent in excess of the total coal supply of the U. S. in 1906, and would cost \$1,800,000,000 you will see one of the typical cases of waste going on under capitalist exploitation.

These are only a few samples of the economic waste going on, the waste of life is still more damning.

In 1910, 8,531 people were killed, and 102,975 injured on the U. S. railways, whilst 50,000 transients were killed, and 55,000 injured on the railways in the past 11 years.

The New York Times of Sept. 17, 1911, gives the figures for the mining industry.

"30,000 miners killed, and 75,000 injured during the last ten years. If the mines had the same standards of safety as in Europe, 15,000 less killed, and 40,000 less injured would be the result."

From 1897 to 1906, 9,327 lives were lost in the Prussian mines, and 10,319 were lost in British mines.

It shows that things are getting worse in U. S., the percentage killed per 1,000 employed has risen from 2.66 per 1000 in 1897 to 4.15 per 1000 in 1907. In England the percentage was 1.29 per 1000 in 1906. But as we worked in the British mines I know profits always come first before the miner's safety.

I have no space to deal with the loss of life to occupational diseases, such as lead poisoning, steel and stone dust, hollow ware, plate, phosphorus, chemical works, etc. I quote Paul Pierce, North American Review, Oct., 1911, who says about lead poisoning: "The improvements in the care of men do not keep pace with improvements in occupational diseases."

The dramatic title of "The White Scourge," has been given to consumption, and this is a disease which ravages the workers especially. Dr. C. Mathu, M.D., England, writes:

"After many years of sanitarium work in England I can say without the slightest hesitation that behind unsanitary conditions, behind overwork, behind the cause of all the consumption, the horror of poverty and the anxiety which poverty brings. It is his awful anxiety and mental strain to get employment and to keep it that saps the resisting power, paralyzes the safeguards which nature provides against the entrance of disease, and lays the organism open to the attacks of the enemy."

It may be said that applies only to England and not to prosperous America. In reply I quote from the report of the Department of Commerce and Labor, U. S.

"Under the influence of long continued work under unsanitary conditions, the physiques of the workmen, and especially those employed in factories, often show more or less characteristic marks. The height is usually below the medium; the body thin and weak, is poorly nourished and of sickly paleness. Women suffer even more than men from the stress of such circumstances, and more readily degenerate. For every death that occurs among the richer and higher class, there are many in the working class. It is the workmen engaged in unhealthy factories first of all who fill hospitals and their death chambers... reasons for the high mortality and shortness of life among the working class can easily be perceived from the foregoing facts."

The report of the doctor attached to one arm alone, says: "During the 22 years that I have been the surgeon of the Pennsylvania Steel Company, there have been 20,000 recorded cases of accidents."

Prof. Irving Fisher says: "Fatigue is the leading factor involved in decreasing vitality and efficiency: the American people are creating more fatigue poison than the system can stand in the hours of rest." Yet the capitalists are still speeding up the rate of work, and Mr. Taylor, the efficiency expert, says: "The natural laziness of man is serious."

At the Public Health Congress in Paris, Sir Thomas Oliver, M.D., the English expert on diseases of occupation, said: "Present day workers suffered from fatigue more than their predecessors; the increased use of labor saving machinery had been followed by greater eye strain and muscular monotony."

Prof. Kellogg gives figures in the Atlantic Monthly, July, 1913, showing that the various leading military countries are rejecting from 38 to 50 per cent of the men examined for the armed forces, due to deterioration of physique.

In England the yearly number of suicides is over 4,000, being 46 per cent higher than the rate for 1870. This does not say anything of the thousands who contemplate suicide as a means of escape from starvation.

For enduring these terrible conditions, the workers get wages which do not come up to the subsistence level declared necessary by 10 expert calculators, whose estimates of minimum living wages range from \$768 to \$1,449, an average of \$950.

The following figures show what are the average wages received for a full year's work:

The Interstate Commerce Commission Government Print, 1910, says: "210,893 laborers receive \$600 a year. 320,762 trackmen receive \$425 a year."

Over 750,000 railroad employees receive not more than \$2 a day.

Prof. Scott Nearing, Pennsylvania University, in his book, Social Religion, gives these figures:

166,227 anthracite coal miners, Penn., average \$508.85 per year.

171,987 bituminous coal miners, Penn., average \$529.79 per year.

69,250 boot and shoe operators, Mass., average \$562.89 per year.

90,935 cotton-mill operators, Mass., average \$439.34 per year.

The figures for the steel trade are given in the report on strikes. Bethlehem steel works senate document 521. This covers the pay rolls for January, 1910, 9,184 employees.

10 per cent received rate at \$600 a year.

75 per cent received rate less than \$750.

60 per cent received rate less than \$600.

30 per cent received rate less than \$500.

Senate document 301, says:

"These wages are uniform throughout the States. 50,000 employees (iron and steel) customarily worked 25 days a week, 20 per cent of them worked 84 hours or more per week. Every two weeks each man works a 24 hour shift. Only 14 per cent of 170,000 employees work less than 60 hours per week. 43 per cent work 72 hours and over per week. All these figures are for full time, but Prof. Scott Nearing says the workers are 'in prosperous years out of work on an average of two months in the year.'"

The American Statistical Association reports, Sept., 1910, "Railroad men are unemployed 20 per cent of the year. Steel workers are unemployed 25 per cent of the year."

The report further says this is a conservative estimation.

The wages of women workers in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Kansas and Wisconsin, average \$1.05 a day. In Pittsburgh 80 per cent of the women employed earn less than \$7 a week.

Miss Butler, in her book, Saleswomen in Mercantile Stores, says: "The minimum living cost for girls in Baltimore is \$6.70; this allows nothing for theatres, papers, insurance or holidays. 81 per cent of the women employed in Baltimore stores earn less than this minimum living cost."

It is small wonder that there are over 200,000 prostitutes in the U. S. But if women turn to prostitution for a living they are still worse off. Dr. W. T. Summer, of the Chicago Vice Commission, says that 1,108 women in the employ of the Chicago brothels served 6,000,000 men, who paid \$16,000,000. Each woman serves fifteen men per day, in busy times (such as conventions) she serves from 25 to 100 daily. 90 per cent of these women were found to be suffering from sexual disease.

L. Veiller, in his book, Housing Reform, says: Housing conditions in New York are without parallel in the entire world. Neither in Naples, Vienna, Constantinople, Rome, Paris, London, Calcutta or Bombay, are to be found such conditions as prevail in twentieth century New York.

With regard to the condition of the children, I quote from the Report of Minutes Board of Education Chicago, Oct. 21, 1908:

"Many children lack shoes and clothing. Many have no beds. The majority of poor children live in damp unclean and overcrowded homes. We find that a large number of children have only bread saturated in water for breakfast, day after day; that the noonday meal is bread or bananas, sometimes soup made from pigs' bones. Children often beg for dead fowl or rotten fruit, and search for food in garbage bins."

In the dusk of evening, little children with shawls over their heads and market baskets on their arms return with their prizes from the city dumps and garbage barrels of the market streets."

In 1910 the School Lunch Committee of New York examined 2,150 children. 13 per cent suffered from bad malnutrition, and weighed nine pounds less than normal weight for age. In Boston, 1909, 6,000 cases of underfeeding and anemia were discovered. In Philadelphia 20 per cent of the children examined revealed serious underfeeding. A similar state was reported by Dr. Meyerding, St. Paul, 1910; and Dr. Book in Rochester.

The Psychological Clinic, April 15, 1912, says: "It seems fair to place the probable number of seriously underfed children in American cities at 10 per cent of the school population."

In answer to those who say this poverty is caused by drink, Dr. Devine, the New York expert on charities, reports the examination of 5,000 poverty stricken families. He found drink responsible for 17 per cent, and unemployment for 70 per cent of the poverty.

One of the results of insanitary homes is seen in the rate of infant mortality. The figures are from England.

Deptford East Ward (poor) 197 per 1,000.

Deptford West Ward (rich) 68 per 1,000.

Bourville Garden Village, Birmingham, 65 per 1,000.

St. Mary's Ward, Birmingham, 331 per 1,000.

These conditions are to be found in all large cities, yet little is done to alter them. Dr. A. R. Wallace, the great co-discoverer of Darwinism, says: "It is not too much to say that our whole system of society from top to bottom is rotten, and the social environment as a whole, in relation to our possibilities, and our claims, is the worst that the world has ever seen."

This is an indictment of capitalism that no apologist can refute. What effect has it got on you? As a worker you suffer in common with your whole class. You know that your core is rotting, and the parasites who fatten on your labor. Can you not see that they will never willingly consent to alter conditions?

Do not they, as a class, fight you as a class, on every occasion? Reducing wages, speeding you up, scraping you at 40, making laws against you, giving injunctions against you, raising the cost of living by trusts and combines. Do you think all this happens by chance? They have no such delusion.

For centuries the workers have cried in their misery for relief. Their oppressors have always been relentless in their infamous tyranny, and crushed down every effort for freedom. These conditions are not peculiar to any one country, but exist in every country where capitalism flourishes. Figures and facts do not reveal the full tragedy of the workers' lives. While ghastly misery broods over the land, and hopeless men, women and children sink despairingly into a degradation worse than existed in ancient slavery, the detestable parasites live in sybaritic luxury heedless of the grief of oppressed humanity.

In this quest for power and wealth they have enslaved whole nations, and are wasting untold wealth in a futile search for pleasure.

Will you not declare for the downfall of this hated system? The tears of our saddened mothers, the grief of our aged fathers, the sobs of our children, the agony of our tail-racked brothers, and the shame of our vanquished sisters appeal to you to strike a blow for freedom.

In our cities pale-eyed misery sits among the people. The spectre of starvation stalks abroad: Wet-faced women clasp their puny babies to empty breasts. Silent men are desperate with want. Inarticulate humanity diseased and poverty stricken, weeps grievous tears. We implore you to revolt and end these intolerable conditions. We exhort you to work for the emancipation of the working class, to pledge yourself to bitter hostility to everything and all who stand foes to liberation."

It depends on you whether the future is to see a democracy of free men and women reaping the full reward of their labor, or a continuation of the wage slavery of today. If you do not resist, you will sink still further into slavery, and deserve all the contempt your masters can pour upon you.

**Unification**

By Sam Atkinson.

Sixty years ago Thomas Carlyle said: "There is a new religion trying to speak itself." This prophecy is being fulfilled. The tendency today is towards unifying all forces and religions. Modern science takes the lead. We used to speak of five senses, sight, sound, taste, smell and touch. All these are spoken of as one, the sense of impression. We have a step in the right direction to gratify the religious of the world. No man can be a Christian unless he is a Socialist. The last teachings of Confucius, Buddha, Mohammed, Zoroaster, Woden or any of the great modern teachers cannot be put into practice without Socialism. It is the only power for sinking the differences of men. Socialists may differ upon minor matters, but that Socialism is the remedy no man who has given it serious thought will deny.

The growing unrest on the part of the workers represents an intellectual desire for a higher and better life. When this desire is held of a man, he begins to recognize the failure of the present system. He begins to long for that which he is working to get. It is only when all are working together that this desire will be realized. The truth of the old saying that "one touch of nature makes the whole world kin" is being demonstrated here in British Columbia. On Sunday evening last the Miners' Liberation League was formed. A conference was held comprising members of the Social-Democrats, the Socialist Party of Canada, the Industrial Workers of the World, Philosophical Anarchists and Trade Unionists, who were all in one mind about the recent outrages perpetrated upon the miners on Vancouver Island by that exponent of the master class, Judge Howay.

The Miners' Liberation League are making arrangements to hold a number of Mass Meetings, throughout British Columbia, for the purpose of protesting against the decision of Judge Howay, and demanding the immediate release of the imprisoned miners. This is a step in the right direction. A further step taken immediately along these lines. Mr. Bowser has no use for the working class. He boasts that he is not the representative of the working class. He delights in insulting our class. The duty of the working class is to close Bowser to the "Down and Out" Club and the "Best" say to do this is to start an awakening in the minds of the workers. Our slogan is "Down with Bowser, and liberty for the working class."

Here is a sample of political economy as practised by the McBride and Bowser outfit. One of the prisoners awaiting sentence in the Nanaimo jail was suffering from appendicitis. He was taken to the hospital and kept there for fifteen days. The authorities thought it necessary to have a squad of their brave special policemen to watch this dangerous fellow. Six men were employed to do this in shifts of eight hours, two men serving each shift. If the poor fellow went to the bathroom he was accompanied by two trustees. For fifteen days this expense of twenty-one dollars was allowed the value he has created. The capitalist wage system means under all circumstances exploitation of the worker. It is impossible to abolish exploitation so long as that system exists, and even where high wages are being paid the exploitation of the worker must be extensive.

But the wages hardly ever reaches the highest possible point, more often, however, they fall to the very lowest. That point is reached when the wages of the worker cease to purchase his very necessities of life. If the worker not only starves but quickly, his work ceases altogether.

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## Larkin and Carson

By J.C.

Certain ingenious persons are wondering why Sir Edward Carson can organize an army to resist Home Rule in Ireland without being molested by the authorities, while Jim Larkin a member of the working class, has been imprisoned for seven months for merely speaking against the capitalist class during the Dublin strike. To a socialist, understanding as he does the class divisions in society, the matter is simple. Carson, for purely political purposes is playing on the religious prejudices of the people in Ulster, and urges them to fight for a separate government. Even if this government were established with 'King Carson' at its head it would be substantially the same as all other capitalist governments. The right of capitalists who have money invested in Ulster to skin the working class would not be questioned; the right of the capitalist class to own the jobs of the workers would be protected by the soldiers of the provisional government. Therefore the capitalist class do not worry; they have no superstition about kings, in spite of their protestations of loyalty to "George the fifth times," and they like to see the workers divided over religious issues; it diverts their attention from the skinning process.

With Larkin, however, it is different. He has urged the working class to fight the capitalist class for the ownership of the means of production, so that they can retain the full product of their labor. He has advocated the abolition of the slum, the sweat shop, child labor, white slavery, and other revenue producing institutions of the master class. So the judicial leopards receive their instructions, and Larkin is hauled before the court, where the Attorney-General, already feeling the thirty pieces of silver in his pocket, describes Larkin as a "wicked and dangerous criminal."

Similar language to this was used by the feudal lords towards those who dared to contest the abominable "right of the first night," which permitted the lords to outrage the daughters of the serfs. It was used by the slave owners against the abolitionists, so when it is used by a dunkey of the capitalist class to jail for seven months, while Carson goes free, Carson merely proposes a superficial change in the administration of capitalist government. Larkin attacks the very existence of capitalism.

By Karl Kautsky.

Wages cannot be so high as to make it impossible for the capitalist to carry on his business and to live from it. For under these circumstances it would be more advantageous for the capitalist to give up the business altogether. Hence the wages of the worker can never rise high enough to equal the value of his product. They must always leave a margin, a surplus value, for only the prospect of this margin induces the capitalist to buy labor-power. Thus in capitalist society wages can never rise so high that the exploitation of the worker comes to an end.

But the margin, the surplus value, is greater than generally supposed. It consists not of the profit of the manufacturer, but also much that is reckoned as the cost of production and sale viz., ground rent, interest on invested capital, discount for the merchant and the cost of the goods produced by the industrialist, taxes rates, etc. All this comes out of the surplus value which the product of the worker yields above his wages. This margin must consequently be considerable if an undertaking is to prove profitable. Wages can, therefore, never rise sufficiently high to enable the worker to receive in his wages anything approaching the value he has created. The capitalist wage system means under all circumstances exploitation of the worker. It is impossible to abolish exploitation so long as that system exists, and even where high wages are being paid the exploitation of the worker must be extensive.

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increases the supply of labor-power—in short, it has the effect under any of these circumstances of causing the wages of the worker to fall.

Wherever the proletarian may turn, everywhere he discovers proletarian conditions of life and work. Proletarian conditions are increasingly forced upon society



# A Minister's View of The Milita

E. J. Johnson, Lindsay, Ont.

Would you mind publishing this letter which for convenience I will call, "A Minister's view of the Militia, versus a Socialist's View."

The minister in question is quoted in the September issue of the Sons of England Record. This paper is the official organ of that noble gang of patriots who, having been skinned of everything they possessed, even the privilege of selling their labor power in the land of their birth, rally forth to that golden west, to the land of the free (?) and are immediately spotted by poor unfortunates who have arrived previous to them and are enlightened as to the facts and advantages of keeping up that spirit of patriotism which has done such great things for them at home, such as handing them out a soup bone at Christmas, firing on them with its soldiers when they go on strike, denying them the right to work and finally causing them to leave all that is dear to them in order that they may be able to sell their body and soul in return for existence under the same blood-stained rag over here. There appeared in this journal of the flag-waggers an article entitled "A Minister's View of the Militia." Then follows the enclosed address on the "Reasonableness of service," by the Rev. C.W. Hedley to the 96th regiment, at Fort William, Ont., as quoted below.

The "Reasonableness of the Service" was the subject of Rev. C. W. Hedley's address to the 96th regiment at Fort William. The speaker said that the volunteer regiments were the only defence that Canada had, at present, and it was the duty of every man to take the training offered so that if necessary he might be able to defend his country against any invader.

The chief objection raised against the service was that it led to militarism, but this, he said, was senseless, for the Canadian system was the opposite of militarism.

"Europe," he said, "is oppressed with the military training so that a large part of the manhood is cut off from useful work and women are to be seen tilling the fields because the men are in the barracks armed to the teeth. This spirit cannot but tend to war." The British system was the opposite of this. England had to police two continents, Asia and Africa, and for that a small standing army was required. In Canada, there was not a British garrison, and the only defence that the country possessed was a line of volunteer regiments consisting of men who had taken the training to be ready to give their services to their country in time of need.

"We do not need an army to defend ourselves from our neighbors across the border, for to-day we celebrate a century of peace with them, and we are closer friends than ever before in the history of the two countries."

"But across the ocean there are millions of an alien race. China alone has a population which outnumber that of Canada by fifty to one, and they are in the midst of a revolution and ready to take their place in the world as never before. In our own country there are thousands of foreigners. How foreign they are we only realize when crowds of Doukhobors parade, or when a mob of men who do not speak English attack our police and march up and down our streets."

"It would be wrong to train up the boys with anything but a horror of war, but every man should learn to defend his country to protect his home and those dear to him."

Labor unionism is not the obstacle which hinders men from enlisting, said Mr. Hedley. The labor Government of Australia has introduced a system of conscription and compelled every man to serve his time in the service, and a similar action has been taken by the Socialist Government of New Zealand. The great difficulty was that men loved ease and pleasure better than the training offered by their country.

"The volunteer system appeals to the best men for that is the reason, and offers the comradeship of an army of fellow soldiers."

"Have we not a right to claim military training as a reasonable service to our country? The sacrifice is light but the service is great, and forms a link of defence from shore to shore and part of the strength of the Empire stretching between the continents."

A large turnout of the regiment attended the service, and it is understood that most of the members are to be able to attend camp at the end of this month.

Now I am not going to assert that the Rev. gentleman is entirely right, but as I have watched all kinds of papers for a denial of the same I am going to assume that he did. Let me say before beginning to criticize Mr. Hedley's address that I can come to only two conclusions either Mr. Hedley is an ignoramus or on the other hand if he knows that statements made in his address were wrong and utterly untrue then he is no credit to the Master he claims to serve, the Man of love and not of war.

The first he would have us swallow is, the volunteer Regiments (I presume he means the militia) were the only defense that Canada had at present, please note the at present and it was the duty of every man to take the training offered so that if necessary he might be able to defend his country. Now, in criticizing this statement, let me explain to the Rev. Mr. Hedley that I am doing so from the standpoint of the proletariat class that own nothing and I think that he will admit that 75 per cent at least of the men he addressed were of that class. Supposing this reverend gentleman heard of two men in his town having a quarrel over a garden boundary and also that twenty-five men of the 96th regt. who lived on the same street took the part of the man who lived on their street and whose property backed on to the other man who lived facing the other street and by sheer brute force caused that man whether rightly or wrongly to concede to the demand of might. I venture to say that he would be the first to ask what right had they to interfere? They had no interests centered in that man's garden. Of course this is like baby class talk, but it seems to be too deep at that for some of our great men. How then does the dear clergyman make it clearly the duty of every man of the 96th regiment (75 per cent of whom I feel sure belong to the got nothing class) to defend a country of which he does not own one square inch? Does the Reverend sir not know that this very land has been stolen from these very men he is calling on to defend it, that it has been stolen by the same class that is feeding him, for doing useless work?

What logic is there in a man standing there in a white surplice like a whitened sepulchre and telling me and my class to be good under conditions which are so putrid that even he himself cannot follow out his own precepts?

Under the present conditions we the workers have nothing to lose but our chains. International jealousies are due to the greed of our masters. If such conditions as we are compelled to live under were abolished his pet

militia would be disbanded, his land sharking, his profit grinding, the brother that he detests the bar, the jail, would disappear and as sure as he lives he would be out of his soft job also and would have to come down and do something useful for his bread and butter.

Another statement this reverend gentleman will probably not relish is this. I defy him to show me the original deed from his Creator to the first purchaser. He cannot for His God and mine said: "The land is mine, saith the Lord." "Moreover, the profit of the earth is for all," and he knows the Creator did not stint us of anything.

Hedley's next point is, as he calls it, senseless objection raised against this brand of butchers on the plea it tends to militarism. Does Mr. Hedley's memory play him false, or does he practice having a convenient memory? I need not remember not any longer than about 1900 that Canada, yes dear, fair Canada, furnished and equipped several thousand first class butchers to go all the way to S. Africa to help shoot into jelly the hearts of the Dutchmen who disliked the diamond chafing, negro beating, labor hating plundering rascals like Alfred Beit, Cecil Rhodes, and their political pals Joe Chamberlain, Dr. Jim, etc. And more recently did he get acquainted with the fact that Col. Sam's tin soldiers were used on Vancouver Island to protect the scabs from the indignation of the robbed slaves when they dared protest and strike against the rotten conditions they were forced to toil under in exchange for an existence on God's green earth?

This reverend air further states that the British system differs from the European plan. I take it he means in the form of conscription. And further on he states Australia has already introduced conscription. O consistency, thou art a Jewell!

Mr. Hedley says in England there is no conscription. I say right here that the British army is a conscript one. Poverty is the compelling power forcing unwilling victims into the ranks of Britain's official butchers.

From end to end of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales there are men and recruiting stations, whose sole duty it is to entice young men of good sound physical powers into the degrading, loathsome life of a soldier and poverty is the driving power. Mr. Hedley claims that Great Britain has to police two continents, Asia and Africa. How came this state of affairs Mr. Hedley? Can you deny that this policing arose from Britain's greed? Can you deny that it was for the purpose of exploiting these countries that Great Britain gobbled them and still holds them by sheer force of arms?

Mr. Hedley then goes on to state that Labor Unionists do not hinder men from joining militia. I am sorry to say they have not in the past but they are awakening to the fact that the militia is used to defend the master class interests and not the working class interests. Some unions are barring from their ranks men who join the butcher brigade.

I really had to smile at the Rev. Gentleman's intelligence when he stated that the socialist (?) Government of New Zealand had introduced conscription. Please Mr. Hedley don't make such a jackass of yourself again. There never has existed yet such a thing as a Socialist Government in any country in the world. When one does exist in Canada your class will be the first to know it.

I think Mr. Hedley saved his gem of wit (excuse the word wit dear Comrade) for the last. With what pride his bosom must have swelled when he said, "The great difficulty was that men (75 per cent of his 96th regt. the class that get up at 6 and worked till 6 then creep home like tired dogs to their (shack) loved ease and pleasure better than the training offered by their country. I really think this last remark is too outrageously foolish to comment on."

Let me sum up as the judge says and tell Mr. Hedley that it is owing to the proletariat class awaking to class consciousness, that he and his ilk are making frantic appeals to the younger members of society whose stomachs has not yet been pinched in their efforts to live.

Be a man, Mr. Hedley. Lose your job by speaking the truth and the ranks of the Socialists will find you a place for your oratorical efforts.

## Brockville, Ont., Protests

At a special meeting convened by Brockville Local No. 18, Social Democratic Party of Canada, on the evening of October 26th, it was unanimously agreed that a vigorous protest be formulated and be forwarded with the utmost despatch to the proper and responsible authorities at the vindictive and inhuman sentences passed by Judge Howey, of Vancouver, on the participants of the labor troubles in the mining district, situated on Vancouver Island.

We bow our heads in abject shame when we are forced to the conviction that one member of the human race can so far forget himself, degrade and prostitute the sacred office of the blind goddess of Justice, to perpetrate and morally sanction the right of the master-class to impose unbearable and intolerable conditions of servitude upon their fellow creatures.

These base and asinine actions tend to stir up to fever heat the righteous indignation of the toiling masses who daily walk with death in the struggle for a meagre existence. The clammy hands of the Grim Reaper are eager and outstretched to take toll in varying degrees from the ranks of these mute inglorious heroes.

Are we governed by men who have human sympathies, or are we under the dictatorship of fiends incarnate? Our government, elected to office by the will and majority of the people, who are, in the main, members of the working class, set up by law and allow hired hirelings of mediocre ability and unbridled conception of justice to hand out sentences which for vindictiveness and downright brutal ferocity are unparalleled in the history of Canadian jurisprudence.

We feel as members of the working class, a sense of great injustice, and we firmly believe that if the government does not take action and intervene on behalf of outraged justice, she may yet live to rue the day that she allowed her subjects to be treated with less ceremony than a bunch of galley slaves.

It might be stated for the benefit of those sufficiently interested, that the recent mining disasters in Wales and the Stag Common Mine, N.S.A., have taken toll of over 600 lives, the bodies of the major portion being mangled beyond recognition. Burns then did truly say: "Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn."

It was in addition suggested that this resolution of protest be sent to the leading parliamentary representatives throughout the Dominion of Canada, and to the various governments. Signed on behalf of Brockville Local No. 18, Louis Orre, Secretary; H. M. Vine, Chairman.

## I. W. W. 322 Protests

Industrial Workers of the World, L. U. 322, 34 Cordova Street West, Vancouver, B.C. Oct. 24th, 1913.

To all organized labor:—We, the workers, are face to face with a situation in Canada which demands the immediate action of all organized wage-workers, irrespective of their affiliation craft or label.

The conditions of the striking coal miners of Vancouver Island and the lengths to which our masters are going in their efforts to suppress them, has reached such a stage that we hereby call on the whole of organized labor to take such action as will force the release of those awaiting sentence and these already sentenced; and we hereby notify the rest of organized labor, that the I. W. W. locals throughout Canada are already prepared to co-operate with them in any way which will affect the release of these victims of capitalist oppression, and we hereby call on the rest of organized labor to either take such steps or forever lay down at the feet of the masters.

What are you going to do about it? PRESS COMMITTEE.

## Cobalt Protests

Cobalt Ont., Oct. 26, 1913, TO Premier Borden, The Minister of Lands and Mines, of the Dominion.

And the Minister of Labor, Dominion House, Ottawa. Dear Sirs,—The Cobalt Miners' Union No. 146 W.F.M., at their last regular meeting have instructed us to draft up resolutions of protest concerning the present conditions existing at Nanaimo B.C., in the coal strike region. As is generally the case under the present system the mineowners have used every and all means to defeat the mine workers.

Hiring thugs and using the judiciary to incarcerate the justified rebels. Conditions previous to the strike have been so unbearable that men were forced to have recourse to this last weapon of organized labor.

All kinds of abuse and ill-treatment have been meted out to the strikers, and the governments, both of the province and of the Dominion, have neglected interfering, at least, to see that justice be tendered to the men, and it seems, have even given their moral support to the operators.

Under such existing condition we urge the government to appoint a commission to investigate the grievances of the miners, and put a stop to the outrages perpetrated upon our fellow workers.

We are hoping that this matter will be given urgent consideration.

Cobalt Miners' Union, No. 146 W.F.M. Committee: H. A. Emdin, A. U. Gauthier, Jos. Ferrington.

## High Cost of Living

Stephen Leacock, professor of Economics at McGill University, delivered an address on the high cost of living before the Canadian Club, Montreal.

Leacock considered the increased cost of living to be due to the decreased value of gold. After the Spanish discovery of Mexico and Peru, Europe was flooded with American gold which caused an increase in prices. This flood of gold in the sixteenth century was only \$6,000,000 per year.

In 1880 the annual production of gold increased to \$115,000,000. During the past 3 years the production has increased to \$450,000,000 per year. Moreover there is no sign that this enormous output of gold will decrease in the future.

Leacock pointed out that while an increase in wages had followed the increased cost of living, the cost of living rose ten per cent, wages rose one-third of one per cent.

In Canada the increase in the cost of living averaged three per cent per year since 1900.

These facts substantiate the position of the Socialist. The Socialist says that wages are governed by the cost of living, and they will be governed by the cost of living as long as the workers allow their masters to own the means of production.

The masters are striving to raise their wages. The masters object, a strike takes place, a raise is finally given, and the union wins out to find that the increased cost of living has absorbed all, if not more than the increase granted.

The working class must go into politics and own industry collectively. Until they do so they will be continually fighting their masters and getting the worst of it.

The Liberal papers are rejoicing because the Liberal candidate, R. E. Truax, won out in the South Bruce, Ont., bye-election. Truax is a lumberman and manufacturer. Wage slaves in South Bruce voted to send one of their exploiters to make the laws governing them.

The Tory wage slaves who voted for Cargill, the Tory candidate, wasted their vote. Cargill was another labor exploiter. Whichever candidate won, labor would have rot it in the neck.

## Bargains in Printing

Letterheads, on first class bond paper, any weight, while stock lasts, for the low price of \$2.75 \$3.75

Envelopes, Our Big Value, fine white laid \$1.75 \$2.85

Bill Heads, white wove, any size, to clear out stock \$2.00 \$3.25

Statements, Heavy White Wove, 5x8 1/2, good buying for you, at \$1.75 \$2.85

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Business Cards. We have a large assortment which we wish to clear out. Here is a chance to save money and get good cards and the best of printing. Any size while they last \$1.50 \$2.25

The above quotations are based on such printing as is used by the average business house. Prices do not include special ruling, binding or numbering.

All the above stock is good, but we aim to clear it out and standardize our lines, therefore are willing to make a sacrifice on the stock in order to clear.

We have printed several orders of Window Cards lately, some in colors, and our customers write and tell us the work is the best they have ever had, and the prices are certainly reasonable. Want some?

Cotton's Co-operative Publishing Co. Cowansville, P.O.

## He Won

By J. C.

The other day I met a wage slave with whom I had previously worked in the factory. After the usual greetings I inquired what he was doing, and found that he was out of a job, having been laid off the previous week owing to slackness of trade. Suddenly a sickly grin spread over the features of this modern worshipper at the shrine of Diana (he was "hunting" for a job) and judging me slyly with his elbow he remarked, "you see WE WON the other day." As he went on to explain, I suddenly remembered that he was a staunch Conservative, and I realized that he was referring to the Chateaugay election. Yes, he won all right; he was the right to have another man own his job, pocket three-fourths of what he produced, and boot him out on the street like an empty tomato can when it suited the other fellow; the right to have his children excused from attending high school and college so that they could contract occupational diseases in the sweatshops of his masters; the right to peep down the barrel of a "smoke-pole" held in the hands of a brother ignoramus when he comes out on strike; the right to compete with the five thousand unemployed in Toronto this winter for a job; the right to read in the papers about the fine times his masters are having in Europe whilst he stays at home and provides them with the wherewithal. Too many of the working class have been "winning" along these same lines; thank heaven that some of them at least are becoming dissatisfied with the prize they have been winning.

## Childhood

By Eugene V. Debs

What emotion the recollection of childhood inspires, and how priceless its treasured memories in our advancing and declining years!

Laughing eyes and curly hair, little brown hands and bare feet, innocent and care-free, trusting and loving, tender and pure, what an elevating and satisfying influence these little gods have upon our maturer years!

Childhood! What a holy theme! Flowers they are, with souls in them, and if on this earth man has a sacred charge, a solemn obligation, it is to these buds and blossoms of humanity.

Yet how many of them are prematurely plucked, fade and die and are trampled in the mire. Many millions of them have been snatched from the cradle and stolen from their play to be fed to the forces that turn a workingman's blood into a capitalist's gold, and many millions of others have been crushed and perverted into filth for the slums and food for the potter's field.

Childhood is at the parting of the ways which lead to success or failure, honor or disgrace, life or death. Society is, or ought to be, profoundly concerned in the nature of the environment that is to mold the character and determine the career of its children, and any remissness in such duty is rebuked by the most painful of penalties and these are inflicted with increasing severity upon the people of the United States.

Childhood is the most precious charge of the family and the community, but our capitalist civilization sacrifices it ruthlessly to gratify its brutal lust for power, and the march of its conquest is stained with the blood of infants and paved with the puny bones of children.

What shall the harvest be? The millions of children crushed and slain in the conquest of capitalism have not died in vain. Many millions of graves all over this fair land, they are springing up, as it were, against the system that murdered them and pronouncing upon it, in the name of God and humanity, the condemnation of death.

The French Catholic priest, Recollet Frere Sagard, who wrote the history of Canada was published in 1636. He declared there were "preachers of the devil" among the Montagnais Indians. These preachers, he tells us, were in the habit of nightly haranguing the fish, adjuring them to be courageous and fear nothing, but to come forward boldly and permit themselves to be caught, because the Indians were their good friends, who would show them all proper respect and burn none of their bones. That was two hundred and fifty years ago. We have the capitalist class playing the same stunt on the working class today in Canada, and pity tis, some of the workers fall for the soft snare.

Have you noticed the reports from the Panama Canal Zone? Newspapers are reporting that Colonel Goethal will resign unless the government meets his wishes. But they keep silent upon what he wants. It appears that when the canal is completed, Wilson, with his ideas about competition and individual initiative, is proposing to turn the canal zone over to private exploitation and the horrors of competition and the profit system. Goethal has seen the efficiency of collective ownership and planned direction of industry. Wherefore he considers a return to private initiative and capitalist greed a crime against the U. S.

More and more old age pensions are coming into vogue. The capitalist rulers have had to concede this measure. They have given old age pensions grudgingly, parsimoniously, and with bad grace. Why not let us have universal old age pensions? These will have to come in time. At present some old persons object to this idea. They are living on rent, interest and profit. But when Socialism comes, rent, interest and profit will be abolished. Abolition of unearned revenues through ownership and universal pensions for the aged will be adopted just as soon as the majority of the people think sensibly.

We are the heirs of all the ages, we have reached the stage when the mechanical appliances have reached their greatest power, and yet side by side with these developments are to be seen evidences of a poverty almost as grinding as that of the most benighted ages. No, Gussie, this is not the ravages of a Socialist, but the calm statement of Prof. Stephen Leacock of McGill university. He is not a Socialist. He advises people to bring Socialism over into the open and talk it to death. The more people talk about Socialism the more converts we get. Start the ball rolling, Professor.

In the strikes of Montreal, tickets are yanked away by police to go before the capitalist-henchmen judges. On October 31st three pickets were arrested outside the plant of the Columbia Rubber Company, 710 St. Dominique street. The police had warned the three to stay away, and they persisted in coming. You see, your jobs are owned by your masters. You must not even speak to anyone taking the job if you are on strike. The workers have voted to allow the masters to own the jobs of the workers. Socialists say the workers should own their own jobs by owning the industries.

## Rich and Poor

Won't there always be rich and poor? questions a timid slave.

It depends on what you mean by rich, and what you mean by poor. The pitiful poverty of today can be immediately abolished.

Never before in the history of the world could such a large amount of wealth be produced with such a small amount of labor. We live in a machine age in which the improvement in the tools and machinery and methods of producing and distributing the good things of life have doubled over and over again the product of labor, until in many industries the labor of one man produces as much wealth as the labor of a dozen formerly did.

This would all be well enough if those who do the work could get the product of their labor and have the opportunity to produce at all times.

But the benefit of all this progress has not gone to those who invent, and build, and operate after they are built, these wonderful tools and mighty machines of modern industry.

On the other hand, the benefit has gone chiefly to those who do no useful and necessary work, but draw their millions in dividends only by reason of their monopoly in the industries built and operated by the labor of others.

What those who do the work "get the goods" created by their labor, the problem of poverty will be solved.

## Kingston Readers Attention

James Simpson, of Toronto, will lecture in Kingston on Sunday evening, Nov. 16th, at 8 o'clock in the Nameless theatre (formerly the Princess). Subject: "Why Socialism is Inevitable." Tell all your friends about this meeting. Come and bring some one with you. Bring your wife, sweetheart, sister or daughter. We want the women to attend these lectures. They have more to gain through the triumph of Socialism than the men have.

In inviting your friends to come and hear Simpson, you need not hesitate to promise them one of the greatest oratorical treats of their lives. Those who heard him last April when he lectured in the same theatre will, I am sure, support me in this statement that Simpson is one of the most eloquent public speakers in Canada. Do not allow anything to prevent you from attending this lecture on November 16th. Admission free. Silver collection to defray expenses. Yours fraternally, H. E. Beshey, Secretary K.S.P.C.

Tremendous national loans are being contemplated in Europe. France wants to borrow \$200,000,000; Turkey \$140,000,000; Austria, \$100,000,000; Bulgaria, \$80,000,000; Greece, Serbia and Roumania \$50,000,000 each. Nearly all these loans are for carrying on wars and war preparations. Think what a tremendous difference it would make to Europe if these enormous sums were spent in benefiting mankind instead of destroying men! The Socialists if in power would use the funds at the disposal of government to abolish poverty, misery, worry, overwork, slums, and the hosts of the present system breeds.

An electric baggage truck has been introduced at the Union Station, Toronto. It carries from two to three times as much baggage as the hand truck. It has four up from one to ten miles an hour. This is that many baggage handlers can be a private ownership of the machine benefits non-working capitalist. Socialists advise that the machines be socially owned by wealth producers. Then if a machine lifts labor, the working class will feel the benefit.

Mayor Allan of Hamilton, Ont., does it as an outrage the way the milk rate is being boosted the price of milk and the farmers are boosting the price of meat. All ready to hit the high cost of living with mouth, but he is a henchman of the capitalist labor skinners. He supports the system which takes all the workers' pay away from them save a bare living wage if they are employed. If Mayor Allan wants to help the producing class let him advocate abolition of the profit system.

Bishops of the Methodist church in connection at Indianapolis declared that the revenues of the church were decreasing. They said this decrease to the increased cost of living. The membership of the Methodist church made up largely of middle class men who feel the pinch. This is an evidence of Socialist contention of the crushing out of the middle class. This class is disappearing and the working class and employing of are facing each other for the final struggle.

The Postmaster General of Great Britain Herbert Samuel, has been in Canada and been amused at our simple postal system. Here our postoffice carries only letters and papers. In Britain the postoffice department operates the telephones, carries parcels, ministers the insurance Act and pays the Age Pensions. We in Canada are content to let the capitalists own everything without pretence to do things for the benefit of producing class.

What becomes of the inventor under capitalism? The body of Rudolf Diesel was covered recently at the mouth of the Rhine, almost at the time of the final triumph of his internal-combustion, motor in its application to railway traction. Immense profits to the capitalist plotters, death to the inventor, that is usual program under capitalism.

Fauperism in England and Wales is being reduced. Four years ago the number of persons was 550,000. Today they are less than 500,000. Old age pensions is the cause. Many old persons are given a few shillings a week by the state and remain with their children. The poorhouse is a capitalist nightmare; it should give way to universal old age pensions.

La Hontan, writing about Canadian conditions in 1703, says, "We do not see the clutches of advocates, the talons of attorneys and the claws of clerks. These vipers do not infest Canada yet." These vipers are here all right and they will remain as long as the rotten capitalist system provides niches for them.

In Indianapolis, Ind., the street railway men have been on strike. Bankers, merchants and professional men to the number of a hundred have been sworn in as special constables to protect scabs, prevent pickets and fight and beat up the strikers. The business men know their class interest. A worker is learning his.

A workingman throws his vote away every time he votes a capitalist ticket.



