

Cast a Vote for ROBERTS, Socialist Candidate for the Board of Control

FORCE

It is an open secret, disclosed in all text books on constitutional law, that the ultimate basis of all government is force. A state whether it is a tyranny or a democracy, must have its commands obeyed, if it is to exist as such a state. This is the reason why the United States of America is no longer a republic, but an oligarchic plutocracy. The laws of the United States are broken with impunity by the rich, enforced rigidly against the common people, and interpreted unjustly against the expropriated workers.

But to return to the question of force. Every nation relies upon force to carry out the executive orders of the government, and to uphold these laws which the government has passed. Thus in Glace Bay the soldiery are parading the streets to shoot strikers. In Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and elsewhere, police and sheriffs and other club and gun men are prowling round to see that the mandates of the governmental powers are carried out according to the wishes of those powers.

If a policeman starts to arrest a man and citizens oppose the arrest, then more police are called out. If these police are not sufficient then the soldiers are called out. If these are not sufficient then more soldiers are called out, and armies and marines from Great Britain, and we have civil war; till either the rebels or the government are victorious. If the rebels succeed then we have a new government and the new government continues until overthrown.

This to some will appear far fetched, but the writers on constitutional law are the ones who uphold this view.

If the above view is correct then many will ask, where does our appeal to the people come in. Government rests upon the consent of the governed through the ballot box. Surely this is not an appeal to force.

Such questioners have overlooked the proposition. It is the ultimate basis of government which depends on force. In Canada the proximate appeal is an appeal to the people.

Mankind has learned through long years of struggle that an appeal to force is not the best way to settle all struggles. Napoleon declared that God was on the side of the biggest battalions. Another person has asked the question, who goes to war before counting up the force of the enemy.

The ballot box is a modern device by which the side with the biggest battalions can be decided without an internal armed conflict. The people deposit their ballots; those ballots are counted, and the side which wins enters upon the task of governing the nation. The idea back of the expression, government by the consent of the governed, is that government without the consent of the governed is impossible.

The ballot box has prevented numerous internal revolts. Those desiring to revolt have found themselves so hopelessly outnumbered by the voting that they have seen the hopelessness of appealing to arms; the chances of success under the ultimate appeal of force being so terribly against them.

Here comes the questions so many persons stumble over in reading socialist papers. Why do the Socialists always talk about revolution? Do they not know that revolution means useless bloodshed, and that any revolution they may start is bound to be a failure?

In the first place there are two definitions of the word revolution. The one definition interprets the word to mean an armed uprising against the government. The other definition interprets the word to mean, the rise of a hitherto subject class to political and economic power, whether that rise results from peaceful or violent means. According to the latter definition the Socialist revolution would be accomplished, should the Socialists of the Dominion, by regular political means, become the governing political party of Canada, and should turn the government from a political into an industrial democracy.

If a peaceful solution is possible then why talk of revolution at all? Why not declare that the Socialists are willing to work by constitutional methods alone?

The answer is very simple. Because

the constitution of Canada is not elastic enough to introduce the Socialist state. The Constitution of Canada, the British North America Act, will have to be thrown on the scrap heap before the Socialist state can be introduced. There are so many powerful interests backing the British North America Act against the interests of the people at large, that Canada may find herself in the same position as the United States today, where the will of the people is defeated by a document written by hands long dead.

Until the majority of the people want Socialism, Socialism will not become the system of government. When the majority of the people want Socialism they may find the ballot under the limits of the constitution an insufficient means of enacting their will. It is just as well for the progress of the movement to keep the word revolutionary applied to Socialism.

SOCIALISM NOT DIVIDING UP

Even yet in Canada there are many persons who believe that Socialism means dividing up. These persons think the Socialists want to go into the banks, take all the paper bank bills and silver and gold and divide them up according to the number of noses there are in Canada. There are many persons who think that Socialists want to raid all the strong boxes of the rich men and women and hand out the bonds and debentures and shares of stock pro rata among the people.

The Socialists want to do no such thing. The Socialists want to hand over to an industrial democracy the machinery of production at which the workers must work to make a living. The Socialists want to abolish rent, interest and profit and to give to each man all he earns.

At present stocks and bonds and shares in companies are only valuable because they pay interest and dividends. That is to say, if you have one hundred thousand dollars worth of Montreal four per cent bonds, you will be paid by the city of Montreal four thousand dollars per annum. If Montreal could not pay its debts then you would not be paid four thousand dollars a year and your bonds would be worthless.

Now these who accuse Socialists of wanting to divide up think that Socialists want to take those one hundred thousand dollars worth of bonds and divide them up among say four thousand persons so that instead of one person getting four thousand dollars, four thousand persons would get one dollar each.

Of course such an idea is perfectly ridiculous and the men who hold such ideas should be laughed at. Socialists do not hold such ideas. Socialists want to stop rent, interest and profit. It does not matter whether one person gets four thousand dollars a year in interest or whether four thousand persons get one dollar a year each in interest. If the principle of paying interest is wrong then whether a man gets one dollar or four thousand dollars matters little. The one is as wrong as the other.

The socialists want to abolish the principle of paying interest and profits altogether. Socialists declare that labor belongs to the man who works and God or Nature gave the raw material. The only wealth is human labor applied to raw material. Now if some man gets interests and dividends he is getting something for which other men have toiled. Labor is the only wealth which counts and the man who gets a dollar for nothing must of necessity be robbing some one who worked for that dollar but did not get it.

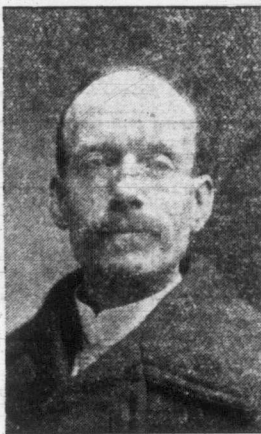
Socialism aims at giving to each man all he earns. The opponents of Socialism try to make out that Socialism would like to divide up among the lazy the interest which active men have worked for. Socialism aims at preventing the dividing up of the useful workers with the drones or with the useless workers who work, not to produce the things men and women need to live, but who work to make the useful divide up with the useless.

Socialism, instead of making the useful workers divide up with the lazy and useless, will prevent the present dividing up process which capitalism forces on men by which the toilers are forced to toil and divide up with the idlers and with the financial plunderers.

To the Wage-earning Class of Ottawa and Others whom it May Concern :

The state of society to-day is two-sided, on the one side the capitalist class, who exploit labor, and the working class who sell their labor power; the exploiter and the exploited; the class who produces all wealth and the class who produces nothing. The worker who produces all gets but a pittance called wages. Out of this the worker must feed, clothe and get some place to cover himself from the elements. The capitalist class, on the other hand, lives by profits. In the past, Mr. Workingmen, you have sold your labor power to the capitalist class for one-fifth of your product, or in other words, for every dollar you produce from your labor all you get back from the employing class is twenty cents.

Now since this is so, and it is so, (it surely behooves you, Mr. Wage-earner, to find out the why and wherefore of the capitalist class keeping this surplus wealth, as they weave not, neither do they spin. The worker produces all wealth and to the worker it should belong.



THOS. ROBERTS

Socialist Candidate for Ottawa Board of Control

Socialism is the embodiment of all that is good. Socialism means the collective ownership of the products of labor. The candidate, seeking the position for the Board of Control of Ottawa, stands for the complete overthrow of the present system, that is, production for profits. The greater system is socialism. Under socialism the worker will get the full products of labor, less the cost of distribution. Now then, you say, how are you going to bring it about? You admit that all wealth comes from labor plus the natural wealth, that is the forest, the mine and the vegetable growth, which are not classed with the product of labor. But when the trees are sawed into lumber and the coal is mined and the various other growths of the earth, they become capital.

Now Mr. Workingmen, will you please tell me why this capital does not belong to you. If you will look behind the scenes and take stock, you will readily see in the past you have voted for the employing class and this class has made laws that give them power; power to legislate laws to keep it master over man and ownership of land, railways and

machinery. Under the present system you are compelled to sell your labor power for one-fifth of its actual value; in other words, you are a crass victim of the present system. You are easily out-witted and beaten threadbare in the running. You are the victim of a plot. The more you invent the worse off you are. You invented the steam-engine, electric tram-way, telegraphy and many other great things too numerous to mention. You, in doing this, have dug your own grave. Shall this be the end or not? You are to decide, for you know the old adage, "United we stand, divided we fall."

Mr. Workingmen, be kind enough to follow me a little further. You are no doubt aware that as society exists to-day it is quite out of the question for you to ride in an automobile. Steam yachts are only to be looked at; select entertainments, balls and parties; you are positively excluded from. You build the castles, the concert halls, steamships, navies; you fight the battles and finally you invent everything that is of benefit to society and none of these things are for your enjoyment or pleasure.

Under collective ownership the wealth of the world would be owned in mass. The workers would have full control of production and distribution and would enjoy all the benefits of education, art and literature, and would live in sanitary dwellings, and would, in a word be protected from poverty, want and degradation. The present system feeds all the iniquities, such as drunkenness, crime and murder. Lunacy is one of the greatest evils of our time. Included is the dreaded disease called tuberculosis, which is killing off men, women and children in thousands. More deaths have occurred from tuberculosis than from any other ten diseases. This tuberculosis is the product of the capitalist system; unhealthy housing, poor food, bad ventilation and dirt. Your salvation will only come when you grow class-conscious and go to the ballot box to elect into power your own class, the revolutionary socialist.

Our candidate for the Board of Control, Mr. Thomas Roberts, will write in the Council Chamber for the complete overthrow as aforesaid, of the present system. We, as a social party, might say further, that we have two papers printed in Canada that stand for the elimination of the present system. It would pay you, Mr. Workingmen, to subscribe for one or the other, or both, of these papers as they are educative, salutary and conclusive. Cotton's Weekly, Cowansville, P. Q., twenty-five cents for six months or fifty cents per annum. The Western Clarion, printed in Vancouver, B. C., price per six months fifty cents and per year one dollar.

In offering my services to the working class as candidate for the Board of Control, I would ask all working men to think seriously. You have nothing to lose but your chains, and a world to gain. See that you cast your vote for your emancipation by voting for your candidate, Thomas Roberts.

Wishing you a happy New Year, I remain,

Yours faithfully

THOMAS ROBERTS

Municipal Platform

1. Public ownership of power, electric light, gas, water, and street railway.
2. Public market for the sale at cost of meat, vegetables, milk, butter, eggs, and poultry, with a large farm as near to the city as possible, well stocked with cattle, poultry, and hogs, to be used for the benefit of the people at cost, plus the cost of distribution.
3. Burying ground owned by the city, and undertaking rooms with full equipment, for the burial of the dead.
4. The city to take over the land now in the outskirts of the City and build homes for the people to live in. Houses to be municipally owned and leased at cost, as a preventative of high rents.
5. Public offices for medical services. Rigid inspection of children for the prevention of disease. Medical inspection of dwelling houses.
6. Municipally owned coal yards, bakeries, public baths and laundries, with services operated at cost.
7. An adequate system of municipal relief for the prevention of persons starving in the midst of plenty.

The above are given simply as an example of municipal activities to be undertaken under a municipal socialist regime. The ultimate triumph will be the collective ownership of all utilities, land, and machinery of production with the consequent elimination of the profit system, rent, interest and profit. Socialism will banish ignorance, poverty, and crime.

The Unionists of Great Britain are predicting that the Unionists will return to the House of Commons much strengthened in numbers. This is probably correct. Asquith has hedged so much on his schemes for amelioration that many of the electors are sick of him.

According to Karl Marx the capitalist society contains within it the necessity of its overthrow. With the ripening of the capitalist system many plagues even are seeing that there must be a change into something else. But they won't have anything to do with socialism nor with the doctrines of socialism. Oh no.

There are many people who think it not wise to attack ministers of the gospel. They are doing such good work, you know. Yet my experience is that the minister of the gospel can work as great harm to the advances of humanity as can the brutal capitalist. The capitalist goes to his task with brutal cynicism, while the minister soothes the people with honeyed hypocrisy.

Taft and many other plute thinkers have declared that it is folly to send too many young people to college as such a training unfit them for life. This statement, from the plutes themselves, shows that the present system of collegiate training, based upon ideas of culture according to plute ideals, is antiquated and should be abolished.

Socialists declare that ninety-five per cent of the productive power of society is wasted. If you will consider the enormous amounts paid in rent, interest and profit, if you will consider the enormous labor wasted in competition and in collecting the graft for the idlers, if you will consider the armies of police and church and navy oppressing the useful workers, you will come to the conclusion that the Socialists underestimate the waste.

SPECULATION NOT IN ORDER

Will R. Shier

One should clearly understand that socialism is not a cut and dried scheme held up to society for its approval. It is a civilization into which society is evolving, and the evolution of which the socialist party seeks to hasten and intelligently direct. Socialism is a growth within the present system, a growth which continues to absorb and transform capitalist society.

What will be its nature none of us know. We cannot write to-morrow's history. How things will be arranged in detail under socialism you and I do not know, and what we do know we should endeavor to explain. You may have your opinions as to how things would be managed, but for propaganda purposes keep them to yourself. Most men will agree what the structure of the future society is to be, but over the question of furnishing it they are sure to wrangle. It is our mission to build the edifice; posterity will attend to its furnishings.

A socialist is nearly always an idealist and an optimist. He has faith in the future and paints it in glowing colors. He goes into ecstasies over it and becomes illusioned with its perfection. But such visions are for his own eye, not for those of others.

If he describes them, he is sure to be accounted a visionary. Now a visionary is usually a very fine man. But he carries no weight in the councils of the multitude. This is a matter of fact world, and matter of fact people are in it; and hence socialism should usually be treated in a matter of fact way. For this reason the co-operative commonwealth should not bear the label "perfection;" for a thing which is declared perfect invites the pin-pricks and minute examination of petty critics.

It is sufficient for our purpose to convince people that socialism will inaugurate a better civilization than we now have. Once persuade a person that social democracy means progress, and he will be for us. If, however, you weary him with the mysticism of the future and excite him with speculations of absolute perfection in the future, he will give you a patronizing nod and pass by. If you are a scientific socialist, you will not be a maker of Utopias.

THE CANADIAN NAVY

The Canadian navy is the bribe that the Liberals are flinging to the workers of Nova Scotia to keep them at work and contented. The building of warships and the furnishing of coal will give employment to many men. They will get wages and will buy food and clothing and live. The unenlightened workers of Nova Scotia no doubt think this a fine scheme to get money by. When asked where their pay comes from they will probably say they don't know and they don't care. They get their pay and that is enough for them.

An army and navy have been the means of letting the workers forge their own interests of oppression. Nova Scotia wants the privilege of building war ships. In New York the workers are protesting against the reduction in the war ship appropriation, as the reduction means less work for them. In old Rome the patricians let the workers make javelins and armor and spears and food for the conquering Roman armies. The working class have been only too anxious to work. The fault of the workers is that they want to do too much.

This is the way the workers reason. If we have a navy we will build the ships. The coal miners will dig the coal to keep the ships going. The steel workers will make steel for the ships. The workers on the farms will raise cattle and vegetables to feed to the sailors and officers and stokers and marines. Everybody will work and get wages. That is the way the workers reason. Their reasoning is wrong. They should reason as follows.

Why should we be set to work long hours to build ships of murder? Why should our comrades in the steel mills have to work twelve hours a day to make steel? Why should our comrades of the coal mines be forced to spend their days underground where God's good sunlight does not reach them? Why should we workers have to do all these things? We want to have time to spend with our wives and children. We want to have time to make our homes beautiful. If we did not have to build warships some of us could be making houses worth living in for our families. Others could be making good shoes for their feet. Our work would be lighter and we would have time to live as men should live.

When once the workers get the revolutionary viewpoint their whole attitude towards the industry of the country alters. They look upon their bosses with different eyes. Their bosses are no longer kindly men who want to help the worker by giving him work. The bosses become task masters who pile needless burdens on the backs of the workers. The bosses become the embodiment of selfish capitalism hunting dividends. When the workers become revolutionized their bosses do not like them, because the revolutionized workers do not look up gratefully to the masters every time a new burden of labor is placed upon their backs.

If a man owns one share of stock and draws therefrom ten dollars a year from unpaid labor, he is a capitalist to that extent. The capitalist worker, that is to say, a man who is robbed because he works for wages, and who also robs because he owns a few shares of stock in some labor thieving company, is just as anxious to get an increase of pay for himself in return for his labor as is the penniless worker, and is just as anxious to squeeze other workers to get a few more dollars in dividends, as is the man who lives entirely on dividends. The capitalist points to this fact and thinks he has proved that the laboring man is an inconsistent wretch. The capitalist has simply not been able to read the riddle right. Each man is anxious to see his means of life, his income, grow larger. The worker wants more pay and the capitalist wants more dividends. The worker-capitalist, as is natural, wants more pay and more dividends. With the coming of socialism and the abolition of dividends, this state of affairs will cease. As all will be workers, there will be no robbers nor robbed. The worker will get the full value of his labor power.

Let's Change Environment

Roscoe A. Fillmore.

When a human being comes into the world he brings with him certain "gifts" inherited from his parents or ancestors. For instance, he may be in possession of a robust constitution or his father and mother may have been weaklings and in that case he would probably be sickly and of a weak uncertain disposition. But, whatever his inherited qualities may be, he is ignorant, helpless and dependent upon others for everything when he is born. Just as soon as he is born, in fact when he draws his first breath, modification steps in. Or in other words the environment, all those circumstances and things extended to him, begin to mold him for better or for worse.

So man is the result of the blending of the blood, gifts, genius or otherwise of his millions of ancestors plus the various modification or changes wrought by his surroundings. In other words heredity plus environment. Everything around us, the air we breathe, the food we eat, our companions, teachers, the language we hear, etc., all play their part in affecting marked modifications, both mental and physical, in us.

All the really great teachers of mankind have laid great stress upon environment. Today every parent who insists upon his boy attending Sunday School regularly or forbids his Johnny mingling with the bad Jones boys is paying his tribute to the power of environment. Every mother who insists upon her young daughter staying home instead of attending dances is admitting, although she would not perhaps understand the term, that she has great faith in good environment in the molding of her daughter's character. The prohibitionist who shouts for the abolition of the saloon is another who insists that environment plays a very great part in molding the minds and habits of men.

Environment being so important it behooves us to get busy today. For we see about us millions who are in surroundings which cannot but twist and mar them. Millions of children are born in the slums, surrounded by poverty, vice, crime, unspeakable misery. And there is no escape for them. They cannot get clear of or escape from their surroundings as they have not inherited the necessary strength from parents who themselves were degenerates and weaklings. So they remain in the slum districts and spawn there thus adding to the great army of incapable.

Various reformers have advanced various palliative measures that have for their alleged object the elimination of the slum. Yet the slum is increasing in extent and misery receiving huge reinforcements during each displacement by machinery of labor power as a saleable commodity. The preachers look wise and declare that all people both slum dwellers and capitalists must experience a change of heart (get converted) before the evils of slumdom can be abolished. So a few of the honest ones go into the slums and really try to "convert" the poor devils who dwell there. The irony of it—to tell one who has lived in hell all his life that he will go to hell when he dies unless he is "good!" These soon find that the slum dweller doesn't want to be "saved" and go back to their fashionable congregations to moralize upon the innate depravity of the "lower orders."

In spite of religion the slum is increasing. And as economic conditions become harder it will increase the faster, until if the present system continues, these people, possessing all the brutality and ignorance of our primeval ancestors, will over run the earth.

There is a solution for this problem. The men we see today, our neighbors, we ourselves are the products of heredity plus environment. The slum child is the product of a weak, sickly mind and body inherited from degenerate parents plus the poor food and vitiated air of the slum, the brutal usage and language it receives at home and on the street, in other words its environment.

Poverty is the cause of the slum environment. Therefore we must remove poverty. But poverty is only an effect and we must get at the cause for its existence. This we find to be capitalism the system of society in which a class of idlers own the tools of industry and government, using them as means of robbing those who do not own anything but their power to work. We find that the idle class, because of its ownership of our jobs, is enabled to take four fifths of the things we produce, giving us in return for our labor power, only one fifth of the product.

This will continue just as long as we of the working class are content

to leave them in possession of the industries and the powers of government. When enough of us get tired of it we will take charge of government and use it as a means to get possession of our jobs. Then and only then will the slum problem be solved. Then and only then will the miserable hovels of the slum dwellers be burned and healthy habitable dwellings take their places. Then the change of environment will be affected and the slum child be given a chance to live and grow up in decency and make a useful and productive citizen. But, horror of horrors, that would be Socialism. And we must protect "vested interests," we of the working class, for goodness gracious who would employ us if it wasn't for the capitalists?

There are those who say that we must change human nature in order that Socialism may be obtained. To these we reply—we will change the environment, the chief factor in molding the characters and habits of people, and let human nature take care of itself.

The British Budget

Cotton's Weekly:

Dear Comrade—I see that in your issue of Dec. 9, you fall into the error which has gone the entire round of the American Socialist press, that the British budget is an attempt by the capitalists to throw the taxation of the country on to the landlords. I think the following facts will convince you that you are mistaken:

1. The enormous majority of large British capitalists belong to the Conservative party. A Liberal millionaire is a remarkable rarity. If the budget were a capitalist one, it is very unlikely that the Liberals would propose it, and still more unlikely that the Conservatives would oppose it.

2. The House of Lords has long ceased to be a body of landlords. If you will look up Whitaker's Almanack, you will see that the vast majority of peerages have been created since the beginning of the reign of George the Third, that is to say, since 1760. Most of them have been created since 1800. What sort of persons have been raised to the peerage since then? Look up the annual list of creations, and you will find that the peerage is almost entirely recruited from such men as Bass and Alsopp, the brewers, Harmsworth the newspaper man, Overton the chemical man, and so on. The House of Lords is a club composed of all the great capitalists of the country. If the budget were favorable to large capitalists, the House of Lords would not have breath to shout loudly enough for it.

3. The budget hits the great capitalists very hard. It raises the death duties to 15 per cent on great fortunes, and places a supertax of sixpence in the pound on all incomes over \$25,000 a year. It has been proved over and over again by statistics that most of the wealth of England belongs to capitalists and not to landlords; so it is very unlikely that the capitalists would propose taxes so unfavorable to themselves.

4. Agricultural land is expressly exempted from the land tax, which only applies to city and industrial real estate. If the great industrial capitalists were authors of the budget, they would hardly take so much trouble to discriminate against themselves.

The theory that the budget is a capitalist budget must therefore be put in the same class with Achilles' Loria's immortal discovery that the Republicans in the United States are those who live on interest, while the Democrats are those who live on rent.

The true theory of the budget is that it is an attempt by the middle class to throw the increasing taxation of the country on to the large fortunes, whether owned by landlords or capitalists. The Liberal party is the party of the middle class. For some years the middle class has been bearing the brunt of the constant rise of taxation which has been necessitated by such reforms as old age pensions, public feeding of school children, and so on. Now, it has taken a tumble, and has made the glorious discovery that all this taxation might just as well be placed on the broad backs of the rich. For many years the Fabian Society has been putting wicked thoughts into the minds of middle class people, and has told them that, instead of being such fools as to fight Socialism, they should try to throw the burden of it on to the rich. Twenty years ago the Fabian Society published a tract called "A Democratic Budget." Read that, and you will understand the present budget. The ablest body of men and women that ever existed in the world has not been talking and writing twenty years for nothing.

Yours fraternally,

R. B. Kerr.

Toilers and Idlers

Our Serial Story

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(Continued.)

CHAPTER VII.

He asked further questions and she answered them, quoting statistics as well as making general statements. "Let's go home," yawned Tom Locker, who had been idling and wrinkling his brows as if in an effort to follow the conversation. "The beer is no good here, anyway." "I would like to talk with you some more," said Rensen, not heeding Tom's scowl. "Everybody knows me," replied Sonia promptly. She handed him a card. "That's where our union meets, but you're likely to see me at many other places." "Sonia Sofrosky," he read aloud from the card. "Yes, isn't that as good a name as—Otis?" She laughed in her boyish way with a sparkle of jet eyes. He wondered whether she meant anything, but the cordial clasp of her warm little hand made him conclude it was a pleasantry.

He walked to his lodging thinking over the statements of this extraordinary girl. He did not know whether to be more fascinated with her personality or startled by her views that were probably deeper than his expressed. How much truth might there be in such ideas? There was a difference between these definite statements, apparent facts, and his own recent speculation. It would be well to enlighten oneself, not only by reading, but by keeping a note book and asking all sorts of people what their wages were, how they lived, what they hoped for. He could not sleep, thinking of these things.

As he tossed about he happened to look out of the window and across the tenement yard. There was a light in Sonia's room, the curtain not drawn. The ill-formed figure of a man with a black beard passed before the light; it was Zienski. Somehow the discovery was unpleasant, especially after her talk on great important matters. Of course, one had no right to look at it in that way.

CHAPTER VIII.

The men finished pouring the molds with unusual briskness. Everyone was good humored. They laughed and cracked jokes as they bent their backs to the incandescent ladles; the apprentices skylarked about, brandishing their skimmers. Nobody minded ordinary mishaps. For it was pay day. Saturday afternoon, and good money coming for another week's toil. The cupola hum ceased, and a quarter ton of molten iron was dumped by the hinged doors beneath, sending a last brilliant glare through the foundry steam and smoke. The men stood in line across the shop, a sooty battalion, while the paymaster, who was lean and wore spectacles, passed along calling the names and handing each man a little blue envelope.

Some tore open the envelopes, eagerly counting the bills and silver; others boisterously tossed coins in the air or made to swallow them in affectionate zeal. The elders were not entirely exempt from enthusiasm, and even the consumptive spectre debilitated.

Debts were settled. John Day received union dues from those who doubted their ability to pay at the proper time. One man said he would be drunk until the Monday whistle. Another vowed to take in the grand opera to see if the women in the audience had on as many diamonds as the papers reported. Someone suggested it would cost two weeks' wages, but he was told to go burn himself, because once a tramp molder got a job as super and was paid for seeing everything.

A group of young molders gestured and talked loudly in a corner where one of them was smoothing the sand with a shovel. A narrow line was traced across one end of the smooth space. Tom Locker, his sleeves rolled up, excitement in his eyes, stood a dozen feet from the mark and jingled a handful of silver dollars.

"Make it a quarter, Tom," pleaded a thin-faced small man. "Half a dollar, anyway."

"You pikers get off by yourselves," shouted Tom, and stooping he poised a dollar between thumb and forefinger. The white disc twirled away and fell an inch beyond the mark. "You fellows can't beat that!"

"My God, she slipped on me," exclaimed the next man as his coin missed by six inches. "Just my luck," mourned the third player, farther astray. "And I was going to buy my girl!" Not until the sixth and last throw was there any doubt of the winner. This dollar grazed Tom's coin with a faint clang and nestled almost beside it. The men rushed up, squatted and peered across the line. The apprentices, who were pitching dimes nearby, came to learn the large decision. It was a narrow case, productive of language, but Tom had won. Flushed with victory, he took all the dollars sown in the black sand and went back to begin a new game.

Rensen as a spectator was vastly diverted and found himself laughing and shouting with the men. For a few moments, too, the coins in his pocket were fingered one by one. The old feverish desire that took him by surprise made him guess how much keener must be the passion that stakes the money earned in sweat, risking food and drink. He realized the craving for amusement, the pulse quickening exaltation of those compelled to monotonous toil, shut from the similar pleasures of art, science, invention.

It came to him also that, veiled under infinite forms, gambling is the cornerstone of our system, a principle more ancient and revered than any constitution or Magna Charta. Farmer and merchant, poet, clergy-

man, laborer and statesman, doctor and clerk, all pitch their coins to the mark. Many fall short; a few are lucky.

There was a lull in the game while a messenger went out to exchange greenbacks for dollars.

"Boys," cried a squint-eyed, gap-toothed humorist, clapping Rensen on the shoulder, "let's make this fellow tell where he dropped from. He says he ain't a counter-jumper."

"Maybe he was a swell, eh?" shouted another. "Ha, ha, I'll bet he was!"

"I was a swell," said Rensen, quietly. He had not intended especially to make this answer; but now he folded his arms ready for the utmost frankness. "And look at him," cried the humorist, recovering from the shock, while the men roared derisively. "What time did yeh get up in the morning, boss?" asked the other man with mock deference.

"About ten o'clock," said Rensen, "when my valet told me the bath was ready."

"Hooray fer you! Now tell the lads what that there bathroom was like."

"The bathroom was done in Italian marble, with silver fittings. I took first a warm bath, having my back scrubbed, and then a cold shower. The valet shaved me, brought out the proper suit of clothes for the day, helped to put them on, and laced my shoes. He was scolded for the least mistake, though I never swore at him. The man then brought the newspapers, a pot of coffee and rolls, and held a match while I lighted a gilt-monogram cigarette, especially made for me in Cairo."

"Say, you're a fine liar. . . . He smokes a good brand, all right. Don't stop him, lads."

"Next I went downstairs to the clubrooms, perhaps played a game of billiards or answered some letters. I found a bill in my mail for five hundred dollars—the cost of a special train in which I went to a golf tournament, having overslept the regular train time. I drew a check for the amount, and sent my man to the bank for an equal sum in cash, so as to have it handy for small expenses. I was liberal with the servants. After this a visit to the manicure to have my nails cut. Perhaps a call on the tailor or the florist. After luncheon, I sat in the club window."

"God, you was a busy man! . . . A girl trimmed his nails!"

"I sat in the club window talking about the people who passed on Fifth Avenue and those who stayed at home. It might be there was a new divorce to discuss or the fashion in neckties. A little later I sent for my mount and took an hour's ride through the Park, stopping beside some carriages to gossip with the ladies. This was an important duty. If I did not ride, I invited a friend or two for an auto trip to Tarrytown. I dined at the club from seven until nine—certainly, champagne and duck—and then perhaps played for two hours. We refreshed ourselves with cordials and Scotch whiskey. At eleven o'clock Williams hurried me off to a reception, where I talked divorcees and neckties for some time. I came home, ate, drank, smoked and went to bed."

The auditors guffawed. Amid exclamations of derision there were some compliments for the cleverness of these falsehoods.

"You done noble," said the gap-toothed wag.

"Here's a medal for you," said another, slicing a piece of leather from his belt.

The men laughed so heartily that they could scarcely continue the game. Rensen went to his room in Seamen street strangely disturbed, half amused that the mildest statements of his life for the past ten years should be considered a fancy picture. A sincere confession passed for a joke. The simple credulity of these men had a tragic element in it. But doubtless men of education would laugh even more heartily at such a recital, knowing its truth, understanding well its meaning.

His thoughts became agitated as he paced the little room. He was feverish and uneasy. Lack of appetite, a sensation of languor and a faint dizziness indicated physical causes.

(To be continued)

PERFIDY OF THE RULING CLASS

W. R. Shier.

The ruling class, except in some isolated cases, has always proved inimical to the interest of the majority, where the ruling caste has represented only the minority, as in aristocracies, timocracies, absolute monarchies and oligarchies. The nation has not the ruling caste to thank for its present liberties. What eternal dickering with the perfidious kings, what perpetual struggles with privileged minorities (as witness plebeian with patricians,) what treasure and blood has been spent for our liberties to-day. The masses may accept the injunction of Stratford, "Put not your trust in princes," extending it, of course, to aristocracies, leaders, and those privileged above them. Let the masses trust only in themselves. The ruling caste has ever been inimical to reform, repressive to the masses, and subversive to progress. The statue of labor is an example. "It is the people who build cities," cried Erasmus, "while the madness of princes destroy them."

BUNDLE PRICES

10 copies per week, for 3 months \$1.00
25 copies per week, for 3 months \$2.50
Bundles not less than one hundred, at the rate per 100, of 50c

Getting Recognition

(The present article is from Solidarity the new paper published by A. M. Stirtion in the interests of industrial unionism.)

"Recognition is all we want. We're not out on strike for higher wages or shorter hours. We're not on strike for better working conditions. All we want is for the company to recognize the union and sign the scale."

"Sounds familiar doesn't it? Very important too, this matter of recognition."

The worker can get it, too, just as they can get anything else they want, when they go at it in the right way. The way to get recognition from the employers is the same as the way to get any other concessions from them—compel it. Take it by the strong hand.

That can't be done very well by one little craft union going out on strike while three or four other little craft unions in the employ of the same company stick to their jobs, or by all the little craft unions going out while the unorganized laborers around the mill stick to their jobs and if need be are ready to take a hand at filling the strikers' place.

The way to get recognition from the bosses is to get a union that the bosses can't help recognizing, one that ties up the whole plant when there's a strike, one that says, "An injury to one is the concern of all."

That's the I. W. W.

The bosses recognize the I. W. W. without being asked. That's the way they did at McKees Rocks.

If a highwayman held you up on your way home on pay day and attempted to take your wad and you wouldn't think of asking him to sign a paper saying that he recognized that you had a club, would you?

So long as you put him out of business of robbing you, you'd take it for granted that that was sufficient recognition, wouldn't you?

Exactly.

Well, build up the kind of unionism that will put the robber capitalist out of the business of going through your pockets in withholding from you what you earn, and what more recognition do you want from him either?

The I. W. W. will do it.

Getting the capitalist to sign a piece of paper saying "recognition," isn't worth anything.

After the paper is signed he will only live up to it on condition that the union is strong enough to enforce it; and if the union is that strong, it doesn't need the piece of paper.

The way to make an enemy recognize the fact that your sword is made of steel—if it really is—is to let him feel its edge. If it isn't made of steel, his saying that it is won't make it so, or make it one whit easier for you to defend yourself against him. The only probable result will be that it will furnish you with a false hope and throw you off your guard.

Get the union that will get you the goods and you'll have the recognition.

If you bought a sack of potatoes and had them on your shoulder ready to take home you wouldn't think of bantering with the storekeeper to give you a written certificate saying, "This man has potatoes," would you?

Still less would you think of taking the certificate in place of the potatoes. What would you expect your wife to think of you if you came home with an empty sack on your arm proudly flourishing a scrap of paper, saying: "This man has potatoes."

Why sure I've got 'em, Taters. Got 'em down here in black and white. Signed statement. Had to jaw around a long time to get it and picket the store besides. Threatened to boycott. Badly handled by a policeman but I made the old fellow give in and sign this. See, here it reads, 'This man has potatoes!'

Glorious victory! Nobly waged the class struggle! Taters! Whoop! Hooray! 'This man has potatoes. Great, isn't it?"

Your wife would well be justified in thinking that you had been bantering pretty freely of that which made Milwaukee famous.

I guess she'd want something more than that to put in the pot for dinner. You do, too. You want the goods. Shorter hours and better pay. More dinner and less work. Build up the union that will get them for you and secure them to you by organizing all your fellow wage

CIRCULATION STATEMENT

Following is the circulation of Cotton's for the issue of last week Dec. 23rd.

Ontario	1459
British Columbia	921
Prov. of Quebec	894
Nova Scotia	514
Alberta	420
New Brunswick	268
Saskatchewan	267
Manitoba	292
Elsewhere	67
Yukon Territory	8
Prince Edward Island	4

Total 5014
Gain for week 202
Total issue for last week 6,000.

slaves so that they all move together and you needn't worry about the boss not recognizing it. We've got recognition now. Got it in chunks. Got it to burn. The bosses all over the country have already recognized the I. W. W. So have the politicians. So have the employment sharks. So have the labor fakers. So have the parasites that have been sucking the blood of honest toil. They recognize the fact that the I. W. W. is the organization that is destined yet to brush them aside like the vermin they are and win for the producers of wealth not simply the scanty pickings of a shabby existence but all the wealth that they produce.

THE PEOPLE'S POEMS

THE KINGDOM OF PROFIT

Matthew, 19: 14.

They stood in the factory doorway,
Mary and brother Dan,
A child with the face of a woman,
A child with the face of a man.

Hungry and thin and ragged,
And undersized were they,
As they stood at the door and shivered
Ere night had turned to day.

The tender care of a mother
They had not known for years.
Their father had died a pauper
And left them with their fears.

Left them alone in Boston,
(The home of pork and beans)
Where little babes are "cheaper"
Than grown-ups or machines.

Boston the smooth and cultured,
The "classic" and "refined,"
Where into books and baubles
The children's lives they grind.

The church of (God?) felt keenly
The children's sorry plight,
And got them a job with Skinner,
Who was their leading light.

And thus it was that we found them,
Ere night had turned to day,
With toil-worn limbs and with faces
That had not learned to play.

They stood in the factory doorway,
Mary and brother Dan,
And the devil laughed at the prospect,
—By The Unknown.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

You can study for all you are worth. Read the best books, subscribe to the best papers, hear the best lectures.

You can join the Party. Your doing so will encourage our active workers. There is inspiration in numbers and growth.

You can sell literature at Socialist meetings. It is easily done.

You can get your friends to subscribe to Socialist papers. Only a little gall and persistence are necessary.

50c PER 100

A new Bundle Rate is now in force. You can get a bundle of one hundred Cotton's for 50c, and as many hundred as you like at the same rate. Nothing less than one hundred copies at this rate. Every local can surely take a hundred copies per week. Dirt cheap.

It is environment that moulds either an iron casting or a human character.

Nature says All things are yours. Capitalism says, This is mine.

The INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST REVIEW

Of, by and for the Working Class. The only great popular illustrated magazine that stands for revolutionary socialism. Circulation doubled twice since present editors took charge. Size increased from 68 pages to 100. More and better scientific articles than ever, besides pictures, stories and news.

Ten cents a copy; \$1.00 a year; to Canada \$1.20; to other countries \$1.35. Local and traveling agents wanted; will start you with 10 copies of the latest Review and 4 subscription cards good for three months each, all for \$1.00.

CHARLES H. KERR & CO., 130 Kinzie St., Chicago.

READ

The Western Clarion

\$1.00 Per Year

PUBLISHED BY

THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA
Box 836, Vancouver, B. C.

MONTREAL LOCAL NO. 1

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA, holds Propaganda Meetings every Sunday afternoon at 2:30 in the Labor Temple, St. Dominique street. Business Meetings every Monday evening at Socialist Headquarters, 223 St. Lawrence Main.

L. S. JACKSON, Secretary
122 St. Lawrence Blvd.

GREAT BOOKS

—BY—

Great Men

Origin of Species, Darwin; Age of Reason, Paine; Riddle of the Universe, Haeckel, 25c each by mail. Merrie England; God and My Neighbor, Blatchford, 20c each by mail. Send for Catalog.

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FIRING LINE

The Top Notchers

J. B. Irwin, Alberta 12
Chas. Thomas, Ontario 12
Geo. Hees, Alberta 10

Fred Youngberg, Bergland, Ont., captures a yearly.

A yearly sub per Comrade H. Smart, Montreal.

Three halfers wander into the wigwam, directed by Comrade Robert H. Lowe, Toronto.

"Ever on the still hunt. Four more trials for the wigwam," is the way Comrade J. Booth, Painswick, Ont., puts it.

T. A. Green, Wiggins, Sask., becomes a half yearly and writes, "More power to your elbow. Yours in the scrum."

Ten copies go to Athabasca Landing, Alta., Comrade Geo. Hees is the one committing this crime against capitalism.

Theo. Habernight, North Battleford, Sask., leads a neighbor up to the dope counter and initiates him for a year's stay.

Robert Naylor, Nanaimo, B. C., writes, "Please find enclosed fifty cents for twelve month's democratic treatment to this neighbor of mine."

A yearly and three trials travel all the way from Midway, B. C. to Cowansville to get introduced to the staff of Cotton's. Angus Macmillan does the introducing.

William Tingley, and William McCallum, Westville, N. S., send in their yearly subs and sign themselves, "two of Wilfrid Gribble's pupils."

A yearly per the efforts of Comrade J. K. Byers, Star City, Sask.

R. H. Cammack, Lamont, Alta., rolls in a yearly to Cotton's for Humanity's sake.

J. Lestrangle Taylor becomes a yearly subscriber. He writes from Toronto, "I am a revolutionary Socialist but I do not believe in bigotry of any kind, not even Socialist bigotry."

"I received a sample copy of your paper last night. Put me on the active spell for awhile. I will do all I can to rustle subs." Thus Comrade Ira R. O. Winston, Atlin, B. C., comes into the wigwam.

Eight half-yearlies come from Percy J. Ashby, Cobalt, Ont. "Of course I had to do a lot of chewing to get these. Onward for that ten thousand," says Comrade Ashby in closing.

Charles Thomas, Organizer, West Toronto Local, rolls in the price of twelve half yearlies and a trial. He writes, "The members of this local were responsible for making six others discontented with their places in present day society."

H. N. Coursier, Revelstoke, B. C., plunks down a dollar and lines two boys of the woolly west up with the laus of the effete east at the dope counter. Cotton's evidently touches the right spot of the universal thirst among the discontented.

"When getting subscriptions for Socialist papers, I consider that I am doing good work that will benefit the whole human race," writes Comrade F. Larson, Union Bay, B. C. as he tumbles three yearlies into the dope tent.

S. E. Haight, Swift Current, Sask., sends along the price of eight halfers and writes, "Our bumper crop makes the farmer think he don't need Socialism now. But wait five years and the capitalist will have his hide and tallow and leave him the bones."

Two halfers come from Cardston, Alta., one for the States. As weekly newspapers going to single addresses in the States have to have a cent stamp placed on each one it costs fifty-two cents a year to send Cotton's to an American subscriber. The price therefore of Cotton's to the U. S. is one dollar.

The following Comrades are each responsible for the price of six halfers reaching this office. Comrades H. J. Lawrence, Halifax, N. S.; H. A. Hintz, and Emil Quimbach, both of Berlin, Ont.; A. G. McCallum, Ottawa; John Fraser, Cobalt, Ont.; Gustave Hesse, Biefait, and Nels. Sorlie, Milden, Sask.; A. H. Browning, Calgary, and C. B. Stranberg, Lost Lake, Alberta; Claude F. Orchard, Kamloops, Chas. Bowick, Victoria, E. A. Russell, Wayne Island, and Isaac Parkin, Sandwick, British Columbia.

J. B. Irwin, Meeting Creek, Alta., writes, "Our local met the 18th inst. We are only twelve members at present. Organized last March. Comrade O'Brien has been out twice spreading the seeds of Socialism. But in a sparsely settled district like this it is hard to get a good turnout and we have decided that we can do more for the cause by distributing Socialist literature. I am sure the time is near when Cotton's will be such a menace to present Capitalist Society, that it will have to run the gamut of persecution like the old warrior, the Appeal. But that will only make more Socialists. So here's hoping that that ten thousand will be a reality in the near future." To help along Comrade Irwin sends in the price of twelve half yearlies.

N. J. Sonder, Lang, Sask., writes, "Many thanks for the sample copy you sent me. Three cheers for the splendid paper. I have followed you up ever since you started the paper and I would have subscribed long ago, but I have about four times as much reading as I have time to read. I am going to cut out some of the Montreal and Winnipeg papers. I shall try to get you some subs here, but it won't be very many, for the people here don't use their brains and are what they call 'prosperous.' This is a new country and plenty of cheap land. I am a carpenter and can get ten times as much work as I can do. I cannot get competent help. So if you know any carpenters who would like to come, West let

them come. But nothing but Socialists, as I consider that a man who has not brains enough to be a Socialist has not got brains enough to be a good mechanic."

Comrade Andrew Rafu, Bon Accord, Alta., writes, "Enclosed please find money order for sub cards sent. Sold one already. Although money is just about as scarce around my place as it apparently is at the Treasury of Cotton's Weekly, I could not let a chance go by to do a stunt for Socialism, hence the money. The capitalist papers, of course, are blowing in great style of how good this 'last west' is for the farmer. It would be a good place if the farmers got full value for their labor, but as it is now the elevator people and grain speculators get the cream of the farmers' crops without doing anything. Public ownership of the elevators is the only remedy, but the governments, Provincial and Dominion, cannot see it that way. That would be too much like Socialism. The different farmers' organizations in the Western Provinces are all working towards government ownership of elevators. Although these organizations are not socialistic, nevertheless they are doing good work as they are making the farmers class conscious and anything that makes farmers class conscious is good."

Maritime Comrades Attention!

There are a number of Socialists throughout the Maritime who are not members of the Party. These are perhaps at too great a distance from a local to be able to attend meetings. Where this is the case they should become members at large, of the Party.

Comrades, you can do better work if you are members of the only working class party, the Socialist Party. You can at a very small cost become members and so aid us financially in the fight against capitalism. It is the duty of every person who is a Socialist to communicate with Comrade Dan Cochrane, Box 13, Glace Bay, N. S., the Maritime Secretary and become affiliated. We must stand together in the fight. The dues of a member at large are only ten cents per month. You need the support and encouragement of the organized movement and it needs your assistance. Come in, Comrade and help.

Yours in Revolt
ROScoe A. FILLMORE.

SOCIALISM AT OTTAWA

The city election in Ottawa takes place on Jan. 3rd, and the Socialists of the capital city are out with a candidate for the Board of Control, in the person of Com. Thos. Roberts. The Ottawa comrades will have the assistance of J. Stitt Wilson during the campaign, and he will speak at the Nickel Theatre on Sunday, Jan. 2nd, at 3 o'clock, and at 8 p. m., with candidate Roberts in the chair. It will be to the interest of every wage earner and others to attend the campaign meetings, and learn what socialism stands for, and why a vote should be cast for the Socialist Party candidate.

GOOD BOOKS TO CIRCULATE

The following little books should be read by every Socialist, and passed along to those who wish to study socialism. They are attractively bound, and can be carried comfortably in the pocket. Read them in the order as here presented:

1. "Merrie England," by Robert Blatchford. Has made over a million Socialists.
2. "The Socialists," by John Spargo. An easily understood presentation of scientific socialism.
3. "Socialism, Utopian and Scientific," by Frederick Engels.
4. "The Communist Manifesto," by Marx and Engels. Necessary to every Socialist.
5. "Value, Price and Profit," by Karl Marx. One of the text books of the international movement.

The price is 10 cents per copy. Fifty cents takes the bunch from Cotton's Book Department.

What It Costs to Print Cotton's

Following are the expenditure and receipts for Cotton's from Jan. 1st, to Nov. 15th, 1909:

Ordinary Expenditure.....	\$2,827.95
Capital.....	907.95
Total.....	3,735.90
Cash Received.....	1,835.49

Deficit 1,900.41

The working class need be only slightly interested in the tariff question. If protection sends up prices, wages tend to attain a corresponding height. If free trade means low prices, wages fall accordingly. This tendency, however, is counter-acted sometimes by other tendencies. To really understand the question you must study economics.

SUB PRICE OF COTTON'S

One Year, 52 copies 50c
Six Months, 26 copies 25c
Three Months Trial, 13 copies 10c

The first number of Solidarity, published at New Castle, Pa., is to hand. This paper is published in the interests of industrial unionism and it certainly is good stuff. Price in Canada a dollar and a half a year. A. M. Stinton is the editor.

THE VOTE IN B. C. THE SPOKANE FIGHT

A Hurried Size Up

WINNIPEG VOICE

Another milestone of progress in the international Socialist movement has been passed in British Columbia. And, as in other places where the Socialist party thrives, the process of elimination of other parties has been most pronounced. The Liberal (reform) party has been wiped off the map and the Socialist (revolutionary) party takes its place as the rising young giant which will continue to champion the cause of the wage-worker until industrial freedom has triumphed all over the capitalist world. The last legislative assembly consisted of 26 Conservatives, 13 Liberals and 3 Socialists. With the triumph of corporate greed on Thursday last the next house will be composed of 38 Conservatives, 2 Liberals and 2 Socialists. But with all its representation in the house the Conservative party is still a minority party—having polled a very small fraction over one-third of the total vote cast. The struggle for supremacy between the reformers and revolutionists gave a temporary sweeping victory to the big corporation party. The decks have been cleared for action and the real fight is now on. In 1907 the Socialists polled over 5,000 votes; they now have over 11,000, or about 22 per cent. of the total vote, the biggest for its party anywhere within the British empire. It used to be every 11th elector voted the Socialist ticket. Now it is every 5th voter. Outside of Vancouver and Victoria the Socialist vote will aggregate more than the Liberals. The Liberals will have lost as many election deposits as the Socialists. Even the most Conservative press admits that the big surprise of the campaign was the tremendous increase in the Socialist party vote. At Rossland, for instance, the Socialist lost out by only 14 votes: the Liberal lost his deposit. The Socialists are just as active to-day as the day before election. The Liberals have quit. As the field was clarified in Nanaimo this time, so will the whole province be next time. There is no power on earth that can stop the triumph of the Socialist party in British Columbia in two more elections. The issues have been made plain. It is now corporate property and profit for owners versus collective property and production for the use of those who do the work.

The Socialist party vote (unofficial) 1909:

J. F. Johnson (Okanagan).....	242
Jas. Cartwright (Comox).....	252
J. W. Fitch (Cranbrook).....	99
John Harrington (Fernie).....	813
John McInnis (Grand Forks).....	328
Geo. Heatherington (Greenwood).....	311
J. H. Hawthorthwaite (Nanaimo).....	786
J. H. Matheson (Nelson).....	148
Parker Williams (Newcastle).....	302
H. Kempster (Revelstoke).....	207
Geo. Casey (Rossland).....	219
Wm. Bennet, (Slocan).....	130
P. Garvie (Vancouver).....	1215
E. T. Kingsley (Vancouver).....	1893
W. M. Mackenzie (Vancouver).....	1218
R. McGregor (Vancouver).....	1230
R. P. Pettipiece (Vancouver).....	1337
Geo. Oliver (Victoria).....	691
A. M. Oliver (Ymir).....	152
Total vote.....	11,345
R.P.P.	

HOMELESSNESS OF MILLIONS.

"At the East End, (of London) poverty forms a city, massing together nearly two millions of people, of whom it is said that of eight hundred thousand inhabitants, only one hundred and eighty families live in private houses—a city of workers, with too little work, and a population whose fecundity is phenomenal."—From a writer in the Fortnightly Review.

THE WAGE SYSTEM.

"The average yearly wage of the individual workers of the United States, according to government statistics, for 1900, was \$439.00, less than \$1.50 per day. The figures do not include the salaried workers. Were the salaries of this class of producers added, the average income would be but slightly increased. There are, on the average, directly dependent on each worker 2.6 non-workers."

Effective Propaganda at Low Cost

Cotton's can be sent for—
Three months to one person for ten cents.
Three months to ten different persons for a dollar.
Three months to fifty different persons for five dollars.
Three months to one hundred different persons for ten dollars.
Locals please note the effective propaganda that can be done at small cost.

ASSISTANCE WANTED

FELLOW WORKERS:

At the present time in the city of Spokane, Wash., a situation exists, that should bring the attention and assistance of every working man or woman, that has a drop of red rebellious blood within his or her veins.

In an effort to forever quell our organization in America, the Chamber of Commerce, and other capitalist institutions in Spokane, are using methods that would make a barbarian blush with shame.

In our effort to force from the City of Spokane, freedom of speech and press, we have incurred the enmity of our masters, and as a result, over 400 men have been incarcerated in the jails, school houses, and military prisons, where they have been subjected to the most inhuman treatment by the shot gun men and police thugs who are guarding them. Men have their eyes blinded, teeth knocked out, jaws broken, and other wise maltreated, while women members of our organization, have been cast into prison with prostitutes, and have been insulted while thus confined by these law and order gents called policemen.

All officers of the I. W. W. are at present serving sentences of 6 months each on the chain gang in Spokane, being forced to do so by gun men. Three editors of our official organ, "The Industrial Worker," have been arrested on flimsy charges, and are also sentenced to 6 months on the chain gang, and herded by thugs with shot guns. The official organ was confiscated by the police yesterday as it was coming off the press. Hundreds of men are being slowly starved to death on two slices of old sour bread a day. The men are so weak that they are unable to walk across the floor. They could have better food if they would consent to work on the chain gang, but the great majority refuse to scab by working for nothing. These men are all sentenced to 110 days each. They are charged with violence, and violence means, saying "Fellow workers" on the streets. Our hall is being raided every other night by the police, and anyone who dares to make a speech on Industrial Unionism, is immediately arrested and thrown into jail, and then kangarooed off to the chain gang for six months, or bread and water, which means starvation. Scurvy has broken out among the prisoners, and their gums are rotting in their mouths, as a result of the small rations of old sour bread, and they are now unable to eat the small morsel of bread offered to them. This is in Free America. The Chamber of Commerce is the law, as they are the economic power in Spokane. There are 30 editors, officers, and speakers in jail charged with Criminal Conspiracy. Those of them who have been tried, have been sentenced to 6 months hard labor, except one, who is a girl 19 years old, and she was sentenced to 3 months. They are no more guilty of any crime, than is any member of your union. Out of 800 persons treated in the emergency hospital in Spokane in the month of November, 681 of them were members of the I. W. W. As there are less than 400 members in the jails, you will see that many were in for treatment more than once. This will give you some idea of what police brutality is, and to what length our masters will go to suppress an organization that they are afraid to see grow. Twenty eight of our members were thrown into a cell that was air tight for 36 hours, with steam turned on until a great number of them fainted from the excessive heat. Men were forced to stand in their own oil, these are but a few of the many tortures that are being inflicted on working men and women, who are battling for freedom of speech and press.

We have several families to take care of, while the husbands and fathers are serving long sentences. We are feeding hundreds of men every day who are either going to jail or just coming out. Several attorneys have been engaged to defend our men in the different courts. The cases will be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States to determine whether this country has such a thing as freedom of speech and press, or whether this boasted liberty is a sham or not. To get a square deal in any of the local courts, is impossible. The capitalist interests are opposed to the industrial form of labor organization, as they know what it will mean to them when organized to stand together. Freedom of speech and press is an important weapon in the hands of the working class, and if it can be denied us in Spokane, it will soon be denied us all over the country. Education on Industrial Unionism is something we must have, if we ever expect to be an economic power against the exploiting class.

Let us safeguard our weapons. If you are in sympathy with our fight for freedom, we invite you to assist us in every way possible. With best wishes to the members of your local organization, we are,

Yours for Industrial Freedom,
CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,
Industrial Workers of the World,
Spokane, Wash.

Send all contributions to Fred W. Heslewood, national organizer I. W. W., box 895, Couer D'Alene, Idaho.

Thought and Action

It is a good thing when members of the Socialist Party get together for the purpose of studying economics, to find out what is real and what is false, to educate and be educated, but all such should keep in mind the need of not only acquiring knowledge, but of doing

something each day of their lives in order to hasten the downfall of capitalism. While it is highly important that we have as many well-versed economists in the Party as possible, it is just as important, if not more so, that every Party member should be a willing spade worker for a part, at least, of his spare time.

The essential thing is that every Comrade should be inspired by the desire to do what he (or she) can right now, be willing to do whatever is wanted to be done that he is capable of doing, whatever that happens to be, to be ready, if he has tried a certain duty and found he is unfitted for that, to do something else that he is fitted for, for we are all fitted for something and can be all equally useful, if not equally well known.

There is a tendency to think that it is necessary to be a platform man to be fully useful in the movement, but, while it is very desirable that as many as possible should equip themselves as such, there are many ways in which Comrades can be just as useful, and we are convinced that it is only necessary to point out these ways and volunteers will be forthcoming. By all means become a speaker if you can, and, if you do, don't be "too good" to do a bit of spade work, as well, if necessary, and you have time. Try writing for the Clarion occasionally, but if your contribution doesn't appear don't get sore; remember the Clarion is not out to please even you, but to educate the workers, and try again and don't get sore even if your screed doesn't appear then.

WESTERN CLARION

World Wide Socialism

The railroad employees of Paris paraded the streets to show their determination to get an increase of wages from the companies. As the police did not interfere there was no trouble.

In the free speech fight in Spokane the police confiscated the issue of The Industrial Worker in which some of the I. W. W. women described their treatment by the police. The city is being sued for damages.

The New South Wales legislature is considering passing a law that will make strikes illegal. The success of the coal miners have angered the masters and consequently the masters are using the state as a club to beat the strikers with.

The one hundred thousand dollars raised by the red cross society for the Cherry disaster victims has been mismanaged. Women and children were starving while the funds drew interest in the banks. This is but another example of the incompetency of capitalist charity.

The Butterick Publishing Company is one of the few large scab printing concerns in the U. S. This company publishes papers in France and the French comrades are boycotting the papers in the interests of the American workers.

The Socialist women of New York have resolved not to co-operate with the bourgeois women in their fight for the franchise. The Socialist women are for the franchise but do not consider that there is anything to gain by mixing with a capitalist political party for a reform measure.

The Socialist Rakowsky, who was expelled from Roumania, has arrived at Sofia, Bulgaria. He brings word that the Socialist trade unions in Roumania are reorganizing themselves, and are about to undertake a great movement against the private ownership of land.

The report circulated in the German Press, that Maxim Gorki has been expelled from the Social-Democratic Party of Russia is, as the Social Committee of that Party informs "Vorwärts," a lie from beginning to end.

According to the Japanese "Socialist News," edited by our comrade S. J. Katayama, the movement in Japan has been having some hard times. The present Ministry has done its utmost to crush the movement out of existence. All the Socialist papers—except the one edited by Katayama—have been suppressed; many Socialist agitators have been arrested and imprisoned, and those not arrested have been threatened and intimidated. At the same time there have been internal dissensions—an anarchist element having arisen. The government has passed a law which enables the public authorities to confiscate MSS. or proofs, and practically institute a press censorship as bad as in Russia. Unemployment and many strikes have kept our comrades busy. "We are by no means crushed," says Katayama, "on the contrary, we are growing steadily as the oppressive measures become harsher." Among the Socialist papers suppressed was one for women, the editor of which, Ishiwa, was subjected to a considerable fine.

CONTRASTS.

One of the "Smart Set" writes that a man of that class is expected to spend from \$1,000 to \$5,000 a year for clothes; a woman from \$3,000 to \$10,000 not including jewels.

The income of one of the most prominent men of the U. S. is estimated at \$50,000,000 per annum.

"Government Statistics for 1890 show that at that time one per cent of the families in U. S. received nearly one-quarter of the total national income, that the wealthiest ten per cent received an income about the same as the remaining ninety per cent, that one-eighth of the families owned more than one-half of the aggregate income, and the richest one per cent receive a larger income than the poorest fifty per cent."—Anon.

DOUBLE THE CIRCULATION

About twelve months ago Cotton's Weekly devoted its columns to the propagation of Socialism, and since then it has had a hard financial struggle, as can be seen by the heavy deficit to be paid off by Comrade Cotton. In Toronto one often hears that such and such an article should not be in a Socialist paper, Cotton's is no good; what's the use of boosting it, for what the workers learn out of it, has all got to be undone again. But never a word about Comrade Cotton, who is heavily in debt with it. This comrade is not like the majority of us, making a few dollars a week, he is placed in a safe position, and if he liked, could say to hell with the workers. But instead he keeps the paper going; and I for one regard it as the best propaganda paper on the American continent for beginners. And after all is said and done, it is those we are after. The circulation of Cotton's is increasing fast, over 4,500 copies a week which is going some; and if every reader of this paper would get one subscription a month how soon we would have the 10,000 circulation! It can easily be done by perseverance.

As I look through the firing line I see 1372 copies come into Ontario. Yet the party membership is far below that number. Its up to these comrades in Ontario and throughout Canada who are not affiliated with the party and who understand that a class struggle exists between the ruling class and the working class, which is a fight to the finish with no compromise, to write to the various Provincial Secretaries for more information and application forms to fill in.

For the benefit of readers of Cotton's I would like them to know that the S. P. of C. have a party paper of their own, The Western Clarion, Box 636, Vancouver, B. C. Every socialist should subscribe for this excellent little paper to learn how the organization work and party matters in general are going on. All unaffiliated with the party in B. C. should write at once to D. G. McKenzie, Box 836, Vancouver, for particulars; in Manitoba, to H. Saltzman, Room 15, Harrison Block, Winnipeg; in Ontario, to P. C. Young, 940 Pape Avenue, Toronto; in Alberta, to F. Oxtoby, Box 647, Calgary; and for the balance of the Provinces to D. G. McKenzie, Box 836 Vancouver. It is by organization that we intend laying the capitalist class low. All of you should become party members, paying party dues of 25 cents a month. If you are unable through being out of employment, to pay up, do the same as the writer has done—tell the secretary, and it will be alright. It's up to you.

ALEX LYON.

Financial State of Cotton's

Comrade Lyons, in a letter, declares that Comrade Cotton is safe. He writes, "This Comrade is not like the majority of us, making a few dollars a week, he is placed in a safe position, and, if he liked, could say to hell with the workers."

When the Appeal to Reason first announced my adherence to the Socialist doctrines, it declared that I was worth a hundred thousand dollars. I think this was where the story arose that Comrade Cotton was safe.

As a matter of fact I have borrowed every cent I have put into Cotton's Weekly. Not only have I borrowed the amount of money which you see as the deficit of Cotton's but I have borrowed the money for my own personal living expenses. The deficit of Cotton's is only for the printing end of it. There has not been one cent charged for editing the paper, although that editing has taken all my time and allowed me no time to make money in the practice of law.

Cotton's is not in a safe financial position at all. I have borrowed the money to carry the paper on from non-Socialists. That money will have to be returned some day. Every little while I am told that the Socialists should support the paper and if they cannot do it the paper should not be published.

The Appeal to Reason has declared that when the Appeal cannot pay its way then the paper will cease being published. It is nothing but right that Socialist papers should be put on a firm financial basis.

Many people tell me that I am foolish to waste my time in standing by principles when I could be making a good living at something else.

Cotton's Weekly will pay if it has a big enough yearly circulation. I think the paper would carry itself with ten thousand yearly subscribers. The Socialists of Canada must remember that the class struggle is on between the exploiters and the exploited. The slaves must rely upon themselves to free themselves. I am willing to help to the full extent of my abilities.

I write this simply to let the sub-hustlers know the financial state of the paper. If I had the money I would plunk it into the paper. I have to depend upon the sub-hustlers for the financial sinews of war. By hustling for subs you accomplish two things. You spread the doctrines of Socialism in new regions and at the same time you furnish the necessary money to keep the paper going to furnish the ideas of Socialism in new quarters. It is an endless circle. It is the whirling buzz saw that will lop the fingers and arms and head off decadent capitalism in Canada.

W. U. COTTON

"Self ignorance is neither innocence nor bliss, but a menace to mankind"—William Restelle.

"Don't meddle with other people's business," cry the grafters and crooks.