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# Cotton's Weekly

W. U. COTTON, S.A., S.C.L., Editor

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## SHALL COTTON'S MOVE TO ONTARIO?

### PROSPERITY IN ALBERTA

T. Edwin Smith, of Yetwood, Alta. (All rights reserved by the author.) We hear a lot about the prosperity of the Alberta farmer, and almost every day a newspaper report tells about some prosperous farmer who has sold one of his farms for a fabulous price, or of some other farmer (?) who has retired from active work, or is spending his winter in California, and in some way the impression is given that these men have made their money farming and that they are typical of the whole group. There may be cases of actual working farmers who have made good in Alberta, but in my trips about the country I have never met one of them. These men whom the papers tell of, have as a rule made their money in some refined form of skin game, and have invested the proceeds of the skin game in land, and thereby acquired the title of farmer.

The lot of the Alberta farmer is not a happy one. He is harassed by his creditors from one year's end to the other. His whole time is spent in a vain endeavor to beat the game with all the cards stacked against him from the start, and the whole force of capitalism arrayed solidly to prevent his getting more than a mere subsistence. Every farmer that I know has his hands full barely holding on without even taking a week off to go to the Lethbridge fair. They are all in debt to their ears, and the roads are mainly travelled by collectors. Every time a man raises a crop, as soon as the threshing machine pulls off, a collector drives up in a lively rig to get his share, and the farmers are so hard pressed that every time they see an auto coming down the road they all get palpitation of the heart for fear it is a collector, more persistent than usual, coming to demand what little they have been able to save out of the week.

In order to show the condition more clearly, let me relate the story of one farmer.

G. W. Folkland is a farmer who took a homestead in the neighborhood of Sundial north of Lethbridge, several years ago. In the course of time he proved up, and then, seeing the tendency of the times, he formed a partnership with a neighbor of his who was an expert gasoline engineer, and bought a tractor. He mortgaged his homestead in order to make the first payment, and they went to work. The partner was a good man with the engine, and they did a lot of work with it, with the minimum of breakage and delay. They had good crops, and the grain raised was of good quality. When they hauled it to town and delivered it over to the masters like good and faithful servants, the amount they received for it was so near the actual cost of production that they fell behind in their payments. In some manner the bulk of the debt fell back on this one man, who was unable to make the annual payment on the mortgage, and the mortgage company foreclosed. He fell behind in one of the payments on the engine, and the machine company took it back.

His farm was sold at auction for cash, and brought \$1400. The machine sold by the company will reduce his debt by about \$100. Remember, there are a lot of costs about this kind of business, and of the money received from the sale, only a part will go to reducing the debts. At any rate this man has lost his farm, his machinery, and in addition he has a judgment outstanding against him for \$2400. As soon as ever he gets his head above water again and makes a little stake the machine company can come on him and take it away, though he be on the farthest fringe of civilization. Shortly before the foreclosure when the machine company began to press him, this man had gone to the agent in Lethbridge, and offered to give back the machine and to sign over his homestead to them if they would let him off. His offer was refused, and as a result the man has a debt of \$2400 which he must carry all the rest of his life no matter where he may go. He has worked five years for the capitalist class, has handed over to them all he has produced, and now he has a judgment hanging over his head.

This man is not in this fix because he has not worked. He has worked hard, and he has saved. It is not because he has been extravagant or has bad habits. He is as saving as any man could be, and not even his bitterest enemy could accuse him of drinking it away. It is not because his work was unproductive. He and his partner were skilled men, and they raised all the grain possible with their equipment. They used good judgment and made their work count. They were broke simply because they were not allowed to enjoy the fruits of their labor. The capitalist class demanded such a large share of what they had produced that they were unable to pay what they owed. The capitalists overreached themselves a little in this case, and as a result they have forced two men to quit work in Carmanagay, Alberta, is worth \$1.04 per bushel in the farmers' wagons on the street, but the farmers only receive for their work from fifty-four to sixty-four cents per bushel, when they hand it over to the capitalists. On the average they get exactly fifty-nine per cent of the value of their

wheat, considering wheat as the first step, in the production of flour. Therefore out of every hundred bushels of wheat that goes through their hands they are allowed to enjoy only fifty-nine, and out of this fifty-nine bushels they must pay the interest on the mortgage, so it is safe to say that the farmer is only allowed to use half of what he produces. The rest he hands over to the capitalist class and receives no value for it in return. It is this condition that keeps us hard up. If we received the full product of our labor we would all enjoy life with the same amount of work that today barely affords an existence. The fact that this man of whom I write had to part with half his product made it impossible for him to pay his debts.

However, the capitalists, when they have the power, do not always content themselves with taking half the product of a man's labor. Please notice this.

In the early part of the winter this same man had hauled a wagon load of wheat to the Taylor Milling Co., at Lethbridge, to trade it for flour. His load weighed 4250 lbs., and he wanted 1400 lbs. of flour. When he got the flour he had to pay to the milling company \$1.95 in cash additional.

That 4250 lbs. of wheat will make, according to a bulletin of the U. S. Bureau of Chemistry, the following quantities of products:

Patent Flour, at \$3.70 per 98 lbs. 2458.50 lbs. price \$92.85.  
Family Flour, at \$3.25 per 98 lbs. 480.25 lbs. price \$15.63.  
Straight Grade, at \$3.00 per 98 lbs. 289 lbs. price \$8.67.  
Bran and Shorts, etc., at \$1.30 per 100 lbs. 1024.25 lbs. price \$13.32.

This brings a total of \$130.47 for 4250 lbs. of wheat.

This mill does not make first class patent flour, so we have to make one change in the figures. We must reduce it to the grades and prices that they use in their business.

Family flour at \$3.25 per 98 lbs. 2458.50 lbs. price \$79.91.  
Straight Grade, at 3.00 per 98 lbs. 289 lbs. price \$8.67.  
Bran, shorts, etc., at \$1.30 per 100 lbs. 1024.25 lbs. price \$13.32.

Total—4250 lbs.  
Deduct from this table the 14 sacks of flour at 98 lbs. each, and add the \$1.95 cash he paid into the mill, and we find that the profit made on the transaction was as follows:

Family flour at \$3.25, 1068.50 lbs. \$34.51  
Straight Grade, 789.25 lbs. \$23.50  
Bran and shorts, \$1.30, 1024.25 lbs. \$13.32  
Cash ..... 1.95  
Profit ..... \$73.28

Deduct from this 8 cents per bushel actual cost of milling, and we find that the net profit was almost exactly \$68.00 on that single load of wheat.

The flour which the man took away with him at the market price was valued at \$45.50. At this rate you can see that the net profit made by the milling company was one and a half times as great as the share the farmer was permitted to take home and enjoy. Sixty per cent of the product of that man's labor went to pay the dividends of the shareholders of that milling company.

This is the reason this man was unable to meet his obligations. He only had forty per cent of the product of his labor to do it with, and that was not enough. If he had got the full value of his product he would have had two and a half times as much for his year's work, and it would have been comparatively easy for him to square up everything.

This man is a free British subject, and we all know Britons never shall be slaves, so I asked him why he did not try some one else, and not let this one set of grafters skin him so thoroughly. He told me that he could have gone to the other mill in Lethbridge, and he did get their terms first, but they would have skinned him even worse. His boasted liberty under British law consisted in the liberty to choose the one who should pick his pocket, but British law would see that he had to have it picked whether he wished or not.

The tools of production to which he and the rest of the workers of the world must have access in order to live at all are all owned by the capitalist class who take little or no part in production; but who by virtue of their ownership can compel the actual workers to surrender the product of their toil over to them.

When the sheriff came out to his farm and sold him out, he was helpless. The police and the courts stood behind the mortgage company, but not behind the man who had opened up the land. If this man had dared to object to the sheriff foreclosing on him, he would have been put in the pen for the next three years or longer, and if he had persuaded a few of his brother farmers to stand behind him and prevent the mortgage company forcing him out, they would have found the militia called out to shoot them down. They would stand no show at all. The only reason the farmers never find the troops against them is because they will not stand together. As G. B. Shaw says, there is no use muzzling a sheep. The moment the farmers cease to be sheep they will find the troops called out against them as well as against the miners in Glace Bay or the railway workers in British Columbia.

As long as we permit the tools of production to be owned by the non-

Shall Cotton's move to Ontario? That is the question which confronts us. We have been thinking over it several months now.

When the circulation grows to 50,000, and maybe a little before, expensive changes will have to be made. A rotary perfecting press will have to be purchased, and a basement put under the building in which Cotton's is located to provide a place for it and a place for storing white paper.

This, however, is a minor consideration. The question is, shall Cotton's move to Ontario so that it can be in the thick of the fight, so that the editor can go on speaking tours in the neighboring localities, so that a lecture and stereopticon bureau can be established, so that the information and organized publicity for which Cotton's is famous can be used on the spot in Ontario?

In Quebec we are more or less out of the fight. Six persons out of seven in this province are French. The majority cannot speak English. Many of them who do speak English speak it with difficulty. We cannot reach them save with French literature.

Cotton's therefore, is fighting the battle at long range. Our support comes mainly from Ontario and the West.

If we move to Ontario we will be full two days nearer the West. And we will be in the thick of the fight. Also we will be practically as near the east as now for mail purposes.

Ontario is going ahead rapidly. She is the manufacturing centre of Canada. The government policy of furnishing electrical power at cost is making her a hive of industry. Electrical wires are stretching out into the country to industrialize the farm.

The party that swings Ontario swings Canada. Cotton's would like to be in the midst of the battle. In Ontario we could do more effective work. We could watch the constituencies. We could work through the noble army of the working class supporters of Cotton's and bring it about that in nearly every constituency a Socialist candidate would be in the field. Those districts where Socialism is weak we could nurse along.

At present we are, oh, so far away from the fight. Cowansville is a little village. It is surrounded by small non-industrial villages. The tides of thought sweep by it, and Cowansville sleeps on. Its sleepiness seems to get into our blood. We lose the fighting spirit. Calm peace broods over the atmosphere save when excitement is created by a dog fight or a petty squabble between two individualistic villagers.

Can you blame us for longing to get into the bigger life, the fuller life, where we can clasp the hands of comrades and feel the tide of revolution sweeping near us?

Cotton's in Ontario would work a revolution with us. Your editor would be awake. The paper would be Johnny-on-the-spot in the day-to-day fight upon capitalism. It would be near the scenes of exploitation, and could rip the lid off the rotten mess of capitalism.

If you want Cotton's to move, tell us so. AND MAKE IT SO WE WILL HAVE TO EITHER MOVE OR ENLARGE OUR QUARTERS, by increasing our circulation.

Such a chance to move does not come often. Do you want us in Ontario, comrades? If you do, show it by putting it up to us to get there. Start in at once to double the circulation for Ontario. Run it up to 20,000. Let the western workers do the same thing. Start in to double the sub list of your province. To the workers in Quebec and the eastern provinces, Cotton's will be just as convenient in Ontario as it is now, and would have increased power and prestige from such a central location, from all of which the cause of Socialism in these provinces would benefit.

Start in to DOUBLE YOUR SUB LIST. Bundle and Sub Card Orders accomplish the same result as subs. They are classed as subs. So are the funds sent to the Agitation Battery. Start today. Let us know in no uncertain way what you think about Cotton's moving to Ontario. On the warmth of the response depends the taking up of the idea with confidence and pushing it to success.

producing capitalist class, and so long as the powers of the court, police and militia are used to protect this non-producing class in their skinning game, we will see events like this. As long as the workers will remain inactive and allow the old political parties to pull the wool over their eyes at every election, we will never find ourselves out of slavery; and as long as the present system of capitalist class ownership endures, we will continue to plug along for the same old wage of barely enough food, clothing, and shelter to keep us alive, although we are producing far more than that.

Alberta has a law preventing Orientals employing white women. A bill has been introduced into the Ontario legislature to the same effect. The henchmen of the master class have suddenly become solicitous of the morals of white women workers. But their solicitude is pure hypocrisy. Women work for low wages. Consequently the white labor skinners employ them, pay them wages on which they cannot live; women are forced into prostitution, and the white labor skinners reap the big profits. The employing class want prostitution to continue, as it allows them to get women workers below a living wage. The Chinese come to Canada, get into business, and employ white women. The Chinese invade the ranks of the white labor skinners, and the white profit thieves howl aloud under the competition. They cannot directly hit the Chinamen because that would give the game away, so they pass laws declaring that white women must not surrender their surplus values to Chinamen on the labor market. Thus the business of hiring girls below a living wage and forcing them into prostitution is kept as a preserve for white Christian gentlemen whom God, in his infinite wisdom, has ordained to see that Orientals shall not enter into this profitable business.

Where is the harnessmaker of yore? The old timer is still here, but he is putting in his time mending the dirty rotten harness sold by the large manufacturers. Big business has killed this trade. No apprentice can be secured to tackle a dead proposition. A set of honest harness used to bring the maker \$40 to \$50. Today a set can be bought for \$11. That is the reason the harnessmaker has stepped down to the level of a leather cobbler.

The Ross rifle factory is busy turning out weapons. These are supposed to be for protection purposes. So they are. Placed in the hands of the scurvy soldiers and police they will protect the capitalists and their beloved system reeking with stolen wealth from the toil of labor. That is what the Ross rifle is made for, and for no other reason. If the slave makes a strong bid for freedom these rifles will soon send a 303 burning its way through his flesh and bones.

\$1.00 takes 14 good books from Cotton's Book Department.

The only hope of the working class is itself.

All work and no play has made Jack Overalls a very dull boy.

Under Socialism the usurer and interest seeker will be no more.

Under Socialism homes will be for people to live in, not for landlords to get rent out of.

Nothing on this earth resembles the boa constrictor so much as the capitalist system.

The horrors of war are only equalled by the foolishness of the insane people who rush into it.

Capitalists and their henchmen lie about what Socialism is. Of course they make it out to be something dreadful. It is to their interest to do so.

C stands for Capitalism, Also for curse; And that's about all Of this little verse.

Christ drove the usurers out of the temple, and to get even they abolished race suicide among their clan. Yea, their progeny even unto this day overwhelms the earth.

Capitalism sends the women and children to the mills to work, thus breaking up the home. Then its paid henchmen yowl about Socialism breaking up the home. Ridiculous, is it not?

Automatic machinery, instead of lightening the labor of man, has made him work all the harder, and driven his children into the sweat shops and brothels.

If the modern contractor with his speeding-up methods, had undertaken the job of building the pyramids, he would have covered the whole of Egypt in the time it took the Ancients to finish the job.

If Napoleon had utilized his fighting energy and force for the uplift of mankind instead for its demoralization, the world would have advanced incalculably. As he existed, he was a blot on the face of the earth, and a stumbling block for human progress.

Adam Beck, of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission, says the government will bend its energy to providing cheap electric power to the farmers of Ontario. The introduction of electric power will transform farm life. In the cities of Ontario electric horse power costs \$22.50 per hour. In the country regions a pair of horses will cost \$300 per year to maintain, operate and provide for their depreciation. For this amount thirteen horse-power electrical energy can be supplied in the cities. When this cheap power is also furnished the farms, the old order will go. The machine age will come to the farm and it will be industrialized. It will be run by wage slaves and the division will grow wide between farm owners and farm workers.

Always carry an extra copy of Cotton's in your pocket.

### SOCIALIST UNITY

#### The Time is Opportune for the Creation of One Strong Socialist Party in Canada

There are two Socialist parties in Canada. These are the Social Democratic Party of Canada and the Socialist Party of Canada.

The locals of the Social Democratic party of Canada are scattered throughout the provinces as follows: Quebec 3, Ontario 58, Manitoba 22, Saskatchewan 8, Alberta 11, British Columbia 24.

The locals of the Socialist party of Canada are scattered thus: New Brunswick 1, Quebec 1, Ontario 4, Manitoba 3, Alberta 56, British Columbia 77. These are the locals on record. In Montreal there are French, Italian, Jewish, Lettish, Polish and Russian Socialist groups, but they remit no dues to the party headquarters in Vancouver, so are not reckoned as locals in good standing.

Were these two parties to unite, a strong Socialist movement stretching from Atlantic to Pacific would be the result. A united party formed by the amalgamation of these two parties would have locals throughout the Dominion as follows: New Brunswick 1, Quebec 4, Ontario 62, Manitoba 25, Saskatchewan 8, Alberta 67, British Columbia 101. Total, 268.

As far as we can gather, the split in the party came from the desire for democratic government on the part of the Social Democratic members. The S. P. executive in Vancouver desired to maintain the party in its pristine purity and resisted all attempts at what the executive considered "reformism." The majority of the Ontario Socialists were practically read out of the party. So they constituted a party of their own. This has grown into the S. D. P. of C.

The old executive of the S. P. of C. has gone, and a new one is in its place. In our opinion a better one, because more diplomatic, more conciliatory and less autocratic in its tendencies.

We believe that the rank and file of both parties earnestly desire unity. There are three difficulties to be overcome.

#### Mutual Misunderstanding

The first and greatest difficulty, and at the same time the least, is mutual misunderstanding. There has been a tendency among many of the Socialist party members to regard the members of the S. D. P. of C. as freaks and fakirs, reformists without the revolutionary outlook, such as would drag the S. P. to destruction if admitted to their party. On the other hand there has been a tendency among the S. D. P. members to regard the S. P. of C. as composed of ultra impossibilists, knoekers, dogmatists, know-it-alls who, if admitted to the S. D. P. would make it a stench in the nostrils of all decent revolutionaries. The experience of Ontario comrades with several S. P. organizers has not been particularly happy. These organizers, we are sure, were not and are not typical of the S. P. rank and file.

As a matter of fact, the S. P. of C. is composed of human beings like ourselves who are working for the overthrow of the capitalist system, and the S. D. P. is composed of like human beings.

This misunderstanding has grown to be a small difficulty, for it is rapidly vanishing. The Socialist party members are now considered to be true comrades by S. D. P., and the S. D. P. members are considered to be true comrades by the S. P. of C. Mutual acquaintance has dissipated mutual misunderstanding.

#### Immediate Demands

The second difficulty is the question of immediate demands, or reforms. The S. P. of C. is a revolutionary party. Many of its members consider the S. D. P. to be a reform party. The party literature and the S. P. of C. insist upon the "futility" of reform measures. The opinion is spread that the party will tolerate no immediate demands in its platform. They want the revolution and nothing but the revolution. Because the S. D. P. has what are considered to be immediate demands in its platform, many S. P. comrades regard us as weak in revolutionary doctrines. If the two parties are to unite the question of immediate demands in the platform of the S. D. P. will be one of the difficulties. The majority of the S. D. P. may wish to retain them, and the majority of the S. P. of C. may be unwilling to unite while such demands remain.

This difficulty is one of words rather than of principles. In practice the S. P. is as great a reform party (and no more), as is the S. D. P. Let us compare the two platforms with regard to the question of immediate demands.

The Socialist Party platform says: The present system is everywhere until the present system is abolished, make the answer to this question its guiding rule of conduct: Will this legislation advance the interests of the working class and aid the workers in their class struggle against capitalism? If it will, the Socialist Party is for it; if it will not, the Socialist Party is absolutely opposed to it.

The Social Democratic platform says:

As a means of preparing the minds of the working class for the inauguration of the Co-operative Commonwealth, the

Social-Democratic Party of Canada will support any measure that will tend to better conditions under capitalism, such as:

- (1) Reduction of hours of labor.
- (2) The elimination of child labor.
- (3) Universal adult suffrage without distinction of sex or regard to property qualifications.
- (4) The Initiative, Referendum and Right of Recall.

The S. P. cannot claim their platform is any more revolutionary than the S. D. P. platform. The difference between the two is as great as the difference between tweedledum and tweedledee. The S. D. P. of C. platform is just as reformist as the S. D. P. platform.

The S. P. platform declares that the party in office as long as the present system lasts is for all legislation that is in the interests of the working class. The S. D. P. platform says that the party will support any measure that will tend to better conditions under capitalism. Apart from mere wording, what is the difference?

The S. D. P. platform mentions four measures as examples. We believe that any S. P. member would vote for such measures were he a member of a legislature.

Every Socialist party of any importance, apart from the S. P. of C., has immediate demands. The French, English, American and German parties have immediate demands. Experience seems to show they are necessary. There is the battle for the conquest of political power so as to abolish capitalism. There is also the struggle under capitalism to maintain or slightly increase the power of the working class. The S. P. member in the Alberta legislature recognizes this by fighting poll tax bills and by introducing legislation for fortnightly pay and the like, measures which in no wise threaten the overthrow of capitalism.

If unity is to be effected, both parties must be content to abide by the combined majority. If that majority wants immediate demands, insert them. If the majority does not wish immediate demands, leave them out.

#### Location of Headquarters

The third difficulty is the question of the location of headquarters. The headquarters of the S. P. of C. are in Vancouver, B.C. The headquarters of the S. D. P. are in Berlin, Ont. No doubt each party will want to maintain their headquarters in the present location. The question whether Vancouver or Berlin will be the Dominion headquarters no doubt will cause some discussion and difficulty. But here, too, the majority of the united party should rule. Whatever locality is chosen, either one of the two present ones, or a third one in Alberta or Manitoba, the two parties will no doubt abide loyally by the will of the united majority.

The S. D. P. is holding its convention this fall either at Port Arthur or Winnipeg. The present time is an opportune one for each party to take steps to bring about unity.

J. P. Morgan is dead. The stock markets never quivered. When Harriman died the stock markets also remained steady. Yet the capitalist press never weary in telling us that it is these big men who maintain the stability of our financial institutions. The newspapers lie, and they know they lie. The working class is robbed of all but a bare living. Their surplus values surge up out of slavery to be gathered in by the master class. Whether Morgan lives or dies the surplus values rise to the master class. It is wage slavery, not Morgan or Harriman, which creates the profit.

The "Jolly Coppersmith" could sing and whistle the livelong day, and was happy and contented as he fashioned articles for use out of his metal. He made a living. But today there are no Jolly Coppersmiths. A few minutes in a modern sheet metal factory would take all the exuberance out of the coppersmith of olden times, could he be brought to earth to witness it. Huge machines slash the sheets into shape, they are hurriedly thrust in a drop press. Bang! The article is smashed into shape, tossed to the next machine, and in a short time lands in the shipping room. Its saleable qualities are fine, and that is about as far as its usefulness extends.

In reporting the flood scenes at Dayton, a capitalist sheet metal worker says: "John H. Patterson, a hero of 70, head of the National Cash Register Company, rowed a boat in the rescue work." Not a word about any individual man who fought to save lives; not a word of the hundreds of other citizens of Dayton who fought for their loved ones. The wringing subsidized press could only see this one great hero in the whole population of the flooded city. Fough! We're sick!

The sudden rise of a hitherto obscure employee to a responsible position often means that he was the best sucker in the bunch of slaves. He acted the traitor to his fellow workers, and performed some scavenger job that his master was ashamed to ask his stable groom to do.

\$1.00 will purchase four sub cards.







## STOCK IN COTTON'S

**STOCK IN COTTON'S**

Cotton's Weekly is published by Cotton's Co-operative Publishing Company, incorporated, which is capitalized at \$20,000.00, par value of shares \$10.00 each. Shares in the stock of Cotton's are sold to individuals at \$10.00 each. The shares are sold to Socialists, the Dominion Executive S. D. P., Socialist locals and revolutionary unions. Shares of stock are now available to friends of Cotton's and the Socialist Party. The shares can be paid in advance, or \$2.50 down and the balance in three monthly payments of \$2.50 each. When the shares are paid, a handsome certificate is sent for the shares and the shareholder's name.

The shareholder of Cotton's meets annually each year on the second Monday of January at the Dominion House to review the policy of the paper, etc. Cotton's is run democratically, and thus the shareholder has a voice in the paper's say in the management. This is what Socialists believe in, therefore every stockholder to Cotton's Co-operative.

**BREAKING UP THE HOME.**

The participation of women in industrial pursuits means the total destruction of the family life of the working-class. The family is the capitalist form of the family relation. The capitalist system of production does not in most cases destroy the single household, but it destroys the robustness of it of all but its unpleasant features. The activity of women today in industrial pursuits does not mean to her motherhood, but to her motherhood as an increase of her former burdens by a new one. Present society offers, in the place of the family, the workhouse, which destroys only miserable substitutes: soup houses and day nurseries, where crumbs of the physical and mental sustenance of the working-class are doled out. Kantaky, *The Class Struggle*.

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