

The Fenelon Falls Gazette.

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FENELON FALLS, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1912.

No. 1

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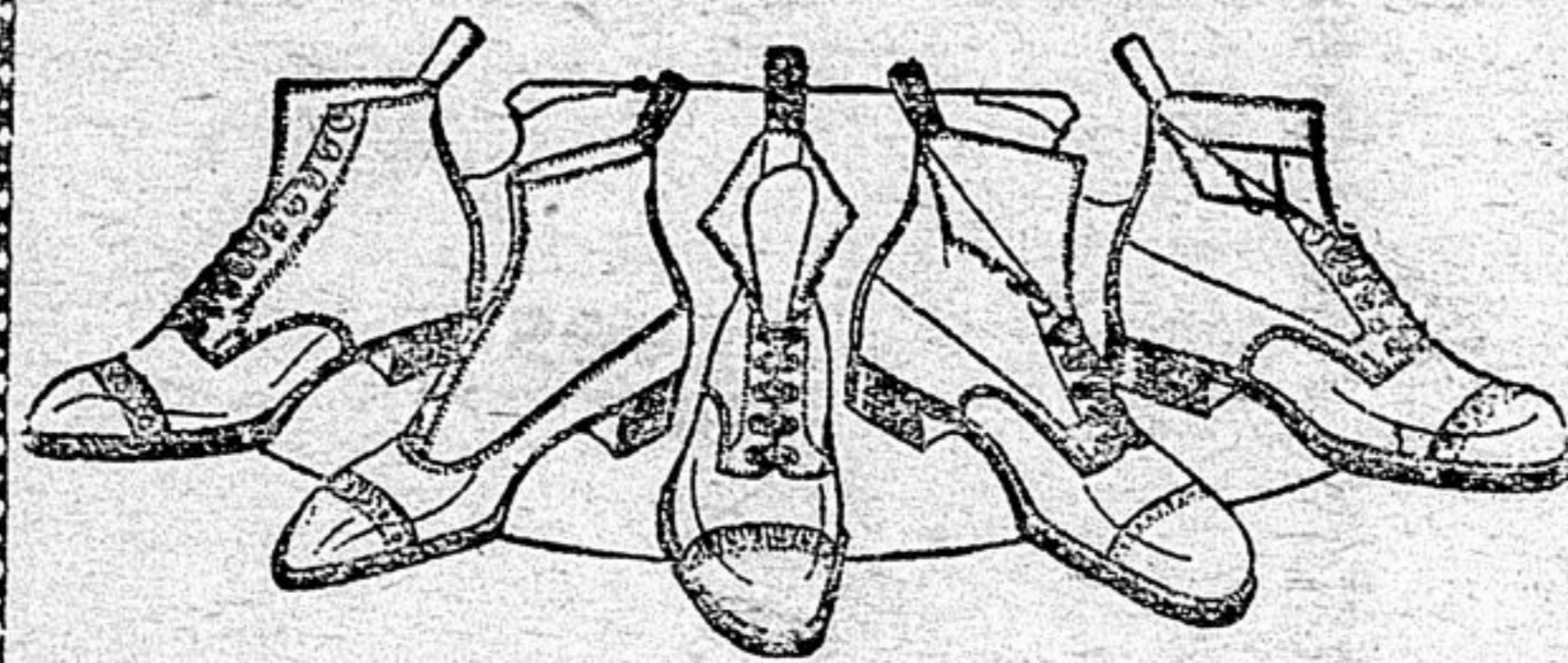
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R. M. Hamilton, Mgr. Fenelon Falls Branch

The Workers Awakening.

For centuries the workers of the world have bowed their necks to the yoke of slavery in one form or another. They have plodded wearily along the pathway of existence, bearing the burdens of civilization upon their slavish backs, and always subject to the master's lash if, perchance, they faltered in the task. Usually their submission has been of the stupid, sullen kind that will not allow of its victim rising above the level of the horse or the ass that balks in harness when the burden becomes unbearable, instead of dumping the load and kicking the driver to smithereens. Evidence, however, is by no means lacking to show that a change is coming over the spirit of the workingman's dream. He is evidently awakening to at least some sort of a comprehension of the many wrongs perpetrated upon him by those who have set themselves in authority to rule over him. He is beyond question cultivating a healthy determination to do something more drastic than merely to balk in harness and patiently submit to the lash being applied to his quivering flesh.

It is particularly noticeable that in the event of a strike, at least of any proportions, there is an ever-increasing sentiment finding expression for something entirely outside of and away from the mere matter of an increase in wages or more tolerable conditions of slavery in general. The determination to end the wage system by the complete overthrow of the rule of capital each day finds a more clear expression. Even the careless observer of passing events can scarcely fail to notice it. Time was, and not many years since, when it was almost as much as one's life was worth to apply the term "slaves" to a bunch of workmen. It is now quite the common thing for them so to designate themselves. This realization of their status under capitalist civilization is one of the most cheering signs of the times. It affords most convincing evidence of an awakening of labor that portends no end of trouble for the sleek, well-fed pirates and swashbucklers that constitute the present ruling class. At least, no end of trouble until the scepter of power has been wrested from their hands and the reign of capital brought to an inglorious finish.

Everywhere the workers are turning their attention more and more to the conquest of the capitalist state. They are recognising the state to be the sole bulwark of capitalist property. They see in it, and correctly, too, the instrument by means of which the capitalists maintain their title of ownership in the means of production, and their consequent power to rule and rob the working class. The determination of the workers to conquer the state and use its organized powers for the pur-

pose of striking the fetters of wage slavery from their limbs by the abolition of capitalist property, marks the awakening of labor. Fully aroused to the necessity of action in their own behalf, the working class will speedily solve the problem of what to do with the resources of the earth and the instruments of production, so as to admit of human society moving forward to a saner and more decent civilization.

Capitalist civilization is to-day rotten to the core. The chronicle of daily events is but a disgusting story of vice, crime, corruption, graft, chicanery, pollution and fraud unspeakable. A slave civilization, it cannot rise above that from which it springs. It is up to the slave to break his chains, and, by so doing, relegate to oblivion the most hypocritical and most vulgar ruling class that has ever cursed the earth with its presence. The proletarian battalions are marshalling for the fray. Labor is awakening to the task in hand. In the conquest of the state by the proletariat, and the use of its powers to abolish capital and the wage slavery from which it sucks its sustenance, lies the hope of the future.

And the proletariat is awakening. Speed the day of its triumph!—Vancouver, B. C., Western Clarion.

Money and Lives.

I met the man who owns the mill, joy riding with a coachful, and stopped his motor on the hill, and said to him reproachful: "A hundred daddies weave and spin for you for paltry wages; and will they all be fastened in when fire around them rages?" "I guess," he said, in accents hurt, "I guess they will be, sonny; for human lives are cheap as dirt, but fire escapes cost money. The people do not realize the burdens rich men carry; the way my hard-earned money flies would paralyze Old Harry. My auto always needs repairs, my yacht is ever yawning for coats of paint or easy chairs or miles of silken awning. To talk of fire escapes for mills is really very funny, for human lives are cheap as pills, but fire escapes cost money. My bill for wine alone, my friend, would scare you into trances, and there are suppers without end, and forty kinds of dances. A trip to Europe every year requires a lot of boodle, and gems I bring to loved ones here all cost like Yankee Doodle. I cannot throw my scads away on mill equipments, sonny; for human lives are cheap as hay, but fire escapes cost money.—Walt Mason.

It is contended that labor-saving machinery causes labor to be more widely employed. In that case, what is labor-saving about it?

Improved machinery cuts down expenses for the capitalist class, cuts some workers off from the means of life, and cuts others up in them.

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M. W. Reive, Manager