

# The Fenelon Falls Gazette.

VOL. XL

FENELON FALLS, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1912.

No. 6

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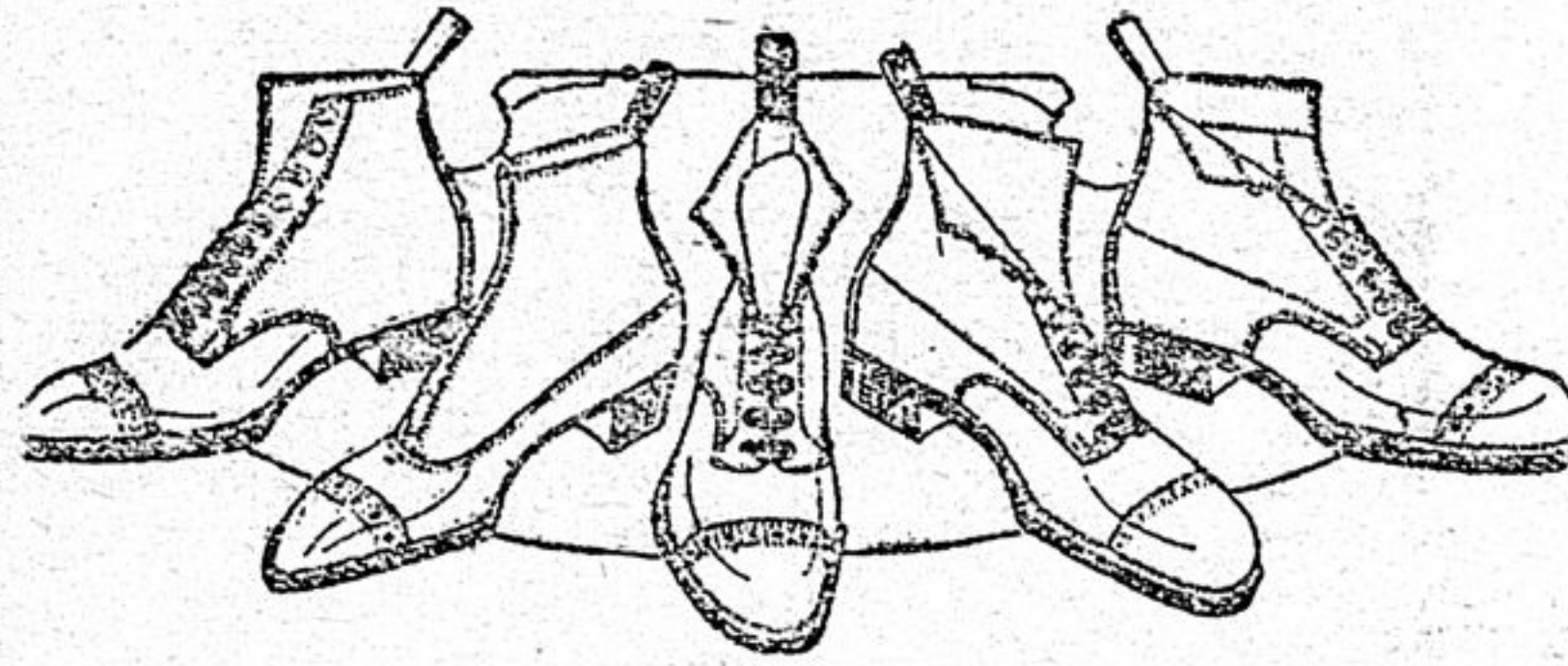
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R. M. Hamilton, Mgr. Fenelon Falls Branch

### Municipal Enterprises.

When you get talking with an anti-Socialist he generally tells you that people want to be free, and that they will never submit to collectivism. He speaks of individual initiative, and says that capital must be protected. He looks upon us Socialists as visionaries, and does not see that the whole of humanity is moving in the direction of our theories. Humanity does not do this because we hold our theories, but because our theories are built up on scientific investigation and logical deductions from ascertained fact. Collectivism is replacing the so-called individualism.

We Socialists say that the needs of the people should be supplied by the collective effort of the people. National industries should be carried on nationally, and more local endeavors should be carried on locally by all the people. The capitalist apologists say this is all nonsense. Yet in Montreal a strong movement is on foot, not by so-called Socialists, but by the non-Socialist Board of Control, to have the city go into the ice business. A bill is to be presented at Quebec to allow the city to erect ice making plants and to sell ice at cost to the people. This eliminates profits from the business. The ice trust has squeezed the people, and the people who do not call themselves Socialists are out to confiscate the revenues of the ice magnates by competing them out of existence. Socialism won't work: oh, no!

We Socialists say that under Socialism bread will be made for all the people and delivered at cost; or perhaps delivered at the expense of the community to all the inhabitants of the community. This, many Canadian non-Socialists ridicule as impracticable. But Vienna has a co-operative bakery run by the bakers, where bread is sold at cost. Budapest, Hungary, also has a municipal bakery. Recently the master bakers of the private bakeries locked out their employees, and the city doubled the output of the municipal bakery, thus "confiscating" the business of the private bakers. Budapest is also erecting sausage factories and is opening retail stores.

We Socialists have a habit of saying that under Socialism the private trader will be eliminated. The wholesaler will go and the retailer will also go. Ignorant Canadian non-Socialists laugh at this, not knowing what is actually taking place. In Berlin, Germany, the municipal authorities have been purchasing car-loads of fish on the North sea coast, and distributing the fish to local dealers at low cost. But the dealers cannot have the fish unless they agree to sell the fish at a price fixed by the city, which allows a small margin for handling them. Berlin is "confiscating" the business of the wholesale fish dealers. Small cities near Berlin are undertaking to purchase wholesale supplies of food stuffs. Coming to our own continent, Mayor Shank, of Indianapolis, Ind., has been "confiscating" the business of the grocers, who in the early winter were selling potatoes at \$1.60 per bushel. They were in a fair way of becoming highly respectable capitalists, through their private "initiative" of buying potatoes cheap and combining to sell them dear. Shank, in the name of the city, bought two car-loads of potatoes at 69 cents a bushel, and sold them to the public at 75 cents. Thus he confiscated the business of the potato dealers and rendered their "capital" worthless. At Christmas time the city of Indianapolis sold Christmas trees, turkeys, chickens, mince meat and other things at fair prices.

We Socialists have a way of saying that the homes should be for the people, and to bring this about no man should have an absolute right to his house. He can have control of it as long as he lives in it; but when he moves away he must surrender his right therein to some one else, so that he may not be able to hold the home of another in his power. The capitalists laugh at this, and say that the people will not stand for having their homes taken away from them. The capitalists forget that the great majority of city homes are not owned by the people who live in them, and that many country homes are either rented or mortgaged. But, even while the capitalists laugh, the Socialist principle is being put into operation. Budapest has three thousand municipally owned houses, which are rented at cost to working class families, and two thousand more will be added this year. Many German and English cities have municipally owned homes. Milwaukee, Wis., is planning to establish a whole town of them. In Montreal, Mayor Guerin is talking of a garden city for the workers on the same principle.

If everything is going on so nicely, why do the Socialists object and why are they so down on present day society? Simply because, so long as the capitalists rule, they will give the minimum relief. The relief will be hampered and hindered as much as possible by the class who enjoy the surplus values. We Socialists desire to abolish ALL rent, interest and profit, not certain rents, interests and profits. So we keep up our agitation, and the master class, becoming useless through the abolition of the capitalist system of production, will eventually be completely routed. The above incidents show only a few outposts that the capitalist class have had to abandon in the face of the rising proletarian revolt—Cotton's Weekly.

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M.W. Reive, Manager