

The Fenelon Falls Gazette.

VOL. XI.

FENELON FALLS, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1912.

No. 16

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R. M. Hamilton, Mgr. Fenelon Falls Branch

Wage Slaves.

What is a wage-slave?—A person who works for a wage, and gives all he earns to a capitalist.

What proportion does a wage-slave receive of what he earns?—On the average about a fourth.

Have there always been capitalists and wage-slaves?—No. Wage-slaves are descended from serfs.

What was a serf?—A person who had to work in bondage to a Baron as lord of the manor, and was forced to earn sufficient for himself as well as enough to help keep his lord.

Could the serf free himself from his servile position?—No. He was kept in subjection by power of the sword.

From whom did the serf descend?—From the slave.

How did men become slaves?—They were taken in battle, and made to work for their masters. Their wives and children were also taken and made slaves.

How were they kept in subjection?—By force. As they grew older, however, they realized that it was impossible for them to escape, and so accepted their servitude.

How did they ultimately become serfs? By progress of civilization, and the knowledge of the masters that by giving them certain liberties they produced more, and did not require so much watching and looking after.

How did the serf become a wage-slave?—By the masters finding it was more convenient to give him money on the condition that he produced a given quantity of work.

What did that lead to?—To the present system of capitalism and wagedom.

What is common about slaves, serfs and wage slaves?—That they are all servile, and must work hard and live at the lowest standard of comfort possible.

What evil is the wage-slave subject to that the slave and the serf did not suffer?—Unemployment. The slave and serf always had food, clothing and shelter. The wage-slave, when he is out of work must now starve or go into the workhouse and be miserable, or commit suicide.

What is the remedy for wage-slavery?—Socialism, which will allow all to work and all to enjoy the necessities and luxuries of life their labor creates.

Who is opposed to and tries to prevent this?—The capitalists, who get rich by exploiting the worker on the land and sea, in the factory and workshop, in the worker's home and in the sweater's den.

How do Socialists propose to circumvent capitalists?—By getting control of political power, and controlling the making of wealth themselves in the interest of all the people.

Hurrah for Socialism, and may capitalism and wage-slavery soon cease to be!—The Red Catechism.

Five Millions Seeking Work.

The unemployed of San Francisco, through a committee, asked Mayor Rolf, Jr., the reform mayor, who defeated McCarty, for employment; but the reform mayor was helpless before the stubborn fact that the committee represented 50,000 human beings who were hungry and penniless, and yet willing and anxious to accept the opportunity to earn the means of life. The vast majority of the unemployed of San Francisco were lured from Eastern cities by the glowing promises that appeared in eastern publications, and were paid for by an oligarchy in California that has decreed organized labor must be crushed and destroyed on the Pacific coast.

In anticipation that the exposition of 1915 would make California the "promised land" for labor, thousands of mechanics in every part of America turned their faces to the west, and wended their way to the Golden State, only to find themselves recruits in that growing army of idle men whose wan and haggard faces tell stories of suffering that cannot be described in words. Fifty thousand men of bone and brawn walk the streets of San Francisco, with no ray of light behind their cloud of adversity. A reform mayor is powerless to meet the crisis, and can give no assurance that the homeless and starving thousands of San Francisco will be given employment at any time in the near future.

But this is not all. Were San Francisco the only city in America deluged with unemployed, the problem might be solved; but every other city of the nation is besieged by men whose hands are chained in idleness, with but little prospect of better days to come. Five millions of people in America are asking for work, but there is no employment. The problem of the unemployed must be solved, or there will be some history written that will cause "predatory wealth" to tremble on its throne of insolent power. Men will not voluntarily starve in the midst of plenty, and hunger sometimes nerves the arm of a coward to strike a blow for liberty.—Miners' Magazine.

Production for profit makes the time and faculties of men things of sale, and as these are inseparable from the man, it really makes him a thing of sale. Production for use will free the man and his faculties and permit him to grow.

Nature never makes mistakes. The very fact that we are here gives us a right to be here; the very fact that we live gives us the right to live. An inseparable factor in this proposition is an indisputable right to the means of living, that is, the right to the free use of land and tools.

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Fenelon Falls Branch

M.W. Reive, Manager