

The Fenelon Falls Gazette.

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FENELON FALLS, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, SEPT. 13, 1912.

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R. M. Hamilton, Mgr. Fenelon Falls Branch

The Proletariat Awake.

It is no fable that the issues which the last fifty years have precipitated upon this nation are the most momentous that any people have ever faced. Babel was a decorous afternoon tea party compared with the polyglot clamours that are coming up all over this land from voices whose origins are as diverse as the races of the earth, and whose shoutings are as varied as their self-interests are multitudinous. And all this is intensified by the intermingling, in every cry, of the issue of the distribution of the vast hoards of newborn wealth with which the establishment of machinery has deluged civilization since you and I came into this world. Common sense is insisting that the truth is good enough here, also; and it is searching diligently for ways and means by which all may come to their own, even if it has to disregard precedent and conventionality to compass such result. And, as of yore, the two conservative factors are doing their old work over again. They are largely blind and deaf to the real issue, and persistently declare that what has been must be, though the heavens fall and "the public be damned." They do not put it just that way, but it is the real spirit of their position.

The wealth of the world has been augmented by a greater amount in the last half century than in any one thousand years of previous history. Men used to plow, or mine, for money. Now they exploit some enterprise that is based on machinery or some of its adjuncts, stock it to the limit, and a printing press does the rest. And the output of the press goes, for the most part, to the men who furnish the blank paper which an imprint turns to gold. Billions have been made that way since you and I can remember, and the problem of what to do about it is still on. For the most part, these billions are in the hands of the few who printed them, and the many are in a state of unrest because of the situation. Common sense sees a truth in the premises, and it is beginning to talk about it, out loud. And back of all this is the independence of thought and spirit on the part of the masses; a new situation brought about by an era of scientific thinking, which has hardly yet reached years of discretion. There is much of the bull-in-the-china-shop in the use of this new acquirement, by the rank and file; but that does not alter the facts of the case.

It is a situation and not a theory that confronts us, and we cannot shirk the dominating question; what are we going to do about it? The proletariat can no longer be hushed by an edict from the aristocracy. The day of such method is passed.—William Hawley Smith.

Competition.

Competition is no longer the life of trade, as it used to be in the days of individual production. With the advent of machinery, production has become socialized, and now combination is the motto. This, then, accounts for the small store-keeper finding it hard to make a living out of his business, and the day is not far distant when departmental stores on a large scale will handle all produce to better advantage than the poorer man. It does not take long to see what a lot of useless work is being kept on under this spirit of competition. Why not stop this unnecessary work and socialize production and distribution still more in the interests of those who take part in the work, instead of creating dividends for those who do nothing. All natural resources, means of production and distribution should be owned by the workers; so that, no matter whether they work with brain or hand, they will get the full reward for their toil, and work under very much better conditions. If all those who are able had to do their share of necessary work, just think how it would lighten the burden; and then, instead of using women and child labor in factories to lessen the cost of production, it would only be necessary for all able-bodied men to do two or three hours' work each day.

We complain about Oriental and Asiatic labor being used; but see how cheap they are, and what awful conditions must prevail in their native countries if they are content to come here to live and be treated like dogs. But conditions here are not as they expected to find them, and even now many of them are looking for another land of promise, and curse the day that they ever left home.

Workingmen, there is only one solution to the problem, and that is the one that we Socialists try our best to make clear to you. Get rid of this non-producing portion of Society by taking control of things yourselves; use your vote in the right way, and get rid of the idea that as things have been in the past so they will always be. If you do not do this, you must not complain at having to work ten hours a day for a barely living wage, for that is all you can expect by voting either the Liberal or the Conservative ticket.—F. L. in Western Clarion.

Thousands of children go to bed every night hungry, and the shops and warehouses are crammed full of eatables. Is n't it a beautiful system?

So long as a parasitic class has control of the powers of government, so long will justice, liberty and fair play be dealt out only to the Capitalist class and their henchmen.

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Fenelon Falls Branch

M.W. Reive, Manager