

The Fenelon Falls Gazette.

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R. M. Hamilton, Mgr. Fenelon Falls Branch

The Urge Towards Socialism.

It is frequently said by those not understanding the Science of Socialism that we will have to make men over before we can accomplish our ends; that human nature must be changed first. Man is too selfish to adopt the brotherhood principle. It is because man is selfish that we expect Socialism to triumph. We rely upon the fast growing identity of interest among the toiling many for the establishment of the co-operative commonwealth. Man wants to get as much as he can. Man wants to marry, to have leisure, to give good things to his children, to enjoy this world's goods. Men have been told to work hard and save their money, and they would become rich. Men have worked hard and tried to save their money; and the majority of them find that hard work does not bring wealth and that it is impossible to save a fortune. The industrial system has developed; the men have to go to factories and into shops to work. They go to the owners of these places and beg for a job. They get a job that gives them a wage that will about cover the cost of living. They find their fellow workers in the same condition; they all work hard and get but a living wage. So they learn to band together for their mutual interest. The union and the Socialist agitation are not maintained by the workmen out of love for other workmen. They are maintained because the workers are realizing that they cannot improve their lot by individual action. The advance of the worker is bound up with the advance of the working class. Hence it is the desire of the worker to improve his condition that makes him embrace Socialism.

When the wages system was little developed, Socialism was impossible. The great majority of the people were against strikes, against the worker freeing himself. But, with the development of capitalist exploitation, the wage workers increased to millions in numbers, and each individual of these millions is coming to realize that his freedom can only come with the freedom of the millions of workers. Hence grows the international Socialist movement. The urge towards Socialism is not based upon the sacrifice of the few unselfish. It is based upon the knowledge of the millions of workers that they can only improve their lot by waging the class war. The selfishness of the individual man united to make the selfishness of the millions, will tend to introduce the commonwealth system of production. There comes up another question. If it is the selfishness of men that will make for Socialism, it is also the selfishness of men that will cause the capitalist class to disrupt the working class by the pur-

chase of its leaders. Socialism will not win, say some critics, because the working class will be disrupted by the gold of the exploiters. The conclusion does not at all follow. It is no doubt true that the capitalists will try their trickery and bribery, but such trickery will not succeed; for the workers will not rely upon leaders to save them—they will save themselves.

Gold and position have been offered and have done their work upon the individual. The National Civic Federation, which pays Gompers and Mitchell \$6,000 a year each to belong to it and help create the spirit of identity of interest, is a case in point, and Burns, accepting a position in the British cabinet, is another. Briand, Millerand and Viviani in France are other examples. Many a bribe to self-seeking labor leaders in the past has been paid by the masters. But the masters cannot afford to bribe the whole working class. The wealth of the masters comes from the robbery of the workers. What bribe can they offer which would make it worth while to the working class to betray itself? The masters have attempted this bribery. They have held out the bait of old-age pensions, work for the unemployed, insurance for the unemployed, etc. But the bribery, spread over so many members of the working class, appears to be pitifully weak.

The day of the bribed leader is passing. The workers are waking. They realize how much they are robbed. They know. Hence when some good talker pretends to stand in with the workers, obtains their votes and then plays crooked, the workers can see through it. That man ceases to have the confidence of the men he has betrayed. Bribery of the few simply causes those few to lose their influence with the workers. Bribery of the many is too costly, unless on such a small scale that the workers laugh in scorn. The enlightened selfishness of the toiling many is causing them to smile in contempt at the appeals to selfishness made by the masters offering small doles. The masters know that the day their effacement is near.—Cotton's.

The Co-operative Commonwealth is coming fast. It is best for all. Help us to speed its arrival.

The Chinamen are joining the labor unions. A groan is going up from the capitalists at this news.

The mechanical milker, traction engine, gang plow and multiple harvester are all at work exterminating the small farmer.

When too many try to ride on the backs of the slaves some are bound to fall off. When one falls off, the neighbors say, "Is n't it too bad that Mr. So-and-so has lost his money."

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M.W. Reive, Manager