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No. 33

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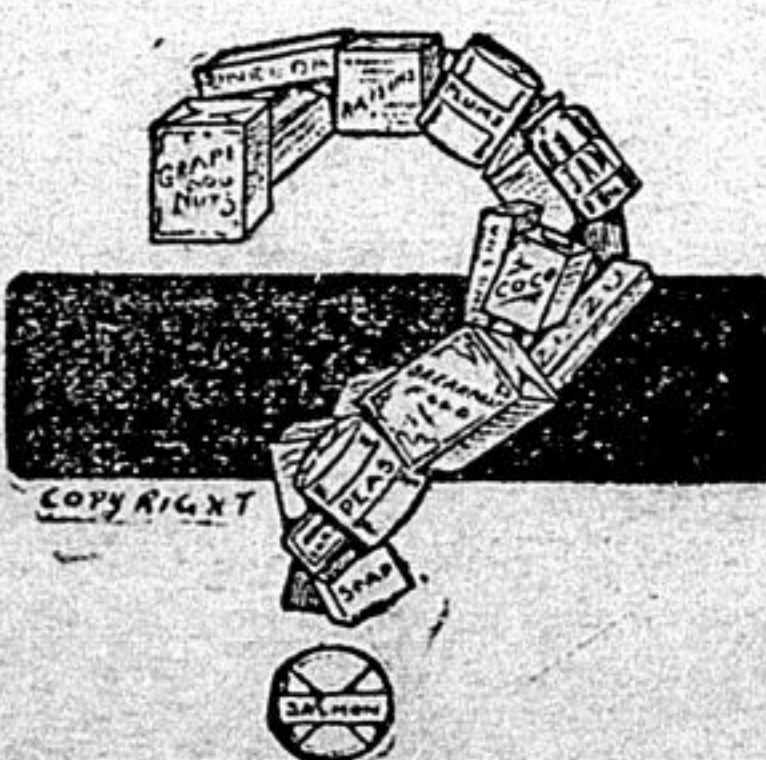
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R. M. Hamilton, Mgr. Fenelon Falls Branch

Preparing For Bread Riots.

In spite of the "cheerful liars," representing the McBride government and those who have something to sell, the fact is that before long we of Vancouver will be facing unemployment and economic problems of a most serious nature.

"Is any preparation being made to meet the conditions of unemployment and financial distress which are daily growing more serious?" I asked of an acquaintance last week.

"Sure there is. Several new regiments are being organized; the Highlanders are on the job, and gun-men and special policemen can be sworn in from the ranks of the unemployed any day; and what other preparations can you expect?"

My friend was quite right. The capitalists who control the powers of state and who own the earth have no other remedy; and as exploiters of labor can have no other remedy than clubs and bayonets to settle the problems of hunger which their ownership of the means of life makes inevitable. It takes force to rule. Through the right of might the manufacturing and commercial classes overthrew the feudal lords and became the rulers. Through fraud and force to-day they wield the sceptre of power; and when the powers of state are taken away from them by the people, their right to rule and rob the workers will end. But the McBride Government and the Liberal party do not even recognize the existence of the unemployed problem in B. C., and yet to-day our saw mills and logging camps are closing down, while the hordes of Asiatics and the dregs of Europe are being dumped into the country by the transportation companies and emigration agents, because it pays.

When my friend spoke of the militia settling bread riots, I thought of "Bloody Sunday" in St. Petersburg, when that wretched band of mothers and fathers, with their famished children, defied the law and marched to the gate of the Czar's palace, to beseech their "Little Father" to give them food that they might not die. The sharp order of the Cossack guards commanded these starving peasants to halt; but they moved on towards the palace and the order "Fire!" came, and these bloodhounds of the Russian aristocracy, who are bred to slay, poured a volley into these outraged slaves. Hundreds of them fell dead or wounded in the streets of St. Petersburg, and were dumped into a trench and forgotten. Considering these things, and the galling guns and bayonets which subdued the strikers last month on Vancouver Island, I can see no difference between the rulers of the past and the present, or between the methods used to feed the hungry peasants

in Russia and those methods which our rulers are to-day preparing for the economic problems of Canada.

The workers must save themselves; we can expect nothing from the corporations or the governments which represent their interests. The world to-day is a vast storehouse of wealth. Why should poverty and unemployment exist, since labor creates all the comforts and luxuries of life? Our masters are few and we are many. What, then, except ignorance of these social problems stands between us and a world of peace and plenty?—W. J. Curry, Vancouver.

Fear, The Despot.

Fear is the grim despot that keeps the masses of the people in bondage. In their childhood they are taught to fear visible and invisible powers; men and beasts and inanimate things, and spooks of various descriptions. This is done in order to make them obey those who bear the responsibility of their education. When they grow older, and more able to judge for themselves, they laugh at many of the things they used to be afraid of; but fear remains, and asserts itself whenever they encounter something strange or unusual, something they do not understand. They still believe that there are things which man has ample reason to be afraid of, and this fear prevents its victims from looking many things straight in the face, and examining them, and trying to acquaint themselves with their real nature.

Fear keeps men in beaten paths, makes them cling to worn-out opinions and look with horror, or at least with suspicion, at others who dare grapple with problems and questions which have been tabooed by custom, belief or authority. Fear makes weaklings and cowards of men, it saps their energies, renders them unfit for any bold initiative, and helpless in case of real danger when courage is the only salvation; in other words, fear is the means to train subjects who need a master to think for them, to direct their activities and relieve them of all responsibility.

The first step to freedom, therefore, is for a man to eradicate fear from his moral being, for it is a noxious weed which poisons the character, paralyzes the will-power and makes a man a mere tool in the hands of a few who understand men and things well enough to know that there is nothing a morally brave man need be afraid of. Progress is not an illusion, but a fact. The working people claim their full share of the blessings of their civilization, and will no longer be put off with the crumbs falling from the tables which they themselves have set. —Buffalo Socialist.

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