

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 10, NO. 133.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1909.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

CANADIAN CAPS IN CLOVER.

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NO sooner was the Swedish General Strike over when a widespread and systematic move got on foot to emigrate—to emigrate anywhere, to Canada, to the United States, to Brazil, anywhere, except to remain at home. From one mining district in the north of the Kingdom not less than 400 miners pulled up stakes, and shook the country's dust off their feet; and information that reaches this office is to the effect that negotiations are going on with Brazil and Canada for a mass migration. No doubt, Canada will get the larger portion; and to that end the Canadian Government is doing its best.

Capitalism can not start well on the race without a large supply of the raw material called labor-power. When the supply is large, large enough to overstock the labor-market, then a series of economic laws are set agoing which steady the capitalist in the saddle—work becomes precarious, wages go down, and the unemployed pressing on the employed bring about the right social temperature for the capitalist master to keep his workers in harness, and thrive proportionally.

In the capitalist countries of Europe the bourgeois found the human raw material ready at hand. Feudality in its decline set the proletariat afloat and drove it into the cities. In the colonies it was otherwise. There, natural opportunities invited the native proletarian to “start independent,” and no capitalism had as yet power to interfere with the independent effort. So long as this state of things existed colonial capitalism languished. Help came from immigration. The foreign proletariat, mostly ignorant even of the country's language, was ideal material for the budding capitalists of young countries. He was helpless in more ways than economic. He was a welcome fly into the spider's net. Thus rose American capitalism and bounded upwards. The capitalist of the United States harvested the proletarian crop raised by the ruling class of Europe generally.

Across the borders, Canadian capital has been struggling hard. The United States drew most immigrants. What with the thinness of the stream of immigration, and the difficulty to produce the domestic proletarian raw material themselves, Canada has been traveling slowly. But Canada's day is coming. Already she has steered many an immigrant caravan into her capitalists' pens; already she has promoted many a European migration to herself. Now comes the Swedish.

Escaping from the frying pan of Sweden's capitalism these workers now will fall into the fiery arms of the Canadian exploiters, who already are licking their chops at the prospect.

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Uploaded December 2010

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