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ABSTRACTS / RÉSUMÉS

Nineteenth-Century Collective Violence: Toward a North American Context

Scott See

THE STUDY of collective violence has generally reinforced national stereotypes that Canada is a "Peaceable Kingdom" and that the United States is extraordinarily violent. This article assesses the historiography of collective violence since the 1960s and offers specific suggestions for further exploration into Canada's riotous experiences. Scholars often assume that Canada's collective violence has been infrequent and less destructive than American episodes. Future research — with a focus on nativism, the social legitimacy of the crowd, religious and ethnic conflict, the entrenchment of powerful state institutions, and vigilantism —might prove otherwise. Regardless, Canadian collective violence will be better understood if it is conceptualized in a North Atlantic context.

L'ÉTUDE des manifestations de violence collective a généralement contribué à renforcer les stéréotypes nationaux selon lesquels le Canada serait un «royaume pacifique» et les États-Unis un pays extrêmement violent. Le présent article jette un regard critique sur l'historiographie de la question depuis les années 1960 et suggère des avenues spécifiques en vue d'une analyse plus approfondie des expériences accumulées par le Canada en matière d'émeutes. Les chercheurs présument souvent que les manifestations de violence collective au Canada ont été rares et moins néfastes que celles survenues aux États-Unis. De plus amples recherches sur le nativisme, sur la légitimité sociale des foules, sur les conflits religieux et ethniques, sur l'avènement de puissantes institutions étatiques, et sur le phénomène des vigies privées, pourraient démontrer le contraire. Les manifestations de violence collective au Canada seront néanmoins mieux comprises lorsqu'elles seront articulées dans un perspective nord-atlantique.

Debunking the Public Health Myth: Municipal Politics and Class Conflict During the Galt, Ontario Waterworks Campaigns, 1888-1890

John S. Hagopian

THIS ARTICLE refutes the assertion that the Galt, Ontario waterworks was built for public health reasons. The two Galt waterworks campaigns (1888 and 1890) are studied in the context of other contemporaneous local events, the most important of which was a moulders' strike in 1889. Popular resistance to businessmen's wants and public support for the striking moulders prompted the formation of a local board of trade and the threat of an industrial exodus from town. The waterworks authorization of 1890 resulted from the victory by buinessmen in this overt class stuggle. The development of Galt's waterworks reflected economic and political interests far more than public health concerns. The findings refut McLaughlin, and illustrate a novel connection between urban politics, infrastructure development, labour rleations, and industrial capitalism.

CET ARTICLE réfute la thèse selon laquelle le système d'aqueduc de la ville de Galt, Ontario, aurait été construit pour des raisons de santé publique. Les deux campagnes entourant la création d'un aqueduc (1888 et 1890) sont étudiées à la lumière de d'autres événements locaux, dont le plus important fut la grève des mouleurs en 1889. La résistance populaire aux demandes des milieux d'affaires et l'appui du public à la grève des mouleurs précipitèrent la formation d'une chambre de commerce et laissa planer la menace d'un exode de capitaux industriels. L'autorisation d'ériger le système d'aqueduc consacrait la victoire des hommes d'affaires dans cet épisode manifeste de lutte de classes. La mise en oeuvre de cet aqueduc était beaucoup plus animée par des intérêts écono-miques et politiques que par des préoccupations de santé publique. Contrairement à McLaughlin, cette recherche met en relief une nouvelle relation entre la politique municipale, le développement des infrastructures, les relations de travail et le capitalisme industriel.

'Ruffled' Mistresses and 'Discontented' Maids: Respectability and the Case of Domestic Service, 1880-1914

Magda Fahmi

DOMESTIC SERVICE was an institution of considerable importance for working-class women and middle-class householders in Canada between 1880 and 1914. Service was instrumental in shaping class relations, in large part becuase it brought the working class directly into the bourgeois home. It was thus an arena where bourgeois and working-class versions of respectability met, and sometimes clashed. Service was essential to the elaboration of a respectable bourgeois life-style, and was considered a stuiable occupation for working women. yet the peculiar restructions of the occupation ensured that domestics would often find the trappings of respectability difficult to maintain. Domestics walked a fine line between 'respectability' and 'deviance'; indeed, in the eyes of many, service was an institution that straddled this line.

LE TRAVAIL domestique était une institution d'une importance considérable pour les femmes de la classe ouvrière et les maîtresses de maison de la classe moyenne au Canada, entre 1880 et 1914. En introduisant directement des individus du monde ouvrier dans les résidences de la bourgeoisie, la domesticité exerça un rôle fondamental dans l'élaboration des rapports de classes au sein la société. Par la force des choses, cette institution devint le théâtre où se rencontraient (et parfois s'affrontaient) les conceptions bourgeoise et ouvrière de la respectabilité. Le travail domestique était essentiel au développement du mode de vie respectable de la bourgeoisie, en plus d'être perçu comme un emploi convenable pour une femme. Compte tenu des restrictions propres à ce genre de travail, les domestiques trouvaient souvent difficile de maintenir les standards de respectabilité. Celles-ci évoluaient sur la ligne étroite de démarcation entre la respectabilité et la déviance; en réalité, le travail domestique était, aux yeux de plusieurs, une institution qui chevauchait cette ligne.

What Kind of Unionism: Struggles Among Syndey Steel Workers in the SWOC Years, 1936-1942

Ron Crawley

IN LATE 1936 steel worker activists in Sydney launched a new organizing drive at the plant under the auspices of the CIO's Steel Workers Organizing Committee (SWOC). This effort drew the support of steel workers in a way that previous organizing attempts had not. However, the militant and self-reliant traditions of the steel workers collided with the cautious strategies and bureaucratic practices of the appointed SWOC leadership in the United States and Canada. As steel workers at Sydney showed great solidarity in their struggle with DOSCO, they also resisted what they saw as undemocratic and highly accommodationist practices by the union's national and international leadership. The struggles within the union embraced the issues of Canadian autonomy and nationalism as well as rank-and-file union control and the democratic rights of union members. It amounted to a struggle over what type of unionism was to be established within the Canadian steel industry.

VERS LA FIN DE 1936, des ouvriers de la sidérurgie lancèrent aux usines de Sydney une nouvelle campagne de syndicalisation sous le patronage du Steel Workers Organizing Committee (SWOC), affilié au CIO. Cette campagne de recrutement s'attira l'appui des travailleurs de la sidérurgie, comme aucune autre auparavant. Toutefois, les traditions de militantisme et d'affirmation des ouvriers se heurtèrent aux stratégies prudentes et aux pratiques bureaucratiques des dirigeants attitrés du SWOC aux Etats-Unis et au Canada. En plus de témoigner d'une grande solidarité durant leur conflit avec la compagnie DOSCO, les ouvriers de Sydney s'opposaient à ce qu'ils percevaient comme des pratiques antidémocratiques et conciliantes de la part de direction nationale et interna-tionale de l'union. Cette lutte intra-syndicale touchait autant à des questions reliées au nationalisme et à l'autonomie des sections canadiennes, qu'à des questions reliées au contrôle hiérarchique des militants de la base et aux droits démocratiques des membres de l'union. Au fil des événements, on en vint même à se demander quel type de syndicalisme était le plus approprié à l'industrie canadienne de la sidérurgie.

'Cowering Women, Combative Men?': Femininity, Masculinity and Ethnicity on Strike in Two Southern Ontario Towns, 1964-1966

Robert A. Ventresca

IN AUGUST 1964, the souther Ontario local 523 of the United Electrical and Radio Machine Workers led some 450 female auto-parts workers onto the picket-line. A year later, the same union local led over 1,200 male steelworkers in a strike against the Steel Company of Canada. In both cases, Italian immigrants joined with their non-Italian co-workers in a show of class solidarity. Italian men framed their decision to strike in terms of a manly duty as the family's decision maker and breadwinner; Italian women assumed the role of aggressive labour militant with relative equanimity, while the more outwardly militant Italian men expressed considerable personal uncertainty and fear even while they engaged in a public display of cross-ethnic class solidary. The paper explores how gender, class and ethnicity interact to influence the dynamics of labour militancy in the two strikes, though it also gives due consideration to the structural factors that helped to determine the outcome of both strikes.

EN AOÛT 1964, le local sud-ontarien 523 des United Electrical and Radio Machine Workers mobilisa environ 450 ouvrières de pièces d'automobiles sur les lignes de piquetage. L'année suivante, cette même section locale fut à l'origine de la grève qui opposait plus de 1200 ouvriers de la sidérurgie à la Steel Company of Canada. Dans les deux cas, les travailleurs immigrants italiens se joignirent à leurs confrères non-italiens dans un élan de solidarité de classe. Les ouvriers italiens formulèrent leur décision de faire la grève en termes de responsabilité masculine, étant donné leur statut de pourvoyeur et de chef de famille; à l'inverse des militants italiens les plus en vue qui exprimaient énormément de craintes et de doutes personnels (et ce, malgré les manifestations publiques de solidarité inter-ethnique), les ouvrières italiennes exerçaient leur rôle de militante acharnée avec une relative sérénité. Cet article examine comment les notions de genre, de classe et d'ethnicité ont interagi pour influencer la dynamique du militantisme ouvrier lors de ces deux grèves; l'exposé porte également une certaine attention aux facteurs structuraux qui ont aidé à determiner l'issue des deux conflits.

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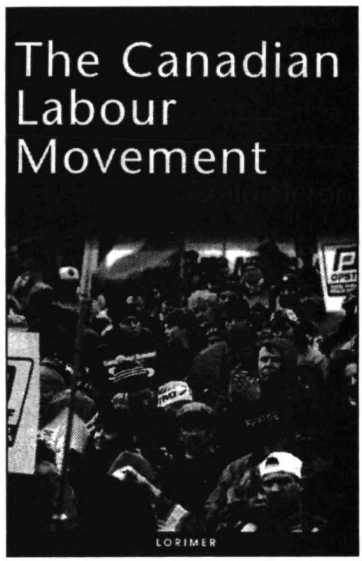

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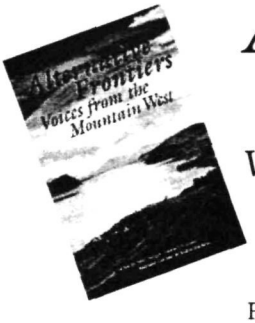

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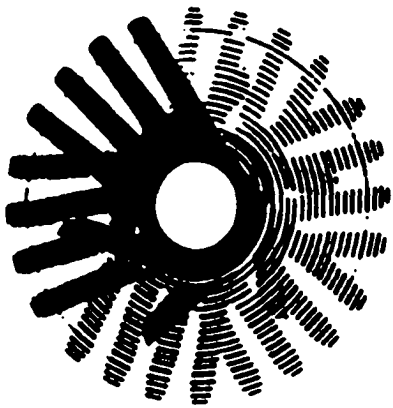

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LABOUR / LE TRAVAIL

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