Abstracts / Résumés

Volume 5, 1980

URI: https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/llt5abs01

Citer cet article
ABSTRACTS/RÉSUMÉS

“Fading Beams of the Nineteenth Century:”
Radicalism and Early Socialism in Canada’s 1890s
Gene Howard Homel

The intensified problems of an increasingly urban and industrial Canada by the late nineteenth century stimulated the development of a significant movement of radical social critics. This article describes and interprets the convictions, supporters, and organizations of Canadian radicalism during the 1890s, encompassing labour leaders, anti-monopolists, single taxers, social gospelers, and the like. The radicals rejected free-market assumptions and, on the basis of their concern for ethical values and for the protection of the productive elements of the community, advocated a radically restructured society based on cooperation and brotherhood. The article explains the rise of socialist ideas against the background of traditional forms of radical protest.

Single Tax, Socialism and the Independent Labour Party of Manitoba:
The Political Ideas of F.J. Dixon and S.J. Farmer
Allen Mills

The Independent Labour Party of Manitoba was established in November 1920, mainly through the efforts of two English immigrants, F.J. Dixon and S.J. Farmer. Dixon was the I.L.P.’s first provincial house leader and Farmer was an I.L.P. M.L.A. from 1922 to 1949, as well as being Mayor of Winnipeg in 1923 and 1924. In their early years in Winnipeg both of them were strong supporters of Henry George’s single tax doctrine and militant anti-socialists. This article has two purposes: first, to analyze the political ideas of Dixon and Farmer, and, secondly, to explore the influence of their Georgeite world view on the outlook of the early I.L.P.
The Incredible Harvest Excursion of 1908

W.J.C. Cherwinski

To satisfy the continuing need for agricultural labour in western Canada, especially at harvest time, the CPR after 1890 ran cheap harvest excursions from Eastern and central Canada each August and September. Accordingly, to insure an adequate supply of workers and potential settlers the railway companies, together with the federal and provincial governments, created an image of the prairies as a land of opportunity offering plentiful jobs at high wages. Owing to a variety of factors, however, unprecedented numbers responded to the 1908 appeal causing unexpected problems for all concerned. Some of those in the Maritime contingent were particularly troublesome as, bored and thirsty, they went on a rampage which touched most of the communities on the Main Line from Chalk River to Winnipeg. Once in the West distribution problems plagued all the excursionists with the result that places like Winnipeg, Moose Jaw, and Regina had too many harvesters on hand, while other places faced shortages. Consequently, numerous men wandered about aimlessly looking for work and often were forced to accept alternate employment at substantially less money than they had expected. The result was that the image of the West as capable of satisfying all those who went there in search of work was temporarily tarnished.
Maritimes en particulier, affamé et assoiffé, sema du désordre dans la plupart des localités le long de la voie allant de Chalk River à Winnipeg. Une fois rendus à destination, ces voyageurs rencontrèrent des problèmes de répartition de la main d'œuvre si bien que des villes comme Winnipeg, Moose Jaw et Regina eurent une surabondance de travailleurs tandis que d'autres localités souffrirent de pénurie. En conséquence, de nombreux travailleurs passèrent beaucoup de temps à chercher un emploi et furent souvent réduits à travailler pour un salaire moindre qu'ils espéraient. Il en résultait que l'image qu'on se faisait de l'Ouest comme une terre prometteuse de travail fut temporairement ternie.

Minto, New Brunswick:
A Study in Canadian Class Relations
Between the Wars

Allen Seager

IN AND AROUND the site of the town of Minto lie New Brunswick's only major coal deposits. From the Laurier period to World War II the district experienced a process of industrial development, accompanied by the emergence of a working-class community, dominated at the time of World War I by immigrant mine labour, later, by native-born workers drawn into the industry from the surrounding rural areas. Like colliers in Nova Scotia or the western regions, Minto's workers sought relief from the worst abuses of industrial-capitalist development through trade union organization. This met with fierce resistance from the employers, resulting in major coal strikes in 1920, 1926, 1934, and 1937-38. In Minto, however, a specifically political response, easily observable in other coal-mining regions was largely lacking. Radicalism in particular was weak, the political activity of Minto's workers being mainly confined to attempts to influence the policies and practices of the existing authorities. The paper attempts an explanation of the particular characteristics of Minto's working-class movement through reference to the interaction of local factors of culture and structure, and the evolution of the complex relationships between labour, business, and the state.

AUTOUR DE LA ville de Minto se trouve le seul gisement de charbon du Nouveau Brunswick. De la période Laurier à la Seconde guerre mondiale, ce district minier s'est développé et a vu l'émergence d'une classe ouvrière formée pendant la Première guerre d'immigrants, et plus tard, de travailleurs originaires de la région rurale environnante. Comme les mineurs de Nouvelle-Écosse et de l'Ouest, les travailleurs de Minto ont cherché dans le syndicalisme le moyen de se protéger contre les abus du développement industriel capitaliste. Dans leur tentative d'organisation, les mineurs ont fait face à l'opposition
Subordination of Labour in Canadian Mining

Wallace Clement

CLASS RELATIONS in Canadian mining are explored as changes occur first as a result of the formal subordination of labour through capitalist penetration of petty commodity production then through the real subordination of labour within capitalism. It is argued that the once autonomous position of craftsmen and tradesmen in the surface and underground operations of hardrock mines are being subjected to de-skilling as capital uses technology and the division of labour to maximize its control. Parallel with the mechanization of mines and the automation of surface operations is the introduction of "people technology" in the form of modular training schemes, also designed to maximize capital's control and ease its ability to replace workers.

L'AUTEUR pense que les rapports de classe dans l'industrie minière canadienne se sont modifiés d'abord lorsque les travailleurs ont été soumis au mode de production capitaliste des petits producteurs, puis lorsqu'ils ont été asservis au véritable capitalisme. Il soutient que les ouvriers qualifiés en surface et sous terre perdent leur autonomie et leur spécialisation lorsque le capital emploie la technologie et la division du travail pour maximiser son contrôle des travailleurs. Parallèlement à la mécanisation des mines et à l'automation des opérations de surface, les entreprises minières ont introduit un plan modulaire de formation, le "people technology," destiné à maximiser le contrôle du capital et à faciliter le remplacement des travailleurs.
NEW from New Hogtown Press...

PIONEER AND GENTLEWOMEN OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA, 1713-1867

*edited by Beth Light and Alison Prentice*

This collection of documents is the first in a four-volume series in Canadian women’s history. The editors have chosen a wide variety of documents to illustrate the condition and concerns of women from childhood to old age, in private life and in public, during the years of Canadian colonial history. They have also prepared thoughtful and lucid notes that provide both a context for the documents and an introduction to the major issues in the study of women’s history in this country. Subsequent volumes will offer documentary material dealing with the history of women of Acadia and New France, and women in the post-Confederation period.

*Available in September 1980*

Forthcoming...

THE MAKING OF E. P. THOMPSON: Marxism, Humanism, and History

*by Bryan D. Palmer*

In this insightful and clearly argued work, Bryan Palmer provides a picture of E. P. Thompson that adds much-needed depth to the current discussion of his work. Palmer traces the evolution of Thompson’s political position, discusses the genesis and development of his work as a social historian, and examines the debate—both political and intellectual—that surrounds his contribution to the field. This thoughtful assessment of Thompson brings his work more clearly into focus and raises essential questions about the relationship between scholarship and political action.

*Available in January 1981*

NEW HOGTOWN PRESS
12 Hart House Circle
University of Toronto
Toronto, Canada M5S 1A1