Local News.

A special meeting of the Builders Laborers Union was held on Tuesday evening at which Messrs A Roberts, H Potter and G T. Beales were elected delegates and Charles Champman and M Donovan alternates to the Congress of the International Laborers' Union to be held at Bridgeport, Conn, on the first Tuesday in February

The Nationalist Club at the regular meeting on Tuesday evening commenced the study of "The Politics of Labor," by Phillips Thompson, the first chapter being read by the author and discussed. On the 27th there will be an open meeting for which an interesting programme will be provided by the entertainment committee including a paper or address on Nationalism. There should be a large attendance.

Bricklayers' Union No. 2, of Ontario, has elected the following officers.—President, Bro. J. C. Lucas; Vice-President, Andy Shand; Recording Secretary, T. Izzard; Financial Secretary, F. Hawkey; Corresponding Secretary, I. J. Marsh; Treasurer, E. Wickham; Inside Guard, C. Davis; Outside Guard, D. Mowat; Conductor, W. Brown; Trustees, J. Spencer, T. Turner, R. Johnston; Delegates to Convention, J. Lucas, I. J. Marsh, A. McCormack.

Great interest is being taken in the approaching visit to this city of Rev. Father Huntington, of the Order of the Holy Cross, New York. He will preach on Sunday morning next at the church of St. Matthias, Bellwoods Avenue, and in the afternoon and evening at St. Margaret's church, Spadina Avenue. On the evening of Tuesday, the 20th inst. he will lecture in the Auditorium on "The Religious Phase of the Single Tax." The general admission is free, but a few seats are reserved at 25 cents. Every Labor Reformer should make a point of hearing him

On Friday last Mr. Martin Fox, President of the International Iron Moulders' Union, had an interview with Mr. Edward Gurney, of the firm of E. & C. Gurney, with the object of bringing about, if possible, a reconciliation between the firm and the men who went out on strike nearly a year ago. A long conference was held during which the causes that led to the strike were fully talked over. It may be remembered that the Union took exception to the employment of moulders' helpers at laborers wages—claiming that the object of introducing them was to get them instructed in the trade so that the firm would in the end, be able to substitute for the Union moulders a class of cheap and poorly skilled workmen. On this issue the men went out. Mr. Gurney in his interview with Mr. Fox claimed to have all the workmen he required and to be satisfied with the quality and quantity of goods turned out. He said that the old employees were free to come back so far as he had work for them, but that he would not dismiss any of the men he had taken on during the strike, to make room for them. The conference, therefore, terminated without leading to any practical result

At the regular weekly meeting of the Single Tax Association, held at Richmond Hall last Friday evening, President Wood in the chair, the secretary reported several contributions in aid of the proposed monthly periodical, acting forth the principles of the Association. The principal feature of the evening was an impromptu discussion upon the question "What is property?" in which Messrs. Armstrong, Corson, Bengough, Best, Lyon, Jones and Scott took part. The concensus of opinion was in favor of the view that production was the only true basis of property, that every man had an equal right to access to natural opportunities, and that the value given to land by the influx of population rightly belonged to the public and should be taken by taxation for public uses. An article on Father Huntington was read by Mr. Sam Jones, who was followed by Mr. Richard Lewis in a speech expressing enthusiastic commendation of those progressive and philanthropic churchmen such as Fathers Huntington and McGlynn and Cardinal Manning, who endeavored to secure justice for the poor.

—On the evening of Friday the 16th, Mr. Samuel Jones, assisted by some of his friends, will give an entertainment entitled "An Evening with Tom Hood," comprising readings, recitations and crayon sketches.

The attendance upon the Sunday afternoon Labor lecture delivered in Central Labor Hall, Yonge Street, is improving. Last Sunday Mr. A. F. Jury was the speaker, his subject being "Individualism and Socialism" The chair was taken by Mr George T. Beales Mr Jury showed that as society was now constituted we have neither pure Individualism nor Socialism, but a mixture of the two which gave us many of the worst features of both What admixture of Socialism there was in the system was introduced in favor of the wealthy and professional classes They had hedged themselves round with special legislation and all sorts of restrictions in order to prevent competition so far as they were concerned, while professing to believe that competition was an excellent thing for the laboring masses. The professions were all carefully guarded against the intrusion of cheap and unskilled labor, but the same people who, as doctors, lawyers, chemists or dentists, invoked the power of the law to protect themselves against competition, held that the artizan and laborer had no right to like protection. By Dominion legislation the manufacturers were protected by a duty averaging thirty-five per cent. against foreign competition—but the same Government had, in the last eleven years, spent some three million dollars of the people's money in importing immigrants to compete in the labor market. He compared the underlying principles of Socialism and Individualism, and while admitting that Socialism was the more humane and the more ideal system, held that society at present being strongly egoistic was not fit for a condition based on altruism. The people were as yet too selfish for Socialism. Labor Reformers should try and find some common standing ground for opposing existing inequalities. Either Individualism should be pushed to its logical conclusions and all class privileges and restrictions on competition done away with—or every class should be entitled to claim protection against competition.

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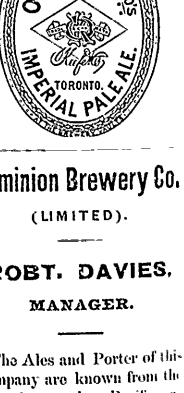

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