

# THE ECHO.

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## MEETINGS.

### CENTRAL TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL OF MONTREAL.

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Meets in the Ville-Marie Hall, 1623 Notre Dame street, the first and third Thursdays of the month. Communications to be addressed to P. C. CHATEL, Corresponding Secretary 127½ St. Lawrence street.

**RIVER FRONT ASSEMBLY,**  
No. 7628,  
Rooms, K. of L. Hall, 662½ Craig street. Next meeting Sunday, July 31, at 7.30. Address all correspondence to  
JAS. O'BRIEN, Rec. Sec.,  
73 Prince Street.

**DOMINION ASSEMBLY,**  
No. 2436 K. of L.  
Meets every Friday evening at Eight o'clock in the K. of L. Hall, 662½ Craig street. Address all communications to  
P. A. DUFFY, R.S.,  
No. 10 Brunswick street.

**PROGRESS ASSEMBLY,**  
No. 3862, K. of L.  
Meets every First and Third Tuesday at Lomas' Hall, Point St. Charles.

**BLACK DIAMOND ASSEMBLY**  
1711, K. of L.

Meets next Sunday, in the K. of L. Hall, 662½ Craig street, at 7 o'clock.  
Address all communications to  
WM. ROBINSON,  
15 Rivard Lane.

**PLUMBERS' & STEAMFITTERS  
UNION OF MONTREAL.**  
Meets 223 McGill street every fourth Friday. Next meeting Aug. 5th.  
WM. McCLEAVE, 73½ St. Phillip st.,  
Secretary.

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## TORONTO NOTES.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

TORONTO, July 28, 1892.

Away back in the sixties when I was but a stripling and in my apprenticeship, imbibing my first ideas of unionism from my then ideal of a sound and true trade-unionist (now a non-unionist and rat in this very city, strange as it may appear) and when I began to give utterance to my views on the subject many were the jibes and jeers I had to encounter. I was sensitive then, as now, and ever retained a warm corner in my heart for those who were generous enough to accord me a kind of recognition of whatever there appeared to be good either in my views or in my personal character. When I grow so old in years as not to treat the young people of to-day in like manner I will realize that I have outlived my time.

When the Dominion T. & L. Congress met in the city of Ottawa British Columbia was represented by three representatives. They were all good men. One of them was quite young; he did not have much to say "on the floor," but those who talked with him "on the quiet" could not nor did they fail to note that he was a sound reasoner and in due time would make his mark. He was from Vancouver and his name was George Bartley. Time has flown and in an issue of the Daily World of Vancouver of the 11th instant I find the same Mr. Bartley, as the retiring President of the T. & L. Council of that time, delivering himself as follows:—

As retiring president I believe this occasion apropos to make a few general remarks to the delegates and members of the Council. You have only to refer to the stereotyped preambles you read on front pages of the constitutions of the various labor unions to remind you what you are here tonight for. A preamble gives the organization tone. Union means concord, coalition, confederacy. This body occupies a unique position. Though a combine of labor unions, and an institution of workmen for workmen it is legislative in its tendencies. Such was impossible one hundred years ago; likely a century hence no such institution will be necessary. The labor problem only needs to be solved once. Organized labor, both here and in other parts of the enlightened world, has reached a point from which it wields an influence over public affairs at once deep and wide. During the last few years it has been sowing strange seeds with a lavish hand, and probably no class is more surprised than the working class itself to find how thoroughly the ground was prepared for such a seed-sowing. Time is too short to tell the mere methods of the sowing. No doubt many have been shocked by this bold and sometimes terrific outburst of labor organization; but after the shock has always come serious and calm questioning. Those who set men to ask questions, to enquire, and help men to think freely, do the man, the state, as well as the age, good service. Organized labor aims to do all these. It has sent employer and employee back to a more careful and diligent study of one another's interests. It has spoken after such a fashion that statesmen have been compelled to reconsider the foundations of their legislative theories. Above all, organized labor has taught millions of people to think for themselves. Organized labor itself, and its principles or policy, are entirely separable. No wise criticism of unions could proceed unless this fact was kept in view. We are prone to judge much by the amount of gilding on the organ pipes, and too apt to forget that gold is gold whether in a prince or pauper's pocket. The rub is not whether organized labor is right or wrong, but whether its policy is either the one or the other. If we are prudent we shall judge the words spoken rather than the speaker. A vast number decay labor organizations as unlawful institutions, designing upon unsuspecting and peaceable citizens. These people would prove themselves wiser, it would be bolder, and it would give a slight guarantee for honesty, if they left the organization itself severely alone and addressed themselves seriously to the grave questions at issue. Organized labor is criticized most bitterly by those who never belonged to a union and who have never carefully read a page of any published work thereon, and as is always the case in such circumstances the most absurd and exaggerated statements of what organized labor never was guilty of have become current, and thereby the union has become trans-

formed into a veritable inferno, where all manner of evil is hatched. But this is nothing new, this one of the many tolls that every man must be willing to pay who marches on the grand highway of freedom. The very large number of subjects dealt with at this council often convinces a casual observer that delegates could not, in so short a time, understand their full importance and consequences. But these subjects have been threshed out first by the local unions. While opinions may differ widely as to the wisdom of such bodies to compass such wide platforms, none will deny their general excellence and perseverance, and that, too, often under very adverse circumstances, when the opposing forces are considered. The actions of this council deserve careful study, and if it be true that "out of the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh," we may judge from what sort of heart-fountain these streams have flowed. One purpose steadily kept in view in the deliberations and endeavors of this body has been to hold the balance fairly between employer and employee; to be independent in politics, perhaps neutral, for the labor problem can only be solved at the ballot-box; and to present to the lawmakers of the land a thoroughly representative consensus of their opinions and beliefs on behalf of organized workmen. Labor unions are only human and occasionally make mistakes as do all other organizations. During the closing term some of our chief acts have been to adopt a labor platform for the last municipal election and the election of a workmen's candidate as alderman; to criticize through the parliamentary committee Canada's national trade policy regarding the supplies of labor in various avocations; to prevent a reversion from the nine-hour day to the ten-hour system (this matter also requires your attention); to adopt numerous petitions re Chinese, on which question the voice of the working class is unanimous.

The work of organization should continue till the time shall have come which the poet, Burns, sings of:—

"When man to man the world o'er  
Shall brethren be for a' that."

Now it seems a matter of no moment that active members should be dubbed agitators. The general sense in which this word is used is a gross misrepresentation of its accurate meaning. Agitator ought not to be applied to any man who is loyal to his mind, whether that mind summers in the light of steadfast belief or wanders through the mazy fields of doubt. What constitutes an agitator? A true union man—a friend to the poor and oppressed—is above all things an apostle of freedom everywhere, for nations, for communities and for men.

I think Ottawa did wisely in recently electing Mr. Alexander Macdonald as its president. As time will show, Mr. Macdonald is the right man in the right place in this instance.

The work of changing the rails and roadway of our present street railway to those necessary for electric cars is being pushed forward, and numbers of men are thereby finding employment. It is alleged that many more could be employed with advantage to the city's interest and convenience, but I am not prepared to vouch for the correctness or otherwise of this assertion.

Some time ago the street car employees determined on having an excursion on a Sunday, and wrote to the Mayor asking the liberty to do so from the City Council. To this His Worship replied as follows:—"In view of the city-by-law governing the running of boats the Council is not likely to interfere with your proposed excursion, but I am informed that any private individual may object to it, as it will be clearly against the law to have an excursion upon a Sunday. If you conclude to have the excursion as proposed, and should decide to sell tickets to any but the actual employees of the company, you will leave your organization open to the most unfavorable criticism. In the interest of your men I trust you will give the proposition the fullest consideration, and satisfy yourselves that the holding of an excursion upon a Sunday will not be used against them in the future to their great disadvantage. In the event of your excursion causing the hands upon the boat to work upon Sunday for the purpose of contributing to your enjoyment, how far can the street railway men reasonably object to work on Sunday for the purpose of providing those who desire it necessary street car accommodation?"

The Globe recently said that considerable interest is being manifested in the attempt

of some members of the Council to defeat the Employers' Liability Act by having the outdoor city employees insured against accident in some of the accident companies. The proposal is that the city pay about \$400 per year as premiums to the company taking the risks, then if any accident happens to a workman the company carrying the risk will pay the claim or resist it, as may seem advisable. The result of this scheme will be that a workman who is justly claiming compensation for injuries may have to fight the corporation and the insurance companies. The workmen generally are very hostile to the proposal, and at the Council meeting on Tuesday night succeeded in sending the scheme back for further enquiry by a quiet canvass of the aldermen.

Thanks to the backbone of Architect Lennox, seconded by His Worship Mayor Fleming, court house contractor Neelon has had to unconditionally back down from his defiant attitude towards the city and its interests. He has been obliged to agree to remove from the walls the New Brunswick stone condemned because of clay faults. He will in future employ as many men as the architect may see fit to direct. In return for these concessions, which constitute a complete backdown from his former position, Mr. Neelon will get a considerable extension of time in which to finish the work, now about two and one-half years behind in its progress. All questions as to extras are to be left for settlement till the work is completed. The compromise has been arrived at by reason of the production of an affidavit by Mr. Lennox, the architect, which placed the matter so clearly, and so conclusively showed that the contractor had been taking up an indefensible position, that it was regarded as useless to persevere with the suit. The settlement was hailed with great satisfaction at the City Hall. Of course the T. and L. Council had nothing to do with this. Oh, no.

I read in a city newspaper that a peculiar feature of the eastward march of the small pox is the fact that the Chinese are the first victims of the disease. In British Columbia these people were the first to show symptoms of small pox, and again in Calgary it is in the house of a Chinaman that the case is reported. The fact that the place was a laundry would do much to spread the infection. It may be possible to attach slight importance to the cheap labor the Chinese put upon the market, but their tendency to spread filthy diseases is becoming so dangerous to society as to require consideration. Possibly compulsory cleanliness might result in a more formidable Chinese wall than anything yet projected.

On the 25th instant His Worship received a letter from Architect Lennox, in which the latter says in concluding: "I wish to thank yourself and the Property Committee for non-interference between the contractors and myself, and at the same time throwing the whole responsibility on me to act as I saw best in the interests of all concerned. I cannot do less than acknowledge the able assistance which I received from time to time from both Mr. Biggar and Mr. Mowat, city solicitors. In my interviews with them they have always shown a disposition to assist, and have a clear conception of the contract and the city's interest therein.

Yesterday the long dispute between architect and contractors on the question of allowing Mr. Pigott of Hamilton to associate himself with Mr. Neelon in the court house contract, an arrangement to which Mr. Lennox, the architect, strenuously objected, has ended, and Mr. Pigott leaves in a week with the understanding that he will not return. Moreover, Mr. Lennox has stipulated that no new partner shall come into the business without his consent. Nearly all the stone has been taken out of the foundation that the architect objected to.

URIM.

## The Printers' Picnic.

The printers hold their fifth annual excursion and games at Otterburn Park, Saturday next, the 6th of August. The committee have left no stone unturned to ensure a complete success. There will be a first-class programme of games and a good orchestra for dancing. Those who enjoy boating or fishing can have all the sport they want. A drive to the lake on the top of Beloeil mountain. Everything will be done by those in charge to make the outing a pleasant one. So, if you want fresh air, good music and lots of fun go to Otterburn with the Typos next Saturday.

## A MONTREAL MYSTERY.

Something About a Gastronomic Artist—The Famous Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Recalled.

To the Editor of THE ECHO.

SIR,—It may interest your readers to hear of the methods of a gentleman who is the despair and dread of Montreal's many restaurant keepers. The famous case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, the latter very thin, the former very corpulent, is recalled. This person appears upon the scene of his labor every morning, as the thin Mr. Hyde, looking extremely dilapidated. He is limp as a rag and as thin as a two-inch board, in fact resembling nothing more than a thick scantling. Hour by hour he grows less and less until, at eleven o'clock, all that represents the person is a shadow of the consistency of a half-inch bamboo rod. From this object proceed the most bloodthirsty remarks, on account of which he is known from one end of the city to the other as "the hungry man of Biteville." The transformation scene occurs promptly at 12 m. each day. Assisted by several friends, he staggers to an eating house and proceeds to tuck away, absorb, and otherwise wrap himself around all the flora and fauna placed before him, often making inroads on the portions allotted to his aforesaid friends.

Mark well the scene. The proprietor of the house looks on aghast. The friends whom he has intimidated into accompanying him shudder in their seats, and urge him to have some more pickles. Prayers, threats, and entreaties alike, are useless. He snorts: "Let the good work go on," and the work, such as it is, goes on. When satisfied, which is not for a long and extended period, the individual arises, in the roll of Dr. Jekyll, more long and extended than the bounds of credence will permit any but the actual observer to believe. Were it not for the presence of his companions who have hard work carrying him back, he would not be recognized on reappearing in the workroom. It is rumored that the individual takes but one meal per diem, and lies awake at night chucking over the fact, as expressed in his own crude speech: "Won't I just paralyze them victuals on the morrow!" This freak of unnatural history is still at large, and to warn a too sympathetic public is the wish of

PRO BONO PUB.

## LABOR DAY NOTES.

At a meeting held last Wednesday the Maple Leaf Assembly decided to turn out in full strength on Labor Day.

The celebrated Harmony Band will head the Trades and Labor Council on Labor Day.

A large number of allegorical cars are in process of construction for the procession this year, and it is anticipated that the parade will be one of the largest and finest ever witnessed in this city.

About forty organizations have already signified their intention of taking part in the great parade.

The organization committee are meeting with great encouragement in their appeal to merchants and others for suitable prizes for the games to be held on Labor Day. The official programme is under weigh and the prizes offered for the various events should ensure the keenest competition.

## THE LATE JEREMIAH BASSETT.

The following communication speaks for itself:—

To the Editor of THE ECHO.

In behalf of my father and mother I beg to return my sincere and heartfelt thanks for the many acts of kindness and sympathy shown to my brother, Jeremiah W. Bassett, jr., whose death occurred on July 21st, 1892. As it is impossible to single out the individual cases of sympathy, I trust that this card will be accepted as intended to reach all and everyone who, by their kindness to the dead, done much to lessen the burden of grief which fell so sadly on his living relatives. Yours most gratefully,  
THOMAS J. BASSETT.

Portland, July 25, 1892.

River Front Local Assembly 7628, K. of L., has draped their charter for one month out of respect for the death of their late Brother, Jeremiah Bassett, who was killed while working on the Allan Line boats, and also forwarded a letter heartily sympathizing with his relatives and friends for their irreparable loss.