LABOR'S LEGISLATURE.

[illegible] MEETING OF THE [illegible] AND LABOR COUNCIL.

Legislative Committee's Report Referred Back Street Railway Scandal Direct Labor Representation Some Keen Discussions.

[illegible] regular bi-monthly meeting of the Trades and Labor Council took place in the Council Chamber, last night, the President, Mr. [illegible] Hall, Yonge street, President, in the chair.

There will among delegates were adopted the report of the Committee on [illegible] by Messrs. J. H. Gallagher and D. J. O'Donoghue from L. A. 2365 K. of L. and William Beattie from the Cabinet and Plate Makers Union.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE—REPORT.

Delegate Banton read the report of the Legislative Committee, as follows:—

His committee met for the first time on Monday, July 20th, and organized. Mr. T. W. Banton, 164 Christie street, was appointed chairman and Arnot Hepburn, 51 Homewood avenue, secretary. The Committee's plan of work was then arranged.

As it was found incumbent to meet on Thursday evening, and the committee room in this building being in use on all other nights, a meeting place had to be secured and Labor Hall, on southeast corner of Farley avenue, off Bathurst, was decided upon as most suitable. This committee will therefore meet there every Wednesday evening at eight o'clock.

In presenting the our first report, we would call your attention to the dearth of any legislation in the line of labor reform during the present session of the Dominion legislature. The work of the House of Commons seems chiefly to have been the passing of a few subsidized railway bills, and doing some private detective work in unearthing scandals, while the Senate have enjoyed themselves with some spicy divorce cases.

This lack of labor legislation, we we think, very largely due to the apathy of the workers themselves. As a writer in the *Workman's Times* of July 10th, puts it. He says, "I take it that the Labor party are absolutely careless who shall win a seat if their candidate does not. They are not concerned for the success or failure of either Conservatives or Liberals. Neither of them hold their principles. Both of them profess to do, but neither of them do, and neither of themcan. Many are deluded by the parrot cry of party. Liberal and Tory alike cry it from the housetops, that they are the friends of the workingman; and, strange to say, a great many workingmen believe them. They are unable to see through the imposture." In this connection, your Committee would call the attention of this Council to the action of the workingmen in New South Wales, Australia, where the Labor party have made tremendous progress in the fight for representation at their parliament.

Thirty six of their men have been returned at the head of the poll in their respective districts. Thus, as a writer on the subject says, "The old world's spirit and the new world's opportunities are in the direction of what Labor men all the world over are hoping for." Thirty-six members in a strong party and out of a house of 134. They will not be held their own, but will also hold the balance of power. This is as it should be here also.

We would also bring to your notice the following resolution, passed by the Trades and Labor Council, Grimsby, England. They are taking steps for the next November election of town councillors, and have formed an election committee to go into the business at once, and the following resolution was passed, proposed by Mr Stubbins:—"That the secretary of this Council write to the secretaries of all branches of trades and labor unions of this town affiliated on this Trade and Labor Council, advising them to nominate one member to stand as a candidate for the next November election of town councillors, and to subscribe £2 for his election expenses, the names of the nominees to be sent to the secretary of this Council not later than the next Council meeting for selection."

Your Committee are also pleased to notice the action taken by the Social Reform committee in regard to the abolition of the property qualification for the position of alderman.

Your Committee are pleased to notice the general attention that is being given to the immigration of criminal and otherwise unfit classes to these shores. Our attention having been called to the latest development of criminal immigration to Canada, we will make enquiries as to the truth of the rumors, and will continue to watch the interests of labor in this regard.

We wish also to impress on all organized labor the necessity of seeing that their names are on the voters' lists for both Dominion and Municipality. The time for registration has been extended to August 14th.

Your Committee have been credibly informed that the parties who are advertising for laborers for the North-West are wilfully misleading the public. The wages as advertised are $2.25 per day. On investigation we find that $1.25 would be nearer the truth. We caution all parties interested to make careful enquiries.

T. W. BANTON *Chairman.*

Delegate Worr, in moving the adoption of the report, said that he hoped Canada would shortly follow the example of New South Wales in electing labor candidates. Toronto labor reformers could elect their own men to parliament if they would only lay aside party politics.

Delegate Banton drew attention to the misrepresentations in regard to wages paid to laborers in the North-West.

Delegate Walsh [illegible] part of the report [illegible] Council [illegible] the Legislature [illegible] which was referred back to the committee.

The President announced the death of Tom Wallace, a member of the Carpenters Union, whose funeral would take place on Saturday.

Delegate O'Donoghue [illegible] the action of the Legislature [illegible] which was referred back to the committee.

STREET RAILWAY SCANDAL.

There were no reports from the Municipal Educational Committee.

Delegate Banton moved the suspension of the rules to allow of the introduction of a resolution on the street railway question. The motion was carried.

Delegate Banton moved, seconded by Delegate L. W. Davey, that in the opinion of this Council, there is sufficient evidence to warrant the fullest and most searching investigation into the alleged corrupt practices in the matter of the street railway franchise. And that we strongly urge upon the Mayor to refuse to sign any contract, until such an investigation has been held. And further that in the opinion of this Council civic control is not a dead, and that the present attitude of the *News* is an insult to the intelligence of organized labor, and merits the severest condemnation. Delegate Banton, in moving the resolution severely condemned the course of the *News*. That paper had the impudence to claim that they were the first to urge civic control when rear, they merely took it up because they saw the question was popular. For some reason or other they had experienced a sudden change of opinion and now were anxious to hand the road over to the syndicate as quickly as possible. The action of the aldermen in wishing to hurry the thing through was enough to excite suspicion. The city would do well to retain control of the road for some time at least.

Delegate Worr believed that the Mayor was on the side of the working class and should be sustained by the Council. Workingmen were to blame for electing men to the city council who betrayed them.

Delegate O Donoghue took exception to the portion of the resolution condemning the *News*. He moved an amendment to expunge the latter part of the motion.

Delegate R. Glocking seconded the amendment.

Delegate Banton thought they had a right to speak plainly to the editors and let them know what they thought.

Delegate Burnill said that the cause of labor owed nothing to the press, any help they gave to the labor movement was because it paid them to do so.

Delegate Benson thought that the very existence of this council was due to the press. They had often been helped in strikes by the newspapers.

Delegate Davey said they had given the *News* credit when they deserved it and they should not hesitate to censure it when it betrayed them.

Delegate R. Glocking considered it an unwise policy to undertake the censorship of the *News*.

Delegate Beales said that in the past the *News* had been a good friend of labor.

Delegate Armstrong said the *News* had been true to labor up to a certain period, whereas other papers had not been true to them at all.

The clause condemning the *News* was withdrawn by the mover, and the resolution, as thus amended, carried unanimously.

DIRECT LABOR REPRESENTATION

Delegate Banton moved—"That in the opinion of the Council it is desirable and necessary, in order that labor shall be fairly heard in matters of legislation, that direct labor representatives shall be run in the next municipal elections, and that the delegates of this Council to the Joint-Social Reform Committee be instructed to co-operate with that body in this direction."

Delegate Banton spoke in favor of the resolution, alluding to what had already been done in England and Australia in this direction.

Delegate Dower asked for further information as regards the plan proposed.

Delegate Gilmour thought the matter should be referred to the bodies they represented.

Delegate Burnill thought there could be as much done by keeping track of the aldermen as by running separate candidates. He did not think it was the intention of the Committee to commit them to any definite method. He moved in amendment—"That it be an instruction to the delegates to the Social Reform Committee to support in favor of an organization for political action in municipal politics."

Delegate Cribben seconded the amendment.

Delegate O'Donoghue did not want the Council to be a donkey-engine to any other institution. The subordinate bodies should pass upon the matter. He opposed the idea of nominating outsiders who made loud professions of sympathy with labor, but had never shown themselves ready to make sacrifices for the cause. He moved, seconded by Delegate Bower, an amendment:—"The effect that the resolution lie on the table till the first meeting in November, and that in the meantime the Secretary obtain information as to the investigations the various societies represented in the Joint-Social Reform Committee.

Delegate Banton said Delegate O Donoghue's amendment tended to revive the old sectional spirit and prevent common action by those who favored Social Reform.

Several other speakers followed, and a somewhat warm discussion was suddenly brought to a close, before any action had been taken, by the President declaring the meeting adjourned.

THE great telescope of Lord Rosse has a speculum six feet in diameter, fifty five feet focus.

ON the summit of Ben Lomond may be seen the smallest tree that grows in Great Britain, it is known as the dwarf willow, and is, when mature, only about two inches in height.

POETRY

DIVES AND LAZARUS.

Dives was a man of Dives who lived in Palestine
A man whose wealth was so great it defied superlative
His tables groaned with fruit, wine by gallons, oil
Now, who dressed in purple and fine linen
Another man named Lazarus, homeless and sick and poor
In hopes to be the richer man, [illegible] at the rich man's door.
He heard the sounds of mirth within but not a friend had he.
Except the dogs who licked his sores in silent sympathy.

You'll think it strange that such a thing
Could happ'n here in Toronto
But this was in a far-off land—a long long while ago

Now Dives daily feasted, and was gorgeously arrayed
Not at all because he liked it but because it was good for trade;
That the people might have envied he dabbled himself in silk
And surfeited himself on cream that they might get the milk.
He fed the hundred servants that the poor might not lack bread,
And had his vessels made of gold that they might get more lead
And so to show his sympathy with the deserving poor,
He did no useful work himself that they might do the more.

You'll think this very, very strange, but then, of course, you know,
Twas in a far off country—and a long, long while ago

Poor Lazarus at length became too weak with ailments to survive—
He evidently was not one of the fittest to survive
So on one frosty night, about a quarter past eleven,
He looked up at the silent stars, and died and went to heaven
Now Dives too was waxing old and presently fell ill,
Whereon a lawyer was called in to make a mighty will;
And when Dives' sons and daughters came to hear his last farewell
He bade them follow in his steps, then died—and went to hell!

I don't think God would treat now to treat a rich man so,
But this was such a long way off—and so very long ago!

—*London Justice.*

TRUSTS AND COMBINATIONS.

MR. WALLACE'S anti-combines bill has been [illegible] and passed in the Dominion House of Commons.

THE officials of the National Lead Trust announce that they have decided to reorganize as a corporation under the laws of New Jersey. The new corporation will have a capital of $30,000,000.

AN English syndicate has bought the property of the Sheffield Land Company in Alabama, and the plant of the Alabama Iron and Railway company. The property consists of three large blast furnaces and nearly two thirds of the town of Sheffield. The price paid was $3,000,000.

THE work of combination continues, as shown in the preparations being made to consolidate the National Tube Works company, the Monongahela Furnace company, the Republican Iron Works and Boston Steel and Iron company, all of Pittsburg. The new company will be organized under the laws of New Jersey and its capital stock will be $11,500,000.

It is stated on good authority that the annual statement of the Western Union Telegraph Company will show a net profit, for the year, of nine and a half per cent. on its enormously watered stock. This is about forty per cent. on the original cost of our railway system. The whole plant of that monopoly could be duplicated at an expenditure of less than one quarter of its capital.

"Not a trust, but simply a corporation," is what the paper-box manufacturers call the combination which they have formed to go into effect Aug. 1. It is organized under the laws of New Jersey, with a capital of $1,250,000, and comprises six of the largest concerns in the country. They hope to make a great saving of expense from each factory, doing the class of work for which it is specially adapted, instead of all kinds, as at present.

THE passage of the anti trust law in the state of Illinois has quickened the inventive faculties of parties who would suffer from its enforcement. The wholesale grocers of Chicago are considering a proposition from a St. Louis tobacco firm to make the grocer the agent of the trust, under conditions which will guarantee the maintenance of prices. The plan has the sanction of the tobacco trust, and dealers think that it will be adopted by many of the trusts.

ONLY nine per cent. of those engaged in war are killed on the field of battle.

THE London Religious Tract Society last year issued 77,000,000 publications.

Roses, toads and serpents never take food but that which they are satisfied is alive.

THERE are known to be 209 cities in the world with populations of over 100,000 persons each.

THE greatest ocean depth ever found by measurement was in the Atlantic near Puerto Rico—4,651 feet.

IN 1865 the United States had 1,687 ships on the navy list, the greatest and strongest fleet in its history.

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