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MEETINGS.

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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 JOS. RENAUD, Corresponding Secretary, 198 Amherst street.

RIVER FRONT ASSEMBLY,

No. 7628.
Rooms K. of L. Hall, Chabollez square. Next meeting Sunday, Dec. 27, at 2.30. Address all correspondence to J. WARREN, Rec. Sec., P. O. Box 1458.

DOMINION ASSEMBLY,

No. 2436 K. of L.
Meets every FRIDAY evening at Eight o'clock in the K. of L. Hall, Chabollez square. Address all communications to H. J. BRINDLE, R.S., No. 11 St. Monique street.

PROGRESS ASSEMBLY,

No. 3852, K. of L.
Meets every First and Third Tuesday at Lomas' Hall, Point St. Charles.

BUILDERS' LABORERS' UNION.

Meets in Ville Marie Hall, 1623 Notre Dame street, every TUESDAY at 8 P. M. Address all communications to WM. JARVIS, Secretary, 111 St. Dominique street.

BLACK DIAMOND ASSEMBLY

1711, K. of L.
Meets next Sunday, in the K. of L. Hall, Chabollez square, at 7 o'clock.
Address all communications to WM. ROBERTSON, 7 Archambault street.

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INCREASING POPULATION.

Dangers to be Apprehended from Overcrowding in Large Cities.

Archdeacon Farrar in a recently published volume, "Social and Present Day Questions," deals with the dangers to be apprehended from the centralization of large bodies of people. He says:—

"The stupendous increase of population is complicated by two other elements in England—one is the growth of large cities, and the other is the multiplication of the unit. The population of England, on the one hand, was rural, and is become urban; on the other hand, the strong are in danger of being crowded out by the weak. Every year the country is more depleted; the cities, and, above all, this monstrous imposthume of London, are more overcrowded. London alone adds a new Exter, a new city of seventy thousand to her inhabitants every year. If things go on like this unchecked, before two centuries are over England will be mainly one huge, intolerable town, 'a furious centre of prolific vitality,' the curse alike of the physique and morals of the race.

"Take the other serious fact, that the increase is preponderantly among the unit. The tendency of civilisation is to multiply from the lower and not from the higher specimens of the race. The idle, the squalid, the unthrifty, the undersized, those who practice no forethought and exercise no self-control, those who live on degraded and unadulterated food, and whose one joy is drugged and poisonous drink, those who have no vista but the workhouse and no paradise but the gin shop, are at this moment multiplying ten per cent. more rapidly than the prudent and self-controlled. Premature marriages intensify the curse. In the year 1884, in the East End of London, 59 per cent. of men—that is to say, 14,818 men—and 75 per cent. of women were married—if the name of marriage can be given to such wretched unions—were married before twenty-one years of age; whereas in St. George's, Hanover, only 1 per cent. of men were so married. Fresh complications arise from the ceaseless influx into London of starving laborers, helpless Jews, pauper Irish, and indigent foreigners. What do these things mean? They mean that unless remedies be found in our earnestness and our self-denial, and in our promotion by every possible means of the common good of all, then the Huns and the Vandals who shall shipwreck our present civilisation are being bred, not in the Steppes of Asia, but in the slums of great cities. They mean that if the comfortable classes do not rouse themselves from what has been called their 'awful selfishness and bovine contentment' they will be shaken out of it by the impatient earthquake."

BUSINESS PRINCIPLES.

Co-Operation, not Competition, the True Principle.

The Rev. Dr. Campbell, of St. Gabriel Presbyterian church, on Sunday evening preached a sermon on that question of the day which most agitates the labor reformer. The preacher took his text from Philipians ii, 4, "Not looking each of you to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others." The speaker said that the principle acted upon would solve the difficulties of the labor market and right the wrongs reasonably complained of by multitudes of toilers. It just set forth the law declared by the Lord Jesus Christ for men to love their neighbors as themselves. Political economists laughed at and business men made light of such a proposal when it was sought to put it in practice. Free trade in labor was the cry of Adam Smith's followers. "Buy in the cheapest and sell in the dearest market" is their axiom, and any person who would call in question this principle is not worthy of notice. Nevertheless he declared it an anti-Christian principle, and one that had utterly failed to meet the claims of mankind. It had not kept things right between capital and labor. On the contrary, the competition which is supposed to be the saving principle of the labor market was really its greatest curse. It was the principle according to which the world was governed; but the world was all wrong, and greatly needed to be set right. Selfishness was the element in human nature on which the law of supply and demand operated. It might be contented truly that it was a law of man's nature. After describing how the law acted in the scramble for riches, Dr.

Campbell gave instances of the operation of the law, condemned strikes as no remedy and denounced the practice which rendered Tom Hood's well known "Stitch, stitch, stitch," a terrible truism as applied to every-day life in London. He could see no good in labor combinations to increase the area of strikes, but praised those associations which were striving for the benefit of the workingmen and the widows and orphans. He strongly advocated co operation rather than free trade in labor. It might be said that he was pleading for Utopian ideas—for views not likely to be illustrated in this world. He continued:—"But that is what I am put into this pulpit for by my Master—to hold up principles that are true and correct, and invite men to consider them and reduce them to practice. And the fault will be theirs if they do not adopt those principles and embody them in the business of life. What we have to do is to get the right standard before our minds and then strive to get as near to it as possible in practice."

There is No Nationality in the Labor Movement.

What shall we say of the workingman who still clings to the old, narrow views on sectional and nationality? We shall say that he is an enemy to himself and to humanity. He is not imbued with the spirit of the 19th century. Every friend of labor who has thought and studied the labor question has banished from his views the narrow, shallow, know-nothing view. The labor movement seeks men. It deals with men. No man has any say in where he was born, so it is men with honest principles that labor needs. But we still find men who harp on this and narrowly oppose labor unions, because such and such and so and so are members, and they are foreigners. You see them in the church worshipping, and how can one help wondering if they really feel that the Nazarene taught the brotherhood of man. These people say: "We believe in one God," and they admit that the Almighty makes no distinction between the nations of the earth, and yet if the walls and doors and the furniture in chambers of very many pious people could speak, a language of terror, a language of hate and disgust towards all other nations would be heard. These people, who do not practice what they preach, and who in violation of the liberal spirit of the nineteenth century and of all moral teachings try to divide the masses by national and sectarian issues, are the deadliest enemies of the labor movement and of human progress. But the labor movement is unmasking them and exposing their hypocrisy.

Outside the ranks of labor such are the enemies of progress. Inside the ranks whenever such are found, they are the enemy of the movement, and have yet to learn what is good for themselves and for their organization. The time is passing away when the oppressors can successfully drive race against race and nation against nation for the benefit of the privileged few. History shows that this was the way of the oppressor, and it is seen to be tried to-day against the labor union.—Paving Cutters' Journal.

Does Interest Make Men Drink?

Editor of "The Voice."—I have watched for 40 years the fight waged against whiskey. Now, at the age of 55, and after having travelled pretty well over the earth's surface, I am convinced that usury, or interest on money, is the cause of more drunkenness, crime, suffering, misery and unhappiness, than all the whiskey distilled.

In any country where interest eats up the many and favors the few, poverty, crime, and drunkenness prevail. In those countries where the toilers are not robbed by the wealth-absorbers—such as Sweden, Denmark, Norway, although liquors are distilled, and freely drunk—sobriety, honesty, virtue prevail. The United States and England are types of the other conditions, and as the masses are more and more depleted by the absorbing power of high interest, they grow worse.

On referring to my books I find that I have spent for liquors since 1865, just \$110 for whiskey and brandy, used medicinally, and probably \$75 of that was tax to pay interest on bonds, and on capital employed in the manufacture. On the other hand, I find I have paid in interest direct and indirectly the sum of \$10,000, besides losing by depreciation caused by the contraction of currency, and the consequent depreciation of values and relative increase of interest, the sum of \$17,950.

Now the whiskey man did not get this money, yet I am poor, so poor in fact that two years ago I could not pay my taxes and my home, which I had worked hard to make, with the help of my boys for seven years, was sold to a good temperance man for \$11.60 taxes. He now wants \$500 for a quit claim deed. So you see, if I go to the poorhouse after a life of 41 years of honest and hard work, it will not be on account of whiskey!

K. OF L.

The General Assembly—Report of Mr. A. W. Wright.

To THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF D. A. 125:

As your representative to the fifteenth regular annual session of the General Assembly, I beg to make the following report: I was present at the opening of the General Assembly at 10 a. m., Nov. 10th, and attended each day regularly until its close on the evening of Nov. 17th.

The report of the Committee on Credentials showed that there were entitled to representation 67 D. A's., 12 N. T. A's., 18 S. A's., 2 L. do., and 12 State groups of L. A's. attached to the General Assembly. In all there were 115 delegates entitled to be present, but only credentials for 90 were sent in, and of these 12 did not put in an appearance, leaving 78 representatives in attendance. I account for the fact that so many bodies who were entitled to do so did not send representatives, and the further fact that some of those who were elected did not put in an appearance, in two ways. First, a number of districts support congresses and central councils and are unable to stand the expense of sending representatives to these and to the General Assembly as well; and secondly, some representatives after accepting an election as representatives allow their private interests and concerns to keep them away. There was but one contested case, namely D. A. 147. of Albany, N.Y. It appeared that the representative had been elected by the votes of delegates whose Assemblies were not in good standing in the D. A. The General Assembly rejected the credential of the representative and gave the seat to the alternate, whose election, having been unanimous, did not depend on the illegal votes alluded to.

There were not many motions for the amendment of the constitution sent in, as provided by Sec. 348 of the Constitution. I will note the amendments proposed together with the action upon them in the order in which they were reported by the Committee on Laws.

The first in order was a proposition that it should be incumbent upon the holder of a travelling card to return it to the L. A. that granted it as soon as the time for which it was granted expires. This was approved and is now the law.

It was proposed to limit the time for which a general officer can hold office to two terms of two years each, and also to change the method of electing members of the General Executive Board by taking the nominating power out of the hands of the General Master Workman. This last would have been a return to the system which led to such disastrous results through divided councils prior to 1888. The General Assembly rejected both propositions by an almost unanimous vote.

A proposition was presented to abolish Section 343 of the Constitution, but the General Assembly did not approve of this. It, however, adopted the suggestion of the General Executive Board that they should be allowed some latitude in fixing the penalty for violations of the section and substituted the following for the old section:

Sec. 343. Whenever a member of the Order uses the public press or takes the public platform to name an officer or member in such a manner as to reflect upon the name, character or reputation of that officer or member, upon satisfactory proof of such act to the General Executive Board, said Board shall declare the offending member expelled or fix such other penalty as the magnitude of the offence may warrant, subject to appeal to the General Assembly.

Article XI of the Constitution has been amended to read as follows:

XI. The prohibition by-law of the employment of children under fifteen years of age; the compulsory attendance at school for at least ten months in the year of all children between the ages of seven and fifteen years, and the furnishing, at the expense of the State, of free text books.

It may be worth noting in connection with this subject that the enemies of the Order in the press had been industriously circulating a report that the Order was likely to split upon the question of public vs. parochial schools, a question which is the subject of heated controversy in the United States at present. Once more, however, by taking broad and at the same time advanced ground on the question of education, and fearlessly proclaiming its convictions, the Order has falsified the prediction of its enemies and at the same time given another proof that it stands in the very forefront of true reform movements.

An effort was made to have organizer permitted to organize two local assemblies in one day, and to change the law so that supplies for new locals should be sent to the organizer to be retained until the new local should be working for three weeks. While it was evident that the present method does not altogether meet the requirements of some localities, it soon became clear in the discussion that no plan could be devised which would be equally suitable in all sections, and I accordingly moved to table the matter, which was done.

In his report the General Secretary-Treasurer complained that local assemblies sometimes made reports of membership to his office which do not harmonize with those made to district, state, and national trade assemblies. To prevent this in future, it has been made the duty of district, state, and national trade assemblies to report quarterly the membership reported to them by each local assembly.

The General Executive Board has been given power to confer upon the Order in foreign countries such powers as may be necessary for their efficient and advantageous working.

Section 331 of the Constitution has been amended to read as follows:

Section 331. Any member of the Order advocating its disruption or the withdrawal of any local or other assembly, shall by that act stand expelled from the Order. This shall also apply to any local or other assembly that permits the discussion of such a motion. The General Executive Board shall enforce this provision upon proof satisfactory of said offence to said Board, subject to appeal to the General Assembly.

In their report the General Executive Board stated that the object aimed at by the passage of the resolution at the last General Assembly empowering the Board to sell the general headquarters property, having been attained by the passage of the resolution, in the opinion of the Board the General Assembly ought now to provide by resolution that the property should not be sold except after the sale had been approved by the General Assembly at a regular session. Acting upon this recommendation, the Committee on Law framed and introduced a resolution which provided, 1st, that the general officers should be constituted trustees for the Order of the property; 2nd, that they might mortgage the property for any sum or sums not exceeding twenty thousand dollars, to provide for an emergency; and, 3rd, that they might sell the property, provided that before a sale is consummated it should be approved by a majority vote of the General Assembly in regular session, forty days notice being given to the Order of their intention to sell the property. This gave rise to a very earnest discussion, but finally the resolution prevailed after an amendment striking out the portions giving the Board power to mortgage had been carried. As I desired to go upon record upon this amendment I called for the yeas and nays. The amendment was carried on a division, 53 voting for and 17 against it. I voted in the negative, and it is proper that I should here state my reasons. I do not think it is wise to put it beyond the power of the general officers to borrow money upon the property to meet a pressing emergency should one arise. As it now stands, should the Order be sued—and several suits are now pending in the courts—and should judgment be given against us, the property could be attached and sold by the sheriff at half its value or even less. Were the treasury empty at such a time, as may well happen, before an appeal could be made to the Order and money be collected, the property might have passed over out of the possession of the Order. Should such an emergency arise it appears to me that the general officers ought to have power to raise a temporary loan to meet it. The majority of the General Assembly, however, viewed the matter differently.

An amendment to the constitution, which in my opinion will do much good and which I had great pleasure in supporting, is one allowing a trade assembly belonging to a national trade assembly to join a mixed district in its locality, subject to such regulations as the mixed district may impose but the delegates of such a trade local will have no vote in electing representatives from the mixed district to the General Assembly, and the membership will not be counted in the mixed D. A. for this purpose.

When the law was passed making the mileage of representatives of the General Assembly payable by the General Assembly it was done so that weak bodies en-

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