

The Echo

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have received a very interesting communication on the Chinese question and other topics from Vancouver, B. C., which on account of its late arrival has unfortunately to be left over till another issue.

THE SEIZURE OF WAGES BILL

Mr. George Washington Stephens will earn the gratitude of all wage-earners if he persists in carrying the measure he has introduced into the Quebec House to abolish seizure on wages, to a vote. It would be a misfortune should he withdraw it in preference to any committee, as he has hinted is his intention. Every member of the House should be given an opportunity of placing on record his vote on such a question. The objection most frequently urged against the passage of such a measure is the chimerical one that poor but honest workingmen would be unable to obtain credit, and thereby suffer. If the bill does largely destroy the credit system it will effect a wonderful amount of good, as the unlimited credit system at present in vogue is the ruin of many a workingman's home. Every householder has the daily experience of being solicited to purchase articles of every conceivable description—useful and un-serviceable alike—and the consequent worry of being systematically dunned for payment if they are foolish enough to order, and if the bill should help to kill this system of trading it will be a positive benefit. People cannot see very far ahead, and they are often led through present appearances and the inducement of credit to purchase what they really do not require and what they can very well do without and the mistake is not found out until a change of circumstances, when the purchaser would give anything to get rid of his "bargain." There is not the slightest danger that any honest, well-disposed man will suffer, because his personal character for trustworthiness will always stand him in stead and indeed has much more to do with his obtaining credit for what he really needs than the mere security offered by the alternative of a seizure upon his wages. There is one thing that can be urged in favor of such a bill and that is the fact that it will have a perceptible influence on enforced emigration. Hundreds of examples could be cited of families who have departed across

the lines rather than suffer the anxiety and irritation of an overload of debt. None in reality would suffer except perhaps a few lawyers of the shyster breed, whose opportunities to pile up a bill of costs at the expense of an honest but unfortunate debtor would be less frequent. We hope Mr. Stephens will stand by his measure until at least a vote has been taken.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

In discussing proposed amendments to the city charter we notice, although nearly twenty of our aldermen have, at one time or other, promised to support an amendment calling for the abolition of property qualification, not one of them has had the manliness to redeem his promise. It is useless for the electors to expect any reform of this nature from the City Council as now constituted, and therefore workingmen should concentrate their energies to retire those who pledged their word to move in the matter referred to and failed to act up to their pledges.

The report of the special committee appointed to consider the best means of readjusting the water tax recommended, amongst other things, that a special assessment of 7½ per cent. be placed upon vacant lots. This was considered by those conducting the agitation against the present system of levying the tax a most satisfactory proposition, a most hopeful sign that the question would be fairly dealt with and that a ray of intelligence and justice had at last entered the befogged brains of some of our city fathers. But whatever hopes had been aroused by the appearance of such a proposal in the report has again been shattered by the proceedings at the special meeting of Council held to consider it, when Ald. Beausoleil, seconded by Ald. Tansey, moved the rejection of the clause, which motion was carried by an overwhelming majority. Land speculators and others whose property has been improved and enhanced in value through a water service running alongside will still be exempted, and wherein lies the justice of this we fail to see. The Council may tinker away at the tariff as much as they choose, but continued dissatisfaction will only be the result, because a vital principle of fair and equitable taxation has been destroyed.

For some weeks prior to the first of May the whole absorbing topic in Europe was the anticipated violent demonstrations by workingmen, but the first of May has come and gone without anything very serious happening. Correspondents in every capital in Europe were transmitting hysterical despatches throughout the civilized world to the effect that the working classes were in such a state of commotion that nothing short of establishing martial law would suppress revolution, and these scandalous canards naturally made well-disposed people uncomfortable. Only a very few outrages have been reported and these, there is every reason to believe, have been grossly exaggerated, the general conduct of the people during the May Day celebrations going to show that they are out of sympathy with Anarchist outrages, and for the display of this spirit all the more credit belongs to them. The provocation to turn is undoubtedly great because the luxury enjoyed by the rich is daily flaunted in the face of undeserved misery.

In the British House of Commons the Women's Suffrage bill was defeated by a vote of only 175 against 152. The hackneyed arguments were made against the measure. It was said that in Wyoming the suffrage had degraded women, but this was disputed. One member insisted that educated Americans are opposed to enfranchising women, as if "educated" men (the aristocracy of culture) were not everywhere and at all times opposed to any

extension whatever of the suffrage. The same member was certain that the only forces that would benefit by the passage of the bill would be clericalism and socialism. In one form and another this is a favorite opposition argument. It might be supposed from the frequency with which it is used, and the variety of its application, that the suffrage should be extended only as it will help this or that public policy. That is an error which has but to be stated to be seen. The question of women's suffrage must be decided by one and only one test. The way in which women will vote, whether for clericalism, or socialism, or prohibition, or anarchy, or monarchy, is nobody's affair but their own. The test is this: Does the power of government justly reside in the governed? If it does, the only reasonable distinction that can be made is as to mental capacity, and this distinction is, of necessity, arbitrary. Babes unquestionably are deficient; they are, therefore, to be excluded as incapable, and an age must be arbitrarily fixed when capability is presumed. That age reached, there can be no middle ground between idiocy or lunacy on the one hand, and full capability on the other. A person whom the courts regard as competent to manage his own affairs is competent to take part in public affairs. There are degrees of competency, of course, but these cannot be considered in determining the right of self-government. The denial of the suffrage to women is a survival from the day when all the rights of the wife were merged in the rights of the husband, and when property, not man, was the source of the governing power. And just as the wife's rights as to person and property have come to be differential from those of the husband, so will her right to a voice in the common government be recognized. Nor is the day far off. Those who fight against it may, with the same effect, fight against the rising of to-morrow's sun.

ON THE MOVE.**Items of Interest to Organized Men.**

The four assemblies of the Knights of Labor lately occupying the hall on Chaboulez square have removed to more commodious quarters at No. 662½ Craig street. Black Diamond held its first meeting in the new hall last Sunday evening when a large attendance was present, and a very interesting and profitable meeting was the result.

The membership of River Front Assembly is on the increase. As the initiation fee is very low at present, and may be raised in a very short time, those intending to join should do so immediately. A little energy in the spring will bring about a change for the better in this craft, which, after the experience of the last two summers, is badly needed.

The attention of Secretaries of Assemblies and Unions is called to the change in the address of the Corresponding Secretary of the Trades and Labor Council, all communications should be addressed to P. C. Chatel, 127½ St. Lawrence street.

Ville Marie Assembly, K. of L., has passed resolutions repudiating the anarchists

and hoping that they will be punished to the full extent of the law. They also endorsed the encyclical of the Pope on the labor question.

The members of Progress Assembly are now taking a livelier interest in their meetings than they have done for some time back and the social questions of the day are discussed in an intelligent manner. The meetings of Progress are largely educational in their nature and much benefit can be derived by the members giving a regular attendance.

Montreal Typographical Union will in future meet at 662½ Craig street, the location of the hall being more central to the majority of its members. Their first meeting will be held there this evening and as a large amount of business has to be transacted a full attendance is requested. The members will no doubt be pleased to learn that the assessment levied by the International on behalf of the Pittsburg strikers has been declared off from the 30th April last.

Ever since Mrs. Florence Ethel Osborne was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment for her theft of the pearls from her friend, Mrs. Hargreaves, her condition has been such that it was impossible to remove her from the Model prison, at Holloway, to Working prison, where she was to serve out her term of imprisonment. Here she was under the care of Dr. Gilbert, the prison medical officer. Petitions were presented to Mr. Matthews, the home secretary, praying for her release, among them being one from some of the most prominent physicians in London. The Home Secretary issued an order for Mrs. Osborne's release. This was served upon the warden of Holloway prison, and she was at once liberated. Capt. Osborne was at the prison with a carriage, and Mrs. Osborne was placed and at once driven to the residence of her husband's parents, 5 Ulster terrace.

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ALBERT DEMERS,

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New Summer Mantles
New Spring Wraps
New Summer Wraps
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Every New Style in Ladies' Mantles.

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NEW MANTLES.

A splendid assortment of Mantles to select from as follows:

New Sicilienne Silk Mantles
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New Satin de Lyons Mantles
New Gros Grain Silk Mantles
New Chantilly Lace Mantles
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New Lace and Silk Mantles
New Lace and Jet Mantles
New Fancy Cloth Mantles
All handsome and elaborately trimmed with Lace, Jet, Gimp and other suitable trimmings.

ELDERLY LADIES' MANTLES
A SPECIALTY.

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Ladies' Blazer Jackets, special value, only \$3.50 each
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Peleries
Peleries
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New Colored Cloth Peleries
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For Indoor Wear,
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All the Newest Plaid Shawls
All Choice Colorings
Black Cashmere Shawls
In all sizes.

With Silk and Wool Fringe,
Full Stock of
Japanese Silk Shawls,
Plain and Embroidered.

Shawls for Railway Travelling
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Scotch Plaids for all the Clans.

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of new Dress Materials and Tweeds that we are now offering at very special prices.

A lot of Fine Plaid Dress Materials in every new coloring, 44in. wide, for 47c yd
A lot of first-class Costume Tweeds, in shades of Grey and Fawn, 44 inches wide, only 28c yard.

A lot of very fine Costume Tweeds, in fancy designs, 44 inches wide, 45c.

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DRESS GOODS.

A lot of Chevron Striped Dress Fabrics, latest pattern of the season, 44 inches wide, only 25c yard.

A lot of New Herring-bone Striped Costume Tweeds, in full range of colors, 44 inches wide, 24c yard.

A lot of Printed All-Wool de Faines, in new designs, only 25c yard.

A lot of Cheviot Dress Serges, fast Indigo dye, 44 inches wide, only 40c yard.

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