

The Echo.

ALL LABOR IS SACRED.—Carlyle.

THURSDAY, JUNE 12th, 1890.

STRAINING AT A GNAT AND SWALLOWING A CAMEL.

The matter in dispute between the compositors of the Herald and the management, reduced to dollars and cents, amounted to about eight or nine dollars per week—a large sum indeed to buck so hard against—and to effect this saving in the composing room, to tack it on probably to some already overpaid occupant of the editorial department, which looks like robbing Peter to pay Paul, they dispensed with the services of reliable, intelligent and competent workmen, some of whom had been in the employment of the Herald Company for a long series of years, and caused them to break up their homes as Canadian citizens and seek a new field of labor across the lines where skilled workmanship is held in higher estimation. By the course the Herald proprietors have chosen to adopt they have sunk the prestige of their paper in a slough from which it will be difficult to emerge. Not only this; they have lost large numbers of subscribers and forfeited the patronage of an influential and paying advertising clientele; they have spent money freely in their search after incompetent rats to replace honorable and skilled workmen; they have, by the work of the amateur printers at first engaged on the sheet, suffered considerably in the breakage and destruction to plant, which will cost heavily to replace; they are spending money liberally in "entertaining" the creatures who make a practice of truckling and fawning to employers in order to gain a situation which their merits could not command, but who in turn are kicked out just so soon as their employers' present necessities are served. They have done all this, and much more, to effect what—a present saving of eight or nine dollars a week! It has proved, and will still further prove, a very expensive whistle to the management; the actual outlay already incurred being sufficient to pay for the matter in dispute for the next five years to come. And all this has been accomplished through the malignant spite of one man acting upon the pig-headed and senseless obstinacy of another. In connection with the loss to the Herald by withdrawals from their subscription list and the reduced sales of the newsdealers, we may mention that there is reliable authority for stating that the circulation of the Gazette has gone up nearly one thousand within the past ten days—a good showing for a high-priced morning paper—which must have affected the Herald circulation in inverse ratio, while the demand for THE ECHO has been greater than our present press facilities can overtake.

There is one feature about this lock-out which reflects anything but credit upon the proprietors of the Herald, and that is their disgraceful attempt to gain the sympathy of the public under the pretence that the rodents now infesting the office are in danger of assault or intimidation from the locked-out men. The daily parades of this body of "scab" labor on Beaver Hall Hill on their way to meals, under escort of several stalwart members of "the finest," is viewed by the public with amusement and ridicule. The procession reminds one of the chain gang at Stony Mountain penitentiary, and must have been designed by a man of experience. We have nothing but pity for the boy, yet in his teens, on the reporting staff who acts as whipper-in with such an ostentatious air. The spectacle of this young man "bracing up a gang" in front of a bar for their matutinal beverage with "What will you have, boys?" is not a very edifying

one to a Christian community, and is worthy the consideration of his guardians. For himself we would advise him to go home, take his Bible, read up and ponder over the story of Cain and Abel. The Herald editor probably couldn't find anyone else to do his dirty work, but it is really too bad to impose such duty upon a boy!

To prove that the managers of the Herald were prepared to go to any extent is shown by the circumstance of their offering 50 cents per thousand ems—18 cents over the scale—as a bribe to some lady compositors employed in another office to come and set type for them. To the lasting honor and credit of the young ladies in question they refused this generous offer. We are also informed on pretty good authority that someone connected with the Herald endeavoured to induce the proprietors of the establishment where this journal is printed to refuse their necessary assistance in getting out THE ECHO, but the attempt to gag this journal had no effect, the party making the proposition meeting with a reception his impertinent interference with another firm's business deserved.

ACCORDING to all accounts the Herald Company are lavishing upon their new employees every mark of hospitality—free lodging, free board, unlimited cigars and capuled ale galore about the morning printers' lunch time, to carry them through till morning. Of course this sort of treatment will only last for a short time, and when the new staff gets down to the regular run of things they will have more time and plenty of cause for reflection. They will find out before long what the promises of the management to "deal squarely" with them really amount to and how many long hours' hard digging it takes to make a decent wage.

In yesterday's issue of the Herald the brawny editor indulges in a little crow over the fact that he was able to bring out his paper full size, and that he had defeated his old employees in their effort to maintain their rights. He is quite welcome to all the self-congratulation he can bestow on himself, but we would remind the gentleman he has still public opinion to contend against. Mr. St. John reiterates the statement, which we have already characterized as false, that the strike was forced upon the Herald. This reiteration we unhesitatingly say is deliberately and knowingly false. The circumstances of the lock-out are exactly as stated in the Witness of last evening. The notice of reduction was received at 3.30 a.m. Wednesday morning; the deputation waited on Mr. St. John early on Thursday afternoon, but had to hang around the office until between three and four before meeting with him. The men asked for a delay until Monday to rightly consider the matter, meanwhile working at the old rates. This delay was arrogantly refused, and the deputation were curtly told that if the men did not like it they could leave.

TALK about the tyranny of trades unions! Could anything more tyrannical or outrageously unfair equal the manifesto which has been issued by the agents of the coal companies to their stevedores? The plan adopted by the agents can sometimes be worked both ways, and attention is drawn to this by a correspondent, who also points out a remedy. Let those interested act.

Stranger—There seems to be a Sunday law in this town.
Resident—Yes, sir. If you want to get shaved you will have to wait until Monday.
Stranger—Oh, I don't want to get shaved. I want to get drunk.
Resident—Come with me.

Letters to the Editor

We have received a lengthy communication from a "Compositor" touching on several interesting questions affecting the trade and the well-being of those who follow it, but owing to its length and the late hour at which it was received we are unable to find room for it in this issue. Space will be reserved for it in our next. Several other valued contributions are unavoidably set aside for the same reason.—Ed. Echo.

A correspondent writes: With a view to the settlement of all difficulties between the employers and employees—master printers and compositors—I would suggest the formation of a society to be called the "Master Printers' and Compositors' Mutual Benefit and Protective Society." Until some such plan as this is adopted, not only in the printing trade, but in all other industries, there will be conflicts between Capital and Labor. With such associations, the welfare of one dependent on the other, there would be more harmony; strikes would be unheard of, for the settlement of all disputes of the organization could be vested in a committee whose decision would be final and binding, and from which there should be no appeal. An association of this kind would largely benefit employers in that it would prevent the "cutting" of prices for work, now so much resorted to, and would enable them to pay fair wages to their employees, who would thus be directly interested in the business of their employers.

ZOLA'S WORKS.

To the Editor Echo:

SIR,—Can you inform me what has become of the action taken some time ago against a city bookseller for offering for sale certain works by Emile Zola? Has the case been dropped or only postponed? I have read two or three of Zola's novels, and, in my humble opinion, they are just as clean, if not cleaner, than many of the "society" novels of the day. No doubt many others besides myself await the decision of the courts with considerable interest.
Yours, etc.,
COMMON SENSE.

WORKINGMEN'S CANDIDATES.

To the Editor Echo:

SIR,—I have been looking over the names of the candidates in the St. James and St. Mary's wards and fail to find much mention of the "workingmen's candidate." Can you tell me who is who? I have a vote in St. James ward and two members of my household have votes in St. Mary's ward. It is said that Mr. Beland is the workingman's friend, but from the small number who rallied around the nomination poll places me in doubt. An answer will greatly oblige as well as put three votes in the right place.
Yours,
EAST END.

A NEW COAL COMBINE.

To the Editor of THE ECHO:

SIR,—I notice by one of your contemporaries that most of the principal coal agents of the city (and who are not ashamed to have their names published) are now forcing the stevedores to resist the request of the hard-worked coal-shovellers for an increase. They are forming, or have formed, a combine to employ no stevedore who attempts to pay just and equitable wages. Would it not be a just retaliation for the wage earners to make enquiries from the retail dealers with whom they think of placing orders for the coming winter as to what firm or company they deal with? I would suggest that, as far as possible, those signing the unjust demand to the stevedores should be boycotted through the retail dealers.
Yours,
HOUSEHOLDER.

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