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RELAXATIVES

The Labor Temple will prove a popular place this winter for trades unionist followers of athletics. The gymnasium will be well patronized by the members of the athletic associations which will be formed in connection with the labor movement in the city of Toronto. The nucleus of a first-class sporting organization is to be found in labor's ranks among men who are now holding the most important positions on the executive roster of existing sporting clubs.

A bowling club will be formed immediately in the city ten-pin league, which it is hoped will encourage the popularity of the game at labor's headquarters.

The athletic organization of the Labor Temple purposes catering every branch of sport, and every facility will be utilized to obtain proficiency in its different branches.

A newspaper printers' bowling league is forming. The composing rooms of the "public opinion molders" are being canvassed for material, and soon we will find a league composed of the Star, Telegram and News of the evening section, and the Mail, Globe and World of the morning section. The alleys of the Labor Temple will be secured for the league games, and practice will be commenced as soon as the improvements at present going on in that department are completed. In all large cities on "the other side" bowling leagues among printers are very popular, and many have become very proficient, one of their international teams at one time having three "knights of the lead" figuring prominently upon it. There is no good reason why Toronto printers also should not take up the "other end" of the bowling game.

The Star Printer Bowling Club was the first to get in line and organized Monday with the following officers:

President—J. Stevenson.
Captain—J. Turvey.
Secretary—F. Webber.
Representative to league—J. Stevenson.

Among the talent that will be in evidence for the Star will be Turvey, Maclean, Rogers, Kidd, Sparling, McDougall, Fowler, McCaul, West, Webber, Mutton, Stevenson.

Almost three seasons of Burnside Rugby, and the question arises, Is it the ideal game it was claimed? Match after match we have attended, and each time as we wend our way homeward we seem to be excusing rather than commending the game. Something appears to be missing. The game is open enough, rather too monotonously so. There is little variation. Under Rugby rules, as played previous to the Burnside, the spectator received little consideration, but such a radical change as in vogue now was not necessary to give the spectator the class of football he desired. The Intercollegiate and Quebec League rules, with control of the scrimmage, satisfactory to the eastern spectator and the adoption of those rules by the O.R.F.U., will be eagerly awaited by lovers of the elusive pigskin game.

The Burnside rules admit of great possibilities. If the rules were strictly adhered to, and the participants in the game became thoroughly proficient, no objection could be taken; but we know that to become proficient in O.R.F.U. football requires such an amount of practice in the finer points of the game that none of college teams could have the time in daylight to reach that state of efficiency that alone will gain for present-day football popularity in the eyes of the sport lovers of the city of Toronto. In the sporting line Toronto should have the best in the land. The material is here, but the hitch is in its development. We know that the quality of football served up at present is not what it should be. The reason Association football is not popular in Canada is that we realize the game is not as well exemplified here as in Great Britain, where it is so well patronized. The Rugby game has been so broadened as to require more time to attain proficiency than the average city player has at his disposal. The football season is early enough. In Toronto a game is only popular in season. That is as it ought to be, and the same exists in other large sporting centres. As an instance, several years ago, when Ottawa was in the O.R.F.U., the winter went up with the carnival. On the same day in the same town the final for the lacrosse championship of the world, Shamrock v. Cornwall, was being decided before scarcely a corporal's guard, while almost the entire population congregated at the football game. So much season has its game, and hooks not being crowded upon. Now, whoever heard of a football team in Toronto practising before the first of October? But in Hamilton, which only competes against the larger cities in one game, football practice began early in September, which accounts for the Tigers' superiority this season over the other teams of the O.R.F.U.

Considerable regret is expressed at the disappearance of the heavyweight from the football field under the present Burnside rules. Time will prove that the heavyweight will be as great a factor in the Burnside game if it survives as he was in the old Rugby. Such a radical change was demoralizing to such an extent that one labored under the impression at first that as the essential was fleetness of foot, the bulky form must step aside. But remember Hilton and Carty, Boucher and McCready, of Ottawa College, who, with their monumental proportions, can easily negotiate a hundred or less with their chests. When the heavyweight breaks into the Burnside, the newspapers will introduce a new feature in their summary—a graveyard list. The only difference between the Burnside and American rules is the off side interference, and a year or so with the heavyweight injected into the game will be so prolific of mass plays and other jeggernauts on account of the "openness" of the game, that our casualties list will easily rival that of our confreres on the other side of the line.

Back! Back to the "back lappers" scrimmage, with the light forced on full.

Taking the attendance at the football game as a criterion, there is little doubt as to the high place which the modified scrimmage game holds in the estimation of the spectator. The game last Saturday between Queen's and Varsity was all that could be desired, as compared with the Burnside. Exciting end running and close passing, brilliant scrimmage work, beautiful flying tackles a la Jermyn abounded, and the spectator "sat up" as he had not the opportunity of doing in many a day. Take the throw in from touch—the possibilities of lightning change play are manifold just here, as instanced by the play of Richardson on Saturday, when he took the throw in ten feet out, went through the bunch for a 65-yard run, scoring a try. Varsity was too closely bunched for one of their flying tackles, and a little pardonable "interference" on the part of Queen's helped the play along. It was simply an exciting event in a match pregnant of such.

Varsity's scrimmage put the whole team to the bad. It seemed impossible for it to "form up." Then the ball was so slow in coming out that the wings invariably were offside. Even Beatty and Baldwin would have made little difference. That scrimmage has got to get together. McGill has been here and defeated Varsity, and just now Queen's has done the trick, but if Varsity improves the scrimmage work and Beatty can be induced to jump in the game with Baldwin, Beatty and Macpherson on the back division, the only team they will have any trouble with is Ottawa College for the Dominion championship.

The hearts of Rugbyists in the local camps were gladdened last week the Varsity team by the intelligence that the peer of all drop-kickers, Harold Beatty, would be in the game again, and the Argonauts by the return to the fold of that sturdy punter, Eric Hamber. Their return will also be welcomed by the side-line critics. There's always something doing with these fellows in the game.

The C.L.A. this year has been a too-much-of-a-good-thing in both senior and junior lacrosse. Everybody remembers the exciting nature of the contest in the senior series up to the unfortunate occurrence at the Island, and then how it dragged along until all interest died away and very few noticed the Brantford defeat of the Tecumsehs, 13 to 0. And but last week—the middle of the football season—the junior C.L.A. championship decided by the Brantford eleven defeating the Young Toronto in Hamilton. The experience of the 1904 junior C.L.A. shows that the organization is becoming too unwieldy. In this particular, history is but repeating itself. In the eighties the National Amateur Lacrosse Association was the premier organization of Canada in lacrosse, with districts as far east as Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and west, as Toronto, in the south and Renfrew in the north. The association became so large that it got beyond control, and eventually nothing remained but the present so-called Senior Lacrosse League. But lacrosse is flourishing better than ever in the older districts. More interest is taken in a local championship of a district than previously in a large association championship that probably had to be settled in a snowstorm. Had the junior C.L.A. championship been settled in season this year, that good team Woodbridge would have copped the laurels. Most players had gone out of training. And it all suffered alike in that respect, was the final lacrosse of a championship calibre.

PERILS OF UNIONS

The Real Crisis That Confronts Organized Labor

The trade unions have nothing to fear outside of their organization nearly as dangerous to it or their cause as the failure of their own members and officers to appreciate how responsible they are, and will sternly be held to be, for the use they make of the power they are conceded to have. Will they rise to regard it as the serious civic and social trust legitimately committed to them by their great constituencies? Will they accept and use it for the whole mass of wage earners more than for the exclusive benefit of their own minority membership? Will they rely enough upon their power to resist the get strong quick temptation to violence and radicalism? Can they be patient and confident enough to await the legitimate growth which will keep pace with the real advantage their membership proves itself to be to every worker? Will they have enough public spirit and patriotism to regard unions not only as essential to the quality and prosperity of American industry, but as one of the strongest and best law making, law keeping forces in American society, strictly accountable alike to the courts and to public opinion?

This is the real and only crisis that organized labor faces in America—whether it can and will be loyal to its own high ideals and true to the conscience of its rank and file?

Nothing outside of itself can overthrow its power. Nothing will so surely defeat it and make sick the hearts of its adherents and friends with hope deferred as irresponsibility toward the solemn trust of that power.—The Commons.

LABOR'S PROGRESS

The Onward March of the Masses is Slow and Evolutionary

The impatient and surface observers of trade union effort and our movement often say: "Why don't the unions do this thing or that thing? Why don't they ever learn anything, and why don't they profit by the lessons of the past?" As a matter of fact, trade unions are further advanced in the science of government and trade unions are better qualified for self government than any other organization or any other body of citizens.

Nations and the mass of citizens never learn anything in leaps and jumps. The upward and onward march of the masses is slow and evolutionary. The mass learn by experience in all walks of life and in all nations and not by deductions taken from the past. The members of trade unions have made greater mental and physical progress by virtue of our association with our fellow men in our unions than the unorganized more has in the other hand. To organize and keep our unions alive and make them do what we expect of them require thought and study, both of which lead to greater intelligence.

One trouble is that the thinking public exacts a greater standard of intelligence and morality from the unions and unionists than they do from any other organization, regardless of what it may be. While trade unionists are human beings drawn from the great body of humanity, we are by association and the effort to maintain our unions compelled to think and study, which makes us more reliant, self controlled and better equipped for the struggle of life.

There may be, and probably are, those who think that they object to labor organizations, but they are not of those who have given the subject any careful thought or study. There is nothing in such organization to which any sane or thoughtful man will be disposed to enter either legal or moral objections. It is as legitimate and as justifiable as chambers of commerce, fraternal societies or the Epworth League. There is no objection to trade or labor organizations, and many of our largest employers not only approve but openly urge such organization. Organization in the world of to-day is the channel of achievement. The issue turns on whether that achievement be for good or for evil.

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PROSPERITY OF NEW ZEALAND

A BANKER'S TESTIMONY

At the thirty-second annual meeting of the National Bank of New Zealand, held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, July 5 last, Mr James H. R. Coates, general manager of the bank in New Zealand, was asked to address the shareholders, after the adoption of the report and balance-sheet had been moved and seconded.

Mr. Coates, in the course of his remarks, as reported in the New Zealand Times of August 24, said:

Gentlemen, You may reasonably expect that as a man of figures I should give you some statistical evidence as to the progress and prosperity of New Zealand. If the bank's own accounts do not satisfy you in this respect, I can supply you with figures. The New Zealand Government has recently published a small official pamphlet entitled "Fifty Years' Progress in New Zealand." Now, I am not going to give you a lengthy review, but as I set out to place before you the result of the ten years during which I have been at the helm of the bank I shall give you a few extracts dealing with that period. In 1893 the population of New Zealand was 672,000; in 1903 it was 832,000. In 1893 the land under cultivation amounted to ten million acres; in 1903 this area had increased to 13,500,000 acres. In 1893 the unimproved and improved value of lands amounted to £127,000,000; in 1903 their value had increased to £169,000,000. In 1893 the colonial exports were valued at £8,500,000; in 1903 this value had risen to £14,800,000. In 1893 the imports were valued at £6,900,000, and in 1903 at £12,800,000. The deposits in the banks and savings banks in 1893 were £18,400,000 and in 1903 these figures had grown to £26,[illegible]000,000. There is no gainsaying the figures I have given you, and the striking prosperity of New Zealand must be admitted by you all. And yet the question may be asked, "Will this satisfactory condition last?—How far has it the elements of permanent well-being?" Naturally we all have fears that the improvement had been too great and rapid to be permanent. Experience, of course, teaches us to expect a great reaction after so marvellous an advance. The important question to be ascertained is, will the reaction be in proportion to the recent vast improvement? I believe when it does come that it will be comparatively small, and that it will not last long, and I am prepared to give reasons for that belief. It is well known that all colonies are subject to violent fluctuations, and that in past years New Zealand has had her share of these, but the special causes of colonial commercial crisis have never been a mystery. Their history shows a few broad features, always recurring. They are generally preceded by an unhealthy influx, caused by such events as mining booms, or an extraordinary rise in the price of one or two staple products, and the pouring in of capital from outside sources for investment. This follows over-trading and land speculation, and ultimately comes collapse. But the flourishing state of New Zealand is due to no artificial inflation. It is true that on the whole prices have been in favor of the producer, and also that the mineral output—that is gold and coal—has been and is steadily expanding. Though no one year has shown startling rises, yet in ten years the output of coal has doubled and that of gold has increased about 130 per cent. The value of both together, however, is still under three millions, so it does not, by any means overshadow that of the chief products of the soil. Again, the prices of these have not all been exceptionally high during the recent prosperous year; indeed, some have at times been very low, and there has been no phenomenal pouring in of capital into the colony. The Government borrowings, though considerable, have not been enormous, and a certain portion has been raised locally. There has been no inrush of capital from private lenders, and in consequence therefore there is no danger of sudden withdrawals as those which caused such grave results in New Zealand in 1879 and Australia in 1893. If money is plentiful in the colony—and it is—it is mainly because the colonists have made it by sheer industry. The colony's prosperity is mainly due to a remarkable and solid increase in production, a growth which happily is notable, not in one only, but in a number of branches. I will give shortly a few comparisons between the material positions of 1893 and that of 1903. Briefly, the ten years' advance shows that the value of exports of New Zealand produce have grown from 8½ millions to over 14½ millions. At the end of the same period the imports had risen from nearly 7 millions to 12½ millions. The value of trade per head of population is extraordinarily high in New Zealand. I believe that in the amount of its exports of produce and of its imports for home consumption New Zealand trade is, per head of population, as large if not larger than of any other country. To show how widely the increase in production is distributed, I may point out that in the period referred to the quantity of wool exported advanced by 41 per cent. (I am speaking of quantity, not value); of frozen meat, by 164 per cent.; butter, 300 per cent.; cheese, 41 per cent.; hemp, 19 per cent.; kauri gum, 23 per cent.; and grain only 10 per cent. There is also a growth in what is called "miscellaneous exports" of more than one million sterling. This great proportional increase has been achieved in the first place by better settlement and subdivision of the land. New Zealand is fast becoming a country of small and moderate sized landowners. In 1893 her occupied holdings numbered 45,500; in 1903 they were 66,000. In the same ten years the land under cultivation has extended from 10,000,000 acres to 13½ million acres. Undoubtedly, the comparatively low rate of interest ruling has been in favor of cultivators, but the main factors are a climate in which drought is unknown, plenty of sun, a very fertile soil and an unfailing water supply. Our settlers also now enjoy much better and cheaper facilities for transport by rail and steamer. They are an intelligent, industrious and educated portion of the population, and are eager to attain a high standard of comfort. (Applause.) I should also like to point out the growth of the manufacture in the colony. A fair estimate shows that the output of the colony's factories and workshops has grown enormously in the ten years mentioned, and the number of hands employed from about 28,000 to nearly 65,000. That the earnings of the people are not unthriftily handled by them is shown by the figures of the saving banks. The deposits of these were under £4,000,000 in 1893, and have swelled to £8,000,000 in ten years. During the same ten years the white population, as I have previously stated, has increased by 160,000. At the present moment it certainly exceeds 840,000. On the whole, then, we have in New Zealand a keen and vigorous people, intelligently working to develop a very fine country. The high level of education in the colony and the desire of the average New Zealander to maintain a lead and a high quality in the country's exports, in which they are assisted by the Government, combine with the enormous resources of the country itself, to inspire a reasonable confidence in the soundness and brightness of the outlook. New Zealand has now reached that stage of development which ensures increasing prosperity year by year, and the material wealth of the community is steadily growing, as evidenced by the fact that private wealth has risen from £232 per capita in 1893 to £297 in 1903. When, therefore, the present period of prosperity shall be succeeded by the inevitable period of reaction, I am satisfied the colony will be in a much better position to meet it than in former years.

THE CANADIAN LABOR LEAGUE

Political Movement for the Working Classes Started on a Sound Basis.

After several weeks of consideration, the committee appointed by the District Council have arrived at a satisfactory understanding. It is proposed to make this the groundwork of a party that will spread in influence and numbers, and before very long will be a power in politics that will give returns to the workers for the labor expended. The following are the platform and rules, and it is to be hoped that every worker will take the matter up and get in line:

PREAMBLE.

We assert that the working out of our present system of government does not give to the people of this country an equitable share of the material things of life, and to the end that a better system may be inaugurated, guaranteeing to all equal privileges and opportunities, we call upon all men to join hands under the banner of the Canadian Labor League, formed to bring into force the following progressive reforms in our present system of government:

PLATFORM.

1. Public ownership of all natural opportunities and public utilities.
2. The initiative, referendum and power of recall.
3. Abolition of all bonuses to railways and industries.
4. To the people belong the values created by the growth and organization of society, and to the end that they may get their rights in this respect we pledge ourselves to so legislate.
5. Equal protection to the worker and manufacturer.
6. Abolition of all child labor.
7. Women franchise.
8. Abolition of the appointive Senate.

NAME.

This body shall be known as the Canadian Labor League. Its aim and object shall be the advancement of labor interest, as laid down in its platform and preamble.

MEMBERSHIP.

All persons of the age of 21 years and over shall be eligible to membership, but previous to their admittance they shall subscribe to the pledge.

PLEDGE.

I hereby pledge myself to do all in my power to carry out the platform and principles of the Canadian Labor League, and I further pledge myself to abide by the will of the majority in all matters pertaining to the furtherance of the said platform and principles in whatever way necessary, as adopted by the majority of its members in convention assembled.

DUES.

The dues shall be 50 cents per year, payable half yearly or yearly in advance. For this sum he shall receive the official organ of the League (The Toiler).

The present committee appointed by the District Labor Council shall conduct the business of the League until 150 members shall be enrolled, when a convention shall be called to elect officers and perform any other business necessary for the future conduct of the League.

Any member found guilty of conniving to use this League in the interest of any party other than this League, or who does anything which will tend to bring the League into disrepute shall be expelled.

John Tweed Chairman.
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