

CAUSE OF THE WORKINGMEN

Mr. A. F. Jury Delivers a Lengthy Address to Workingmen Last Night.

A Large Crowd of Representative Wage Earners Listen to the Immigration Agent.

His Solution of the Labor Question and Some Stories With a Point.

A public meeting, which was attended by a large, representative audience of workingmen, was held yesterday evening in the Sir William Wallace Society's hall, Mr. James Taggart, president of the Victoria Trades and Labor Council, occupied the chair, and after he had explained the object for which the meeting had been called and made a few remarks commending the appointment of Mr. Jury as immigration agent, to whom he referred as the "most advanced labor man in the Dominion of Canada," he introduced the first speaker, Mr. Thos. Forster, M.P.P. for Delta district.

Mr. Forster began by saying that in the last few years very little had been done in reference to the labor question and the question of wages and hours, and that the workingmen were not getting what they deserved. He said that the law was not being enforced, and that the workingmen were being treated unfairly. He then spoke of the need for a union, and the importance of the labor question. He said that the workingmen were being treated unfairly, and that they were being paid less than they deserved. He then spoke of the need for a union, and the importance of the labor question. He said that the workingmen were being treated unfairly, and that they were being paid less than they deserved.

Then there is the Chinese question, that, like the poor, is always with us. The local house had accomplished as much as it could in regard to this question, and hereafter the people would have to look to the Dominion parliament for action in the matter, so that the people of this country will be enabled "to build up a race of white men." He also spoke of the crooked immigration scheme, and in regard to this said that he did not think it was to the interest of the people of this country to favor the immigration of Chinese.

The men who were wanted here were men with capital and hard working men who were willing to come here voluntarily and without assistance. Mr. R. Macpherson, M.P.P. for the next speaker. He was sorry—although he said he never liked to make that excuse—to say that he was unprepared to speak. He was glad to see such a large gathering of workingmen, and he was glad to see that the people of this country were interested in the labor question. He then spoke of the need for a union, and the importance of the labor question. He said that the workingmen were being treated unfairly, and that they were being paid less than they deserved.

What is the remedy? What is the practice adopted by all merchants? Take old "Hutch," for instance; when he wanted to secure a high price for wheat he cornered the market. Look at the coal trade. When the price of coal went up they shut up their mines, causing a great demand for a small production and getting a higher price for coal and paying less for labor. The man who had the power of the question of supply and demand. The workingman should apply this by limiting the supply of his labor, or, in other words, shortening his hours of his labor. The great question for the workingman is to regulate his hours of labor so that he will be able to get a fair price for his labor. The man who had the power of the question of supply and demand. The workingman should apply this by limiting the supply of his labor, or, in other words, shortening his hours of his labor. The great question for the workingman is to regulate his hours of labor so that he will be able to get a fair price for his labor.

He was driving to Esquimalt, while his wife, he said, was anxious to read the words "Single Tax" on stones by the road side. He thought indeed that he must be in a bright country where the stones by the road side would cry out "Single Tax" and yet the legislators had tied up the country. Still the representatives were no worse than the represented, for they had it in their power to elect better men. Men should be elected on great public issues, even if it was detrimental to local issues. Then members would not allow themselves to be button-holed and promise every man who voted for them a job. The speaker said he was a firm believer in single tax, but he did not think it was capable of curing smallpox. It and the reforms incident to it would be the greatest reform movement instituted in any civilized country.

He then told a parabolical story illustrative of the doctrine of the single tax. Two men started out in life with equal chances, and both getting married, settled down and making many good resolutions for the future, they buy a lot, and as is the custom in the east when men of limited capital build a house, they erect a back kitchen on each of their lots. The one man falls from his good resolutions, gets drunk and conducts himself in a disgraceful manner. He had ought to, neglecting to build any more of his house, while the other man, continuing on his good resolutions, builds a most comfortable residence for him and his wife. Now that he has made a home for himself, what do you do? You tax him, and the better home he builds for himself the more you tax him. Is there any sense of justice or political economy in this?

Here is another example. Suppose two men go to the theatre, getting two seats side by side. One man is dressed in broadcloth, wearing a plug hat and smoking a cigar. The other is dressed in the other is poorly dressed. Do you charge the richly dressed man any more for his seat? No. Well then, why should you tax him because he is in a better house than the other?

Mr. Jury spoke of socialism and advised all who wished to make good socialists to stick to the trades and labor council, for the reason that the Chinese are the only ones who are not in the co-operative distributive society started by twelve men at Rochdale, England, and from the small capital of \$28,000 they have now a large business which has branches in all parts of Great Britain and does business amounting to \$5,000,000 yearly. And just imagine industry was built up from the efforts of the twelve men who banded themselves together at Rochdale.

Speaking of the condition of the workingman in Great Britain, he said that the secretaries of the various workingmen's societies throughout Great Britain reported monthly to the labor secretary of the Imperial Board at London. The report for last month stated that 3.8 of their membership were out of employment. Mr. Jury then told of his trip to China, which he visited yesterday evening. As he had studied the Chinese question and looked carefully into the reports of the committee on the question, he said, the sociological and moral and political code. The laboring man should be taught that the ballot is a sacred trust and it should be used only to further the best interests of the country.

People who do not labor were, in the opinion of the speaker, of not much good to the country. Men with capital who lend out their money aided the country by doing so. Capital is acceptable to the extent of employing labor. The more capital that comes to the country the greater the demand for labor. The producer, however, was the man who had the most rights to the profits of his labor.

The labor question was a large one, which was permeating the literature of the world. It was a question on which all men should place their parts and endeavor to arrive at its solution. All should endeavor to secure the betterment of the condition of the laboring man, when the condition of the laboring man improved in one country it stopped the competition between that and other countries as far as labor was concerned.

Supply and demand was the rule that controlled labor as well as everything else. Sentiment, Mr. Jury said, never interfered with his convictions, and to some it might seem inhuman that workingmen were sold like a sack of wheat, a bag of ore or a sack of coal. They were even more docile than that beast, for they did kick at times and the workmen would not. When two bosses are looking for one man, then the time more wages can be looked for, but when a dozen men are looking for one boss then it is that the price of labor goes down.

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It was an insult to them to organize them, however, on this point, for any man who had sense enough to come in out of the rain must of needs see the utility of organization. A depression was now prevailing in this country, but the speaker was confident that it was caused artificially; it did not result from natural causes. He said that there was a great need for a union, and the importance of the labor question. He said that the workingmen were being treated unfairly, and that they were being paid less than they deserved.

Mr. A. F. Jury, the Dominion immigration agent, was then introduced by the chairman, and after the outburst of applause with which he was received, he addressed those present. As he had been a member of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council for many years—the last years in fact he felt that he could call those present fellow workmen, and expressed his pleasure at being able to address them. The Trades and Labor Council was an institution which, Mr. Jury's opinion, was capable of reflecting great credit on the working classes and of doing much good for them. The Trades

and Labor Council in the centres of population always voiced the wishes of the working men in urban districts, and it was to them the duty of obtaining satisfactory labor legislation fell, as well as the work of endeavoring to secure the repeal of obnoxious laws. This council, as it existed in the same city as the seat of legislation, should endeavor to secure for the working men of this province the rights that were their due. Speaking of the exclusion of Chinese, he said that the Dominion Trades and Labor Council had passed resolutions and done all that was in their power favoring this course. The question now had thoroughly permeated the East, and although the people of the East were far away they were close in sentiment on this question. He thanked the Victoria Trades and Labor Council for their resolution approving of his appointment and said the endorsement by them was a compliment of which he was most proud.

In regard to securing immigrants for this country, he said he favored using the labor organizations of England to that end, and was strong in his disapproval of the indiscriminate dumping of resolutions in this Dominion. The class of men who were required here were hardy men, tillers of the soil. There was, he found, very little demand here for labor.

Someone at the back of the hall remarked that there was a surplus. "Yes," said Mr. Jury, "at present you have a surplus." Politicians are always accused of saying a different story in different provinces, but this could not be done with the labor question. There is but one labor question wherever man sells his hire. Capital has and will continue for some time to come to employ labor and it is not until labor employs itself that the solution of the labor question will be found.

The speaker then dwelt for some time on the evolution of the British working man, following his history from the time when, under control of the barons, he slaved in serfdom, step by step until at length, after a series of evolutions, he had fought for and won the franchise and had made himself a power in the land. It is at the present day humiliating to see working men sell that sacred vote for which his ancestors so bravely fought for a few pence, and to see a glass of beer or even a pot on the back. The true working man who has the interest of his fellows at heart, however, cannot be bought. This should be guarded against, however, it is a moral and political code. The laboring man should be taught that the ballot is a sacred trust and it should be used only to further the best interests of the country.

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ANNUAL ESTIMATES

Minister of Finance Yesterday Presented the Estimates for the Ensuing Year.

Salaries of Civil Servants Are Increased—The Estimates for Roads and Bridges.

Hon. J. H. Turner, the minister of finance, yesterday presented through a message from the Lieutenant-Governor the estimates of revenue and expenditure for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1898. The estimates of receipts, as far as the annual payments of the Dominion \$25,000,000, are the same as those of last year, but the government expect only \$70,000 from land sales, while the estimate last year was \$100,000. The estimate for timber royalties and licenses last year was \$50,000, this year is \$55,000. Timber sales last year were estimated at \$30,000, this year at \$35,000. Mining receipts last year were estimated at \$30,000, this year at \$35,000. The total estimated receipts last year were \$1,468,789.45, and this year \$1,566,765.10. The estimated expenditure last year was \$1,371,888.30, and this year \$1,566,765.10. The estimated expenditure on public debt is about \$10,000 more than last year, but a material reduction has been made in civil government (salaries), as last year's estimates under this head were \$146,500 and this year \$121,136. This, however, is lost salary, as the salaries of the civil servants are to be increased. The total estimated expenditure last year was \$1,371,888.30, and this year \$1,566,765.10. The estimated expenditure on public debt is about \$10,000 more than last year, but a material reduction has been made in civil government (salaries), as last year's estimates under this head were \$146,500 and this year \$121,136. This, however, is lost salary, as the salaries of the civil servants are to be increased.

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HE NEEDS SOMETHING



Johnston's Fluid Beef will set him right quickly. Easily prepared—Readily digested—Its strengthening and tonic effects are soon felt.

Johnston's Fluid Beef Strengthens.

REV. C. SAUGSTADT DEAD.

The President of the Bella Cooa Colony Goes to the Last Great Bourne.

The steamer Boscowitz, which arrived yesterday evening, brings from Bella Cooa the sad news of the death of Mr. Saugstad. The deceased, Rev. C. Saugstad, was a member of the colony, and was remembered, was in this city towards the later end of February, arriving here on the 27th of that month. He came here for the purpose of buying stock and machinery for the colony, and after he had concluded his business left on the Boscowitz for his home at Bella Cooa on March 10th. He contracted a severe cold during his stay in this city, and while here consulted Dr. H. B. Elliott, who brought him around sufficiently to allow him to start for home on the 10th inst. He stood the trip up well, and arrived at Bella Cooa on the 16th inst., and on landing at the colony walked around the wharf superintending the discharge of his freight. He took up with him as well as a lot of general merchandise a team of horses, two cows with calves, and the machinery for a sawmill, which he, aided by Mr. Hansen, the 10th inst. his death, which took place. Though he seemed to be a very sick man on his arrival at Bella Cooa on the 16th inst., he was not expected to die. He was a loving husband and a father of whom his family were justly entitled to be proud. He was, in fact, admitted by all who came in contact with him.

Of the late Mr. Saugstad's family some are married and living at different points in the East, while four boys and two girls live with their mother at Bella Cooa. The deceased gentleman was born in Norway, and had spent the most of his life in America, and for the last twenty-five years he had been a minister of the Lutheran church. He started the northern settlement where he of late had made his home and where he died on the 17th inst. In October, 1894, when he led a band of Norwegians to that colony. The late Mr. Saugstad was one of the hardest workers of them all; there was nothing too great for him to accomplish for his loved colony. He ministered to his compatriots, advised them, and aided them in every way that was in his power until at last the fever reaper gathered him in and he went to his reward. The settlers of Bella Cooa will exceedingly regret as well as all who knew him—the great loss which by his death has befallen the colony.

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