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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.

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Meets every FRIDAY evening at Eight o'clock in the K. of L. Hall, Chabouillez square. Address all communications to
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BUILDERS' LABORERS' UNION.
Meets in the Ville Marie Hall, 1623 Notre Dame street, every TUESDAY at 8 P. M.
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TORONTO NOTES.

Municipal Elections—Candidates for the Mayoralty—Attitude of the Labor Party—Secret Societies and How they Affect the Labor Vote—Sunday Street Cars—Technical School for Apprentices.

To the Editor of THE ECHO.

SIR,—Believing that organized labor in Montreal will be pleased to learn periodically how matters of common interest to those who work for wages in either Province I request the privilege of space in your valuable columns for a weekly contribution to that end from the city of Toronto.

Our municipal elections campaign is now in full blast, and every candidate, both for the Mayor's chair and for the position of alderman, is a friend of the workingmen—the old song with slight variations. Under the provisions of a law of the last session of the Provincial Legislature the twelve wards into which the city had been divided were abolished and six divisions substituted. This reduces the Board of Aldermen from 36 to 18. It also materially disturbed the old lines upon which the "ward heeler" knows how to work so well, and never in the interest of the best type of Mayor and alderman, nor in the public interest. On this occasion, as a consequence the old-timers do not feel as sure of their re-election as they used to do formerly. At the present there are five candidates formally in the field for the office of Mayor, with a salary of \$4,000 per year. They are Messrs. E. B. Osler and James Beatty, ex-M. P., Ald. Macdougall, and ex-aldermen John McMillan and Robert J. Fleming. Mr. McMillan ran for the same office two years ago on the strength of being a prominent Orangeman and Equal-righter, but was defeated by the present incumbent of the Mayor's chair. He, too, was and is a prominent Orangeman, but secured a solid Catholic vote because he refused to identify himself with the so-called "Equal Rights" movement. Since his advent in the city council Ald. Macdougall has made a fair record for himself. Mr. Fleming was not in the city council during the year now expiring, having declined to run last election. While he was in the council in the year preceding, however, he was conspicuous for his advocacy of measures of special interest to working people, and is the author of the 15-cent-an-hour by-law, under which all parties having contracts with the corporation must pay not less than 15 cents per hour to any person employed on the work under contract. Under the same by-law all corporation laborers must be paid at least 15 cents per hour. His chances of election appear very good.

It is said also that Mr. E. F. Clarke, M. P., (and prospective leader of the Opposition in the Ontario Legislature if Mr. W. R. Meredith goes into the Dominion Cabinet) who is now Mayor for the fourth year, will run again for a fifth time. If this be true, he will be a strong candidate against all comers. Mr. Beatty is running on "his own hook," while Mr. Osler is the nominee of the Board of Trade.

The Trades and Labor Council has not as yet, nor is it likely to endorse any candidate for Mayor; but it has "black-listed" a number of the present board of Aldermen as hostile to labor interests. The Typo Union (No. 91) has also sent circulars to all candidates informing them of the names of all "square" newspapers in the city with a request not to insert their election cards in any other newspapers. This is aimed at the Evening Telegram as the only non-union daily in the city. It is not likely that, in view of this circular, many prospective aldermen will patronize that sheet.

The labor organizations in this city have, in years past, been much more successful in defeating objectionable people than in electing their friends and nominees. Toronto is a hot-bed of secret societies of various characters, and they are more or less largely composed of our working classes. Knowing this, prospective vote-seekers join one or other of these bodies, and when one blossoms out as a candidate for election to this or that position the society machinery and influence is at work in his behalf. Thus the Orangeman is at work for his brother Orangeman, the Son of England, the Son of Canada, and the son of this, that and the other country, is at work in the interest of the brother of his particular lodge; while the Free Mason, the Knight of the Golden Eagle, the Knight

of Honor, and all other knights of that kind, are busy every night working up the laboring elements for their respective friends. They succeed in almost every instance in accomplishing at least one object—they split up the labor vote.

One of the warm issues in the present campaign will be the question of authorizing the running of Sunday street cars, and even on this question workingmen are widely divided—some opposing the proposed innovation as the thin end of the wedge of seven days' work for six days' wages, while others approve of it as a public convenience and not a few will vote for it so as to have "a slap at the bloomin' parsons," as I heard a sturdy English workingman put it.

For some years past the Trades and Labor Council had been agitating for the establishment of a Technical School in Toronto for artisans' apprentices and others desirous of still further improving their methods of workmanship. Last year the late Ald. Gillespie took hold of the subject with vim, but owing to the personal differences of himself and the Mayor, the latter did his best to prevent the worthy alderman being the father of the scheme. The Mayor was successful, for although the matter was approved in council and a by-law prepared to give it effect, it was side-tracked for a time on the plea that the council had no legal power to vote money for Technical Schools. This power was secured at last session of the Provincial Legislature, and Ald. Gillespie having died in the interim Ald. Dr. Orr (a friend of the Mayor's) took hold of the subject, and with the result that at the last meeting of the city council the by-law was concurred in and a sum of \$6,000 voted to commence the system with one school. Besides this the council granted free premises and light in one of the public buildings. The by-law names as the first Board of Management of the school, His Worship the Mayor, the chairman of the ex-committee of the city council, and three aldermen, representing the city council, F. C. Cribbin, Geo. Bradley, R. Glocking, John Armstrong and D. J. O'Donoghue, on behalf of the T. and L. Council, two architects, two stationary engineers and one manufacturer in iron. This Board will have its first meeting this evening for the election of a chairman and other preliminaries to active work. The city council appointed a permanent secretary to the Board at a salary of five hundred dollars. His active duties will not cover more than three or four months in a year. Had the municipal election not been looming very near there would have been no Technical School for some time yet in Toronto. The T. and L. Council is a sore thorn to more than one scheming alderman and would-be-alderman in this city, while it is execrated by corporation "heelers" and contractors. Business in all lines despite the near approach of the Holidays is very dull, while bricklayers, masons, painters, plasterers and, in fact, all engaged in the building line are doing little or nothing, although so far the weather has been remarkably open and mild. It is pleasing to add, nevertheless, that there is no falling away in the membership of the unions other than what arises from removal to the broader view field "across the lines" in the domain of Uncle Sam. With this as a start, and health permitting, you will hear from me every week hereafter.

Toronto, Dec. 15, 1891.

The Word "Union."

The Knights and the Federation and all the toilers will succeed only when they are educated up to the due appreciation of pulling together and working together. The word "union" must mean something more than a motto. It must stand for some force acting and operating to keep them not only together, but working together. Men must be anvils or hammers. We wonder at the horse and say, "What would he do did he know his strength?" Let us look at home. Do we know ours? Do we use it? Do we use it not as brute force, but as intellectual force to lift up ourselves? We have schools, day and evening; we have books and papers. Let us, above all things, think. We have the ballot; that is our weapon; it is all-powerful. The snow flakes stop the huge locomotives and trains. The little white ballots can beat down into the dust the mountains of iniquity that time and cunning have built up around us.—Providence Record.

John L. Sullivan appeared at San Francisco Tuesday in the title role of "Koderick Agra," a romantic Irish comedy.

DOMINION T. & L. CONGRESS

Petition to be Presented to the Federal Parliament.

The following is the draft of the petition adopted by the Council of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress for presentation at the next sitting of the Federal Parliament:—

Whereas, the recent investigations undertaken by Committees of the Senate and House of Commons have demonstrated that the system of constructing public works by contract is the cause of flagrant and deplorable corruption, resulting in enormously increasing the cost of such works to the country; therefore be it resolved, that in the opinion of this Congress the system should be abandoned, and in future all public works should be built by day labor.

That all Railway and Telegraph lines should be owned and controlled by the Federal Government; and that all Gas and Electric light plants, Telephones, Ferry, Water Works, and Street Railway lines should be owned by the municipality in which they are situated.

That the Government be petitioned to repeal the clause in the Seamen's Agreement Act not allowing any appeal after a conviction for any offence, and to grant instead the right of appeal in such cases.

Resolved, that while the organized workingmen of Canada are equally desirous with any other class in the community of seeing the unsettled portions of the country settled and improved, and are willing to support and approve any reasonable and judicious expenditure, other than financial assistance to immigrant, by the Dominion and Provincial Governments for this purpose, yet they are strongly opposed to the expenditure of any money, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of bringing to Canada artisans and agricultural and unskilled laborers, whether adult or juvenile, to compete in our already overcrowded labor market;

Resolved further, the organized workingmen of Canada recognize as an unmitigated evil the practice of steamship companies and their agents of making highly colored and misleading statements for the purpose of deceiving immigrants to Canada, and that whenever a steamship company, either directly or by an agent, makes any statement or offers any inducement to bring artisans or laborers to Canada, the Dominion Government should at once withdraw any subsidy it may be paying to such steamship company.

Whereas, the volume of the circulating medium is altogether too small to do the business of the country without resort to an undesirable and oppressive, if not ruinous, extension of the credit system; and whereas, the construction of needed public works and the carrying on of desirable public improvements by the Government and by municipalities, and borrowing money to pay the cost thereof, creates an intolerable interest burden; and whereas, such public works and improvements when finished will be an addition to the fixed wealth of the country, and therefore a proper and desirable basis for money; therefore resolved, that the Dominion Government should issue full legal tender paper money, redeemable in from thirty to fifty years, in sufficient quantity to meet the cost of constructing necessary public works and making needed public improvement, and loan such money to municipalities at a rate of interest sufficient only to cover the cost of issue and management, for the construction and carrying out of such works and improvements, requiring said municipalities to levy rates sufficient to pay the interest on such loans and to form a sinking fund for their repayment within the time at which the money is made redeemable.

That wenerer tenders are called for by either Federal or Provincial Governments, or by any Municipal Council for the building of any public works or the performance of any public service, and where, in the building of such work or the performance of such service workmen will be employed belonging to a trade or calling in which there is a usual and commonly recognized scale of wages, the specifications shall contain a clause that the successful tenderer shall pay the rate of wages prevailing in such trade or calling in the municipality in which the work is to be performed, or forfeit his contract.

Whereas, it is necessary for the moral and physical elevation of the people that the hours of labor should be shortened; And, whereas, owing to the monopolization of in-

ventions and discoveries, and of natural opportunities, the power of men to produce wealth has not operated to relieve labor by reducing its daily hours of toil; And whereas, individual employers claim, with some show of reason, that to be fair any reduction of the hours of labor should be general and gradual; therefore be it resolved, that in the opinion of this Congress the Dominion Parliament should enact a law which would provide for the gradual reduction of the hours of labor, so that within three years the legal work day should consist of eight hours, excepting only such callings in which an arbitrary fixing of the hours of labor is impracticable.

That in the opinion of this Congress a Dominion Board of Arbitration and Mediation should be constituted, whose duty it should be to arbitrate differences between employers and employees, with a view to preventing, as far as possible, strikes and lockouts, and that in the case of railway companies and other corporations holding public franchises the decisions of this Board should be compulsory.

That this Congress demands at the hands of the Dominion Parliament the passage of an efficient law, under suitable penalties, to prevent the importation of workmen into Canada under contract.

ABOUT STRIKES.

They Are Not Wanted by the Workmen But Are Forced Upon Them.

Workingmen should not go out on strike. Strikes inconvenience the public and make them suffer in consequence. Strikes cause a great loss of money to employer and employe. Strikes are bad, etc., etc. This is what we hear every time a strike is in operation, and, of course, the workingmen who strike are alone to blame. You will always find those who are ever ready to find fault with workingmen for striking for better pay or poorer pay. Yet we hardly ever hear the same persons have a word of censure for an employer who refuses all overtures of his employes to avert a strike. Workingmen are not in love with strikes. They do not quit work for the fun of the thing. In nearly all differences that arise they have no other alternative but the strike to bring employers to understand that they had some rights that should be respected. Arbitration in place of strikes was first offered by the workingmen's organizations, and where both sides of the controversy have been willing to arbitrate strike, never occur. Yet there are employers who persistently refuse to submit their difference to arbitration, and in dealing with stubborn men of this kind workingmen have to go on strike. An account of a recent strike in one of the northern cities reports that the men on strike sought concessions from their employers, and endeavored to adjust their difficulty before going out, their efforts were of no avail. What else was left for the workingmen to do but either submit to what employers felt disposed to give them for their labor or quit work until the price they demanded was paid? They chose the latter course and struck for living wages. As usual, they were blamed because they did not remain at work, and the labor agitators, of course, are the whole cause of the strike. The employer who refuses to listen to an equitable adjustment of the differences between his employes and himself has no share in the blame of inconveniencing the public. Oh, no! he is an independent citizen who refuses to be dictated to by trades unions and labor agitators. The trouble with these censors of the working people is that they are all one-sided and do not decide impartially. They claim for the employer the right alone to say what labor is worth and to pay whatever wages he deems proper. It never enters the minds of the censors that there is such a thing as equal rights, or at least they fail to admit there is, and that the workingman has as much right to say what he will sell his labor for as the employer has in saying what he will pay for his labor. All fair-minded people concede to labor an equal right with capital in regulating the price which shall be paid for work. While capital regards labor as a commodity to be purchased at the lowest market rate governed by the law of supply and demand, workingmen are compelled under this system to organize, combine and strike to keep up the price of their commodity—labor. Strikes are bad. Yes; but until capital recognizes labor as an equal partner, entitled to an equal share in the profits, until each recognize the rights of the other and endeavor to adjust differences and disputes by arbitration, there will be strikes and strikes to the end of time.—Paving Cutters Journal.