

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by the Boarders.

"You may talk about government control of railroads, telegraphs and all other means of transporting passengers, intelligence and freight," said Brown, "as a benefit to the people at large, but it seems to me that as long as you allow private ownership of land, the landlord and not the laborer will reap the greatest benefit from these reforms. Let me illustrate what I mean. We will assume that the Government assume control of the Canadian Pacific Railway and run it in the interest of the people. As the Government would not operate the road with the object of securing large dividends the result would be the best possible service at actual cost price, and the absence of discriminating rates in favor of municipalities, corporations and individuals. Everybody would be treated alike; neither the western farmer or the eastern manufacturer would be compelled to pay an exorbitant price to place their goods or produce in the market. The man of small shipments would be enabled to secure as good rates as the man of large means. Now, what would be the result? Why, this: that laborers, manufacturers and farmers would settle on the land both sides of the road so as to secure the advantage of cheap rates and rapid transit. This would inevitably tend to increase the value of that land and this increased value would flow into the pockets of those who now own it. The settlers would undoubtedly secure great advantages, but only upon payment of the full value of these advantages to those who now own the land. I believe that greater good would accrue to mankind by the abolition of private ownership of land than by government control of railways."

"Well, now," said Phil, "suppose that all land on both sides of the Canadian Pacific were free land, open to settlement to all who wish to use it and that the railroad was owned and operated by the present company, what then would be the result? Would not thousands and thousands flock there and build themselves homes and cultivate this land, which could be had for little or nothing, and would not this private corporation charge these settlers for transportation of themselves and their produce all they could afford to pay; and after the land were settled would they not continue to charge 'all the traffic would bear,' just as they have done and are doing? Who, then, would benefit by simply freeing the land? Would not the full value of this free land we have been talking about flow into the treasury of this corporation which controlled the means of transportation?"

"That certainly would be the case," said Brown, "if you continued to let the company own the land on which its roadbed lies, and made all the rest of the land free. The company, however, would not be allowed any more than anybody else to absolutely own a single inch of ground. It would, the same as these settlers you have been talking about, pay the full rental value of this land to the State. If it increased the value of this land by charging exorbitant rates it would be simply taking the money out of the people's pockets and paying it into the public treasury; the company would not gain anything by it. As the value of its franchise increased by high rates, so would its tax increase."

"But," continued Phil, "would not this continual raising and lowering of rates, this increasing or decreasing of lands cause endless confusion and trouble to assessors? Could any assessor be found to follow the antics of such a corporation if it desired to defraud the government?"

"I don't believe there could be any trouble about that," said Gaskill, "if the rates and amount of freight were taken as a basis to regulate the value of

railroad land. As a matter of fact, no assessors would be required. The company would have to submit to have its books audited quarterly by a government auditor, and his figures or report would show at a glance the amount due the government as tax. The only thing that I can see which would make trouble is this: Capitalists seeing such an effective check put upon the rapid accumulation of wealth in railroading would either be slow to invest in it or else not invest at all; this would compel the government to assume control and operate the road itself. Now, I believe that not only should we abolish private ownership of land, but that the people should assume control of all means of transporting passengers, intelligence and freight. And I think the quickest and most effective way of doing this is to push the land question first, last and all the time."

"That's all right," said Phil, "but the land question as a whole is something that will have to be settled in Ottawa. I believe that reforms begin at home; start right here in your own city first by assuming control of our street car service, by manufacturing your own gas and electric light, by taxing vacant lots and compelling your railroads to respect the law and have due regard for the lives of citizens, and when you have done that then, if you like, go to Ottawa; but don't bite off more than you can conveniently chew or else you'll choke yourself. Be radical, by all means, don't content yourselves with palliatives or make-shifts, but above all, start at home. By doing this you will show the world that you are in dead earnest, and when the time comes for you to act in Ottawa politicians will understand that you mean what you say and be anxious and willing to serve you. Organize every ward and every polling district; organize them now while you have time and next spring elect your own men to represent you in the City Council. Within two years, if you are true to yourselves, you can capture the greatest city in Canada and gain sufficient experience in politics to have hereafter none but labor representatives speak for Montreal in either Quebec or Ottawa."

BILL BLADES.

"SCRAPS" FOR CIGARMAKERS

At the regular meeting of Cigarmakers' Union No. 58, held last Friday, June 12, the following officers were elected for the ensuing term: President, U. Brosseau; first vice-president, P. Zingebiam; second vice-president, Alex. Barbeau; cor. secretary, A. Garipey; financial secretary, A. Lafrance. With the above named officers, and a little energy on the part of the members I feel sure the union will make marked progress.

There is some rivalry existing among a certain number of trades as to which will make the most attractive and best turnout on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7. I am confident that the Cigarmakers will still maintain the lead, and be second to none in the parade. Montreal seems to have lost all charms for our esteemed friend Harry, who intends to return to the States during the early part of next week. The movement to tender him a banquet before his departure is, to say the least, but a small recognition for his valuable services rendered previous to 1883.

Those men who are employed in a certain shop where they manufacture a brand after the name of one of our famous parks, that take such an active part in union matters (where there is any boodle to be obtained) but who sit by and deliberately see the International Union regulations violated by members holding two jobs, selling cigars and making them, ought to insist on the laws being observed by all, and not overlook the fact that the International Union's laws are not to be abused by a few who may be in with the controlling party.

There is a possibility of the Union taking some steps to suppress the articles that appear in the columns of THE ECHO signed by "Scraps," so a prominent member says. I would suggest to the committee that may be appointed to make the necessary enquiries as to who the party is, that instead of losing any time over such a trifling matter, they immediately commence to remedy the evils exposed in the columns of THE ECHO. It will be productive of more good than any enquiry which may be proposed, and which, before going any further, I may set down as a

scheme and a guise to lose time at a cost of thirty cents per hour to the union.

The member who says he is going to withdraw his card from Union No. 58 and place it in Union No. 226 in order that he may be able to nominate certain parties as delegate to the coming convention had better reconsider his intended action, as it certainly would be the cause of dissension in both unions. Take the same interest in the Union of which you are now a member, and it will be more creditable to you.

"Long Fillers" expresses his regret at giving what he thought was an explanation to the article on the Dominion cigar conference, which appeared in the columns of THE ECHO a few weeks ago.

The burning question now discussed by a portion of our fraternity as to whether ice water is a wholesome drink or not, has, after a very heated argument, been decided in the affirmative.

If the correspondent who denes the charge of receiving sick benefit under protest is correct, more shame on the Union and its officers who paid it. If it had been any other member but the one who received it he would have been told (as in the past) that his application was not received by the proper officer, and that the sick committee did not know of his sickness, and that he could not legally receive his benefit.

Is that lacrosse president too much occupied with sport that he forgets to see that his union is properly represented in the Central Trades and Labor Council? If such is the case, the quicker he is replaced, and a more reliable man elected to that position the better for all concerned. The union will then be able to continue the good work for which it was organized.

I learn with much regret that Mr. DeDaNan has been obliged to refrain from working owing to illness. It is to be hoped that it is nothing of a serious nature.

The assertion that has been made by one of the proprietors of a large cigar manufacturing company that he would rather have no men employed on — cigar, and the way in which the men are treated in his employ demonstrates that in the near future men will be no more a necessity in that establishment. From the foregoing I would presume that employers have no regard for, and even defy, any action on the part of organized labor to interfere with their child slavery. Probably it will be necessary to have another Labor Commission appointed in order to investigate the state of affairs existing in cigar factories in this city in order to give the public an opportunity of judging for themselves, whether those grasping employers should receive a continuance of their patronage under the present state of affairs.

"There is not another club in the city that has so many members of organized labor bodies in it as ours." (Vide Quebec Tom, the artist). And the proof of the assertion is that they patronize scab establishments when they have any printing done.

SCRAPS.

THE LATE MR. D. ERWIN.

At the last regular meeting of District Assembly 18 the following resolutions of sympathy and condolence were passed:

"Whereas the death of Bro. Daniel Erwin, past master workman of L. A. 3965, has filled us with profound sorrow; and

"Whereas having been long associated with Bro. Erwin in the cause of right and justice as represented in the Order of the Knights of Labor, we take this opportunity of testifying to his uprightness of character and to his honest, faithful and conscientious discharge of the duties he was called upon to perform.

"Resolved, that while we are filled with grief at the death of our fellow-laborer, and shall miss his familiar face and wise council in our gatherings, we believe he has been called to receive the reward of his labor denied to him here;

"Resolved, that we tender to his bereaved family and friends our sincere and heartfelt sympathy in this their hour of sorrow, and trust that the hope of a reunion in a happier life than this will help them to bear their loss with resignation;

"Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased and to the press."

J. WILKINS, D.R.S.

The regular meeting of Maple Leaf Assembly, K. of L., was held on Wednesday evening in their hall, 223 McGill street. There was a fair attendance of members. After the opening of the meeting Bro. P. J. Ryan moved the following resolutions, which were adopted unanimously:

Moved by P. J. Ryan, seconded by D. Beloe—

"Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to remove from our midst by the hand of death our beloved brother Mr. Daniel Erwin, we deem it our duty to place on record the sentiments of affection and esteem in which he was held by all.

"Resolved, that by his death the assembly loses one of its most zealous and active officers, and are consoled by the belief that

he has gone to receive the reward of a good, well spent life;

"Resolved, that these resolutions be entered in the minutes of the assembly and that the charter be draped in mourning for thirty days, and that a copy be forwarded to the family of the deceased and to the press for publication."

The visiting delegation appointed by District Assembly No. 19, composed of D. M. Workman W. Darlington, Bernard Feeney, of Progress Assembly, and W. Warren, of River Front, were present and addressed the meeting. Much sympathy was expressed at the loss of our deceased brother.

The thanks of the assembly were tendered to the proprietors of the Echo Printing and Publishing Company for donating the tickets for a raffle for the benefit of the widow and family of deceased.

The report of the delegate to the Trades and Labor Council was received and ordered to be spread on the minutes, after which the meeting adjourned.

At the last meeting of River Front Assembly 7628, K. of L., a resolution of condolence with the family of the late Mr. D. Erwin was passed. The members deeply deplored the loss of a faithful friend and a steady, conscientious and energetic worker in the order.

The late Sir John Macdonald.

He is dead, and the world to-day
With Canada will mourn
O'er the lifeless form of Sir John A.
Who was from a nation torn.
A duty well done when here on earth
A reward we know is given.
The nation's prayer to thee, O Lord,
Is a place for him in heaven.

That familiar form lies cold in death
We may never see his like again.
A life well spent, his duty done,
Past three score years and ten.
He will always be remembered,
By Canadians held most dear,
One of nature's noblemen
He stood without a peer.

Guide, bless, protect the loving ones
Who are here with us to-day.
Their head is bowed with grief, we know,
Oh strengthen them, we pray.
Be to them a husband and a father,
That promise thou hast given.
And when their work on earth is done
May they rest with thee in heaven.

J. GRANTIERS.

Hon. J. J. C. Abbott, the new Premier,
will be gazetted President of the Council to-day.

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