

=The Echo=

PUBLISHED BY
The Echo Printing and Publishing Co.

DAVID TAYLOR, MANAGER.

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MONTREAL, September 26, 1891.

THE ECHO is mailed to subscribers at a distance every Friday evening, and delivered in the city early on Saturday. Parties not receiving their paper regularly should communicate with the office.

The concluding instalment of our serial story is unavoidably postponed till next week.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

With the present number THE ECHO completes the first year of its existence, and it is for our subscribers, a large number of whose subscriptions expire at this date, to say, by a prompt renewal, whether they are satisfied with the course pursued by this journal and whether or not it has fulfilled the promises made at its start a year ago. To give those subscribers a chance to declare themselves we will continue to send the paper for a week or two, and in the meantime we trust they will act upon the hint and send their renewals as early as possible as the existence of such a journal depends a good deal upon the promptness with which subscriptions are paid. Since the first number of THE ECHO appeared the publishers have received many flattering opinions regarding the course it has followed and the general nature of its contents, which are greatly appreciated by them. They have also been the recipients otherwise of substantial favors from many friends anxious to assist in making THE ECHO a success, and to those the heartfelt thanks of the publishers are tendered. Had it not been for this countenance and assistance from advertisers and others it is probable that THE ECHO would have gone the way of its predecessor, a consummation that would have delighted a certain class who regard the existence of a labor paper as a constant menace to their schemes. As it is, however, THE ECHO still lives and there is every prospect, if workingmen continue to show their appreciation of it, of a long and prosperous career ahead.

To those who so readily subscribed at the beginning of the undertaking the thanks of the publishers are due, but unfortunately there is another class, to whom a few words must be said, namely, those who have not paid their subscriptions for the past year. Some of these held back no doubt from the perhaps excusable plea that there was just a possible danger of the contract not being carried out by the publishers, but now that this danger has been removed there is no possible excuse for withholding the subscription. The amount is very small—only one dollar—and we hope all those who have not paid will see it their duty to do so without further delay.

THE OTTAWA STRIKE.

Latest advices go to show that the men on strike at Ottawa still remain firm, and in this attitude they have the sympathy of the entire community, who, of course, are well aware of the conditions under which they have hitherto been working. Relief stores have been opened and merchants and others are contributing liberally to the assistance of the strikers, whose exemplary conduct under very aggravating circumstances receives commendation on every hand. It has been stated that the millmen were anxious to compromise by allowing an increase of fifty cents per week, but the moderateness of their whole demand gives the men confidence in holding out. When the dangerous nature of their employment is considered, it is surprising to find the wages paid to have been on such a low scale, and still more surprising to find the men have endured it so long. Called upon to work 11½ hours per day for the miserable pittance of \$6.36 per week, an increase of fifty cents per week and a reduction of the working day to ten hours cannot be called an extortionate demand. Elsewhere in our columns will be found an appeal to organized labor on behalf of the men from the Ottawa Trades and Labor Council, which ought to be acted upon at once by every organized body in this city. The urgency of the case will be apparent to every wage-worker who knows from bitter experience how difficult a thing it is to make both ends meet on a higher wage than is here quoted. Many of the hands were entirely dependent upon even this small allowance for existence, and its consequent loss must be keenly felt. They have no organization to back them in the unequal fight against capital, and therefore their case is all the more deserving the sympathy of those who have experienced the benefits of unionism.

We are glad to find that there has been a very general condemnation of the conduct of the three Justices of the Peace in calling out the militia for the slight disturbance which took place in the neighborhood of the mills last week. When the fact that one of the three was an interested employer is taken into consideration the outrage is all the more to be condemned. No effort whatever was made by the civil power to cope with the difficulty, whatever it amounted to. At the first intimation of the strike the military were resorted to at the instigation of parties whose interest it was to make it appear before the public that they were being persecuted and intimidated. We would recommend this incident as a suitable subject for parliamentary inquiry, and hope that some one of our members who claim to represent the labor cause will take the matter up. The responsibility of calling out the military should be taken out of the hands of irresponsible and probably (as in this particular case) interested parties and placed under direct control of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, who is responsible to the people, by whom the militia is maintained.

CONVICT LABOR IN TENNESSEE.

Hon. George W. Ford, Commissioner of Labor and Inspector of Mines of Tennessee, has just published his special report to the Governor and General Assembly on the condition of the mining industries of that State and the recent troubles at the Briceville and Coal Creek Mines over the employment of convicts under the infamous lease system. Notwithstanding the brief time allowed the Commissioner for making the report to the special session, he gives a very complete and manifestly impartial statement of the whole question and the causes which led to the July troubles. He shows from the records the unlawful and unfair conditions under which the mines were be-

ing operated by the mining companies and the patient efforts made by the miners a year ago to obtain redress. The company refused to allow checkweighmen to see that the miners got full credit for the coal mined by them in the darkness of the mine and weighed by the company outside in their absence. The miners occupied the company's houses and were at their mercy. They were charged at the company's stores for their provisions and mining supplies in some instances from twenty to thirty per cent. more than the rates charged in other stores. The companies issued scrip to the miners, which involved a loss of twenty per cent., all in violation of law.

When the miners began to agitate and protest against the injustice, a form of cast-iron contract was submitted to them for individual signature as the condition of their being retained. This was what led to the troubles of July. Last June the miners were notified that if they would not sign the contract that convicts would be employed to take their places. A few of the men did sign, but the great majority indignantly refused. On the 5th of July a carload of convicts were landed at the Tennessee mine and put to work. The houses lately occupied by the miners were being arranged by them for the reception of another lot of convicts expected to follow.

The whole valley then became aroused in protest against the action of the company. Not only miners but farmers, store-keepers, and men of all trades and professions joined in public meetings to discuss the situation, and the unanimous sentiment demanded the removal of the convicts. On the 14th of July, the day before the second consignment of convicts was expected, a public meeting was held, attended by citizens of all classes, and it was decided to make a formal demand for the removal of the convict miners from the valley. A crowd of about three hundred, armed with Winchester rifles and other arms, marched to the stockade and demanded that the convicts be turned over to them, so they could march them down to the station, about five miles away, whence they would ship them to Knoxville. This was done, and the convicts were safely delivered at Knox County Jail that evening.

The Governor was appealed to for military assistance by the company. The miners, farmers, merchants, and others who constituted the body of the people of the village also appealed to the Governor defending their action in removing the convicts. The militia were found to be largely in sympathy with the people. The Governor finally effected a compromise by calling this special session of the Legislature to consider the question of abolishing the lease system, as it had been abolished in nearly all the rest of the country. The Legislature will make a grievous mistake if it fails to act in good faith and effectively on the question as it is now presented. The policy of high-handed defiance of the sentiment of the community by using those convicts to do the work which furnished the regular means of subsistence of the working people cannot be permanently sustained, and it will be far better to take measures now to amend the wrong than to invite the difficulties which its continuance is certain to bring in the early future.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The tailors of Windsor, Ont., who have been on strike for some time past have now given up the struggle, but the bosses are pursuing their advantage to the bitter end and refuse to employ any of the old hands. The men can turn the tables on their old employers and advantage themselves at the same time by starting a co-operative tailoring establishment. Such an institution as this would have the cordial support of other grades of workers, who, generally speaking, are the cash paying and there-

fore most profitable class of customers. By trying to deprive the men who went out on strike in order to better their condition of employment, the tailoring bosses of Windsor are exhibiting a mean and contemptible spirit of revenge which will finally react upon themselves.

An eight-hour law will undoubtedly be one of the rallying cries of the British Liberals at the next general elections. Although as yet the party has not committed itself in favor of State limitation of the hours of labor, a majority of the Liberal members voted for a recognition of the principle applied to railway workers, and it is safe to say they will go farther and accept the resolution adopted by the Newcastle Congress as the basis of an eight-hour measure. It may not be altogether pleasant for some of the party to swallow the dictum of a Trades Congress, yet, rather than weaken the party and antagonize the working classes they will vote in that direction.

Parliament, at the bidding of Government, has, by a majority of fifteen, declared Sir Hector Langevin to be innocent of all complicity in the hoodling schemes of McGreevy, Murphy & Co. The division list showed 101 members voting for this whitewash, but we venture to say it will be exceedingly difficult to find a similar number in the whole of Canada to arrive at the same conclusion. With the exception of three defections it was simply a machine vote, the majority looking to party interests instead of upholding justice and truth.

The air is afloat with rumors that the British Government are sending several regiments to Canada to be stationed at Quebec, Halifax and Vancouver. Probably the wish is father to the thought in this case, and the rumor is believed to have arisen out of the fact that troops going home from India are to pass through the Dominion in order to test the advantages to be gained by the C. P. R. route.

LIQUOR SELLING AT THE EXHIBITION.

To the Editor of THE ECHO.

SIR,—What about that \$500 that Mr. S. C. Stevenson, the manager of the Exhibition Company, was to give to some charitable institution if any intoxicating liquor was sold within 300 yards of the Exhibition buildings. It was an awful crime to sell Weiss beer on Labor Day, but quite proper to sell lager during the Exhibition, without mentioning what could be got out of the "green bottle."

Yours, etc.,
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Grand display of Colored Blankets. Price from \$1.25 per pair.

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Grand display of White Quilts. Prices from 75c to \$1.00.

Grand display of Bleached Table Linens. Prices from 40c per yard.

Grand display of Unbleached Table Linens. Prices from 30c per yard.

Grand display of Table Napkins. Prices from 40c per dozen.

Grand display of Hem-stitched Napkins.

Grand display of Hem-stitched Table Cloths.

Grand display of Hem-stitched Tray Cloths.

Grand display of Hem-stitched Sideboard Covers.

Grand display of Hem-stitched Sheets and Pillow Cases.

Grand display of Hem-stitched Towels.

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