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Official Organ of the Toronto District Labor Council. Published Weekly in the Interests
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Vol. IV. No. 14

TORONTO, OCTOBER 7, 1904

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CARPENTERS WON MANY CONTESTS WERE SUCCESSFUL IN 98 PER CENT OF THEM
Report of Secretary Duffy to the Brotherhood at the Milwaukee Convention—Officers Exonerated from all Charges.
 Secretary Frank Duffy, in his report to the convention of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners in Milwaukee, said that the number of trade movements the past two years exceeded that of any other time. In all, 102 cities made demands for higher wages, eight hours, Saturday half-holiday, recognition of the union, refusal to work with non-union men or to handle non-union goods, and to resist the open shop. Ninety-eight per cent of these movements were successful, and the open shop policy has so far been successfully resisted.

When we remember how the workers have been treated over the centuries, and picture Colorado, Chicago, Russia, the South African mines, and all our talk of efforts in this city which we, the working class, have built, organized, and filled with merchandise, we seem sold and inadequate in attempts to describe the feelings of the human heart.

HOUSE RENTS
Report of Committee of District Labor Council upon the Question
 Your committee appointed to consider the high rents now being paid by the city of Toronto, and the possibility of our members acquiring possession of a home through the cooperation of the union, desires to report as follows:
 Your committee met at The Toiler on the evening of July 19th. Present: Mr. Davis, Mrs. Hall, Mr. T. J. O'Connell, Mr. J. H. O'Connell, Mr. T. J. O'Connell, and J. H. O'Connell. We agreed unanimously on the following points:
 1. That the burden of rent is growing very heavily on the manual toilers of Toronto.
 2. That this burden is unreasonably heavy, is growing heavier, and ought to be abated.
 3. That almost every house-renter, after paying the purchase money of a home, afterwards twice over, in the course of a lifetime, some few for themselves, but the majority for their families.
 4. That a large number of the manual toilers of this city would welcome the opportunity to purchase homes of their own.
 5. That the reason that so few manual toilers attempt to purchase homes of their own is, that many have tried, and through difficulties caused by sickness, want of employment, or ignorance of business methods, have failed in their efforts and lost the three or four hundred dollars they had put into the venture, thereby discouraging others.
 6. We agreed that could these causes of failure be removed, and some plan devised whereby every manual toiler, honestly and lawfully endeavoring to purchase a home, could be safeguarded from all loss in excess of a reasonable rent, and if possible sustained in his effort until in complete ownership of his home, a great many more trades unionists would endeavor to own their homes.
 7. We also agreed that besides securing and assisting our members to make the effort to acquire possession of their homes, something ought to be done to restrain speculators and unscrupulous landlords from racking their tenants with high rents.
 8. We also agreed that as this city is giving over \$100,000 annually to the manufacturers and merchants in exemptions from taxation, water rates, and railway facilities, there is nothing unreasonable in manual labor asking for a gift, but for a temporary loan, that must eventually assist in increasing the stability of this city.
 Your committee therefore submits the following recommendations for your consideration:
 1. That this Council petition the City Council to build workmen's dwellings on land owned by the city, and rent the same to workmen at a rate sufficient to pay 5 per cent on the investment, including cost of upkeep. This same is being done in most of the large cities of the United Kingdom.
 2. That no landlord be allowed to raise his rents higher than will pay him 5 to 10 per cent per annum on the cash value of his property, or 10 to 15 per cent on the city assessment, including cost of upkeep. Any tenant having his rent raised shall have the right to search the assessment roll and find out the assessed value of the house he is renting with right of appeal to the County Judge if the above rate of interest is exceeded.
 3. We recommend that the City Council be petitioned by this District Labor Council to make annually 100 building loans of \$5,000 each at 3 per cent per annum to the toilers of this city, on the following terms:
 All applicants shall furnish a certificate endorsed by some union or local society, certifying that they are good members of their union or society; that they have resided in Toronto for 10 years, and own no real estate and less than \$5,000 in personal property, including furniture.
 The applicant shall also furnish certificates from his employer covering a period of five years, certifying that he has given efficient and satisfactory service during that time. Also certificates from his landlord, grocer, butcher and baker covering a period of five years, certifying that he has honestly paid his way during that time.
 The applications and certificates to be examined by a board of judges, three to be appointed by the City Council and two by the union and benefit societies, on a referendum vote.
 The 100 loans to be awarded to the 100 applicants who have the largest families and the smallest family income.

PROGRESS OF LABOR UNIONS
Record of the Past Year Shows an Increase all Along the Line
 Organized labor has made good progress during the past year. The situation, past and present, is summed up by Mr. Frank Morrison, general secretary of the Federation of Labor, in this statement:
 "The past year has been a satisfactory one to organized labor. Nine or ten new international unions have been formed. The membership of the American Federation of Labor has increased, notwithstanding the attacks made by citizens' alliances and other unfriendly organizations to fully 400,000, bringing our membership up to 2,000,000.
 "The Federation, both numerically and financially, is splendidly equipped. Fifty general and 1,100 district organizers have been at work. We have been unusually successful in adjusting strikes and lockouts. At the end of the year, when strikes now are adjusted, it will be found that labor organizations have generally succeeded. Even where defeated they have retained their organizations and prevented reorganizations.
 "The fact that they must proceed through organization and legislation to the remedy for those conditions that bear most heavily upon them.
 "The disposition of laboring men throughout the country is to refuse surrender one inch of any advantage they have gained either in this or any other year through their unions. In fact, they will be able in the revival of business to obtain such conditions for which they are striving.
 "To sum up the year has shown a general increase all along the line, with a membership, better discipline and equipped to meet the future during the coming year. In the labor movement intelligence is recognized as the only force capable of obtaining better conditions."
 Washington Star.

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STARVING THE TOILERS
Pullman Company's Plan to Prepare Its Employees for a Reduction of Wages.
 Six weeks ago the Pullman Car Co., Chicago, began laying off, because, as alleged, of the lack of orders. This was continued until Sept. 15, when all except a handful were told to go.
 On Monday the company resumed its employes, but their wages were cut from 10 to 20 per cent. It is said that these men have been spoken with great care and that in their number will be found some who have been known as "labor agitators."
 The wage scale at the shop has remained in the past from \$1.75 to \$7 a day, but the number getting the higher pay was hardly worth mentioning. It is the intention to eliminate piece work and the result, the company says, are to be made on this kind of work.

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PATTERNMAKERS ADDRESS THE COUNCIL
 To Secretary Kennedy and Members of Toronto District Labor Council.
 The Patternmakers' Association of Toronto met at a public meeting, after a preliminary discussion at various times regarding the present condition and outlook of the labor movement, and considering that no great strike of recent years has resulted in pronounced victory to the working class, it is the opinion that the fullness of the strike as a weapon with which to force concessions from the capitalist class is rapidly passing away.
 We are moved to express to you our conviction that the strike, which is of greater value to the labor movement in these modern days of the strike at the ballot box.
 During the workers to use the ballot with a clear and definite purpose in view and with concerted action, we un-

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THE HOMES OF HELL.
 The stately homes of England no more the poor fair and grand! She did not think it meet to tell About the tenements of hell.
 She did not sing the fifty den Where bairns and women herd with men.
 Where starving spirits sweat to keep The landlord in his castle steep.
 But, hear! the landlord over all From out the heavens himself hath called!
 And tyrants that have used the rod Shall feel the scourges of our God.
 Let hearts deep-plough'd by life-long care Be plough'd by His, and will not spare; The late Oppressor doth regret, God straighten now the awful lot.
 The homes of England yet shall stand With Freedom's blessing on the land; Yes, England once again shall see A Present born to Liberty! H. G.

Organized capital has the courts on its side because organized capital is wise and goes into politics.
 The economic interests of the church and of society have decided largely its moral principles.—Rev. Paul Cassin.
 A capitalist may sometimes vote Tory and sometimes Liberal, but you'll note he always votes for capitalism.