

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by the Boarders.

"I am the son of a farmer and my mother was a legitimate wife. I am a legitimate son of the people, and I ask the protection of the people against the tyrant of Spencerwood." "So spoke Mercier on Friday night," said Phil, "and the bombastic way in which he said it led many to believe that there must be a lot of illegitimate sons of the people somewhere. I am not prepared to say that there is not, because the people of this province are not all saints; but I do hold that their numbers are so small in proportion to the population that to be the legitimate son of a legitimate wife isn't much to brag about. When a prime minister comes to the electors with a song of that kind and asks their support on the strength of being born in honest wedlock, he simply makes himself ridiculous. The people don't care a button how, or when, or where he was born, or whether his father was an honest man or not; just now we take a greater interest in the honesty of himself and his administration than we do in that of his parents, and until he can prove to the satisfaction of the people that he himself is an honest man there is no earthly use of bragging of his ancestors. It is he who is on trial, and it is with his acts as a public man, and not with the circumstance of his birth, that we have to deal. He claims the protection of the people; what has he done for them? Has he ever protected them and their interests sufficiently to warrant him in claiming their protection now? If he has, he should be supported; if he has not, he should be 'sat on.' Let's see. Along our wharves during the summer scores and scores of men, every one of them born in honest wedlock, as legitimate sons of legitimate wives as Mercier is, are either maimed or killed through defective gear and tackle, and Mercier knows it. So persistently was this matter brought to the notice of his government by the labor organizations of this province that he pledged himself to have Inspectors of Gear and Tackle appointed. Despite his promise, the men who work along our river front are as little protected to day as ever they were; and they are all men of the people, and of the self-same people to whom he now comes for protection. 'The laborer is worthy of his hire,' and we asked for a law which would protect our labor by giving us a first lien to the extent of our wages upon everything which our labor produced. It is by the labor of our hands that we live; our labor is our capital, and it is all the capital we have, and we wanted it protected. What answer did this man, who now claims our protection, give the delegates who brought this matter to his notice? Listen: 'Come to me with reasonable demands and I will listen to you, but I positively refuse to grant a request so absurd and unreasonable as this one.' Yet the people believed that this request to have their wages secured was perfectly fair and reasonable, and they believe so still; and the delegates who made this demand and the men whom they represented were all legitimate sons of the people, and all their mothers were the legitimate wives of their fathers who were all of them men of the people, if that has anything to do with it. I believe that an illegitimate child is entitled to justice and fair play as well as a legitimate one, but if the circumstance of being born in honest wedlock is a valid claim for protection as implied by Mercier, then these men, apart from the justice of their demands, were entitled to consideration. We asked that the power to call out the militia for the purpose of intimidating or shooting down the men of the people be taken out of the hands of irresponsible magistrates and vested in the Governor-in-

Council; did this legitimate son of the people, who now seeks our protection, grant our request, and by doing so, protect the lives of the people? And if he did not do any or all of these things his bump of presumptuousness must be abnormally large to expect the people to protect him now. Has he not positively refused to protect their interests, and broken his promise to protect their lives?"

"From a labor point of view Mercier's administration has certainly been a failure," said Brown, "but the question is: how are you going to improve on it? To vote for the Conservatives won't mend matters, for our experience with the Ottawa Government shows that, not only is that party as hostile to labor as the other one, but that it has the same habit of plundering the public treasury, and even makes a better fist at it; clearly to vote the Tories into power, were to go out of the frying-pan into the fire. Prominent and influential men have in public and private, in pulpit and press, denounced the corruption of the old political parties; now is their time to apply the remedy. Nothing would purify our Provincial Legislature more than the presence of half a dozen honest men who would be absolutely independent of either political party, and determined to see the affairs of the province fairly and intelligently administered; and there should be no difficulty in framing a platform to which both honest Conservatives and Liberals as well as Laborreformers could subscribe. We want a progressive Government, but above all, we want an honest one."

God, give us men! A time like this demands Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands;

- Men whom the lust for office does not kill; Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy; Men who possess opinions and a will; Men who have honor; men who will not lie.

BILL BLADES.

IMPROVE THE WORKERS' HOMES.

If one is to indicate what, in his judgment, is the next step of progress to be taken by the wage-earner, he must also understand what steps may be regarded as already taken. The chief thing distinct and new in the attitude of workmen, is their extended combination to secure the best terms of labor, and to assist each other in various ways in meeting any unusual pressure in life. This defensive attitude, in which we thoroughly sympathize, being assumed as already taken, we think it should at once be followed by single and combined effort toward interior household construction. Each workman should direct his attention to the best things to be purchased in the best way, and should unite with others in deliberation for this common gain. Building up the home, gathering into it better conditions and more enjoyments, making it an adequate reward for the labors of life and a more persuasive motive to hard work, is a step of progress which lies just before every workman, and is more rewardful than any other.

This is so on the side of economy. Workmen are apt to be bad buyers. They do not select well the things to buy, nor buy them in the best way. The whole problem of expenditure ought to secure the earnest and wise action they are bestowing on acquisition. Of the two, the prosperity of a household depends more on the manner in which it spends what it earns than on its comparative success in earning it. A wise economy is indispensable to prosperity in all men.

So long as beer and tobacco take up the overflow of wages there can be no marked progress among workmen. Workmen, by their large consumption of these articles, are contributing far more to the burdens of taxation.—The Voice.

THE WATER RATES.

A Recommendation to Further Reduce the Tax.

The Finance Committee held a short session on Monday afternoon, when the following statements bearing on the water rates was submitted:—

To ALDERMAN ROLLAND, Chairman Finance Committee.

SIR,—In conformance with the instruction of your Committee, we have carefully considered the question of how to make up the deficiency in the revenue, which the proposed reduction in the water rates would occasion, and the more fully we analyse the subject the more are we inclined to adhere to our first report. In the course of our examination, however, we feel impelled to suggest the following modification of both the Committee's recommendation and our own first report thereon, which we now respectfully submit to your consideration.

The original recommendation is that the water rate be reduced to a uniform rate of 7 1/2 per cent. on rental. This would entail (as already stated), a loss of..... \$100,000 We could now suggest that, in addition to this, the tax on closets and urinals should be abolished, representing..... 35,000

Or a total loss of, say..... \$135,000 To make up this we would recommend as follows:—

- 1-10th of 1 per cent. on real estate, say..... 10,000 7 1/2 per cent. on rental on vacant lots (for water)..... 25,000 7 1/2 per cent. on rental on keepers, saloons, etc..... 12,000 Advance in the license, say..... 1,000 Reduction of discount from 5 per cent. to 3 per cent..... 7,000

By a strange oversight the clause of the charter which says that the ordinary business tax of 7 1/2 per cent. on rental shall be paid in addition to any special tax has not been applied to innkeepers, though it has in all other businesses; hence the recommendation: while the tax of \$120 per annum on "Theatres," as now, seem inadequate to the revenues they obtain from the public. The suggestion to exempt closets and urinals is for the very obvious reason that it would promote sanitary considerations, while baths are excluded for the same reason. All, however to be subject to the regulation and restrictions of the water department. These items, moreover, give rise to much grumbling and annoyance, and it would seem desirable, while making a change, to remove the cause for it.

Respectfully submitted, (Signed) W. Robb, City Treasurer. (Signed) Olivier Dufresne, City Comptroller.

ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS.

CIGARMAKERS' UNION, NO. 226 President, Ed. De Da Naan; Vice-President, A. Duval; Rec. Sec., John McGrath; Fin. Sec., Thos. McGreevy; Treasurer, Geo. Weir. Delegates to Central Trades and Labor Council—Ed. De Da Naan, Thos. McGreevy, and John John McCarney.

CIGARMAKERS' UNION, NO. 58. President, Nap. Paquette, re-elected; 1st Vice-President, Pete Zinshein; 2nd Vice-President, Jos. Seguin; Rec. Sec., Jos. Fournier, re-elected; Cor. Sec., A. Garipey, re-elected; Fin. Sec., Alph. Lafrance, re-elected; Treasurer, M. Larose, re-elected; Sergeant-at-arms, Elie Massie. Delegates to Central Trades and Labor Council—E. Massie, A. Garipey and A. David. A. Lafrance has been elected Financial Secretary 11 times.

PAINTERS, DECORATORS AND PAPER-HANGERS OF AMERICA, NO. 222. President, Geo. Brooks; Vice-President, W. Mills; Secretary, A. Wolfe; Treasurer, J. Graham; Fin. Sec., G. Smith; Preceptor, Gus. Gibbons. Delegates to Central Trades and Labor Council—Tom Fisher, Gus. Gibbons, Chas. Fortier.

BLACK DIAMOND ASSEMBLY 1711. M. W., John Carrol; W. F., F. Cheeseman; V. S., M. Martin; R. S., W. Robinson; F. S., U. Sweeney; Treasurer, J. Fraser; Statis, J. Keegan; Almoner, J. O'Brien; Judge, G. Holliday; J. A., S. Fitzpatrick; Clerk, P. Cronin. District Assembly Delegates—P. Cronin, S. Fitzpatrick, J. Carrol. Delegates to C. T. & L. C.—J. Keegan, G. Holliday, J. Fraser.

DOMINION ASSEMBLY 2436. M. W., Jas. Molver; W. F., Jas. H. Dodds; V. S., R. Keys; R. S., H. J. Brindle; F. S., W. Darlington; Treasurer, Mrs. Mary Duffy; W. I., W. Lustgarten; U. K., Geo. Duggan. Delegates to C. T. &

L. C.—R. Keys, W. Darlington, Jas. Molver. D. A. 18, W. Darlington, J. H. Dodds, Duffy.

VILLE-MARIE ASSEMBLY 3484.

At the regular meeting of the Ville-Marie Assembly, 3484, K. of L., the following were elected officers for the ensuing six months: M. W., F. X. Boileau; W. F., J. C. Corbeau; V. S., Jos. Fournier; Rec. Sec., J. A. Rodier; Fin. Sec., J. Laverdure; Treasurer, L. Laramée. Delegates to C. T. & L. C.—F. X. Boileau, U. Lafontaine and J. P. Coutlee. Delegates to D. A. 19—F. X. Boileau, J. A. Rodier and U. Lafontaine.

A despatch from Biarritz says: Mr. Gladstone was blackballed on Wednesday at the English club here. Sir Andrew Fairbairn, president of the club, who proposed Mr. Gladstone, has resigned the presidency in consequence.

Jules Simon, the French statesman is reported dying.

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"One of the Bravest" and Finest things to do is to overcome your prejudice and remember there can be just as good Goods made in your own town as any other.

"The Grass is Green Far Away," But we notice that after knocking around the world a few years Montreal is about as good a city to live in as any further West. The Stoves are made here, and by your own people. Might as well put the money in their pockets as mail it to other cities. Think it over, and if you want a stove allow us to quote you prices.

SALESROOMS: 524 CRAIG STREET, 2495 NOTRE DAME STREET, 319 ST. JAMES STREET, 1417 ST. CATHERINE STREET. CORNER INSPECTOR AND WILLIAM STS., HAYMARKET SQUARE

W. CLENDINNENG & SON.

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