

The Tribune

VOL. 1, NO. 11

SATURDAY, NOV. 18, 1905

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OFFICIAL REPORT OF Toronto District Labor Council

REGULAR MEETING, NOV. 18

The Trades and Labor Council met last night with a large number of delegates present. The first business before the chair was the election of two to fill the vacancies on the legislation committee, caused by the resignations of delegates Hill and Duffy and was filled by the election of Chas Lavoie and Arthur Callow, and the vacancy on the educational committee caused by the withdrawal of Mr. Hill; the vacancy was filled by the election of delegate Walker.

Delegate Virtue tendered his resignation on the organization committee and was succeeded by delegate Griffin. The resignations of Mrs. Darwin, Miss Verral and Mrs. Voden of the label committee was laid on the table and a motion was put through to add more to the committee. The additions to the committee were added by the election of delegates Finnigan, Lavoie, Richardson and Stewart. A strong protest was entered against members of this committee not attending meetings after appointments.

A letter from the principal of the Technical school was read asking a hearing, to ask the co-operation of organized labor in the enlargement of the Technical school, and a resolution was carried asking him to address a meeting. A motion was unanimously adopted to ask the American Federation of Labor to hold their next annual convention here, and the executive committee will ask the city council to also extend an invitation. The reports of the various unions, re the support of candidates for the city council be laid on the table until the next meeting was lost and an amendment that the returns be received and filed was carried.

A communication from the Iron Moulders, Stove Moulders and Metal Polishers, as to unfair firms was read and the various unions will be notified.

A letter from the Berlin Trades Council re the tariff commission was referred to the tariff committee.

The credential committee was elected as follows: delegates Rawlinson, Griffin and Stewart.

Sergt. at-arms Oakley of the Trades and Labor Council is still on the sick list.

Mr. A. C. Sanders has been appointed to the Building Trades Committee of the American Federation of Labor at Pittsburg.

John Tweed is out for a seat on the School Board.

The following record of early strikes makes interesting reading: 1905—Strike among the tailors and turban makers of Constantinople. The sultan was appealed to, and twenty-six of the strikers were hanged, the rest drafted into the army. 1583—Workmen employed to pull down one of the suppressed monasteries in England revolted for better pay. Several were put to death, and the others were imprisoned. 1593—Masons employed on the Escorial palace, Spain, refused to work unless better paid. Several were put to the galleys and the rest were exiled to America. 1625—Strike among the tea pickers of the Central Chinese province for higher pay. They were hanged by men in charge of the trust. 1705—The shipbuilders and sailmakers employed by Peter the Great at St. Petersburg struck for shorter hours. Seven were hanged, 127 sent to Siberia and 952 were drafted into the army. Exchange.

A postage stamp, addressed on the gummed side, has been delivered at Pittsburg, and that you will carry home

EAST END DAY NURSERY

Babies dark, babies fair, fat babies, lean babies—but all with happy, smiling, healthy faces and clean, well-cared for bodies.

This is what I saw on a recent visit to the Day Nursery at 28 River street. A ring at the door-bell brought a pleasant-faced girl, dressed in a clean, pretty uniform of blue and white. Asking for the matron I was asked to step into the office, where I found a very busy scene. A large, long, remarkably clean room, with a table stretching from end to end piled up with clothing of all description—it was the annual rummage sale of the East End Day Nursery. The matron, Mrs. McKinley, kindly laid aside all business and gave me her attention. She informed me that the Nursery was not in its usual order, the play room of the children having been turned into a store room for the annual sale of cast-off clothing donated by friends.

In an outer room about 100 women were waiting for the sale to commence. They could buy for a few cents garments that were serviceable yet, and in this way could provide clothing for themselves and families for the winter who otherwise would have to go scantily clad. This was one of the objects of the nursery, but the chief one is to provide a home during the day for children whose mothers are obliged to go out to work; to assist in securing work for women needing it; to encourage habits of thrift among parents and children and to enable, charitably disposed women to come in touch with the home life of the mothers and children and take such action as may from time to time seem best to brighten their homes, and as far as I could see right nobly are these women doing their work.

Mothers who have to work leave their children at the nursery. The children are cared for from early morning until evening. Home life and wholesome food is provided, those of school age go from the Nursery to school, returning at noon for dinner, returning again after school. The charge to the mothers is seven cents for one child, thirteen cents for two and fifteen cents for three and five cents for each additional child per day in the same family.

There are 150 mothers connected with the Nursery. There is a telephone in the building for the use of the mothers in securing work. The matron informed me that about 1,000 children were cared for in a month. The Nursery is entirely non-sectarian, all being welcome, in the words of the president, all nationalities are welcome at our doors, our aim is to conduct our work on the lines of a well regulated home as it is the home life that makes the national life. The cost of maintaining each child is about 19.12 cents per child per day, which is made up by proceeds of sales, fees and donations from friends.

Excursions and outings were provided for the mothers and children during the summer and were thoroughly enjoyed. The needs of the Nursery has grown so rapidly that they have outgrown the capacity of the present building, and already the Board of Directors are looking about for ways and means to enlarge the premises. A permanent staff of six is engaged, and the wants of all comers are well attended to.

I expressed a desire to see the children. The matron regretted that I had called on the day—they were all so busy but would do her best for me. She sent a messenger, and in response a kindly, grey-haired lady was introduced to me as Mrs. McDonald, the president of the Board of Directors. This lady I found very enthusiastic and is evidently very devoted to the work she has given her life to. She readily volunteered to show me over the building. We passed up to the second story. Everything here seemed to have the appearance of comfort and cleanliness.

Mrs. McDonald opened a door, and oh, sue me sight! Babies, babies, everywhere. A large, bright room with a nurse in the name pretty uniform, seated in the centre, surrounded on all sides with cradles, babies on her knees and babies at her feet. Some little more than a month old, some a little older—none more than two years old. I asked her what she did when they all cried at once. She said, our babies do not cry, they are too happy, and indeed it did seem as if this were so, for all looked smiling and rosy. I stooped over the cradle of a beautiful baby about two months old, who was lying contentedly sucking away at its foster mother in the shape of a nursing bottle. It smiled up into my face and I bowed my head in homage to the good woman who were doing a greater work for humanity than the bravest soldier on the battlefield.

One little one, the nurse told me, had been with them daily all its short life, they had watched over it tenderly, they feared it would die, but good nursing, good air and good food was fast turning it into a healthy, normal child. We then went down to the basement, that had been turned temporarily into a play room for the older children. When the door opened we were met with an

eager rush, by twenty or thirty children ranging from the ages of four up to six or seven, all clamoring for recognition at once. A few kindly words spoken in loving tones by the president calmed them into obedience, and they drew back, smiling, but contented, all except one little fellow with the face of an angel, who looked up into my face and held-out his hand for me to shake. He told me his name. The nurse in charge of these little ones told me he had been with them since he was two weeks old, that he had been a very delicate child, but they had nursed him back to health. Many of the mothers of these children are widows and the sole support of these children; others are compelled by the inadequate earnings of their husbands to assist in maintaining the home but all have reason to feel grateful to this little band of women who are giving their children the care which they are debarred by poverty from giving themselves.

The president informed me they were greatly in need of funds to carry on the work. She said an appeal had been sent out to labor organizations for help. I know of no institution that is more worthy of help than this one. I sincerely hope that when the appeal is read by the secretaries of the different locals the members will see their way clear to make at least a small donation to help along this very worthy work.

But there is a reverse side to this picture. Imagine 130 women in this small district alone, compelled by poverty to abrogate to others the duties that are the most sacred and the most pleasing to a mother's heart, the love and training of her children.

Think of these women working with anxious (sometimes) breaking hearts for fear the wolf should overtake them and the little ones who are dependent on them for their existence—in what do they differ from the slave mothers of the South when children were torn from them. Indeed, I think, the slave mothers had rather the best of it, for they knew at least that their children would not be allowed to starve, while the unfortunate poverty stricken mother of the present day has no such assurance. One of my correspondents in this week's issue (signed Jeanneclast) speaks of the present conditions being the outcome of a rotten society. Surely this condition is one of the effects of a society that is shamefully neglecting its duty. Is it any wonder we hear the populations of different countries are gradually growing less? Is it any wonder that we hear so much about race suicide? Will the day ever come when the people of so-called civilization will awake to the barbarities that are existing in our midst. God speed the day when this awakening shall come.

Toronto, November 14, 1905.
Editor The Tribune, City:

Dear Sir,—Now that we have the Tariff Commission with us, and all the infant industries (?) are on their knees praying for plums, let us moralize on Protection, what it is and what it does.

A tariff on staple articles increases the cost to the consumer. The greater the cost of goods the less consumed. The smaller the amount of goods consumed the less labor required to manufacture. The less labor employed the greater the competition for jobs and lower the wages.

The more Revenue Tariff the less Land Value Tax. The lower the Land Value Tax the more land speculation. Land happens to be the source of all wealth and basis of all employment. Idle land means idle men. Disemployed men increase competition for jobs and reduce wages.

Please let me hit them again. The more Revenue Tariff the less Land Tax; consequently more land held unused for speculation. The more unused land the less buildings and higher rents. The more money paid for rent the less remaining to be spent for manufacturers' goods.

How long, Mr. Editor, may we expect the workmen to continue to go to the shearing pen to be fenced, voting for Protection or Monopoly enforced by law.

Finally, what the manufacturer buys, raw material (including labor) is always on the free list, what he sells is fenced in with a tariff.

The Japanese poetical term wrinkles "the waves of old age."

The city of Tokio is one hundred years older than St. Petersburg.

Over 86,000 cattle were destroyed by wild beasts in India last year.

There are few millionaires and practically no multi-millionaires in Japan.

"Hippomobiles" is a new French word for carriages that are drawn by horses.

London's new County Hall, on the bank of the Thames, will cover 5.6 acres.

Toronto Railway Employees

Toronto Railway Employees' Union, Division 113, met in the Labor Temple on Sunday. There was a very large attendance. Eleven new men were initiated. This union is in a very prosperous condition, and everything regarding the general condition was fair and bright.

Garment Workers

The Garment Workers held their bi-monthly dance on Wednesday night, which, as usual, was a success, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. The Garment Workers are considering running a benefit in place of a dance next time.

Piano and Organ Workers

The Piano and Organ Workers held their regular meeting in Room 3 of the Temple on Wednesday night. There was nothing but routine business, which showed the union to be in a good position financially and numerically.

Musical Protective Ass'n

A summons meeting of the Musical Protective Association will be held on Sunday afternoon at 2.30 in the Labor Temple.

Iron Moulders

The Iron Moulders, Local 28, met at their regular meeting on Wednesday night. There were two initiations and three propositions. Communications were received from London regarding the McClary strike, and fifty dollars was voted to the strikers' fund, also \$25 was sent to the strikers in the Doherty Store Works in Sarnia. A committee was appointed to consider the best form of an entertainment to be held in the near future.

Woodworkers

Woodworkers 118, at their meeting on Wednesday night, initiated one new member and received fifteen propositions. Their indefatigable organizer, Mr. Chas. Wilson, has got this union, as well as the other sections of the woodworking craft, in A1 condition. Briefing terms with employers were discussed, and action will be taken in the near future to have some of these conditions bettered.

Toronto Typos have had three shops request permission to use the label inside the last three days.

Mr. Wm. Moses of Leeds, England, and Mr. David Gilmour of Hamilton, Scotland, fraternal delegates from British Trades Union to American Federation of Labor Convention at Pittsburg, Pa., will visit Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Toronto and Montreal before returning home.

We have received several communications re the advertising board put up in the Temple by the management. We think it would be injudicious for us to comment on this matter as it is of a private nature, and not for the public.

TAXING IMPROVEMENTS

Editor of Tribune:
Sir,—An item of interest to our workmen who are trying to obtain a home for themselves is the matter of taxation on their buildings.

If a man is tidy and thrifty, wishes to utilize his spare evening hours in the improvement of his home by painting or other decorations, or comes to a pensioner next year and raises his assessment. What does this mean? The value of his home decorations increases the value of the nearby vacant lots, and he is punished for his thrifty energy in the form of increased taxes, while the owner of the vacant lot is rewarded by the increase on the value of his land.

The Trades and Labor Council should strive on behalf of their workmen, to get an exemption of taxation on improvements over the original cost of the material in the buildings. This would encourage owners of homes to decorate and improve them, instead of a penalty exacted under the present mode of taxation.

Let the workmen ask themselves: Why their thrift and energy should be taxed on improvements to benefit land speculators? The remedy is to exempt improvements and put the deficiency in taxes on the land. There has been great changes in the last century, in travel, electricity, sanitary laws, and why not some change in the mode of taxation? John Galbraith.

TO OUR ADVERTISERS

It has been found that it is in the interest of the Tribune to change its make-up to the present form, and as it was impossible to communicate with our advertisers, we have taken the liberty of giving them the positions which they have in this paper. Any suggestion as to any better way of placing your advertisement will be gladly received.