LABOR'S LEGISLATURE.

MEETING OF THE TORONTO TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

Street Railway Question. The Council to Hold the Mass Meeting in a Body. Election of Officers. Other Business.

A fairly harmonious meeting of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council was held in Labor Hall, Yonge Street, on the evening of last week. There were a large number of delegates present. In the absence of the President, Mr. Thomas Dunn was elected to act in his place.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and were adopted. H. F. Bull, J. J. Beales, Robert Lamb, M. J. Thomas Purdie and James Nixon were elected from the Builders Labourers; John Tweed, Sydney Low and Nixon from the Brotherhood of Carpenters, and Wm. Skinnard in place of J. J. Hines as delegate from Typographical No. 28.

STREET RAILWAY QUESTION.

Mr. Delegate Davey, the chairman of the Committee on Street Railways, was suspended in the rotation of business to allow the reading of the following report of the Joint Committee on the Street Railway question:

Your Joint Committee on Street Railways desires to submit the following report for your consideration:

A meeting of the Street Railway Committee of the City Council held on the 1st inst., a motion by Ald. Hewitt seconded by the Mayor, that the Mayor, Ald. Hewitt and Ald. Saunders be a committee for the purpose of obtaining the acceptance of the Messrs. Ellis & Co. as tender for the purchase of the Street Railway franchise was carried by a narrow majority of two votes. There is no doubt that nine members decided as to how they would have voted their votes up to this very moment in the matter. This was manifestly influenced by their attitude towards the labor delegates who addressed the Committee in the interest of the two other tenders, a fact especially so in the case of Ald. Hewitt, who never missed a favorable opportunity to interject, [illegible] his vote. Ald. Leslie and Hewitt were particularly earnest in their opposition to any measure calculated to secure better terms. Ald. Leslie made himself conspicuous by puerile objections to which no perfectly independent man would resort. He sought to cover up an act which injuriously affects the citizens as a whole by seeking to secure to some half dozen the labor of building the machinery required upon the terms of the system. Your Committee are of the opinion that Ald. Bell's attitude is the outcome of pique rather than principle. The following are the names of those who voted to call for new tenders:—The Mayor, Ald. Macdougall, Clement, Hallam, Gibbs, Orr, Shaw: against—Bell, Hall, Hewett, Jolliffe, Leslie, Saunders, Score, Small, and J. E. Verrall. It is to be hoped these men will not be forgotten in the near future.

The Committee has decided upon holding a mass meeting of citizens at the City Hall steps, on Monday evening next, at 8 p.m., and recommends that the Trades and Labor Council attend the said meeting in a body.

In conclusion, your Committee directs attention to the attitude of the *World* and *News*, who have done much in moulding public opinion to the enormity of the job about to be perpetrated by a few aldermen who are more amenable to influence than rectitude.

F. C. CRIBBEN, *Chairman.*

Delegate Davey moved the adoption of the report.

Delegate Worr hoped all the members of the Trades and Labor Council would be present at the mass meeting. He thought banks, railroads and all other institutions of that character should be run by the public.

Delegate Banton said the Council should protest in every way against the action of the City Council. He hoped all the members would attend the mass meeting.

Delegate McCormack thought that Mr. Samuel Blake's advice respecting further delay and the proper advertising of the franchise ought to be taken. The road could be run by a commission as well as any other way. (Applause.)

The report was unanimously adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers was then proceeded with. The following were nominated for President:—Delegates George Bradley, Robert Lamb and H. F. Benson.

Delegate Bradley was elected on the second ballot by a vote of 24 to 19.

For Vice-President, the nominations were Delegates John S. Worr and A. W. Holmes. Delegate Holmes was elected by a vote of 29 to 13.

The following were then elected by acclamation:

Secretary, F. C. Cribben.

Financial Secretary—Edward Glockling.

Treasurer, Charles March.

Librarian, H. F. Benson.

Sergeant-at-arms, J. E. Vestcott.

Auditors—W. H. Parr and Robert Selkirk.

Trustees—John Armstrong, Robert Selkirk and Andrew McCormack.

The Committees were chosen by ballot as follows:

Legislative Committee, T. W. Banton, F. C. Cribben, John Frances, J. S. Worr and Arnot Hepburn.

Municipal Committee—J. C. Mayer (chairman), Robert Lamb, George Devlin, James Morrison, Herbert Ashton.

Educational Committee—F. C. Cribben, John W. Davey, George Bradley, James Lemley, George Warren.

Organization Committee—H. F. Benson, George W. Dower, I. H. Sanderson, H. Nicholson, George T. Beales.

There were eleven nominations for delegates to the Trades and Labor Council to be held in Quebec on the 31st of August. After a lengthy and exciting contest during which twenty-three ballots were taken, Delegates Davey, March and Cribben were elected.

The report of the Legislative Committee was read as follows:

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT.

Your Legislative Committee in this, their final report for July 1891, and last for their term of office, begleave to submit:

That it is with pleasure they submit the fact of your city railway question and [illegible] to a close.

That they may yet stimulate the municipal council to action by a similar [illegible] in other cities generally in Ontario.

That the report of the Typographical Association of Toronto and published in Manchester England, in the issue of the past month, says that the manager of the North Wales Weekly Post, Rhyl, has reduced the working from 54 to 52 hours, and that a movement is being made to establish the 52 hours generally in that section of the country.

The [illegible] in the same issue, also announces that "last year the proprietors of the London, (Eng.) *Star*, on an application from the "Trade" granted their compositors working, on time or by the piece, a week's holiday, with full pay, and in the case of time hands an average of wages was given. This year the generous treatment has been extended to all departments in that office." This extension evidences the fact that ultimately there was no financial loss through the generous experiment on the part of the proprietors of the *Star*, and your next committee will not fail, it is to be hoped, to promptly reporting to your body the name of the firm or firms in Canada, and more especially in Toronto, which follows the example of the London *Star* in this particular.

Your Committee are under obligation to Mr. Wm. Mathews of the Carpenters and Joiners Society of Liverpool, (England) for his kindness and forethought in forwarding for the use and information of your Committee a copy of the annual report of the United Trades Council of that city for the year 1890-91. This valuable report, after citing in detail the many good services of the Council in the cause of labor during that year, says that "at the same of the last report in 1890 the Council was composed of 36 delegates, representing 26 societies whose aggregate membership was a little over 10,000. Today the progress of the Council has given us 121 delegates, representing 47 distinctly different trades, whose aggregate membership reaches the gratifying number of *46,186*, thus furnishing Liverpool with the largest and most important Trades Council in the provinces, and a close rival to that of London." Truly organization has progressed marvellously in Liverpool during the past year as shown by the increase of some 36,000, in the membership in that time.

Your Committee desires also once more to record its sincere thanks to Mr. Henry Slatter, J.P. of Manchester, (England), Trades Council, for his unfailing kindness in continuing to forward regularly, for the use of your Committee, literature and information of great importance and service to the labor cause in Canada as well as in Great Britain.

Your Committee offer no apology in again urgent upon the members of your body the importance of urging upon the bodies they respectively represent not to neglect or fail in sending delegates to the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress to be held in the city of Quebec during the first week in September next as the determinations of that body are of serious import to the interests of the Labor cause in Canada.

Your Committee, in concluding, desire to impress upon their successors the great necessity of exercising care, sound judgment and continual vigilance as to all matters affecting the cause of the wage earners as pertain to the duties of the Legislative Committee. Your Committee would also solicit for their successors that forbearance and courtesy so invariably given by your body to themselves.

All respectfully submitted

W. H. PARR, *Chairman.*

The report was adopted.

The following report was read from the Municipal Committee:—

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Your committee begleave to submit the following as their final report for the term ending July.

Since the appointment of Dr Allen as the head of the Health Department of the city, no new feature has developed itself to draw forth the appreciation of the urgent need that the change of officers has been beneficial when the increased expenditure of the Department is taken into consideration. The discharging of old and experienced inspectors for new ones, who have in know only of sanitation is not a wise policy. But still your committee have always advocated that the head of the Department should have full powers to discharge and employ. This power should be used with discretion and wisdom, so that no doubt should arise in the public mind that vacancies were created and appointments made solely to oblige society influence. During the incumbency of Dr. Allen, the expenditure of the department has almost doubled, while the only masterly stroke of economy which he can be credited for is the reduction of wages of the messenger boy from $6 per week to $3.85.

Your committee have generally approved the Engineer's actions and advice in matters pertaining to corporation works. He has invariably done his duty in the face of strong opposition, to his credit be it said.

But has recognition of an electric railway on our Island, does not meet with the approval of your committee, and it is very questionable if the citizens will go to the Island, with their families, for a breath of fresh air, desire to see car tracks laid along the lake front. The people have not asked for it. The Engineer should adopt some means of correctly informing himself on the subject before he should take upon himself the responsibility of saying that such a railway upon the Island would prove of great benefit and convenience to the people. Let him procure some pennyers fare to the families of the working classes before he makes such statements. Your Committee will supply him with the information he seems to lack in this subject. The only element of the community interested in seeing a railway on the Island is a civil engineer or two, and the schemers who desire to make money out of the speculation.

Your Committee recommend the adoption of carrying the Esplanade to Low, which gives to the city, free from all encumbrances, the block of land between Yonge and York streets. Located as this block is, on front of the city, it should be the city with complete access to all parts of the city by means of the street car service, there is no doubt of its being rented at favorable rates, if the city desires. The construction of Lake Street, and the extension of Bay and Lorne Streets render the whole of the water lots contiguous to the block most valuable properties.

Survey of Sunky purchased for the May of the following statement showing the rental values of the water lots:

1. Probable rents of city w. lot lot	$18 948
Add interest and sinking fund on $30 000, as per by law	11 500
Total annual outlay ...	$31 448
2. Probable rents of blocks "A" "B" "C" ...	82 000
Rent from C.P.R. ...	11,000
Total	93,000
It such surplus annual rent which the city will have to invest	61 552

In order to show the position the city will be in at the end of thirty eight years, or the time when the payments for the by law expire

(1) Capitalize the surplus rents $4,612, at four per cent. for twenty-one years, this gives $82,416. (2) Invest this for seventeen years at four per cent, and it will amount to $289,669. 3 At the end of twenty-one years increase the rent by 25 per cent, which, I think, may fairly be done, and then capitalize the result for seventeen years, the remainder of the term. This gives $270,461, or a total of $560,124 surplus cash, after laying paid for the $300,000.

The above figures do not include any return from block "E."

The Board of Works met last Wednesday, at which were present Ald Shaw, Geo Verral, Orr, Burns, Macdonald, Hewitt, Lucas, Allen, Hall, Small, and Bailey.

The Bell Telephone Co, wrote the Committee declining to agree to the clauses fixing the minimum rate of wages of employees at $6 per week, and the maximum hours of labor at eight per day. Ald. Hall, the champion advocate of syndicates and monopolies, moved the repeal of the clause. In the course of his remarks he made a clumsy and transparent attempt to put in a word for the cadets, who, after manufacturing a sugar-coated pill for the Committee, by stating that it was an arbitrary act to fix a rate of wages and limit the hours of work, which he believed would injure the cadets more than the company. He said the men should form unions of their own, and by their organizations they could take care of themselves. "And they surely did not need," he said, "to be coddled by men who did not believe in such unions." It will be a long time, indeed, before workingmen will be coddled by such men as Ald. Hall, who do not believe in unions, although he says he does, but actions speak louder than flippant words. Is not a man or woman entitled to fair wages, whether they belong to a union or not? If the worthy alderman believes in unionism, he must believe in an equitable rate of wages. During his whole six months' career in the Council he has opposed every measure that tended to better the condition of the workingman. His bitter opposition to a slight advance on 60 cents per day to the drivers on our fire brigade is one instance. He now states in connection with the telephone monopoly, that the men can take care of themselves. But he makes no provision for the company operatives in the Bell Co. He classes them with the men in his attack on an all-round increase of wages. He further states "he thoroughly endorsed those unions." Don't do it, Alderman, till you are asked, for it is questionable if they will "endorse you next January. In amendment to Ald Hall's motion Ald. Orr moved that the operators be paid at the minimum rate of $6 per week for six days of nine hours, that they be required to work only one Sabbath out of four, for which they are to be paid extra, and that other employees receive fifteen cents per hour for sixty hours per week, and extra pay for all hours over sixty. On a division Ald Orr's resolution was lost, only the mover and Ald Bailey voting for it.

The thanks of your Committee are hereby tendered to those two aldermen who have had the courage of their convictions to vote for what was a simple act of justice. It may be, and is, said that $6 per week to young women learners is too much. It is well known they receive no salary at first. And that objection could be easily remedied on a legitimate understanding. Ald. Orr's motion was defeated by the Board of Works, a committee principally composed of working men, who have relations belonging to them were working men, their fathers, their brothers, their sisters, their uncles and their aunts—are all, of course, workingmen. Looking at the vote secretly, there was nothing eccentric in it. The Board of Works is not the only committee that have bowed their knees, and bent their supplicant backs to grasping monopoly.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAS. MORRISON, *Chairman.*

LABOR CANDIDATE FOR HOCHELAGA.

Notice of the following motion was given:—Moved by F. W. Banton second ed by W. Burnill:—"That in the opinion of this Council it is desirable and necessary in order that labor shall be fairly heard in matters of legislation, that direct labor representatives shall be run in the next municipal elections, and that the delegates of this Council to the Labor Social Reform Committee be instructed to operate with that body in this direction."

A communication was received from the Central Trades and Labor Council of Montreal inviting the Council to take part in the proposed Labor Day, the 7th of September next. It was decided to accept the invitation.

THE LABOR COMMISSION

WHO WERE THE WITNESSES WHO GAVE EVIDENCE BEFORE THE COMMISSION AND WHAT THEY SAID.

The following is one of the proceedings from the English Labor Commission though it should be noted by most news paper people that against Labor Reformers in interesting to showing that the spokesmen of Labor in testifying before the Commission are not in the least intimidated by the presence of so many aristocrats and capitalists, and are not afraid to tell them some whole some truths.

The proceedings of the Royal Labor Commission have so far read more like the record of an amateur debating society than anything else. Sensible no doubt, it is that the Commission sat in equal number, the witnesses instead of giving mere evidence, would make speeches and air their The prophecy has been amply justified by the facts. On Thursday, for instance, the chief witness was Henry Quelch, a social democrat known among his friends, on account of

HIS VITRIOLIC FRUGALITY,

as "The Tyrant Quelch." He made a series of speeches in the most aspect well Hyde Park style, and treated Chairman Lord Derby, almost to madness. It was probably the first time Quelch had met a lord, and he made the most of his opportunity, rolling of his tongue revolutionary rhetoric and economical heresies with prodigious prodigality.

Had the orator been in Hyde Park, Lord Derby could have run away or called a policeman to protect him; but neither resource was open to him under the circumstances. Once only did his lordship manage to get in a word edgeways and Quelch promptly sat upon him with the perfectly true, if somewhat irrelevant, remark, "Oh, what do you know about it? You never knocked about the riverside looking for work for three months with

"NO GRUB IN YOUR STOMACH."

Quelch was so satisfied with this performance that he submitted to be questioned by the Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach. He wished, he said, the state to be the one and only employer, with state factories, state farms and state railways, and he thought the thing could be easily managed. "As for liberty," continued Quelch, "what liberty is impossible in society. Real liberty probably can only be found in the uninhabited districts of Central Africa."

Quelch returned to the halo of his moonshine, giving place to William Falvy, an aged, bent, white-haired, gray-faced man, who had worked in London as corn porter for over fifty years. Falvy looked just the sort of man to sit still and answer questions, but he proved a veritable tartar.

Distrusting his unprepared oratorial powers, Falvy had brought with him a huge parcel of manuscript, from which he read harrowing details of apparently every accident to workmen which he had witnessed, or heard of, or read about during his half century of daily toil. Now and then Falvy gave glimmerings of intent to prove that these accidents were due to the use of

LABOR-SAVING MACHINERY,

a thing accursed in his eyes, and to be abolished root and branch without delay.

This reading was a long-drawn recital of fractured skulls, smashed limbs and other horrors. Lord Derby, after several vain attempts to confine Falvy to the question, leaned back in his chair and glared at the obstinate old corn porter. Two or three commissioners slunk out of the room and abandoned themselves to cooling drinks. Two or three went asleep without any attempt at disguise, and the remainder strove very unsuccessfully to abstain from yawning.

These signs of inattention had not escaped old Falvy's notice, and the gathering gloom on his wrinkled brow should have warned Lord Derby that a storm was coming. But His Lordship, although he had been somewhat disconcerted by Falvy's cavalier treatment of himself, did not dream that such a common person would dare to commit more overt acts of disrespect towards her majesty's commissioner than sitting asleep.

Just when Lord Derby closed his eyes after a gallant effort to keep awake Hoopenad both opticians very quickly and very widely, for Falvy, dashing his big right hand upon the table before him roared out—"If you won't listen to me what's the good of my telling you anything!" and, grabbing his manuscript, rose to walk out of the room.

In that supreme moment the Earl of Derby's politeness, inherited from scores of noble ancestors, stood him in good stead. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, whose family did not come over with the Norman conqueror, sailed at the old workman's wrath, and several capitalist commissioners laughed outright. But the patrician Earl spoke soothing words to the plebeian corn porter and finally induced the old fellow to resume the witness chair and even to answer questions instead of continuing his catalogue of horrors.

A TRAMP detected at Port Jervis, N.Y., in the act of attaching the trucks of a railroad car a novel contrivance for stealing a ride, volunteered the information that, seated on the contrivance, he had journeyed over 1,500 miles.

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