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## MEETINGS.

### CENTRAL TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL OF MONTREAL.

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Meets in the Ville-Marie Hall, 1623 Notre Dame street, the first and third Thursdays of the month. Communications to be addressed to Jos. Renaud, Corresponding Secretary, 198 Amherst street.

**RIVER FRONT ASSEMBLY,**  
No. 7028.  
Booms K. of L. Hall, Chaboillez square. Next meeting Sunday, Dec. 13, at 2.30. Address all correspondence to J. WARREN, Rec. Sec., P. O. Box 1458.

**DOMINION ASSEMBLY,**  
No. 2436 K. of L.  
Meets every Friday evening at Eight o'clock in the K. of L. Hall, Chaboillez square. Address all communications to H. J. BRINDLE, R.S., No. 11 St. Monique street.

**PROGRESS ASSEMBLY,**  
No. 3852, K. of L.  
Meets every First and Third Tuesday at Lomas' Hall, Point St. Charles.

**BUILDERS' LABORERS' UNION.**  
Meets in Ville Marie Hall, 1623 Notre Dame street, every TUESDAY at 8 P. M. Address all communications to WM. JARVIS, Secretary, 111 St. Dominique street.

**BLACK DIAMOND ASSEMBLY**  
1711, K. of L.  
Meets next Sunday, in the K. of L. Hall, Chaboillez square, at 7 o'clock.  
Address all communications to WM. ROBERTSON, 7 Archambault street.

## LEGAL CARDS.

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m 8.30 to 9.30 p.m.

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## LIVING WITHOUT EYES.

Creatures of the Caverns That Have No Organs of Vision.

There are many animals in the world which pass all their lives in darkness, never seeing a ray of light. Every one has heard of the blind fishes in the Mammoth Cave. This cave is the biggest of 500 great caverns in the United States. All of them are inhabited by numerous other sorts of creatures that have no eyes for vision. Literally speaking, there is no such thing as an eyeless fish, since the most sightless of the finny tribe possess visual organs in a rudimentary condition; but, through want of use, the optic ganglia and nerves have broken down and been absorbed.

Among the animals in these caves where Egyptian darkness ever dwells are blind crayfish, colorless, which in the water by torch-light look like white phantoms of their outdoor kind. Now and then in such places one comes across a common frog, associated and seemingly discouraged, which has found its way how no one knows, to the Tartareal realms. Also, one discovers curious cave rats of the same color as domestic rats, but with long bodies, like a weasel's, more developed whiskers, and much bigger ears.

Of bats there are multitudes in the caverns, as one might expect, inasmuch as they are creatures of darkness. Countless numbers of them frequent the black hollows of Mammoth and Luray. There were times in the past when these vast caves were the resorts of gigantic beasts, such as the megatherium, mylodon, megalonyx and other huge sloths wiped out by the glacial epoch. With the bones are found those of extinct tapirs and peccaries.

Spiders of several kinds are found in the caves. They are uniformly small, weak and of sedentary habits. No webs do they spin, save a few irregular threads sometimes. What they live upon is rather a puzzle, though it is supposed that they catch stray mites and other such small fry. Scavengers constitute a large part of the population of the caverns. Carnivorous beetles are plentiful, particularly in those places where parties take lunch.

No animals whatever are found in the dry parts of the caves. Dampness, or a certain degree of moisture, seems to be essential to their existence. Under the stones one finds white, eyeless worms, and in the damp soil around about are to be discovered blind beetles in little holes which they excavate, and bugs of the thousand-leg sort.

So far as the insects of the caves are concerned, the loss of sight which they gradually undergo is sufficiently well understood. The first step is a decrease in the number of the faces which make up the compound eyes, with a corresponding diminishment of the lenses and retinae. After four or five generations the eyes become useless. It would be most interesting to breed these or other blind creatures of the caves in the light, so as to find out if they would get their sight back. In all animals, including man, it is found that nature tries to compensate for loss of vision by increasing the power of sense or touch. Thus the antennae of cave insects grow remarkably long. It is very curious to find that nothing in their behavior suggests the fact that they are blind. They walk, run, stop, explore the ground and try to escape from the grasp of the bug hunter just as if they really saw. The light of a candle startles them as much as if they perceived it visually.

## A Great Change Coming.

A writer on the Boston Globe, a conservative capitalist paper, says: "This is a very peculiar country and it is a very suggestive fact that the rich are getting richer very fast and the poor either keep along as they are or descend to a lower depth of discomfort and poverty. Now it stands to reason that a condition of affairs so inequitable, making princes of one and slaves of another class cannot last. There will come as certain as fate some upheaval which keeps men, thoughtful men, from discussing the condition. They hope by silence, by ignoring facts, to persuade themselves that they don't exist. They appear to be quite content with things as they are sooner or later the deluge may come, so long as they are not overwhelmed by it they don't care. How idiotic it would be for the family physician to cover with a sheltering plaster an angry and a threatening carbuncle. He can by his plaster conceal it from view. He can say in smooth and oily tongue, 'there is no danger.' Meanwhile the car-

buncle is at work drawing to itself from every part of the system the virus which will ultimately flame forth with core inflammation, causing intense pain and fraught with danger. A more sensible physician would treat the carbuncle from the first and by judicious means bring it along to the point where expert incision would afford permanent relief. It is a very easy thing for us to shut our eyes to the condition of affairs but why? Surely it isn't wisdom to do so. Common sense says all men are brothers, and when the prosperous class recognize the fraternity, the comradeship, the brotherhood of the unfortunate class, all danger will pass away, the heavens will be closer, and the sun whose beams are for the healing of the nation, will shine upon one as upon the other and for the best good of both. That time must come. It may not be in my day or in yours, but as certain as the revolutions, as certain as God himself, there must come a change whereby men will stand more nearly on a level, and when this monstrous difference of millions on the one, and nothing on the other will be done away with."

## A Jewish Slave Mart.

A horrible story concerning the treatment of the poor Jews in London by men of their own race is told in an official report. From this it appears that a market, which is a slave market in all but the name, is held every Sunday in the haunts of the Polish, German and Russian Jews, who form a vast colony in the east-end of London. The report says, in effect: At the hour of the market there is to be seen a varying number of able bodied men, of various ages, drawn up in a line against the wall, and in front a man who sells them to purchasers who have come for the special purpose. These men, driven out from Russia, wandering from place to place without resources, reach London, knowing neither town, language or person. There they become the prey of a man who is an actual slave dealer. He keeps and feeds them till the sale, when they sign, in return for the sum paid by the buyers, long engagements as workmen or servants, according to capacity, in consideration of certain wages, food and lodging. The sum given for them varies from \$10 to \$15; their wages vary from 50 cents to 75 cents a week; their food is horrible, and so is their lodging. They suffer cold, heat, vermin, and work from early morning until late in the evening. They have agreed to pay back a certain sum if they break their engagement. They are deprived of relatives, acquaintances, protection. They remain slaves, working for nothing, depriving thereby, for the profit of their master, other men of work, and especially English workmen.

## A Bottled Rat.

W. E. James, of Putman, Conn., threw a lot of empty bottles into the back yard of his store. Later on, while strolling about the area, he heard one bottle clinking against the others in a peculiar way. As one account puts it, "The bottle rolled about as if bewitched." Judge of Mr. James' surprise upon picking up the bottle in question—a clear, transparent soda one—to see inside a rat vigorously clawing about. He was a big gray fellow, while the bottle's nozzle is not big enough to let a man thrust his little finger into it. The rat's body is more than three times larger than the orifice, and the mystery, which puzzles every one in Putman, is how did the rat ever get into the bottle? Naturally enough, the placing of the unique "find" on exhibition attracted a large share of the public attention. Scores upon scores of people called to look at the strangely occupied bottle. It is the conjecture of a scientific Putman citizen, who is familiar with the habits of rats, that he crawled into the bottle when young, and since it is known that rats help each other in tribulation, that the animal's mother has visited the bottle daily and contrived to thrust food into the bottle. The rat appears to be in excellent health, and at last accounts was apparently happy and contented.—Druggists' Circular.

W. J. Gormley, an Australian amateur swimmer, recently, lowered the amateur records for 100 and 200 yards. The former he swam in 1 minute 5 seconds, and the latter in 2 minutes 50 seconds.

It is said that the Archbishop of Canterbury will visit America next year and make a tour through the United States and Canada.

## AMERICAN WORKMEN.

Their Condition Compared with English.

Sir James Kitson, who is largely interested in Scotch ironworks, writes to the Scottish-American as follows:

"Everyone agrees that the American skilled artisan puts forth more physical effort and produces more work in a given time than the English workmen or the workmen of any other manufacturing community. This fact struck me and many experienced directors of work most forcibly. Before concluding our tour, I had the opportunity of verifying and strengthening the first impression. After watching the American workmen at Pittsburgh and elsewhere, I arrived at the same conclusion as to their efficiency. Their productive power is greater than that of English workers in the same time, and working hours are longer. I met one of my old workmen at Mr. Carnegie's works in Pittsburgh, and he indorsed my opinion. Speaking from his own practical experience, "I am quite a different man here," he said, "to what I was in the Old Country; I don't know why it is so; whether it is the example set me, but I know I have got the go in me here, I can do more work; I feel that I have it in me, but I also feel and know that it won't last. I shall be done in ten years." No it won't last. The extreme physical effort put forth results in greater production, but it saps the vital energies and cuts short the career. This continual work at high pressure does not pay in the end. It won't last, and the remark applies with equal force to the employers as well as the workers. Competition between manufacturers is keener than in Britain. They work their business at high pressure. There is a terrific struggle between them for possession of the markets. They put forth their utmost energies, and when they succeed their reward is great. But all cannot be "Leaders in Industry." This fierce competition reacts on the men. We were surprised to find a Democratic country like America, where the workman had so little power, and were to such a large extent the docile instruments of energetic employers. The "bosses", as the foreman and managers of factories are called, drive the men to an extent that employers would never dream of attempting in this country (Britain). There are Trade Unions, but they do not seem able to protect the men in this respect. The "bosses" have the faculty of "driving" the men and getting the maximum amount of work out of them, and the men do not seem to have the inclination or power to resist the pressure. American manufacturers thus get the greatest possible service out of their plant."

## Spanking for Hydrophobia.

Spanking the hydrophobia out of a boy with a wooden splint is not exactly in accord with established usage and tradition, says the New York Times, but the experiment is nevertheless meeting with gratifying success at the Presbyterian hospital. The object of this novel and not entirely painless cure is 17 year Hugo Eitel, the son of Emil Eitel, a saloon-keeper at One Hundred and Tenth street and Fifth avenue. Young Eitel is weak-minded and suffers from heart disease.

Early in August he visited friends in Astoria, L. I., and while there was frightened by a large black dog, which jumped over a fence and bit him on the hand and leg. Some of the neighbors asked him if he was not afraid of getting hydrophobia, and this suggestion preyed upon his mind until he began to imagine that he had the dread disease, and barked and frothed at the mouth. In this condition he was admitted to the hospital August 12, and his symptoms were so strikingly like those of hydrophobia that the house surgeon, Dr. Frank Lemoyne Hupp, was for the time puzzled by the case, and undecided whether or not Hugo had the real disease. The action of his heart was accelerated; he suffered from frequent and violent convulsions; he barked like a dog and frothed at the mouth. He was so violent that it was necessary to strap him to the bed. But he manifested no abhorrence for water, and this circumstance alone led to the conclusion on the part of Dr. Hupp that the lad was shamming hydrophobia under the influence of great fear. Soothing medicine was administered, and Hugo was persuaded that he was all right. Gradually his convulsions ceased, and he partook of food. He was discharged as cured August 18.

Last Sunday night, after preparing for

bed at home, Hugo cried out to his mother that he was afraid of a dog. Immediately he got down on his hands and knees and began to bark. Mr. Eitel was called and went to the Presbyterian hospital posthaste and related the reappearance of the symptoms. Dr. Hupp agreed to take the boy once more under treatment, and he was taken to the hospital that night in the ambulance.

"We'll try spanking that boy," said the doctor. When Hugo reached the hospital he was violent and was strapped to his couch. Then, according to a story told to a Times reporter Monday night at the hospital, the boy was soundly spanked with a splint, such as is used in bandaging broken limbs.

The effect of the spanking was wonderful. Hugo stopped barking in short order. After the memory of the spanking had died away he tried to bark once more, but a second spanking drove out the last vestige of hydrophobia, and Hugo was the next day able to sit up and laugh with the nurses over his surprising delusion. He said he never felt better. Thursday Hugo went home, and his father had been ordered by the doctors to spank him, and spank him hard, every time he tries to bark.

## The Mistletoe.

Kissing under the mistletoe is a relic of Scandinavian mythology. Loki hated Balder, the Apollo of the North, and as "everything that springs from fire, air, earth and water," had been sworn not to hurt the celestial favorite, the wicked spirit made an arrow of mistletoe, which he gave to blind Homer to test. The God of Darkness shot the arrow and killed Balder. Being restored to life at the urgent request of the gods and goddesses, the mistletoe was given to the goddess of Love to keep, and every one who passed under it received a kiss, to show that the branch was the emblem of love and not of death. The mistletoe is a parasitical plant which flourishes on the branches of many kinds of trees in northern Europe. It is the viscum album of botanists, and is frequently found on the apple, and less often on the oak. The druids regarded it with peculiar reverence, from its connection with the oak, the favorite tree of their divinity, Tutanus, who seems to have been identical with the Phonician god, Baal, or the sun. The plant is very rarely found in Scotland and nowhere in Ireland. It abounds in some parts of England. Brooklyn Eagle.

## An Ardent Unionist.

The grievances of labor are numerous and of various characters. We have long hours of labor, inadequate compensation, precariousness of employment, but aside from this the working people are deprived of industrial liberty. We have theoretically, at least, political and religious liberty, but the lack of industrial liberty hampers, and in thousands of cases positively prevents the enjoyment of the other two. How to remove this inequality and bar to a successful pursuit of happiness is the great question of our age.

As regards the remedies, the most potent—in fact the only one within the reach of the wage worker is the trade union. The efficacy of organization has been so clearly pointed out by capital (so called) that it seems strange that any man should hold back and refuse to give adherence to the movement of the trade unions, first to increase their members' wages and reduce their hours of labor, and in other directions better their condition and unite all workers on these primary objects, the attainment of which will take both time and education. This will bring the workers up to the standard necessary to take effective action on political lines that will secure full and complete industrial liberty.

We believe the trade unions will broaden as their members become more enlightened, and that they will be found at the proper time to be the most powerful organizations for political purposes, but until such times as tailors, carpenters, etc., are ready to stand as one man in their unions to secure better prices for their labor, it appears to many thoughtful trade unionists folly to try to get them to act unitedly on political principles of which many men have no conception. The trade unions propose to secure full justice and freedom for the workers by doing "first things first."—John B. Lennon.