

"The Tribune"

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
TORONTO DISTRICT LABOR COUNCIL

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FRED PERRY.

106-108 Adelaide St. W., Toronto

"In Union there is Strength."

LESSONS OF THE ELECTIONS.

Five workingmen were candidates in the municipal elections of the city, and every one was defeated. So it has been in the past. Controller Ward was the only Labor candidate elected, and he is not a wage-earner in the strict sense of the word, but an employer.

It is not time that Organized Labor adopted a different policy, so as to get success instead of failure? Municipal Labor candidates can be elected if we go the right way about it. We have really not deserved success. What ought we to do, in order that there may be no more of the depressing and deadening influence of these continual defeats?

First, do not let Labor's candidates be self-nominated in the present haphazard manner. There ought to be unity of action in the nominations, and only strong candidates should be put in the field. Some representative committee ought to take this one matter in hand, with nothing else to dissipate its energies, and should begin early in the year to look out for suitable candidates who will fairly represent Labor.

Secondly, under present conditions, these prospective candidates cannot always be trades-union wage-earners, because that narrows the field of choice too much. Wherever we can find a good and trustworthy man, in full sympathy with Labor, who has a good chance of election, let him be our candidate. This is practical politics, as illustrated by the election of Controller Ward.

Thirdly, if any wage-earner is found to have strength enough in his ward to give him a good chance of election, and is chosen as a candidate, then, in the event of his election, a regular salary should be paid to him during his term of office. How can a workingman, earning only twelve or fifteen dollars a week, spare time and energy for aldermanic duties, and resist temptation to graft? The aldermanic allowance of about six dollars a week should be supplemented by at least another six dollars a week from organized labor.

Fourth, no municipal candidate can be elected without proper organization. Proper organization means an expenditure of time and money that the average Labor candidate cannot afford. Let Labor select its candidates, then pay their election expenses and put a strong and active organization at their back. The cost, divided amongst a hundred unions, would be a mere bagatelle.

Fifth, let us cultivate the plumping habit. When we go to the polls, let us select the one candidate we want, give him one vote, and quit right there. What is the sense of helping other candidates to get ahead of our own man?

The Tribune submits these considerations for the careful thought of its readers. Now is the time to begin planning for an intelligent, united, and practical Labor campaign to culminate in the elections of 1907.

ABOUT PLUMPING.

Plumping means that where a voter has two or three of four votes, he should use only one of them, so as to concentrate all his voting force upon the one candidate he wants. It is a pity that we have not legalized or compulsory plumping, which would mean proportional representation, and would give Labor a much better chance of electing Labor representatives. If no voter could vote for more than one of the three aldermen to be elected in his ward, then less than one-third of the voters could put in one alderman, no matter what all the other voters chose to do. Such legalized plumping may be called the single vote in a plural district. It is the true principle of fair representation.

It is on this single vote idea that the Hare-Spence system is based, as used in the District Labor Council. In that system each voter has only one vote which finally counts. The Hare-Spence system has a complicated look, which, perhaps, has prevented its being more widely adopted in Labor unions. Suppose then some union were to try the easy plan of one man, one vote; all plumping? It is very simple, and is less work for the scrutineers.

Giving one man several votes is based on an unsound principle. It enables a bare majority of the votes to put in all the representatives, which is grossly unfair. Plumping is the right thing.

As plumping is the only way in which Labor can put in its municipal candidates, wouldn't it be a first-class idea for trades unions to cultivate the plumping habit by using the single vote plan in selecting their own committees?

At St. Paul's Methodist Church on Sunday night Mr. Chown, of the Moral Reform branch of the Methodist church, asserted that he had direct knowledge of attempts to induce certain people to act as personators at the elections. IF HE DOES KNOW THIS, it is his duty, as a citizen, to expose the parties, EVEN IF THEY BELONG TO HIS OWN SIDE. Law and order must be had.

Mr. Chown also claimed there was no moral claim for compensation for anyone who might be cut off. There is no wonder that that Jap asked him why Canada sent missionaries to Japan instead of teaching right and wrong in our own country.

Mr. Chown also asserted that the Citizens' Committee was used as a CHEAT for DEVILTRY and DEBAUCHERY. On looking over the list of names on that committee we find many of our FOREMOST LABOR LEADERS, as well as some of the FOREMOST BUSINESS MEN of the city on it, and such men have, according to this man, been used as cheats for deviltry and debauchery.

Comrades, push the Tribune. We have started out in a great race, with a magnificent start. Don't falter by the way-side. Keep it up to the finish. We look with confidence to our fellow-unionists to help their own paper along by SEND-ING IN THE AMOUNT OF THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS at once, as well as new subscribers. While we have the greater part, we have not got all of organized labor on our books as yet, and we must have. Our expenses for postage alone are very large, without the cost of production, and we must have the much needed cash—NOW.

In his sermon on "The Tendency of the Age" at Knox Church, Rev. Dr. Parsons said that lawlessness in Toronto was on the increase. There was plenty of laws, good laws, civic affair laws, temperance laws, that were being broken on every hand, all because there was too much money.

"A wealthy man can do anything in this city. He can ride over any law, rough-shod. He can break with impunity any statute, and if he has the money, it is all right," was the preacher's view as he reviewed the changes of the past year.

The reverend doctor should have said there was too much money in certain coffers and that it should be divided up better. This is what our tradesmen want, and are trying to get—with a more equal division there would be less grounds for the doctor's remarks.

We are desirous to hear from those interested in our co-operative store scheme. All suggestions are asked for from those interested.

If you buy non-union goods, when union products can be obtained, you are helping to keep some non-unionist in a job, and you are helping to keep some union man out of a job. In other words you are doing, practically, what the strike-breaker does. And you are doing it in such an underhand way that you are not even called a "hero." It has been said that a little child asking for the label on goods is a more potent force for the advancement of unionism than a man on strike.

We trust that now we have such a strong combination in the City Hall. THINGS WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED. VIZ: The Yonge street bridge. The cars to stop at all places required by a long-suffering public. Those unsightly poles cleared off the street. The Bloor street drive started and completed. The Technical School put on a proper and permanent footing, and a host of other things. The whole time given to legitimate business and not taken up by fads put up by thoughtless faddists.

Mr. Spence said the people did not know their own mind. The people replied emphatically.

Mr. Coatsworth said what the people wanted should be law. The people replied emphatically.

To the Editor of The Tribune:

Sir,—I have pleasure in endorsing the statements made by W. D. G. in your columns regarding Mr. Simpson's error relating to the people piling up a bigger vote in favor of license reduction and prohibition. I think, if Mr. Simpson would care to glean facts to prove his error, that he should go to the labor press and not the capitalistic press. He would find then that they are piling up a bigger vote in favor of the trade being municipalized; that is, to be put into the control of the people. This is the only sane method of dealing with one of our most vested interests, and although I looked up the reports of the Trades and Labor Council, I could find no one advocating it. I would have thought Mr. Simpson, holding the ideas he does, would have been the very one to do so. Allow me to say also that when Burns was a Social-Democrat he was respected even by outsiders, but now the outsiders have even got suspicious of him not being straight for the cause of labor. Thanking you for your valuable space, yours truly,

NOTES AND NOTELETS.

Man to man, shall brother be, when we have the religion that gives to every man a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

"We need a great deal of honesty at the City Hall," said one of the speakers at Mr. Coatsworth's meeting. There is no question of the truth of that statement. Honesty is needed more than anything else. But people have very crude notions of honesty. Sometime ago, a man, out of work, and with hunger and cold staring him in the face, stole a few sticks of wood from the railroad track. The police magistrate sent him to jail as an example. Sometime before that a few gentlemen succeeded in getting the city government to open up a street to the west of this city. In consequence of that, one man succeeded in gaining \$80,000 in one year in land speculation. That man was a leading member of one of our prominent churches and a member of the Council. From that day to this not one word has been uttered to warn the people of the iniquity of getting wealth without earning it. Steal a loaf when your children are starving, and the iron hand of the law will grip you with its relentless force, but get hold of a town site, and you may despoil industry more and more year after year to the end of time, in the meantime you may be rewarded with a seat in the Senate. Stealing is a crime in the eyes of the law, only when you steal in the wrong way. If you steal in the vulgar way, you go to the penitentiary; but get a mine, a forest, a tract of land worth a million dollars per acre, then you may enslave your fellowmen, and still hold the highest seat in the sanctuary.

There are two distinct religions in the country. The one religion delights in singing psalms, making long prayers, giving tithes, sitting in the chief seats in the synagogue. The other religion believes in giving an honest day's pay for an honest day's work. It believes that industry or service is the only honest way to acquire wealth; it recognizes the justice of service for service; it claims that this earth is the gift of God to humanity, to every one equally. It denounces as utterly unjust, the arrangement whereby one part of humanity can claim the right to charge the rest for the chance to occupy the face of the earth; it insists that every man is entitled to the full product of industry without any abatement by monopolies, speculations or extortions. The first religion is represented largely by the revivalists, Messrs. Torrey and Alexander, while the second is represented by the movement for Religious and Social Reform. The meetings of Torrey and Alexander have been largely advertised in the churches, while the meetings for Religious and Social Reform were passed by with the most profound silence. Torrey will appeal to sweet sentiment, while Alexander will teach them to sing, "That will be glory for me," but we will be gladly surprised, if either of these gentlemen throw the least light on the problem—How can we render to every man his due?

On the twaddle that is sometimes thrown out as a bait for the workingmen. "My father was a carpenter, and I was a carpenter, therefore workmen ought to put me in office," said Mr. Coatsworth. Audiences must learn to teach speakers that they will not tolerate such guffaw. Men have intelligence if they have grace on their hands, and any speaker who addresses them, should deal with the large problems of a better civilization in a manner commensurate with their importance. Mr. Coatsworth suggested that there should be cheaper houses, but he thought the right way to get them might be by putting the working classes deeper in debt, so that instead of men paying rent they would pay interest. Not for one moment did he seem to recognize the fact that if workmen were released from the incubus of paying for the support of an idle aristocracy, they would soon provide their own homes without any mortgage on them.

Some of the papers have commenced a crusade against the money sharks who have been charging a hundred or two hundred per cent. besides sundry additional charges. This is villainous and should be remedied. But these same papers have been contending for the very conditions that compel people at times to resort to the money lender. These same papers hold up their hands with holy horror at the charge of a hundred or two hundred per cent, but they are silent as mummies as to the charge of the ground lord of ten thousand per cent. One piece of land bought in this city for four hundred dollars now yields a rental of fifty or sixty thousand dollars yearly, upwards of ten thousand per cent. If the population doubles the rent will go up to twenty thousand per cent. What intellectual strabismus have these editors who can see the mote in their neighbor's eye but are blind as to the beam in their own eyes.

"In fifteen years it is estimated we will have a population of five hundred thousand people, and we want broad minded men to take charge of the affairs of this city." This was the bumptious statement of Mr. Urquhart, and echoed by Mr. Spence and Mr. Coatsworth. Did any of these men show their proper appreciation of this tremendous fact. Suppose this increase takes place what will be the financial effect? Simply to separate the two extremes of society further and further apart. Every one knows that labor will be no better paid; but the ground rents will advance, the extortion will increase. But of this fact, there was not a whisper from any of these gentlemen.

Mr. Urquhart made a statement for which he should be called sharply to account for his half concealment of truth. He stated that a man assessed on a house worth \$3,000 received all the advantages of city government for about twenty cents per day. This estimate is apparently true, but actually very deceiving. The man who collects fifty thousand dollars ground rent yearly, gets a fortune every year out of the citizens. He receives all the benefits of government without any of its burdens, while the rest of the community must be a two-fold burden, it must support government and an idle aristocracy besides. Of this two-fold burden, Mr. Urquhart said not a word. This is one of the tricks of the politicians which the public should not tolerate.

How is it that John Tweed was not elected on the school board? The Labor Party is omnipotent when it stands together and when a good man like Mr. Tweed is in the field, the labor vote should be a solid phalanx.

We wish to call our readers' attention to Keystone Greases and Oils as advertised in our columns. These lubricants deserve the attention of all engineers owing to their economical properties. It does not cost anything for a sample, and any person who will give them a trial will find them, as we have, the cheapest lubricant on the market.

A Few Remarks on the Label

For a long time the labor organizations of Canada have been spending their money and a great deal of their energy in endeavoring to have passed in the Dominion House of Commons a bill protecting union labels, and we are told and believe that the Manufacturers' Association are doing all in their power to prevent it.

The writer is not losing much sleep over the matter, believing that it matters very little what the Government does, so long as the working men and women of this country look with so much indifference upon every label but their own.

It appears that there is so much selfishness, inconsistency, and narrow-mindedness among the working classes and so little demand for the label, that it would be scarcely desirable on the part of any manufacturer to attempt to use a bogus label.

While the labor leader whose name appears in the papers at every opportunity, and who is from morning until night explaining the grand principles of unionism to his fellow craftsmen, stands up to do so with a non-union suit of clothes, a non-union hat, a non-union pair of shoes on, a non-union cigar in his mouth and a plug of McDonald's chewing tobacco in his pocket, there will be no cause for alarm on the part of the manufacturer.

Unlimited advantages could be gained by trades unionists by demanding and getting the union label on all goods purchased by them; but this, I am sorry to say, is not done, as we all seem to drum up our own label and forget all about the other fellows.

Imagine the cigar makers who point to the sign "Smoke Blue Union Labeled Cigars" and censure a man for taking a non-union cigar, while he smokes a non-union cigarette and wears a scab-made suit of clothes. Or the printer who accepted the suit of clothes made at a non-union shop without saying a word, but refused to pay the bill because the label of the allied printing trades was not upon the bill-head. Or the woman who takes the good union wages of her husband, goes down town and spends every cent of it to support the men that would steal the job from her husband the next day if they had the chance.

These are a few of the inconsistencies that we must strive to overcome. If we are to be union, we must be union in everything; if we demand union bread we must not stop there, we must see that it is delivered by a union driver and in a union-made wagon, for how can the wagon worker be expected to support other unions if he in turn is to have no support.

We must consider all labels just as important as our own, for unless we show other unions that we are supporting them, how can we ask support from them.

Every thoughtful union man should and must educate his wife in union labelism. This we have also been selfish in, for few women know that there is any but one label in existence, and that the label of the union to which her husband belongs. For instance, one woman never heard of a union-labeled broom because her husband is a baker. Another woman does not see for the life of her how a man could have the cheek to smoke a scab cigar, while she has never heard that there is a strike on in the bakeries of Bredin, Weston and Tomlin; and a garment worker will go home and tell his wife that he cannot understand why it should be so difficult to get the people to demand the garment workers' label, while he strikes his Eddy match to light a pipe filled with scab tobacco, and leans back in his chair to tell her where she can buy the cheapest prison-made boots in town.

Every woman should be taught to spend her husband's union dollar where it will find its way back into the hands of honest union men, and that it is a great injustice for her to turn down the employer who employs her husband and pays him good wages for the man who employs scabs and small children at the lowest possible wages and under the most unfair conditions.

If every workingman's wife in Toronto would demand the union label upon every thing she purchased it would

be but a very short time before it would be impossible to buy anything from a house and lot to a half a dozen of fresh eggs without the union label being displayed in the most conspicuous places.

I want to say to all union men that we have been playing at this union game long enough. Let us try the real thing now for a while and see what the results will be.

The union man who does not demand the label is a laughing stock to the merchant, to the Employers' Association, and to the non-union man, who is always watching for a chance to point the finger of scorn at the inconsistencies of union men.

Let us become in earnest and make up our mind that not one dollar of our money will go to support scabs and unfair firms, then the manufacturers may become alarmed and sam Landers will no longer be permitted to call us "cheap guys."

Hungerford.



See this Label is on all your Bread.

Get no other

Editor Tribune:

In official report of the Labor Council I wish to correct the statement in your paper of the 30th inst. in regard to Capmakers' report. I did not say that the Cooper Cap Co. was using a bogus label at all. I stated that the Palter Cap Co. had been using our label at different times, and had been supplying two firms in Hamilton with them, but we could not get at them because he claims he bought them some years ago, and of course we know that they cannot last very long, as he cannot get any more. But I ask one and all of you to insist on getting the label sewn in, as well as pasted.

St. Leger Durdin.

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