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Labor Gazette

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READ THE TOILER'S NEW STORY.
READ THE TOILER'S NEW STORY.

REMARKABLE HEADWAY.

So much has been written about the opposition of anti-trade union employers that it might be acceptable to record the fact that our organization, composed principally of bartenders, cooks and waiters, had made remarkable headway during the past few years irrespective of the most virile opposition from what we believe to be the oldest employers' associations in the land.

The employers, aided by peculiar conditions in our own ranks, managed to put our organization almost down and out during the year 1899. In the month of August that year we had an aggregate membership of 900 in 19 locals and a deficit of almost one thousand dollars, that is to say, we were indebted to that amount and not a dollar to liquidate.

On the first day of May, 1900, we had paid off the indebtedness and increased our total membership to 4,000.

May 1, 1901, saw us with 9,552 members and $3,675.12 in our treasury.

When May 1, 1902 records were read it showed that we had a membership of 18,268 and a cash balance of $8,132.28.

On the first day of May, 1903, our cash balance had assumed respectable proportions; it was $31,111.20, and our membership called for 38,571 in good standing. While May 1 is some little distance ahead, we can show the same ratio of increase, in fact at this writing have the proud distinction of registering 50,000 members in over 600 locals throughout the United States and British North America; we keep constantly in the field twelve paid organizers, publish a 64 page monthly magazine and send same to our members each month free of cost. The magazine has the peculiar distinction of carrying the smallest amount of advertising matter and having the largest circulation of any National Union magazine.

The opposition of the employers has done more to excite the desire on the part of our craftsmen and women to organize than any single agency we know of, and while we do not seek their support along that line, we feel confident of reaping good results as long as they continue to deny us the same right they claim for themselves, to organize in associations for better protection of the trade and secure better rewards for their efforts.

The recent publication of a story to the effect that the employers had destroyed our organization in the city of Chicago has been accepted by a few labor journals as the truth; a perusal of our journal should have been quite sufficient to put that story on the ice for safe keeping, instead of destroying our organization. The employers gave us the opportunity of locating their paid agents, forcing them to show their hand and we are stronger for we have nothing but loyal members remaining, and far from being on the shelf.

We wish to sincerely thank you for past favors and solicit your kindly consideration in the future, promising to do our utmost to aid in keeping the path clear for labor to travel along unmolested.

Yours fraternally,
Jere L. Sullivan, Sect.-Treas.

TAXATION IN BRITAIN.

Again a single tax measure for British municipalities has come before the Commons, making a further gain. This measure would enable municipalities to levy site value taxes for local purposes. It is what would be known in this country as a measure for local option in taxation. The measure was first voted on in parliament on the 19th of February, 1902, upon a motion that it pass the second reading. After a strikingly radical line of debate, both for the measure and in opposition, its second reading was defeated by a vote of 158 to 229, a majority against the measure of 71. About a year later, March 27, 1903, the measure was again voted on in the Commons on second reading and again defeated. But at that time the adverse majority was only 13. Under the description of "the land values and rating bill," the measure came before the Commons for the third time, on the 12th of the present month, and again the question was on the passage of the stage of second reading. The vote stood 223 for and 156 against—a majority of 67 for the measure. The bill now goes to third reading. If it passes that stage it will go into the House of Lords to challenge the great landed interests represented there.—Public, Chicago.

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CRIMINAL MIS-REPRESENTATION

Mechanics in England Lured to Canada by False Statements of Opportunities Here.

Nearly every week the Canadian Associated Press despatches from London, England, inform us that 1,000 emigrants of all classes have left for Canada to enjoy the growing time in Britain's colony, etc. Steamship companies' agents, the C.P.R. agents and the Immigration Department of Canada in England are holding illustrated lectures and distributing literature all over the British Isles, picturing the glowing possibilities of good jobs, high wages and splendid conditions in Canada. In addition to this, last March the Canadian Manufacturers' Association gave out the information, which has found itself into every principal newspaper in England, that they could give employment at once to 11,104 men and women in the skilled and unskilled trades. Again, in February of this year a like statement was issued by the Manufacturers' Association, that "in spite of the surplus of labor accruing from the cessation in navigation, building trades, outdoor work and other branches, 4,370 hands are wanted, and it is quite probable that the demand for men in Canada may be even as great as it was last March." When it is taken into consideration that these "hands wanted" are only by the members of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, to which no farmers belong, and the farmers are asking for an additional 10,000 men or more, it means that according to "the demand" about 25,000 men and women workers, skilled and unskilled, are wanted in Canada at once to meet the necessary open situations. Of the latter class, the agriculturist, no sane man would object to their coming to Canada; of the former, it again cannot be gainsaid that those who emigrated to Canada of their own volition, without the encouragement and false statements being heralded from one end of the country to another, may find situations of some sort, but what Canadian labor objects to, and vigorously at that, are the clear cases of misrepresentation as to the actual needs and the tendency to flood the labor market with a surplus of all classes of labor so as to create a condition where there will be two or more individuals for each situation, which thus gives the employing interests an opportunity of bidding one against the other which cannot but result in the lowering of wages and the lengthening of the hours of labor. Apart from this, there are several other reasons why indiscriminate immigration is undesirable. It brings to our country an overplus which will eventually become a burden financially, inasmuch as they will have to be looked after when they arrive. Immigration to Canada may never reach the proportions that it has to the United States, yet it may not be out of place to point out that in New York State alone the cost of caring for the poor is over $24,000,000 a year, and it is estimated that half of these poor folks are of the class who emigrated from the old countries to find work, which means they cost the state $12,000,000 annually. This leaves out the cost of the maintenance of charitable homes for children, which is another item of $10,000,000 a year.

It may be thought far-stretched to try and impute a possibility of Canada having to care for the immigrants arriving here from the British Isles, but with the question in its incipiency, sufficient evidence can be produced to show that there is such danger if the matter is carried on indiscriminately, and in seasons and times when emigration is not necessarily a demand. The Toronto Mail and Empire of the 12th ultimo states the following case: "City Relief Officer Taylor yesterday discovered a family living in a cellar on George street in utter destitution. The family consists of a father and mother and two pretty babies of two and a half years and fifteen months respectively. They were domiciled in a veritable dungeon, with no feed and very little clothing. They came here from England four months ago. Their immediate necessities were promptly relieved." On the 18th of the month the following item appeared in the Toronto Evening News: "Mr. Taylor, City Relief Officer, reports a sad case of destitution on Steiner street. A short time ago, the father, mother and seven children came from England. A day or two ago one child died from diphtheria; two others are at present ill with that disease and the other four are sick with measles. The father has been idle most of the winter. They were without food and fuel when discovered by the Medical Health Department. They are now being looked after by the Relief Officer." The writer was told of a case of destitution of two English lads who left good homes to come to Canada to look for work. This was last April, just about the time the Manufacturers' Association of Canada claimed they could utilize 11,000 men. These two men got as far as Brandon, Man. Disgusted as a result of not being able to find work, after much privation they raised enough money to send their little luggage by freight to Montreal, then stole their way on the bumpers to that city to work their way back to England. The press report from Montreal of the young Englishman, Charles Smith, 30 years of age, killed on the 13th of this month on the C.P.R. track at Hochelaga, while walking towards Montreal, tells of the dangers some of our English lads are subject to in wending their way homeward. The despatch winds up with the following line: "The body will be buried by some Englishmen, out of sympathy for a fellow countryman." Several cases investigated last week by the writer in Hamilton bring forth evidence that is a blot on the fair name of Canada, and the misrepresentation nothing short of criminal. One young man (name is withheld at his request), a carpenter and joiner, tells a tale (and produces letters to prove his statements) that he received a letter on a printed letter head of the Allan Steamship Company, Louis Leopold, agent, that 100 carpenters were wanted in Toronto at two shillings and threepence (30c) an hour, and shortly after received another letter on a printed letterhead with an embossed emblem bearing the coat of arms of Canada, Canadian Labor Bureau, 13 Charing Cross, London, that he could find a situation as soon as he landed in Canada. This apparently official letter from the Canadian Immigration Department is signed Louis Leopold, Secretary Canadian Labour Bureau. There appears to be something radically fishy about this dual capacity. A companion of the carpenter is a sheet metal worker, and on last conversation with them they were still out of work, and had done none since their arrival.

A shipyard's blacksmith from Sunderland, in the north of England, says: "I left a good situation of four pounds a week and was induced to come to Canada, especially to Hamilton, where skilled mechanics were wanted in the new iron industries. I arrived here and applied for a job at the Deering Harvester Works and all they would give me was $1.75 a day, less than half that I made at home. I worked two weeks, when the foreman said he would have to put me on piece work. I tried it for a week and I made six dollars, less than laborers' wages, so I quit and am now out of work. So are two of my chums, one an unskilled laborer and another a tailor." A few days later the writer met the Sunderland blacksmith at the post-office and he showed him a letter addressed to the Allan Steamship Agency, Montreal, and he again told the following story: "We have decided to go home to England. I am sending my wife home by steamer, and I and my chum are going to try and secure passage on a cattle boat and work our way home. Our other chum, the tailor, would have gone before, but I told him to wait until I could arrange to go." The writer gave him a note to Mr. William Stroud, Macnab street, Hamilton, who ship large consignments of cattle to England, asking him if possible to give the two men a work passage to England.

Still another one of the many cases. Another man arrived here recently destitute with a wife and four children. He could not find work, so he was sent to a ten-cent lodging house and his wife and children to the Salvation Army Rescue Home for Fallen Women, where they stayed until other arrangements could be made and the man could find work. The man said he left a good job in England to come to Canada, and when asked why so foolish, he replied, "Why, agents are going all over England holding lectures with limelight views of Canadian industries, urging English mechanics and workmen to emigrate to Canada at once. At one lecture I saw the International Harvester Works of Hamilton thrown on the canvas with its numerous buildings, and the Westinghouse industries of the same city, and we were told that a thousand men were wanted in Hamilton at once, so I came." These are only a few of the many cases which have come to the writer's notice, and of such in Canada during the last year, and especially recently, there are many. When the day of reckoning comes, it is hardly likely that the ones responsible for the great amount of cruel misrepresentation, and the suffering caused as a result, will go unpunished.

WHO IS WHO?

Owing to the great interest taken in this problem by both readers and merchants we have decided to delay publication for another week. Next week, therefore, business houses and people who cater to the public will be briefly described in THE TOILER, and either their names or places of business will not be given, but the readers of this paper who first guess all these correctly will be given from $1 to $5 in cash prizes. Any reader can guess and the result will show your familiarity with the advertisers and live business people of Toronto. It don't cost you a penny to guess and by reading THE TOILER next week and making out a list you may secure $1, $2, or $5.

The Nasmith Baking Co.

IS **UNFAIR** TO

ORGANIZED LABOR.

MUNICIPAL CRITICS

The Municipal Committee of the District Council Present a Very Interesting Report at the Council Meeting.

The Municipal Committee of the District Council at the last meeting of that body presented the following report, viewing the municipal questions of the day from the workers' standpoint:

Your Municipal Committee beg leave to submit their third report as follows:

It is understood that the Railway Committee of the Privy Council has ordered that the G. T. R and C. P. R. shall commence the construction of the overhead bridge at the foot of Yonge street, the cost, land damages and maintenance shall be paid in equal shares by the two companies. The bridge, it is stated, must be completed by the 1st of October this year. This work, in the opinion of your committee cannot commence too soon. For years past the locality was most dangerous to pedestrians crossing the tracks to the Island ferries, and vehicle traffic was much impeded to the detriment of commercial business in the city.

At the opening of each summer season the press and our City Council have time and again discussed the question of fare to and from the Island. Your committee believe the present charge is too high. Five cents for less than a mile distance is expensive travelling. The Council should regulate the fare to be charged by the ferry boats, which ply from one part of the city to another, with the same official authority as they laid down the price to the street railway. It is to be hoped our City Council will take some action in this respect before the season opens. Then again those sweat-boxes at Hanlan's Point and Centre Island, where the public are squeezed into and compelled to participate in a Turkish bath with their clothes on is anything but comfortable when one goes out in the cool breeze of the bay without having a rubdown before you leave the bath.

Your committee feel pleased that the Property Committee of the Council refused to grant the requests of a deputation of property owners from the northern part of Palmerson avenue, from College to Bloor, and the space to be christened "Palmerston Boulevard," and north of that continues Palmerston avenue, and south on the same thoroughfare, from Queen to Front, it is called Tecumseh street. Surely four names for one street is a little too much. The name Tecumseh is revered by all true Canadians, and it should be good enough for the entire length of that street. The Aldermen are decidedly to blame in this matter. If they never read the early history of Upper Canada to find out who owned the name "Tecumseh," they should have made enquiries, and not stand on ceremony.

The local improvement system has been in existence for many years, yet, in the opinion of your committee, it is an injustice. A man's lot assessed at $25 per foot pays as much for street paving as the highly assessed property at $200 per foot, that means eight times as much. Is not this paying for what you don't get? Then when property is assessed into the $1,000 per foot a rebate is granted which is a rank injustice to the small property owner. All street repairs and improvements should come out of general taxation—thus placing all property on a common level of equity.

"The Coming-of-Age Club," an organization of young members of the Central Y. M. C. A., was addressed a few evenings ago by a Mr. N. W. Rowell, K.C., upon the subject, "Who May Vote." The lecturer spoke in detail of the privileges of the franchise in Municipal, Provincial and Dominion elections. When he came to that portion of his remarks regarding the qualifications necessary for exercising the franchise, the speaker said he was perfectly convinced it was too low for Dominion and Provincial elections. He believed the property or income qualification could be made so as to include all deserving men, and to exclude good-for-nothing men who made possible the introduction of the machine element in politics. Mr. Rowell's belief in this respect must have undergone a most radical change since the time he ran for the Dominion House in East York. He was very solicitious at that time for the votes of the "good-for-nothing" men in Ward One.

The franchise cannot be too low in a city where common schools have obtained for half a century. The intelligence of a community should be the judge of how low the franchise should be, and it ill becomes a non-producer like Mr. Rowell to tell or insinuate even to the lowest grade of unskilled labor that the franchise should be raised on property qualification or a high income tax. All law made by the people's representatives is simply a reflex of the character of the people. Then if the law is wrong the intelligence of the people is wrong, and no one individual can honestly shoulder the blame.

Your committee are in favor of having three engineers employed at the Island pumping station instead of two, making the work an eight hour shift instead of a twelve hour shift. An eight hour day is quite long enough to work in a position where clear headnesses is required, so that danger to life and limb is not jeopardized and accidents to the city's water supply runs no risk.

It is somewhat peculiar that talk is going the rounds in some minds of the public school trustees and their officials to the effect that the Technical building is a white elephant. Is this sentiment the thin edge of the wedge to do away with the Technical school altogether, and relegate the important duties of the present Technical School to the various high schools and Collegiate Institutes of the city? This should not obtain, and organized labor, who brought the Technical School into existence in the first, will strongly object to any encroachments on the prerogatives of the present Technical School.

John Armstrong, Secretary.
J. T. Wilson, Chairman.

SPECIAL!

25c. Sale

10 lbs. Rolled Oats for	25c	3 packages Life Chips	25c
10 lbs. Rolled Wheat for	25c	2 packages Force or Malta Vita.	25c
10 lbs. Graham Flour for	25c	2 packages Grape Nut.	25c
8 lbs. Split Peas for	25c	3 ten-cent packages Buckwheat.	25c
8 lbs. Pot Barley for	25c	6 lbs. Granulated Sugar	25c
8 lbs. best White Beans for	25c	7 lbs light Brown Sugar	25c
7 lbs. best Tapioca for	25c	3 lbs. Maple Sugar	25c
5 lbs. good Rice for	25c	1 quart can pure Maple Syrup	25c
5 Ten-cent packages Corn Starch for	25c	1 gallon best Vinegar	25c
5 lbs. Laundry Starch for	25c	4 ten-cent packages Mince Meat.	25c
3 packages Silver Gloss Starch for	25c	2 lbs. pure Coffee, whole or ground	25c
3 cans good Plums for	25c	1 lb. 40c. Black or Mixed Tea	25c
3 cans Pie Peaches for	25c	2 lbs. good Cocoa	25c
3 cans Pink Salmon for	25c	1 lb. 40c. Cocoa	25c
2 cans best Red Salmon for	25c	3 lbs. Walnuts or Filberts	25c
3 lbs. good Apricots	25c	1 lb. Shelled Almonds or Walnuts	25c
2½ lbs. fancy Apricots	25c	3 ten-cent tins Syrup	25c
5 lbs. Dry Peaches	25c	3 cans Pumpkins	25c
3 lbs. Lemon or Orange Peel	25c	4 ten-cent tins Armour's Soup	25c
3 large cans Baking Powder	25c	6 tins Sardines	25c
1 lb. Cream Tartar	25c	3 tins imported Sardines	25c
2 lbs. Ginger or Mustard	25c	3 packages Ammonia	25c
2 lbs. Black or White Pepper	25c	6 packages Pearline	25c
4 ten-cent bottles Extract	25c	10 five-cent bars Soap	25c
4 ten-cent packages Jelly Powder	25c	3 large 12½c. bars Soap	25c
3 lbs. 12c Biscuits	25c	30c. Bamboo handle Brooms	25c
2 lbs. 15c. Biscuits	25c	15 cakes Castile Soap	25c
		7 five-cent pkgs. Naptha Powder	25c

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