

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by the Boarders.

"There is a great deal of unnecessary 'gush' just now about the heroic way Sir John struggled with death, and the care and devotion of his wife in nursing him," said Brown. "If the reports are to be relied upon, the Premier has been unconscious for days, and all this newspaper talk of 'fighting' death is mere balderdash, for an unconscious man is unable to fight anything. For years Sir John has administered the affairs of this country in the interests of capital, and it would be strange indeed if the subsidized and sycophantic press, this hiring tool of capital, did not stick to him to the last; but in their anxiety to prove their loyalty to the class which employs them they are overdosing the thing, and people are beginning to get disgusted with it. As far as labor is concerned, Sir John has consistently promised to look after it and its interests 'to-morrow.' For our cause he has done nothing, and there is no occasion for any workingman to feel sorry that he has paid his debt to Nature. Manufacturers, combinesters and capitalistic sharks generally will feel sorry to lose a man who was ever willing and anxious to advance their interests, but laboring men will never miss him."

"As to this talk about the devotion and kindness of his wife," said Phil, "that's all bosh. There are thousands and thousands of wives in this Dominion to-day who not only nurse their husbands with as much care and devotion, with as much love and self-sacrifice as Lady Macdonald did, but who actually have to earn the money that buys the nourishment and medicine for their sick to boot, and yet never a word is said about them. And yet their task is harder, and the strain on their system must necessarily be greater than is that of a woman who has everything needed at her command. There is not to-day in Canada a workingman's wife who, under similar circumstances and advantages, would have done any less for her husband than did the Premier's wife for her's, and there are, as I have said before, thousands who do a great deal more every day in the week, yet you look in vain through the columns of the daily press for mention of the heroine of the 'laborer's home.' Therefore, all this 'gush' about Lady Macdonald becomes nauseating and intolerable."

"You don't understand this thing right," said Gaskill. "Among the upper crust it is so seldom that a man does full justice to the woman he calls wife, and more seldom still that a wife does full justice to her husband that whenever either one or the other does do it this extraordinary event is telegraphed all over the globe. The great mass of the people know that members of the upper ten have little or no conception of duty, they know their morality ain't worth two cents, and they regard them with abhorrence. The upper ten are well aware of this, and just to show the masses that there are exceptions even among their clique, they make the most of every case where a man or woman has proved themselves man or woman in the full sense of the word. The only trouble is that these cases are few and far between. With a workingman or his wife the thing is altogether different. Their whole life is one continuous sacrifice, one long look out for death, and they do their full duty to each other as becomes man and wife. There is no necessity to advertise this fact; this devotion, this love, this self-sacrifice which in Lady Macdonald's case the public press lauds to the skies can be found at every sick bed in the humble home of every workingman. With us it is a matter of course, a natural sequence, with them it has become a very rare exception, the greatest proof of which is the desire of the capitalistic

press to make the most of their case. They are welcome to all the glory they can get out of it."

"With Sir John's death closes a chapter in Canadian history," said Brown. "He was smart and clever and—unscrupulous. To maintain himself in power he would have bought the devil himself. I don't suppose that he was any worse than any other professional politician, but he was by no means the demi-god the papers would make him. He was no friend of labor and its aspirations, but bent all his energies to perpetuate a system which enriched the few at the expense of the many. Let these few and their hangers on mourn for him; the many will never feel his loss."

BILL BLADES.

"SCRAPS" FOR CIGARMAKERS

I observed in last week's issue an article correcting "Scraps," in which the writer attempts to explain the cause of the cigarmakers' conference in Canada not being successful. Now, before going any further, I want to correct "Long Fillers" in a statement that he makes, in which he says he read in last week's issue of THE ECHO where the Cigarmakers' Union No. 97, of Boston, was going to hold an eight hours conference, etc.

It distinctly states that Union No. 97, of Boston, intends taking part in the eight hour movement on July 4 at Franklin Park, and apart from that, they intend to found a New England Conference, not for the special purpose of discussing the eight hour movement, as "Long Fillers" would have it understood, but everything that will be a benefit to them. "Long Fillers" admits the good that would have resulted from such a conference had it been a permanent institution. He says that G. S. W., with hands tied, done all in his power to better the condition of cigarmakers in Canada.

In reply to the above statement I am convinced, from the explanation he gave, it was not from a practical point of view, and will try and show some reasons, in as brief a way as possible.

After the necessary arrangements were made for a conference in Toronto and the delegates present, they pass resolutions for the good and welfare of all cigarmakers in Canada, but decided that before carrying these resolutions into effect they were to be brought before the convention at Binghampton for adoption, though it has been admitted that they in no way conflicted with the International Constitution. If such was the case, why did they not begin immediately to put into practical operation the work done at this convention? Would it not have been the means of interesting a large number of our fraternity in trying to bring these resolutions to be felt all over Canada, more especially when they would be aware that wherever a Union existed that they, too, were doing all in their power to make a successful crusade against all the abuses existing in our trade. And, admitting that the convention held at Binghampton did not endorse these resolutions, why did they not commence this crusade? I would in no way have been a violation of the constitution, and would have proved their sincerity.

Now, the difference between the special legislation asked for by the California Union and the endorsement of resolutions asked for by Canadian Unions is, that the former wanted the International Union to take their grievances up and be looked after by the general body, while the latter merely asked for the endorsement of resolutions passed at the Canadian conference, as stated by "Long Fillers," which, if not supported, did not in any way prevent them from going on with the work intended to be done in Canada. And, admitting that those resolutions were adopted, in what respect would they be of assistance to Canada unless they were voted a sufficient sum of money from the general fund to defray expenses incurred in carrying out these resolutions? It is not the approval of the International Union that would make them a success. While it would give us more courage to carry on the good work, it certainly would not defray such expenses as would be required to bring it to a successful issue. And if money was voted for such a purpose, would it not (as in the past) be under the direction of the Executive head of the International Union; which would, to a certain extent, mean the abolishing of the Canadian conference; for if the work intended to be done by this conference was taken up by the International Union what need would there be of a conference? This Canadian conference, which took place at Toronto in, in my opinion, nothing more or less than a caucus of Canadian delegates (who made a very weak attempt to carry into effect those resolutions which they adopted) who would have the International Union shoulder all the expense of improving the condition of cigar-

makers in Canada while they sit by and reap the harvest, and who now tell us that if the Canadian conference was not a success it was due to the International Union. What absurdity. The assertion that cigarmakers are doing their best in Canada to improve their condition does not go any further than on paper.

Is advertising non-union with Union cigars?

Is patronizing places where non-union cigars are sold?

Is attending political instead of union meetings?

Is trying to use the organization for your own benefit?

Is granting the label to shops that fail to comply with the letter of the law, or have a definite understanding as to what is necessary to receive the use of the Blue Label?

Is this what "Long Filler" terms progressing as well as we can, or is it playing into the hands of the enemy under guise of Unionism?

I do not wish to say that such a state of affairs exists throughout Canada; but I am positive they have and do exist in some parts.

As for a lecturer, I do believe that it would result in being a great benefit in Canada, as our label is not properly advertised and our organization very incomplete. But what is to prevent the six or seven hundred union men in Canada from being lecturers, wherever an opportunity presents itself, until such time as we will be accorded a lecturer from the International Union? What a different story it would be if such were the case. This is progressing from a practical point of view.

Now, in conclusion, I would suggest to that good-willed and active Third Vice-President of the International Union to organize a Canadian conference (not to meet and elect officers, pass resolutions, and then disband) that will adopt a plan of campaign against all dealers in non-union cigars throughout Canada, notify local Unions to that effect and have them report at least once a month to the Third Vice-President, said reports to be published in the Cigarmakers' Journal or such Labor paper as may be deemed proper. This can be done at a nominal cost; no need of having a convention to decide this matter; we have a good postal system in Canada and a telegraph one also, if need be necessary. Then we will be a practical people, seeking to better the condition of our more unfortunate brothers who are compelled to submit to the unjust tyranny practiced by unscrupulous employers in our trade.

You've got to have a spittoon to hold your job in some shops, and pay for it too!

The usual lay off for stock is carried out to perfection, Friday and Saturday being the popular days.

The old timer from Boston, who arrived here last week after several years' absence, during which time he accumulated considerable wealth, intends to settle down and enjoy the comforts of life.

There would be a different story to tell by the Shamrocks had the captain insisted on playing our reliable Alec on Saturday. The general verdict reached by the scraps who witnessed the game was that the Shamrocks were not in it. There were no pools made, owing to the absence of Bookmaker Silver. Much regret was expressed at his inability to be present.

I am surprised at some members attempting to levy an assessment on the members of the Union in this city for the purpose of donating a present to one of their ex-members. It would be more creditable and beneficial were they as much interested in the welfare of their union, instead of coercing members to contribute for such a purpose. Advertise your label and you will have more satisfactory returns for the trade in general.

SCRAPS.

MACDONALD.

Low lies a lofty head,
Calm be his rest and deep,
Tears by a nation shed
Hallow the Chieftain's sleep.

A light among mankind, he passed
From the world like a brilliant sun,
Whose grandeur lingered till the last,
As if its reign had but begun.

He loved that flag, now half-mast high,
As man will love his liberty,
Upholding it till death came by
And gained its awful victory.

The flood of years will still roll on,
And bring its changes as of yore,
Yet in their course Macdonald's voice
Will still be heard although no more.

—WELLINGTON NENDICK.

Knights of Labor.

It is understood that the General Executive Council of the Knights of Labor will meet in this city next month. The Council holds its annual sessions in different cities, and we believe the members have already decided upon Montreal for their annual convention of 1891. The Council will likely

sit for a week, during which period some very important labor questions will be decided.

ENGLAND'S TRIBUTE

To the Memory of Sir John A. Macdonald.

LONDON, June 12.—Solemn and impressive was the memorial service held in Westminster Abbey this morning as England's tribute to the memory of the late Right Honorable Sir John Alexander Macdonald, Premier of Canada. The Very Rev. Dean Bradley conducted the service. Amongst the great and distinguished assemblage of English and colonial personages present were Lord Waldegrave, who represented Her Majesty the Queen; General Ellis, who was present on behalf of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales; the Marquis of Lorne, Lord Brassey, representing the Imperial Federation League. The Imperial Government was represented by Lord Knutsford, Colonial Secretary, and the Right Hon. William Henry Smith. The following prominent persons were also present: Lord Kimberley, Lord Mount Stephen (formerly Sir George Stephen), Lord Aberdeen, the Right Hon. Wellesley Peel, Speaker of the

House of Commons, General Laurie, Sir Richard Temple, Sir Selby Smith, Sir Stafford Northcote, the Countess Burdett-Couts and Lady Galt, the Hon. C. C. Colby, Messrs. Rae and Redpath, Mr. Courtney, Canadian Deputy Minister of Finance, and the various colonial agents resident in London.

H. R. H. the Princess Louise is unwell or she also would have been present.

Sir Charles Tupper was detained at the International Postal Congress at Vienna.

An appropriate portion of the burial service was read and the lesson for the day. The famous choir of the historic Abbey rendered with great feeling and solemnity Spohr's anthem, "Blessed are the Departed." The assemblage sang a hymn, the collect was read, and finally the Dead March in Saul was played on the organ, all standing while it was rendered.

The following is the standing of the National Baseball League:

	Won	Lost
Chicago.....	25	17
New York.....	26	16
Philadelphia.....	21	23
Boston.....	22	21
Cleveland.....	21	24
Pittsburg.....	18	23
Brooklyn.....	21	22
Cincinnati.....	18	26

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