

## =The Echo=

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## LABOR DAY.

There is perhaps in these days no characteristic more strongly developed than the determination of workingmen to co-operate for the redress of what they rightly consider to be their wrongs and for the general amelioration of their condition. Distinctions of race and nationality, and the memories of former strife, appear no longer able to keep those asunder who have come to feel that their vital interests and material and social welfare are inseparably bound up by a closer unity with their fellows, and that these can best be promoted by simultaneous and united effort. In recent years this feeling has been embodied by the establishment throughout the United States and Canada of a national labor holiday, for which the first Monday in September was selected. The time is extremely suitable so far as Canada is concerned, situated as it is almost midway between the great summer holiday of Dominion Day and the winter round of festivities. When first introduced a few years ago in this city its celebration was only taken part in by a few, but since the Central Trades and Labor Council took hold of the matter it has grown in popular favor. Year by year the numbers participating in the parade have increased, and it is safe to say that in a few years it will become the most popular holiday of the working classes. The condition of the Canadian workman, although not by any means all that it should be, is generally superior to foreign workmen, and this is one cause for congratulation. This improvement in condition is to be accounted for greatly by better educational facilities and better organization. To keep to this standard and to improve upon it ought to be the aim of every workingman. This cannot be done single-handed or by disjointed effort, as the resources of capital are able to crush all single-handed attempt at improvement, but a great deal has been, and may yet be, accomplished by combined action. Therefore it is the duty of every workingman, first, to belong to his trade organization, and secondly, to see that it is represented among the federated trades.

## LABOR CONGRESSES.

There are a good many people who sneer at the attempts of workingmen to improve their condition through the agency of conventions or congresses. These people look with satisfaction

upon things as they are and regard all ameliorative effort, outside of traditional lines, with distrust; so, when labor girds up its loins and battles for its own rights, they stand by deriding and fondly hope the endeavor will prove futile. But there are others more sanguine, who believe that the only way to secure reforms is to be continually crying out for them, and who cannot abide the slow-going methods of legislative and administrative bodies, whose policy, carried out on traditional lines, is to procrastinate the day of reform. The motto of our legislative and municipal bodies is "Beware of new ideas," but the new reading by a modern reformer is "Be aware of new ideas." Hardly a convention of workingmen passes over without something important being advanced for the elevation of the human family, which keep social reformers and political economists busy thinking over and endeavoring to put into practice. This has been the case in the short history of the Dominion Congress. Several acts of beneficial legislation first saw the light at these meetings, and if the Congress has failed to convince our parliamentarians of the justice of all their demands, it is because of the class of which the legislative body is composed. As we have said before, they are slow and unwilling to act on anything asked for by workingmen, but their zeal is at once manifest if a measure to benefit some body of capitalists is in question. Experience has shown they will neither promote or accept legislation effectively protecting the interests of the laboring classes and therefore the latter must rely upon their own resources and upon their own strength to gain complete emancipation. United political action through trades councils is the only way to get rid of those who stand in the way of needed reforms.

But the question arises: What do all these conventions of workingmen mean? They mean simply this: That we are at the beginning of a great revolt against the existing conditions under which the production and distribution of wealth are regulated. There is apparent in all industrial communities the steady resolve of workingmen to make common cause to revolutionize the system of wealth distribution, and as time advances the means for the realization of the ideas of those who are now looked upon as wild dreamers will be found. The Congress which sat lately at Brussels recommended that all wage-workers "unite their efforts against the domination of capital, and, wherever they enjoy political rights, to exercise them with the object of gaining their emancipation from wagedom." The simple meaning of this is that the foremost men of the labor party have come to recognize the fact that workers must be placed on an equality with capital in the distribution of profits. Until this has been attained the conflict between capital and labor will continue.

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Hon. Mr. Mercier showed his appreciation of the importance of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress by placing at their disposal for a meeting place a hall in the Legislative Buildings, besides addressing to them encouraging words of welcome.

In several of our contemporaries we see it announced that Mr. Peter Mitchell is to address the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers on the occasion of their meeting in annual session in this city. It is evident that the local committee are not aware of Mr. Mitchell's attitude towards organized labor, else they would not have invited him on the same platform with Chief Arthur. During the late lock-out on the Herald Mr. Mitchell stubbornly refused all conciliatory advances made to him on behalf of the men, and publicly declared that no union man would ever work in his shop again, and all for

what?—because the compositors in his employment refused to accept a reduction in their wages on twenty-four hours' notice. Mr. Mitchell succeeded in filling his office with unfair labor, recruited from the United States and elsewhere, and his office is still barred to union men. Also, at the instigation of the company of which Mr. Mitchell is or was president, several members of the union were arrested and held on bail on a trumped up charge of conspiracy. Although this happened over a year ago these parties have never been tried, but the charge is still hanging over their heads. With these facts before them the Committee of the Brotherhood will recognize the absurdity of placing a man in Mr. Mitchell's position on the same platform with their Chief, a man who has devoted his life to the cause of organization, to address a body of united workmen.

Three hundred employers of San Francisco have organized a manufacturers' association for the purpose of resisting, what they are pleased to call, "the encroachments of trades unions." We have heard this saying before, but always coupled with capital; it reads better in the original, "the resistance of trades unions to the encroachments of capital." The organization will extend all over the State, and will ally itself with similar associations in other States. A board of nine directors was elected, which will have extraordinary power in settling disputes between members of the association and employees. Should employees trust to such a board as this for a "settlement" they will find themselves very effectually settled indeed—sat upon harder than ever.

## TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL.

The regular meeting of the Council was held on Thursday evening—Mr. Joseph Corbell in the chair.  
Messrs. U. Thibaut and James Daly were admitted as delegates from Painters' Union No. 74, and the Plasterers' Union respectively.

A communication was read from Mr. S. Aubin asking the endorsement of the Council for his application as director of night schools, which after some discussion and a vote being taken on an amendment in favor of another gentleman, the request was granted.  
After the transaction of some business in relation to Labor Day celebration the Council adjourned.

## International Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

The International Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers are to meet in annual session in this city on September 16th. The delegates are expected to number about four hundred, and as many of them will be accompanied by their wives and lady friends, there will be for a few days a considerable increase in the floating population. The place of meeting is to be in Windsor Hall, and the local committee are preparing to give their visitors a rousing reception. A public meeting and concert will be held on the evening of the 16th, at which addresses will be delivered by several prominent gentlemen, amongst others Grand Chief Arthur, Mayor McShane and U. S. Consul-General Knapp. The president of the local committee, is Mr. Thomas Clarke, G. T. R., Point St. Charles, and the secretary Mr. R. Pring, C. P. R., Hochelaga.

## An Engineer's True Story.

"That reminds me of my experience on a cold day a year or two ago," said old Bill Adams. "I was pulling out 411 then. I remember we used to call her the 44, sort of 4-11-44, you know. Well, I was coming in on her one beastly cold day with a long string of grain loads behind me. Forty-four began to leak badly just after I left Ashland, and by the time I got to Raymond hill she wouldn't hold plug hats. She was worse than seven fishnets. It was cold enough to freeze a brass monkey, and my fireman was making a good many remarks about the old man who had 44 out in such shape. I got her to going as hard as I could to run the hill, and when we struck the up grade I was giving it to her for all she was worth."

"She was pouncing like the old Nick, and before we got half way up I was afraid we wouldn't get over. Well, we got pretty near to the top, when she threw up her tail and laid down. She was leaking so fast I was afraid she would die on me, and I didn't dare back off to make another run for the hill. So I whistled off brakes and slid back. It was so cold that there was a streak of ice all along

where we had been, formed out of the water that 44 had leaked. I noticed that as we slid down, and when we got to the bottom I told my fireman I was going to make a try on a new scheme.

"A good wagon road runs around the foot of Raymond hill and crosses the track on the other side from where we were. I put a brace on the rail just where I thought I could jump into the road, and let her go. It was kind of risky, but I thought it was worth trying. Well, sir, she struck that brace and went into the road without a quiver. The brace held, and the grain loads followed as slick as grease. The water that leaked out of 44 was frozen as soon as it struck the ground and it made a fair track of ice for the train, and it was the easiest kind of slipping."

"Old 44 just followed that road as if she'd been trained to it, and when we struck the other side of the hill she dropped onto the rails as if she had been looking for them. It was just plain sliding down hill from that on, and when we struck the bottom we had force enough to shove us in on to the elevator side track, and we stopped just exactly where I wanted to. Couldn't have done it better if we'd had four engines."

Old Bill sighed sadly in remembrance of his great scheme, and the other boys walked silently away and left him dreaming of it.—New York Sun.

## A Woman Who Can Shoot.

Miss Leale, from Guernsey, occupies the proud position of being the only lady to share with the Princess of Wales the distinction of discharging a real rifle at a real target across Bisley common, but, unlike her royal highness, she sighted her own weapon, held it in a soldierly fashion to her shoulder and scored thirty points out of a possible thirty-five in competition with trained riflemen. She is a member of the association, and was taking part in a contest restricted to members. Her father is surgeon major to the Channel Islands militia, and Miss Leale is evidently familiar with the Martin-Henry, which she handled to much purpose. Although only nineteen years of age, she has already taken more than one prize in her native island. In shooting she occupied a sitting position.—London Telegraph.

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