

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by the Boarders.

"Parliament has been in session about four weeks," said Brown, "and so far the temperance people have presented about two thousand petitions in favor of prohibition. It seems to me that if these people had only been half as enthusiastic temperance reformers on election day as what they are prohibitionists now they would not be under the necessity of petitioning anybody at the present time. The great trouble with them seems to be that they are prohibitionist only after the elections have been held and they have had an opportunity to cast their vote for one or the other of the old political parties. They will go on petitioning for the next five years and their petitions will wander to the legislative waste paper basket, and when the next general election comes they will again be found voting Liberal and Conservative just as they did a while ago. Why don't they place out-and-out temperance men in the field in every constituency instead of dicker with this or that candidate or party? It is surprising to see a lot of intelligent men hawking their platform around and asking party nominees to subscribe to it, when they know in their hearts that as far as binding the political action of these politicians the signatures are not worth the paper they are written on. Has not this been the experience of the temperance people in the past? Yet, strange to say, they do not seem to profit by it."

"It is the same with them as it is with us," said Phil. "Sooner than offend a few dyed-in-the-wool Tories and Liberals who have sneaked into their ranks, the temperance people as a rule hold aloof from politics; they are afraid that a few of their members might drop out if asked to vote for a straight independent prohibitionist. If they only knew that it would be the best thing that ever happened them to get rid of these barnacles they would not be slow in adopting a radical policy as far as candidates are concerned. One single out and out prohibitionist elected without the help of either political party is worth more to the temperance cause than a dozen of party nominees who subscribe to prohibition. Of existing political parties not one is prepared to abolish the traffic. Not only that, but all are particularly anxious not to offend the liquor vote at election times. If this is the case, and I have got to learn that it is not, why play into the hands of your enemies by electing their nominees? I do not believe that intemperance is the cause of all poverty, and I am not in accord with those who hold it responsible for the widespread misery among the working classes; as a matter of fact, I believe that drunkenness is more prevalent among the upper crust; but I admit that the traffic is demoralizing and productive of discord, strife and even crime, and for this reason I should like to see it abolished."

"So would I," said Gaskill, "but you might as well try to stop the stars in their course as hope to abolish it by electing party politicians. What the temperance movement needs is a determination to 'hew to the line' without stopping to consider whether such action will offend any of their members or not. The prohibitionist who cannot support an independent temperance ticket on election day is a hindrance to the cause and of as little use as the labor reformer who would rather vote for an 'endorsed' political nominee than for a straight labor candidate. Such candidates and such voters are not worth bothering about; they but weaken the organizations to which they belong—they ought to be got rid of."

"The temperance and the labor cause will never be advanced by existing political parties," said Brown. "The object of both is to benefit humanity and elevate mankind, and with

this the politician of the present day is not in sympathy. His great object is to advance the interests of his party and so have a claim upon it to feed at the public manger. He realizes that with a more sober and enlightened electorate his occupation would be gone. The difference between the labor party and the temperance people is not so large but what ways could and should be devised whereby these two factors in politics could work in harmony. No man can rightly call himself a labor reformer who is not in favor of restricting or abolishing the liquor traffic, and I know that the temperance movement is not so narrow-gauged but what its members realize the necessity of enacting laws such as would more fully protect the interests of labor. In both movements are disinterested, unselfish men, guided by the purest of motives; their aims and aspirations are the same though they may differ in defining the causes of the evils which they would remove and the best way to accomplish their ends, but this should not be allowed to prevent them joining hands and unitedly working for the common good. So far the really earnest men on both sides have allowed schemers and paid politicians to keep them apart without any valid reason, so that while large in numbers both organizations have politically remained inactive and allowed the party politicians to capture the constituencies. With many hundred of organizations throughout the province, and with the moral support of the clergy of all denominations, we have neither a straight labor or temperance man to represent us anywhere. I leave it to any of you on either side if the course pursued in the past has not been downright criminal to the cause."

BILL BLADES.

HOW TO PUT AWAY WINTER CLOTHING.

In the first place it should not be put away too early, especially winter underclothing. When the fires are put out and cold, damp evenings come, one needs flannels indoors much more than when the mercury is driven up towards eighty by stove and furnace. Outer garments can be much more safely lightened if only wraps are kept handy—as indeed they should be all summer—for driving and sudden changes of weather. Before putting garments away let them be mended and thoroughly cleaned—sent to the cleaner if need be. Dirt invites moths; and besides, what a satisfaction there is in taking out clothing that is ready to put on!

The moth is the bane of the housekeeper, but, after all, it is not difficult to escape its inroads. The mother moth flies about in search of a suitable place to deposit her eggs, and she selects woollen fabrics or fur, and likes it all the better if it is sealed. The grub once out of the egg feed on what is nearest it, and so we find an assortment of holes where we left solid cloth. Now if garments are put away clean and absolutely free from moths' eggs, and are protected from the flying moths, they are safe without camphor or any of the disagreeable odors that are resorted to. A number of stout calico bags sewed up with double seams, and tied tightly at the top with tapes, are most useful. Let all be distinctly labelled, and not be so large but that each can be devoted to one class of garments. For instance, imagine the convenience of a row of bags hung up in your store-room, one labelled children's woollen stockings; another, woollen hoods, tippets, gloves and mittens, and so on. How easy to get them the moment they are wanted, without diving to the bottom of a miscellaneous filled trunk. Coats, dresses, etc., that must not be tumbled, may be nicely folded, wrapped in newspaper, and laid in large paper boxes, labelled and put on a closet shelf.

Long bags, the full length of dress or cloak, with hanging loops at top, save from creasing as well as from dust and moths. Blankets should be washed in the spring rather than the fall, and put away in bags, always leaving out enough for the cold nights that occur even in summer. They can be kept safe and neat in pillow cases, always within reach when needed.

The windows of a store-room or closet should be protected against moths and flies by a fine netting. A good way to discover the presence of moths, and also to destroy them, is to place a lighted candle in a basin of water; the moths will be attracted by the flame and will drop into the water. The burning of camphor gum or sulphur will destroy insects. The basin of water is always necessary as a safeguard against fire. In that place your little iron pot, half filled with ashes, and the

camphor or sulphur. Saturate this well with alcohol and set it afire. Have the room closed tightly while the smoking is going on, and be sure that no one inhales the fumes. Next the efficacy to this is the Persian insect powder. But after all these precautions, one moth may find its way into closet or chest, and the close bag or wrapper is the only safeguard.—New York Examiner.

OUR AUSTRALIAN LETTER.

To the Editor of THE ECHO.

It was not intended that such a long interval should lapse between my first and second letter. I will not attempt to apologize but try and give you something to make up for lost time. We are still suffering from the effects of the late great shipping strike and likely to do so for sometime to come. Two great events are about to happen out here which I hope will be the means of improving the condition of the wealth producers in the Antipodes, the first one is the federation of labor. A conference, to be composed of delegates from the various labor organizations of Australia, will be held in the course of a few weeks and judging from the feeling that seems to prevail a tax on land values, something similar to the fourth plank in the programme of the Knights of Labor, will occupy a prominent place in their political platform.

In Queensland at present there is a big struggle going on between the Shearers' Union and the Squatters, who are also organized. The fight promises to be carried through the whole of Australia as shearing advances. I expect about June it will be in its height. The principle involved is that old worn out affair "Freedom of Contract." I am afraid labor is going to get beat. The other important event is the political federation of the whole of Australia. A conference has just been held in Sydney, N.S. W., of representatives from all the colonies, who have formulated a plan to be referred back to the colonies for endorsement. The Federal Government is to have full power except in the cases of excise and customs duties. The convention thought this was necessary as part of the colonies are freetrade and part protection. I hope soon they will all see the utter folly of protection. Some of the delegates advocate a republic or nothing; notably among these was Mr. Dibbs of N. S. W. That veteran old statesman and philanthropist Sir George Grey was a delegate representing New Zealand. He it is that has given the people of that country the most perfect electoral system the world has yet seen. They have manhood suffrage, payment of members, representation by population triennial parliaments, and "one man one vote"—this last just taking effect at the last election, about 25 labor candidates being elected, who I hope will make themselves felt. I believe that New Zealand, if properly guided, will be the first country to adopt the "Single Tax." The Knights of Labor out here are gaining in membership and influence every day. With best wishes I remain

W. W. L.

Melbourne, Australia, April 15.

FROM THE COOPERS.

The following circular, which speaks for itself, has been issued by Mr. M. McGowan, president of the Coopers' International Union:

The Coopers' International Union was organized on November 10, 1890. We now appeal to you, fellow-coopers, to lend your influence and active support to this movement.

Other trades have within a few years bettered their condition both by a reduction of hours of labor and an advance in wages, while the coopers have been obliged to accept what the bosses have seen fit to give. This should not be. The time has come when the coopers of this country should be emancipated. We appeal to you, fellow-workmen, to stand by your trade, look to your own interest, rise up as one man and form one of the best unions in the country. You can do so. Don't be afraid; the sympathy and moral support of the entire organized labor of the land will be with you. Any information you may desire can be obtained by addressing the secretary, Philip Strong, Titusville, Pa.

LATE TELEGRAPH NEWS.

The Cologne Gazette says that previous to the Czar's visit to the exhibition at Moscow a French squadron is expected at Cronstadt with 20,000 rifles for the Russian army and that the French officers will accompany the Czar to Moscow.

The Liberals are organizing meetings throughout Serbia for the purpose of protesting against the expulsion of ex-Queen Nathalie. They say that the manner in which the expulsion was executed was a flagrant violation of the constitution.

A terrible accident took place yesterday at the Pont-y-Fridd colliery, near Lantwit. The accident was caused by a bungle in firing a "shot" in the mines, which brought down a portion of the roof, crushing ten men fatally and injuring a number of others.

THE NATURAL TREND.

The following is an extract from the Cleveland Citizen, on "The Monopoly of Labor:" We cannot close our eyes to the fact that the tendency of the present system of industry is creating the greatest disproportion between the desires and their gratification. Not alone has this increased out of proportion with material advancement, but also out of proportion with the increasing intelligence of the masses.

It will be readily seen, if we consider the number of organized workmen in our land, that there has been an intelligent growth of organization for self-protection. These organizations of workmen have been effected by the common realization that, without the co-operation of labor, the natural tendency is that competition among workmen will gradually force wages down to the lowest point that the workman will stand without turning upon his employer. The national, State and municipal Governments have entered into the conspiracy to make laws to absorb the workman's sustenance. While the profits of capital increase at alarming rate, the remunerativeness of labor is not such as to enable a workman to enjoy the comforts that educated and refined citizens

should enjoy, he will never be contented, and constant industrial broils will be the result.

As capital has entrenched itself behind walls of gold, through the co-operation and mobilization of its forces, so the workman of the country must consolidate their forces and control labor by a veritable monopoly. When labor can create as great a monopoly of labor as the monopoly of capital, the remunerativeness of labor will be as great as the remunerativeness of capital.

Terrible Smash Up.

BERLIN, May 22.—In a collision to-day between a passenger train and a special train conveying Carre's circus troupe at Kirchender, near Osnabruck, a number of persons were killed, including Madame Carre, the wife of the proprietor, and her daughter. The engineer and fireman of the circus train and two guards were also killed and twenty persons were seriously injured. The trains came together with a frightful shock, and three carriages were telescoped and smashed into fragments.

Fire last night destroyed the machine shops and bolt department of the Knoxville Iron Company, Tennessee. Loss, \$80,000.

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