

=The Echo=

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THE CHAUDIERE MILLMEN.

It is not unlikely that the agitation which arose among the millmen on the Chaudiere last fall for shorter hours will be continued this spring. Their demand to have the working day limited to ten hours, every one will concede, is a most reasonable one when we take into consideration the fact that almost every other trade is working in the direction of having eight hours declared a legal day's work. Now that the men are organized they will be in a much better position to enforce their demand, backed as they are by the practical sympathy of the entire community among whom they live. The conditions under which they heretofore worked were of the most harassing description possible; not a moment to spare for domestic duties, self improvement or enjoyment, for what thought can a man have other than complete rest after straining his physical powers for eleven and a half long hours a day? No one can blame the men for seeking to ease the burden of their slavery, to give them a chance to live like other men, and for taking every lawful means to accomplish their desires. It will rest entirely with the mill owners whether or not the powerful argument of last autumn will have to be repeated. If they have any real regard for the welfare of their men, they will meet the demand which has been made in a sympathetic spirit, and the necessity for a strike will be obviated; if they insist upon the old conditions of work at the old rate of pay, then there is every reason to believe that an almost complete stoppage of work will ensue. Mr. J. W. Patterson, president of the Ottawa Trades and Labor Council, has the case of the men in hand, and he may be relied upon to act with discretion and firmness in the matter.

SANITATION IN STORES.

In the Canadian Journal of Fabrics, "devoted to textile manufactures, and trade in dry goods, clothing, men's furnishings, ladies' wear," etc., we are glad to welcome a new ally in favor of the extension of the provisions of the Factories' Act to stores and other places where light manufacturing is carried on and where male and female help is employed. The more pleased are we to welcome this outspoken opinion as the publication in question must reach the class of employers who are responsible

for neglect of proper sanitary regulations and for the continuation of offences against common decency as well. The article in question is called forth by the recent revelations made before the Legislative Committee of the Ontario Assembly on the sanitary condition of some stores in Toronto and other towns throughout the province. The facts were gleaned by ladies of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and were of the most revolting kind. In one case, between thirty and forty young men and women were employed in a store where there was only one closet, and that placed in a damp and almost totally dark cellar; in another the closet was part of an open stable; in a third there were twenty-eight young men and women at work in a store where no closet at all existed, and so on, those flagrant examples might be multiplied ad libitum. It is not surprising to note that one case of chronic disease and one of death could be traced as resulting from this state of things, but, as the writer says, "the amount of disease and the physical weakness to which such conditions contribute in ways that cannot be traced can hardly be estimated." The writer of the article contends for a Dominion Factory Act which, besides being uniform in all parts of the Dominion, could be carried out much more economically as well as more effectually than by having six or seven sets of machinery under provincial control. There is no question about his contention being correct, and that the passage of a Dominion Act combining the best features of those in force in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, with a clause making it applicable to every place where work of any kind is carried on is most desirable, but our federal legislators have evidently no time to study the social condition of the people, much less to make any effort to improve it.

The glaring exposures made in Ontario could easily be duplicated throughout this province, and more especially in Montreal could instances of gross, if not criminal, negligence be given, which in many instances have been in existence for some time, the law notwithstanding. In saying this much we do not mean to insinuate that the present Factory Inspectors are negligent in their duty. On the contrary, we know they have a sincere desire to see the law respected and that they honestly endeavor to earn their salary by exercising the powers conferred upon them by a somewhat defective act, but we have reason to believe that important recommendations made by them have been ignored, and that in cases where the law has been sought to be enforced their intentions have been frustrated through the influence of politicians on behalf of delinquents. The powers of our Factory Inspectors are not only circumscribed by Act of Parliament; due deference has to be paid to the political hue of those who become amenable under the law, and the consequence is that a wrong-doer escapes and an injustice is permitted to continue. Not until the Inspector is placed above the risk of forfeiting his position through offending some political friend of the party in power over an impartial discharge of his duties can we hope for a strict enforcement of the Factory Acts, many of the provisions of which are eminently fitted to secure the safety as well as the comfort of those who work for wages.

MCCONNELL'S RESIGNATION.

The state of affairs in the Water Department, disclosed through the resignation of the superintendent, Mr. McConnell, are such that no man having the slightest independence in his nature would submit to for one moment, and we are only surprised that he consented to remain the figure-head he has been for so long. The curse of every branch of our municipal service is the patronage claimed by aldermen

for the troop of greedy office-seekers who dog their footsteps. It is detrimental to efficiency and subversive of discipline wherever it prevails, and in this particular department, where it appears to have been carried to excess, has led to a great deal of needless expenditure and total disregard of the plans and orders of its responsible head. Both Alderman Grenier and Cresse appear to think they are elected to the Council for no other purpose than to secure work for their friends at the expense of the taxpayers, and it is high time they are taught to think differently. If they have a desire to appear charitable it must be at their own expense; the public will not consent to be taxed for the support of all the dead-beats they select to feed at the civic crib. Mr. McConnell, knowing that the employees of this department were stumbling over each other, so thick are they, and that one portion was engaged in undoing what had been done by others so as to give the appearance that all were kept busy, very properly protested against having additional ornaments placed on the pay list, but without effect. They were nominees of certain aldermen and had to be taken on although the hardest thing they had to do was to draw their salary. With such opposition to contend against from his committee, Mr. McConnell had no other course left than to resign, so as to bring the matter before the public, and the public will fail in its duty if it does not make itself distinctly heard in his support. In the meantime every taxpayer should, when the matter comes before the Council, carefully note the names of those aldermen who vote in approval of the patronage system, and when the next opportunity comes elect them to stay at home.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The sweating system, so prevalent in New York, is being vigorously assailed by those trades affected through its baneful workings. A few days ago the third of a series of conferences of wage workers was held, at which a number of delegates representing over 40,000 workmen were present, and a circular is being prepared to be issued to all labor organizations asking information on all phases of the subject so that a plan of campaign, based upon the best reliable information, may be formulated against the evil. A call to cooperate against the system has been issued to interested branches of labor, which include chiefly cigarmakers, furriers, cloakmakers, and all branches of sewing work. A good deal has been accomplished through the influence of the Factory Inspection Department, but there is still a wide field for reform in the methods of employment in these and kindred industries.

Every day brings further proof of the tendency of the manufacturing system to concentrate in large establishments and to control production by uniting into one gigantic combine the whole particular industry of a country. In Canada a new combine to control the production of printed cotton goods has been recently formed. This is not done in the interests of labor or to cheapen the article to the consumer, we may be certain, as we may soon hear of one or other of the mills manufacturing this class of goods being closed down and its employees forced to seek other fields for employment. In the woollen industry of the United States we find, from a recent bulletin of the census office, that the number of establishments engaged in the production of woollen goods proper in the year 1890 shows, when compared with the number for 1880, one decade previous, a decrease of 678. This is the gradual working of the factory system, altering methods, causing some to loose and others to gain, but still further widening the gap between employer and employed.

On the Continent of Europe the near approach of May Day is heralded by the usual preparations for labor parades and announcements for new schedules of hours and wages. In this country, while every interest is manifested among workmen regarding the doings of their fellow-workmen in other countries, no apprehensions are felt of any disturbance, but in the great manufacturing centres of Europe it is different, and much anxiety is manifested lest workmen, excited by the harangues of revolutionary leaders and the hostile attitude of the authorities, be led up to rioting and disorder. The recent panic created in Paris by the attempt of Anarchists to blow up public buildings has scarcely yet subsided, although the arrest of Ravachal has had a soothing effect on the public mind and is at the same time a salutary lesson to his brother fire-eaters. The arch-fiend Ravachal seems to have been a fitting representative of the Anarchist school, his record proving him to have been guilty of a long series of crimes, including murder, it is believed, robbery of graves, sacrilege, counterfeiting and dynamiting. Workmen have little sympathy with this class and, indeed, would be the first to demand punishment, yet they too often have to bear opprobrium through the appearance of such dangerous firebrands at their heads. In the metropolis of England several large meetings of unemployed workmen have been held recently, which goes to show that distress is very prevalent, and that the doctrine of discontent promulgated by modern social reformers is steadily gaining and will soon be deeprooted enough to compel attention from the governing classes.

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Cut Plug, 10c. $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Plug, 10c.
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Special attractions this week in the Trimming Department. More new goods just to hand.

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Crystal Centores,
Gold Centores,
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CLEOPATRA BELTS, with Collars to match.

Everything new in Dress and Mantle Trimmings.

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S. CARSLEY.

Come and see the New Mantles.

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For the largest and most varied stock of Dress Trimmings come direct to S. Carsley's.

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NEW FEATHER EDGINGS, all colors.
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S. CARSLEY.

Phillips—"But can you safely call Tommy a liar?"

Newton—"Well, I should say so. He's in Australia now, and he won't be back for three years."—Extract.

TRIMMINGS!

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S. CARSLEY.

JUST TO HAND!

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NEW ASSORTMENT

Of Black and Colored Silk Cords to match all shades in Dress Goods.

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Best makes of Smallwares only
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All kinds of Smallwares
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The largest and best assortment of Chamois Leathers ever seen in the city. Lowest prices.
Chamois Leather for the House.
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Father—"Everything I say to you goes in at one ear and out at the other."
Little Son (thoughtfully)—"Is that what little boys has two ears for, papa?"—Extract.

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THE NEW LINEN CORSETS!

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A LA SIRENE.

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French Wove Corsets,

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In all sizes and qualities.

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