

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by the Boarders.

"If the workmen of Montreal Centre have but half as much gumption as they are credited with, Boudreau will be elected by an overwhelming majority," said Brown. "The average man realizes from observation and experience that the 'interest' which does not look after itself is going to get left. He sees capitalistic organizations, such as the Manufacturers' Association, regard an election as a mere matter of business. The men who compose these organizations have no politics except such as will advance their interests. They meet and compare notes, and whichever political party or candidate is prepared to pledge himself most to advance their interests; that is the party or candidate who will receive their individual support. Each of them is a little anti-poverty society of one, and workmen should follow their example. To us an election should also be a matter of business and, like our capitalistic friends, we should only support those candidates who are the most likely to advance our interests. Now, in the Centre Division we have two candidates who come before the electors with absolutely no platform at all. Mr. McShane has been a member of parliament for almost a lifetime, yet, despite this fact, he cannot point to a single act which he has placed upon the statute books of this province, or which he has helped to place there, calculated to benefit the working classes. As a matter of fact, he has been the greatest stumbling block in the path of labor reform with which we have had to contend in the past and is certainly not one whom we can support. Without even noticing his close connection with the boodling transactions of the late Government we can safely say, from a purely labor point of view, that he has been tried and found wanting. Ald. Kennedy has been in public life almost as long as the people's Jimmy, yet he, too, is unable to point to a single public act of his which could be construed as favoring any of the many demands made by organized labor on behalf of the workers of this city during the past. The reason of this may, perhaps, be found in the fact that he is utterly unable to understand their importance or necessity, for what Ald. Kennedy don't know about labor reform would fill a large-sized book, not to speak of what he don't know about other things. For a workingman to vote for a candidate like that is to simply throw his vote away. Then compare their record and knowledge of labor reform with that of the labor candidate. Here is a man who, though young in years, is as well posted on the question of capital and labor as any in this province; who has made the labor question not only a study, but who, by bitter experience, has gained a correct understanding of the disabilities and wrongs under which the people labor. For years and years he has taken an active and prominent part in every scheme and movement calculated to advance the interest of our class, and in recognition of his devotion to the cause the labor organizations of Montreal in convention assembled unanimously tendered him the nomination. The honor came unsolicited and unexpected, but coming unanimously, he accepted it in the same spirit as he would have accepted the discharge of any other unpleasant or onerous duty, and it now incumbent upon every man who works for wages to rally to his support. He comes before the people with a platform bristling with good things. Each and every plank in it has something which we need—is something calculated to improve our condition morally and materially, something which will advance our interests and which none of the other candidates understand or approve. Clearly, if from no other motive, self-

interest would prompt every worker to cast his vote for Boudreau, for his election will show the Government that hereafter the demands of labor can no longer be ignored, and that public opinion is ripe for such changes in the laws as we have from time to time petitioned for. If you want free education

VOTE FOR BOUDREAU!

If you want a simple form for collecting small debts at a minimum cost, if you want to escape the costly procedure of our law courts, vote for Boudreau! If you want to receive a full day's pay as a jurymen, vote for Boudreau! If you believe that your son should have as good a chance to secure a Government situation as the son of the biggest wire puller in the Division, vote for Boudreau! If you believe that all public works should be done by day's labor, under the supervision of Government officials, then vote for Boudreau! If those of you who work on the wharf don't want to be killed or maimed for life, then vote for Boudreau and proper inspection of the gear and tackle with which you work. If you don't want to be humbugged as the C. P. R. is humbugging the Widow Flynn, then vote for Boudreau and an Act that will clearly define the liabilities of employers. If you don't want to be swindled out of your wages by thieving contractors and designing knaves vote for Boudreau and a Mechanics' Lien Act which will give you a lien upon what you produce to the extent of your wages. If you believe that your son is as much of a man as the son of a farmer or a professional man, then insist that he shall have a vote like they, by voting for Boudreau and an enlarged franchise. If you believe that an apprentice should not become the chattel slave of his master, then vote for Boudreau and amendments to the Masters and Servants' Act. If you believe that if the thirty-seven million dollars annually spent by the Canadian people in liquor were spent in boots and shoes and wearing apparel the people of this country would be just so much the richer, then vote for Boudreau and temperance. If you have any regard for yourself, for your family or home, then vote for Boudreau and the principles he represents."

BILL BLADES.

TORONTO NOTES.

(CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.)

The annual dinner of the Plumbers, Steam and Gas Fitters' Union, No. 46, took place last Monday evening, 29th ult., at the Athletic Club Restaurant, and a most enjoyable time was spent by those who were present. Invitations had been sent out to all journeymen in connection with the trade, and these had been generously taken advantage of, for over one hundred sat down and

"Gazed around them to the left and right, With the prophetic eye of appetite."

Among those invited were T. W. Banton, President Trades and Labor Council; D. A. Carey, M. W. District Assembly 125, K. of L.; Alf F. Jury, D. J. O'Donoghue and John Armstrong.

After the good things provided had been disposed of in that easy style so well known to our brothers of the soldering iron, President Jas. Morrison arose and proposed the toast "Toronto T. & L. Council," which was drunk in "the best that Lake Ontario affords," President Banton, on behalf of the Council, responded, and expressed the hope that Union 46 would always take that deep interest in labor matters which had characterized it in the past; he paid a high tribute of praise to the delegates who had represented the Union at the Council, and gave expression to the pleasure it gave him to be present and fraternize with them. "District Assembly No. 125, K. of L.," brought D. M. W. Carey to his feet. He pointed out the appropriateness of the motto on the invitation

"'Tis not the single strand that makes the rope,"

He referred to the harmony that has always existed between the different labor organizations in this city, and hoped it would always continue.

Messrs. D. J. O'Donoghue and Alf F. Jury replied to "Our Sister Organizations." Mr. Jury said that the Plumbers and Fitters, in common with all other callings,

must, in order to secure a fair share of the wealth they helped to create, meet combination with combination. Mr. O'Donoghue pointed out in a most convincing manner the unfairness of those who held aloof from the Union, in that they accepted the Union rate of wages, yet they contributed nothing towards its support; he showed in a few telling illustrations the advantages to be gained by organization.

Mr. John Armstrong replied to the toast "Our guests," in his usual happy style.

Organizer W. J. Spencer, on behalf of "the United Association of Plumbers, Steam and Gas Fitters," outlined the work accomplished by the association. He said they were evidently profiting by the experience of the past, for although but two years old the association now numbered nearly 100 locals, and they were still coming in in a steady procession, and that they would ere long present a solid phalanx and be enabled to place their craft in the position its importance entitled them to.

Mr. Dan Glynn replied to the toast "Our Craft," and "Our officers" was responded to by President Jas. Morrison.

During the evening instrumental music, songs, etc., were interspersed between the toasts, and contributed in a great measure to its enjoyment.

Your correspondent cannot let this occasion pass without a reference to the good work done by No. 46. Though its existence has been brief, it has accomplished much. It has succeeded in raising the rate of wages fully 40 per cent. and in establishing the eight-hour work-day. 'Tis true this has not been accomplished without a struggle, and their recent strike has shown how men can fight and what sacrifices they can make when they have the consciousness of right and justice on their side. Let us hope they will continue on in the good work.

The Union must be congratulated on the success of their dinner, and no small measure of praise is due to the committee who had charge of the arrangements.

The friends of the labor cause in Toronto are anxiously awaiting the result of next Tuesday's provincial election in Montreal. In so far as the same affects Messrs. Boudreau and Beland.

I have been threatened with a libel suit and heavy damages because your compositor tampered with my manuscript last week, in changing a name therein. In the proceedings of the T. and L. Council I wrote the name of Chas. March as treasurer, and yet the Echo had the name of one "Calbarach" as the incumbent of that important office.

URIM.

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Political Prophets

Do abound in the land; their name is Legion. The vaticinations of a political prophet are fearfully and wonderfully made: the constituent elements are many and various, but of these the chiefest is GALL. Political prophets survey their lesser brethren of weather renown from an altitude of historic disdain. And yet—alas!—and yet, even the grandest of political prophets, a seer indeed, the late Lord Beaconsfield, enjoined the wise caution, "Do not prophesy—except you know." In the sphere of trade, ladies, we lay the maxim to heart! We do not prophesy! We do not predict! But we affirm our reasonable faith in the fact that we are destined to do a larger business this season than ever before. Stock and Prices warrant the belief! Call! Examine! and Compare! ladies, and you will then conclude that we have not believed in vain.

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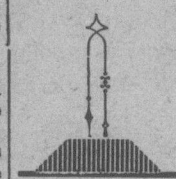
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