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MEETINGS.

CENTRAL TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL OF MONTREAL.

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Meets in the Ville-Marie Hall, 1623 Notre Dame street, the first and third Thursdays of the month. Communications to be addressed to P. C. CHATEL, Corresponding Secretary 127½ St. Lawrence street.

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Meets every Friday evening at eight o'clock in the K. of L. Hall, 624½ Craig street. Address all communications to
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Address all communications to
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QUEBEC NOTES.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

QUEBEC, June 16, 1892.

At the last meeting of the Quebec Trades Council a lengthy letter was read. It came from the Trades Council of New Westminster, British Columbia, and gave a detailed report of the state of the labor market in that far distant Province. According to the report, that province is not the El Dorado some of our newspapers would make it out to be, but quite the reverse. However I suppose they are paid for it, because it suits the capitalists, who have monopolized the natural advantages as well as mineral resources of that Province. It was decided by the Council to give a detailed statement to the labor organizations affiliated to it, of the said communication and I may also state that a synopsis of it was translated into French and published in some of our French evening papers. None of the English papers published it, I suppose that it would not suit their taste. Labor matters don't pay (the others do of course), I cannot blame them. The laborer is neither an advertiser nor a subscriber; for the first he has nothing to advertise and for the second a newspaper subscription being a luxury, it ain't in his line.

Another communication was read. It came from the Toronto Trades and Labor Council and dealt in a very able manner with the newly proposed alterations to the Criminal Laws, more particularly with that portion that has reference to acts done by a labor organization. It would seem as though the lord high priest who has particular charge of our Canadian laws meant by some means or other to get the upper hand of that well known section 22 of the old Trades Union act, so as to give a chance to Ottawa policemen to go around clubbing hungry millmen, or to some of our noble and brave Canadian militia, who as a test of valor might be called upon to fire upon an unarmed mob.

The shipping trade has been brisk for the last two weeks but at present it has slackened up considerably so that the number of ship laborers one meets in our streets just at the present time is surprising.

The building trades are far worse, as there happens to be scarcely any buildings of note going up. Garneau, one of our ex provincial ministers, is putting up a new store to be used by him in the wholesale trade. Every possible precaution would seem to have been taken to give as little labor as possible to residents of the city, the stone being cut at the Chateau quarries, and the stone used for basement being carted by Beauport farmers and put in place by Beauport masons. Pleasant prospect for our citizens truly.

Then again there is the new Pacific Hotel that was going to give so much work. Why it was to be a bonanza for labor! Well it is getting on slowly; the old Chateau has disappeared but the foundations for the new structure are not dug out as yet. Of course the delay is attributed to alterations in the plans. This company will probably improve upon having their stone cut by the farmers at the quarries, by varying the material, and I suppose they will go either to Montreal or Toronto and get bricks.

Quite a little flutter of excitement passed over the Old City when it was announced that the ex-Premier would take his seat in the House. He has not done so, and the flurry has subsided. Some of our ex-Provincial Ministers seem to have a hard experience; one is a bankrupt, another's house is to be sold by sheriff's sale, and still another, whose household effects are to be disposed of by bailiff's sale on the market place. When the boodle we heard so much about was going around they could not have been in it.

I read an article in the Journal of the Knights of Labor (edition of June 9th) the Louisville Courier Journal being credited with it. For spread-eagleism it takes the cake, and hits at us poor Canucks as hard as it knows how. It wants to know just one of our great men or just one deed done by the Dominion. Well, how about obliging them? Canadian history contains the name of a DeVilliers. Go back to the Fort Necessity of the past and compare him with the "Father of His Country," so called by our American cousins. Now for our deeds. Come to the old city of Stadacona and look up at Cape Diamond where you will see a sign showing where somebody fell. He was not a Canadian either. No,

we are in no hurry for annexation. The soul-inspiring words:—

Then come to the West, to the land of the free,
Where the mighty Missouri runs on to the sea.

Where a man is a man if he's willing to toil
And can have for his labor the fruits of the soil

are meaningless to-day, and I would recommend to the Louisville Courier Journal the following ones as a substitute, to meet the altered situation:

Then come to the States owned by the mortgagee
Where mighty Pinkerton's force rules from sea to sea,
Where manhood's degraded, and worshipped the knave,
And labor's reward less than that of the slave.

We had a visit in Quebec from one of Toronto's labor champions, Davies. He was on the Government steamer Constance, where he represented the interest of her builders. This vessel has just taken her departure for the Lower St. Lawrence where she will capture all the vessels engaged in the whiskey smuggling trade, bar those that bring their cargoes through.

Messrs. Luc Routhier and George Gale, of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress Executive, have just been having their innings on the Montreal Municipal Bill now before the Provincial Legislature, defending labor's interests and seeking protection for labor's rights. By the way when those municipal amendments get through they will be like the chap that fell down the chimney, whose own mother did not know him. Well the bankers, merchants, aldermen and the labor element have all had a say, and I suppose that our legislators will be able in future to say about the bill "Well of course we could not please everybody."

ATLAS.

Curious Disclosures of Roguery.

A curious comedy of discomfiture has recently been reported from Paris. The keeper of a restaurant bought a leg of mutton in the ordinary way of business of a salesman in the central market. Some hours after he was waited upon by the dealer, who, strangely enough, wanted to repurchase the joint. The only reason he could offer for the whim was that another customer who had previously seen the leg of mutton insisted on having it, and was too important to be refused. But the restaurant keeper did not believe in this explanation, and he declined to agree.

The dealer offered a profit on the transaction, and increased his bids in the face of the other's obstinacy until the price of twenty pounds was named. It had no effect. The purchaser was now bent on getting to the bottom of a highly mysterious affair. When the joint passed under the carver's hand the murder was out. The credit which the meat salesman had frantically sought to save was shattered. An iron weight of two pounds had been neatly inserted in the mutton to nefariously load the scales. Of course it would have been withdrawn when the buyer's back was turned but for an accidental forgetfulness.

While many rogueries, it is to be feared, permanently escape detection, it sometimes happens that the nefarious deed is casually brought to light. Some years ago there was a long series of most puzzling book thefts from the Imperial Library of St. Petersburg. Every precaution was taken that ingenuity could suggest, and plots were laid to capture the predator. But none of these were successful, and the losses continued. One day a leading member of the staff, whom his coadjutors would scarcely have dared to suspect, much less interrogate on vague surmise, was putting on his overcoat preparatory to leaving the building. The porter came to his help, and, as he assisted, it occurred to the man that the book was singularly straight and stiff. He touched it and it was hard. On this the porter had a fit of audacity, which, if he had been wrong in his guess, might have cost him his place. He dexterously slipped his hand beneath the undercoat of his superior, and with a sharp tug out came a magnificently bound volume.

The thief was caught at last. At his house nearly all the books surreptitiously removed, with a number of valuable stolen manuscripts, were found hoarded away.

Cabmen have to pass an examination in knowledge of London streets before they can obtain a license, and this is far more necessary than might be supposed, for 691 men in the year 1889 failed in the examination, and not a severe one at that, while 1,211 were passed.

TORONTO NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

TORONTO, June 17, 1892.

The Ontario Department of Agriculture in a Bulletin on the crops in Ontario, just issued, and dated 9th. instant, under the head of "Labor and Wages" in the Province of Ontario sums up the answers of over six hundred correspondents (and farmers themselves, at that) as follows:—

"There is little that is special to note in the condition of farm labor. Regarding the quality and supply of labor opinions differ. While the greater number of those reporting consider that the right class of hands are available, a strong minority state that good farm laborers are scarce. This is said to be caused by the large emigration of our farmers' sons to the United States, Manitoba and the North-west, their places being taken by "farm pupils" and others from the old country, some of whom are of doubtful quality so far as our agricultural methods are concerned. In some western countries boys from the Barnardo Home are being tried in the place of men, but the moiety paid them is not included in the rates of wages herewith summarised: The amount paid per month for the working season, of say seven months, runs from \$14 to \$20 with board, the average being \$16.79, an increase of 28 cents over that of the previous year. The amount paid without board ranges from \$20 to \$28, the average being \$24.60, or 59 cents more than in 1891. The wages per day of temporary help averages 86 cents with board and \$1.15 without board, both these rates slightly exceeding their respective figures of the previous year."

Mr. Wm. Bowes is a farmer of Pinkerton, in the County of Bruce, in the Province of Ontario. Need I say he is a credit to his calling. He reasons as follows:

DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH.

To the Editor of The Globe:

SIR—Why we have so many very rich people while the great mass of the people are poor is now as ever the unsolved problem. Mrs. Fawcett at the end of her little treatise on political economy says, by way of wind up:—"The principles expounded and upheld in this little book, seeing that they are fairly acted up to, would lead us to expect that our industrial life would be fairly successful, but instead it is far otherwise." What is wrong with these principles is the difficult thin to point out. She thereby insinuates that there is no grossly wrong class legislation that leads to the present deplorable results.

My own opinion is that while there is no intentional wrongdoing still there is any amount of wrongdoing, and it resides in this:—That the present sentiment of society is dreadfully solicitous to protect what may be called the interests of capital, and on the other hand has not yet risen to take any special or particular interest in the wages of labor.

As in the past our hands and labor are used as commercial commodities, with the avowed object of making profit out of them, and humanity is allowed to sink or swim under the system. If, on the other hand, the parent intention was to reward labor, to make the income of the working classes greater and greater from age to age, then, I fancy, our civilization would be facing in the right direction and all our industrial ills would cease.

What every one wants to see is a healthy, intelligent and a good-hearted people, and it is evident there is no way to secure these unless all men have food, raiment, shelter and leisure—all these would be secured by high wages. Hence high wages is the door-step and entrance into a higher civilization, anything less general progress is hopeless so long as the present struggle for existence lasts.

I am quite aware nobody wants to give small wages if the industrial machine could be run on some different principle without plunging headlong into Socialism. Most of folks desire yet a while to try what individualism could do, and I really think individualism might do a great deal more than it has yet done to further the best ends of society if it would abate its glorification of capital and adore and esteem the workers much more than it has hitherto done. Perhaps there is an ample field in which the wages of labor could be raised, and if society would put forth an effort in that direction it would raise the whole body. I intend to prove, with your permission, that there is a field of labor of large dimensions within society that has tried its very best to lower wages, and for that reason has enriched the rich to its present enormous degree. The basis of wages is the food supply, but the food supply is also the basis of capital. So when the question of the distribution of wealth is up for discussion, the subject before us is really this one:—How does it happen that so large a control of the food supply goes to the rich and such a small share to the men who produce it? Why are the farmers being ground between the upper and the nether mill stone?

The farmers are the primary wage-earners and if their wages are made low all laborers are made to suffer.
WM. BOWES,
Pinkerton, May 30th.

Although it may not be worth the paper it is written on for any practical purpose or result, yet it is pleasing to note as an endorsement in some degree of the position of organized labor in British Columbia on the Chinese question, that on last Saturday the Presbyterian General Assembly in session in Montreal took up the very serious subject of "Traffic in Chinese girls." I read that after the devotional exercises, Mr. Allen Cassis brought to the notice of the Assembly the traffic in Chinese girls in British Columbia. The following resolution, moved by Rev. J. Chisholm, late of Kamloops, B.C., was unanimously adopted:—"The General Assembly would record its utter abhorrence and detestation of the repeated attempts made by some of the Chinese residents in British Columbia to establish a traffic in Chinese girls, and its most cordial sympathy with the members of the W. F. M. societies of this Church and of the sister churches in their earnest desire to see the traffic finally suppressed, and with the efforts already made for its suppression by the Christian people of our Pacific ports. And further, the General Assembly remits the whole matter to the Foreign Missions Committee for full examination and inquiry with a view to strengthen the hands of the Government officials in their efforts to exterminate the traffic, and to report to next Assembly."

Mr. Gordon, M. P., is to be congratulated (of course no one will give the trade organizations any credit) for his perseverance in the matter. Hon. Mr. Chapleau has taken up his bill re Chinese Immigration, and has given notice in the House of Commons that he will introduce a bill to amend the Act respecting Chinese immigration. This means simply that the Government has decided to take up Mr. Gordon's bill, which has been on the order paper many weeks, but could not now be brought before the House by Mr. Gordon, since the Government has taken Monday, the last remaining private member's day for Government business. Mr. Chapleau will simply put his name to Mr. Gordon's bill, which increases the tax upon every Chinaman who sets foot in Canada from \$50 to \$100, and does away with the present system of allowing Chinamen who have paid that tax once to return to China with a license allowing them to come back to Canada again without payment of any tax.

URIM.

The Most Correct Clock in the World.

As is well known everywhere, Greenwich time is the most accurate in the world, and the whole machinery of the clock which records it is very perfect. But, notwithstanding this latter fact, it has to be constantly attended to and regulated by experts, so much so that, besides being the most accurate, it may also be described as the clock which requires the most labor to make it continue to give satisfaction. It is, however, worthy of every attention, for the amount of work which it does with efficiency is astounding. It causes a current of electricity to pass through some wires every second. This serves as the motive force for several clocks, and regulates a large number of others scattered over Britain.

At one o'clock every day a current is sent which fires the time guns at Newcastle, South Shields, Edinburgh and elsewhere. At the same time time balls are let fall by its agency at various places. The standard or public clock at Greenwich is regulated by comparing the time recorded on its face with that given by an astronomical clock, and the difference between true astronomical and true Greenwich time can be found from tables which are calculated for every day and for every hour in the day.

But the astronomical clock, which is regulated according to the movements of the stars, gains a second on true time in the course of every six minutes, so that the most constant attention and the greatest care on the part of the experts is necessary. But how, in what manner, is the clock put right? It must not be stopped or advanced by so many seconds in the usual way, because this would not advance or retard by the same number of seconds the clocks which are moved by its means.

It is done by electricity. A magnet is attached to the end of the pendulum, and beneath this is a coil of wire, so arranged that when an electric current passes through it in one direction, its influence on the magnet makes the pendulum move slower, and when in the opposite direction, quicker. The regulating expert knows that by sending a current through the wire for ten seconds, he alters the time on the clock by one second, making it faster or slower according to the direction as described, so that he can regulate the standard clock to within a tenth of a second of absolutely true time.