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## MEETINGS.

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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 Jos. RENAUD, Corresponding Secretary, 198 Amherst street.

**RIVER FRONT ASSEMBLY,**  
No. 768.  
Rooms K. of L. Hall, Chabouille square. Next meeting Sunday, Nov. 22, at 7.30. Address all correspondence to  
J. WARREN, Rec. Sec.,  
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**DOMINION ASSEMBLY,**  
No. 2436 K. of L.  
Meets every FRIDAY evening at Eight o'clock in the K. of L. Hall, Chabouille square. Address all communications to  
H. J. BHINDLE, R.S.,  
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**PROGRESS ASSEMBLY,**  
No. 3852, K. of L.  
Meets every First and Third Tuesday at Lomas' Hall, Point St. Charles.

**BUILDERS' LABORERS' UNION.**  
Meets in Ville Marie Hall, 1623 Notre Dame street, every TUESDAY at 8 P. M.  
Address all communications to  
WM. JARVIS, Secretary,  
111 St. Dominique street.

### BLACK DIAMOND ASSEMBLY

171, K. of L.  
Meets next Sunday, in the K. of L. Hall, Chabouille square, at 2 o'clock.  
Address all communications to  
WM. ROBERTSON,  
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## ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

### HOW THE CHEATING IS DONE IN COFFEE.

The below is a condensed report from a scientific journal, giving the extent to which the adulteration of food is carried on, and how the thing is done in the matter of coffee. This account shows two things. It shows how cheating is part and parcel of the capitalist system. Secondly, it gives an insight into the claim advanced by the superficially informed, that labor now enjoys delicacies from which it was formerly excluded. The article runs thus:

"Pure coffee is expensive, and, therefore, there are immense quantities of stuff sold as pure coffee which are in reality compounds of various substances which cost less. The same unflinching law of trade that puts alloy into gold, shoddy into cloth, water into milk, potatoes into flour, cider into champagne, logwood into port wine, and sulphuric acid into vinegar, results in the adulteration of coffee in various ways, although the Penal Code makes it punishable by fine and imprisonment to sell as pure any adulterated article of food.

"Happily the articles used to adulterate coffee are not so deleterious to health as many substances that are used to adulterate other articles of food, drugs and medicines. Although we may take as coffee either chicory, acorns, mangle wurzel, peas, beans or flour, neither of these substances is injurious to health. The estimate has been made that the people of the United States who buy spurious coffee under the name of pure Mocha, Java or Rio are cheated annually to the extent of about \$18,000,000.

"One of the most ingenious articles used to adulterate coffee is an artificial coffee bean manufactured by a machine invented by a Connecticut Yankee. This bean is of the exact size and shape and color of an ordinary coffee bean, and is made out of a sort of paste resembling macaroni. It is, of course, harmless as an article of food. It can be made for a few cents a pound, say about the price of the best flour. There is no flavor of coffee to it. Every pound of it used really depreciates the value of the coffee and profits the dishonest dealer just the difference between the price of the paste and the price of coffee.

"This adulterant, however, is almost entirely used in roasted coffee. The genuine coffee bean has a peculiar hardness and surface that are well known to experts, and there is really no attempt made to adulterate coffee as sold in the green bean. But when the manufactured bean is roasted with the real bean and imbibes its aroma while taking on the same color, it is difficult for experts to detect it, and the general public without expert knowledge is utterly unable to distinguish the counterfeit.

"But it is in the grading of coffee that the greatest opportunities for frauds occur, for here there is a chance to mix in any quantity of cheap substances, that are ground in so that the grains of the product are all the same shape and color. The purchaser, therefore, has absolutely no protection short of chemical or microscopical analysis. The compound takes on the aroma of whatever coffee is in it, and very few persons will take the trouble to protect themselves from such imposition.

"It is easy to get good pure coffee by purchasing the green bean and supervising the roasting and grinding. Such a product is so totally different from the ground coffee of commerce that most people would pronounce it unpalatable and spurious. It is a curious fact that the taste of most coffee drinkers has been so cultivated that they prefer coffee with chicory in it. Therefore, the curious result has happened that although chicory was formerly cheap it is now sold at nearly the price of coffee, and has itself become a subject of adulteration. Among the substances used to adulterate chicory are roasted wheat, rye, acorns, carrots, croats, and oak bark powder.

"The facilities for introducing adulterants in coffee in the process of grinding has led largely to the practice among extensive dealers in ground coffee who are careful of their reputations to buy their coffee in the green bean and do the roasting and grinding themselves. There is, however, a process called "polishing" which is performed on the green bean, during which colors are added by which low grade coffee is made to take the appearance and color of high grade coffee, so as to produce an article that will

deceive some experts. Generally, however, the experts can tell pure coffee in the green unroasted bean.

"The Emperor of Germany has recently seen fit to prohibit by imperial decree the sale of machines for making artificial coffee beans as a measure of protection for the great coffee drinking nation of Germany. The fact is, however, that by far the greater part of adulteration is effected in the process of grinding, and that the great bulk of coffee drinkers who buy cheap coffee consume a decoction which has only enough coffee in it to give it a flavor of coffee.

"Real coffee is a very delicate substance and will readily not only lose its own flavor, but also take up the flavor of other substances. Thus it is quite necessary in shipping coffee to make sure that no other odorous substance is placed near to destroy the flavor of the coffee. The aroma is volatile. Let a quantity of pure ground coffee be exposed to the air for a considerable time and the best of the coffee will go out in the atmosphere. The careful housewife who wishes to make good, pure coffee of fragrant aroma buys it in the green bean, roasts it herself, grinds it the morning it is used. Coffee so made is a totally different article of consumption from the great bulk of ground coffee that is sold in the stores. Some time ago an official analysis of some ground coffee exposed for sale disclosed the fact that there was absolutely no coffee in it!

"There are dealers, however, who have the reputation of selling pure ground coffee and who jealously guard their coffee product and keep it up to the pure standard. The fact is, however, that most people cannot afford to pay thirty or thirty-five cents per pound for coffee, and must be content with the manufactured stuff that sells at twenty or twenty-five cents a pound or even less. Happily, after a while they get to like the manufactured stuff and would reject the pure as spurious.

"Coffee shrinks in roasting from 16 to 20 per cent. The cost of roasting coffee is a little over a quarter of a cent a pound, based on the weight of the green bean. The general practice in roasting is, in cases where adulteration is required, to put in artificial coffee beans or about one third of the mass. The result is that it is a common thing to sell the roasted and ground product for even less than the price of the green beans pure, notwithstanding the cost of roasting and grinding and packing and the 20 per cent. shrinkage. It is a cold day when the coffee men get left.

"Of course the machine for making artificial coffee beans is not brought very prominently before the public, and the coffee roasters and grinders who use the product are not much given to telling about it. They, however, know where to get the machines or the product, and can supply any quantity that may be desired by their customers, so that the imperial edict will not at once prevent the use of the machine altogether. At least in this country people will go on buying paste beans for coffee as before and think themselves lucky if it is no worse.

"The main reason for the adulteration of coffee is that there is not enough of it to go around. Mocha now sells at the highest price ever known, which is about 25 cents a pound in large quantities for the green bean. Pure Java sells for 23 cents a pound, and pure Rio for 14½ cents a pound. These are very high prices and the supply of the best grades limited. The temptations to adulteration are now therefore at the highest. Some low grade Brazil coffee was recently sold at 11c a pound, and when that comes to be doctored by the grinders, the coffee part of the product will be small. There is a wide difference between 35 cents a pound and 10 cents. It is a difference between the best and the poorest, and generally represents the difference between the pure article and adulterated.

"Coffee is so high priced that every bit of it is utilized. Even the dust that comes from cleaned coffee is valuable. It sells for a fraction over a cent a pound. It has some flavor of coffee about it and goes to make up the curious compounds that are sold for pure ground coffee.

"One of the tricks of the coffee trade is to sift the beans so as to get the small beans out of the inferior Java coffee and mix them with Mocha so as to sell at a higher price. Sometimes even experts will be deceived by this trick."

The Princess of Wales is returning to London from the Crimea on account of her son's illness. Prince George, however, is progressing favorably.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

To the Editor of THE ECHO.

DEAR SIR,—I notice that the New Party proposes one plank in their platform to bring the people in closer relations with the educators of their children. I have no word concerning the Catholic people, but I do say as a Protestant workman that the sooner the people take the matter into their own hands the better it will be. At present we are ruled in our education by six persons—three appointed by the Legislature and three from the city Aldermen. They meet in Star Chamber fashion. Press and people are excluded, and the whole business done in a log-rolling fashion, one commissioner grabbing for his friends what he can. To show how this secret business operates, the Board this year voted an increase of salary to one official of \$750 but refused to give the unfortunate female teachers any increase, although they get, most of them, about \$300 a year altogether. Look at this, ye workmen; ye toilers. An official who previously had \$2,000 a year has had added to his salary at one leap \$750. How many of the toilers of one city who pay the taxes get so much as \$750 a year. Talk about Ottawa and Quebec boudles. Here is a theme for the Trades and Labor Council to deal with. To show you how secrecy works, Alderman Thompson, who is a School Commissioner, voted in the City Council against increasing the salaries of three or four civic treasury clerks and not giving an increase to other clerks. That was before the public. The press reporters were there to see how business was done. Alderman Wilson voted with Alderman Thompson. But both of these gentlemen are parties, so far as the public know, to the payment of \$750 at one leap to an official already getting \$2,000 a year. That job was done in secret, and probably would not have been done had the eyes of the people been upon them. This circumstance shows how much need there is of reform in our educational system. In Ontario and in every enlightened land the School Commissioners are elected and their meetings are public. Let the workmen here demand that they be reformed in this particular here. My word for it that you will have the sympathy of the people with you to a degree the schools Star Chamber has little idea of. Let the new idea take root.  
A SUBSCRIBER.

### ELECTRIC RAILWAYS AND STREET SCAVENGING.

To the Editor of THE ECHO.

SIR,—There has been a great deal of talk lately about an Electric Railway for Montreal, (God knows we need it), both elevated, surface, and semi-elevated. Several companies are seeking what the Aldermen of the present or any other time has no right to give, namely a franchise which virtually gives to a few individuals the right in a large measure to control our streets and charge the citizens what sum they please to transfer them from one part of the city to the other. The latest and apparently the most acceptable scheme submitted is that of the Elevated and Semi-Elevated Company, who promise not to make more than eight per cent. on their capital. That's very good; but why the citizens of Montreal should be bled to the tune of eight per cent. I fail to see, when it can be avoided, or partly so anyhow, if our civic government is desirous of serving the people. But how can it be done? In the first place the Council I believe has virtually decided to do its own scavenging (strange mixture—scavenging and electric railway), because they can do it cheaper and better than by contract. Now if they would decide also to borrow sufficient money to build an elevated railway and run it at cost four per cent. would be all the people would require to pay instead. That would be a saving of four per cent. to the citizens, even under the most favorable offer of any company; then when the city had its railway built let them have cars made to take away the refuse now taken by the scavengers. About one quarter of the costs would be required to gather it up and place it on the elevated cars, which could be run to the dumping ground in dozens if necessary and every car should hold at least six times as much as the present old carts; there would be nothing spilled about the streets, the whole business could be done between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. and the amount saved on the scavenging would

eventually pay off the borrowed money that built the railway. Certainly elevators at given points would have to be built to hoist the refuse to the cars, but what an enormous saving it would be. The same motive power used for passenger cars in the day could be utilized for scavenging cars at night, and the work which seems of such magnitude now would become perfectly easy to do in half the time and with half the amount of men. But if the railway is owned and run by a private company the scavenging must be done as at present or else a large amount of money paid to the proprietors for the use of their tracks. Probably some one later on will give me an opportunity of going more fully into details on this matter and showing the innumerable advantages there is to be gained by the city owning and controlling its own City Passenger Railway, whether it be surface, elevated, or semi-elevated. Hoping to hear some other opinions on this scheme, I remain,  
W. D.

### Ancient Telegraphy.

The Ancient Greeks and Romans practiced telegraphy with the help of pots filled with straw and twigs saturated in oil, which, being placed in rows, expressed certain letters according to the order in which they were lighted; but the only one of their contrivances which merits a detailed description was that invented by a Grecian general named Aneas, who flourished in the time of Aristotle, intended for communication between the generals of an army. It consisted of two exactly similar earthen vessels filled with water, each provided with a cork that would discharge an equal quantity of water in a given time, so that the whole or any part of the contents would escape in precisely the same period from both vessels.

On the surface of each floated a piece of cork supporting an upright marked off into divisions, each division having a certain sentence inscribed upon it. One of the vessels was placed at each station and when either party desired to communicate he lighted a torch, which he held aloft until the other did the same as a sign that he was all attention. On the sender of the message lowering or extinguishing his torch each party immediately opened the cork of his vessel, and so left it until the sender re-lighted his torch, when it was at once closed. The receiver then read the sentence on the division of the upright that was level with the mouth of the vessel, and which, if everything had been executed with exactness, corresponded with that of the sender, and so conveyed the desired information. The first electric telegraph at all deserving the name was invented by Messrs. Cooke and Wheatstone and was laid on the London and Blackwell railway in June, 1837.

### Growth of Sponges.

Some of the most beautiful things that live in the ocean are the sponges of the great depth, which have often very curious and interesting forms. Not the least remarkable are the so-called "sea nests," which are in the form of spheres or sometimes egg shaped. The outer coat of one of these specimens is a complicated network, over which a delicate membrane is spread. An ornamental fringe adorns the upper part, while the lower portion throws out a maze of glossy filaments like fine white hairs. These hairs penetrate the semi-fluid mud in every direction, thus holding the sponge in its place while a continuous current of water is drawn by waving "olla" through all parts of the mass, passing out by a hole at the top. In this manner the animal absorbs whatever food may be afloat. Another singular sponge is the "glass rope," which sends down into the mud a coiled wisp of filaments as thick as a knitting needle. The latter opens out into a brush, fixing the creature in place after the manner of a screw pile. Still another remarkable sponge is found in the deep water off the Loffoden Islands. It spreads out into a thin circular cake, surrounded by what looks like a fringe of white floss silk. Yet another curiosity is the "eupetella" sponge of the Philippines, which lives embedded to its lid in the mud and supported by a lovely frill.

Thousands of Remnants of Dress Goods have been disposed of during the last few days at S. Carsley's. There is still quite a number remaining for those who have not purchased.

Remnants of Plain and Fancy Dress Materials in all fashionable colors and designs at S. Carsley's, Notre Dame street.

United States officials have discovered dangerous counterfeit of the \$20 gold certificates.