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MEETINGS.

CENTRAL TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL OF MONTREAL.

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R. KEYS, - - - - - VICE-PRESIDENT
P. J. RYAN, - - - - - ENGLISH REC. SECRETARY
A. DEGUIRE, - - - - - FRENCH REC. SECRETARY
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JOS. CORBEIL, - - - - - TREASURER
J. A. RENAUD, - - - - - SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

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 127 1/2 St. Lawrence street.

RIVER FRONT ASSEMBLY,
No. 7628.
Rooms, K. of L. Hall, 63 1/2 Craig street. Next meeting Sunday, June 12, at 2.30. Address all correspondence to J. WARREN, Rec. Sec., 29 Basin Street.

DOMINION ASSEMBLY,
No. 2436 K. of L.
Meets every FRIDAY evening at Eight o'clock in the K. of L. Hall, 63 1/2 Craig street. Address all communications to H. J. BRINDLE, R.S., No. 11 St. Monique street.

PROGRESS ASSEMBLY,
No. 3852, K. of L.
Meets every First and Third Tuesday at Lomas' Hall, Point St. Charles.

BLACK DIAMOND ASSEMBLY

1711, K. of L.
Meets next Sunday, in the K. of L. Hall, 662 1/2 Craig street, at 7 o'clock.
Address all communications to WM. ROBERTSON, 7 Archambault street.

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TORONTO NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

TORONTO, June 9, 1892.

On last Friday evening the Trades and Labor Council of this city held its regular semi-monthly meeting. This of itself was not uncommon evidently for the News of Saturday last introduced its report of the Council's proceedings in the following language, but whether the design of reflecting on Mr. O'Donoghue by paying him a covert compliment, or upon the Council for reasons best known to itself is not quite clear. It says, for instance, that Delegate D. J. O'Donoghue not being present at last night's meeting of the Trades and Labor Council, business was finished and the meeting adjourned by 10 o'clock. This is not the usual way of commencing the report of a meeting, but the event was so remarkable that it deserves more than a passing comment.

After disposing of customary routine business, Secretary Cribben, in his usual dulcet tones, read a lengthened missive from the New Westminster Trades and Labor Council. In forcible language this letter pointed out that highly colored accounts of the large wages paid in British Columbia and of the beautiful climate of that Province had been sent east by the Provincial and Municipal Governments, which are chiefly controlled by land speculators. It was stated that business was paralyzed and that for the last six months failures have been of frequent occurrence, through the changed conditions brought about by land monopoly. Men out of work were unable to take up land and were consequently forced into cities to compete with one another. A scale of wages which was quoted showed that the rate paid was but little higher than that paid here, while work was even more scarce there. He instanced the street car driver and the locomotive firemen, who showed no disposition to organize, but were very anxious to have the Labor Council fight their battles. He would help only those who helped themselves.

Delegate Parr warmly supported the view of the matter as indicated in the report. He argued that the Council would have reached a natural death long ago had it, in the past, confined itself to such narrow lines as those on this occasion advocated by Delegate Francis.

Delegate R. Glocking agreed with the last speaker as far as he went and held, further, that \$500 a year was little enough for any man to get. It was only by bettering the position of these in civil service that those outside could hope to get better wages.

Delegate McCormick hoped the Council would stand by the recommendation in the report. He held that the only situation which working people could hope to get in the civil service, under either government, was that of a letter carrier, so they should unite to make it a fairly good situation.

Delegate Armstrong was opposed to the clause because when the Council helped the engineers on the Intercolonial Mr. Pearson, president of the local union, had politely told them to mind their own business.

Delegate R. Glocking, in reply, said that despite the conduct of Mr. Pearson on the occasion referred to, the locomotive engineers themselves had thanked the T. & L. Council for the very valuable service and aid rendered them at that time.

The report was ultimately concurred in unanimously, with the addition of a rider instructing the secretary to communicate with the Trades and Labor Councils of Ottawa, Montreal and Hamilton, and ask their co-operation in the matter of the Criminal Laws.

The report of the Municipal Committee was adopted as read, and was a valuable and most interesting one. It condemned the motion of Ald. Bailey which would confine the Street Commissioner to employ only residents of the ward in which the work was done. The committee believed this wrong in principle, tending as it does to return to the old ward system of grab. It cost fully one-third more to please the whims of aldermen. It was just such an action on the part of meddling and ignorant aldermen with the engineer's business that had deprived the city of the services of Mr. Jennings.

The report sarcastically referred to the proposal of the City Council to consolidate the various public charities. It criticized severely the rich merchants who would pay their female clerks starvation wages and then contribute to the maintenance of genteel boarding-houses, havens and the like.

"No prosecution shall be maintainable against any person for conspiracy in refusing to work with or for any employer or workman, or for doing any act or causing any act to be done for the purpose of a trade combination, unless such act is an offence punishable by statute."

Your committee therefore recommend that your body prepare and forward the Minister of Justice at Ottawa a memorial respectfully praying that he re-insert the said Section 4 of the Act of 1876 in his Act now before the House of Commons, and that letters be forwarded to the representatives of the City of Toronto in the House of Commons requesting them to support the tenor of the memorial by interviewing and pressing the Government to that end.

Your committee has had its attention drawn to the case of letter carriers in the permanent employment of the Dominion Government, and their petition praying that the minimum and maximum yearly wages be increased to \$500 despite the fact that letter carriers are sworn not to belong to or join any society or organization of a union character, as your committee are advised, yet, keeping in view the fact that they are wage earners, and obliged to possess certain qualifications as well as being compelled to work long hours and walk in the aggregate long distances daily, your committee recommend that your body memorialize the Federal Government to fix the minimum yearly wages at \$500.

On a motion to adopt the report a pointed discussion took place.

Delegate Francis, contrary to his course at a previous meeting in favoring the advent of Chinese in Canada, opposed the taking of any action on behalf of the letter carriers. He said they had an association but had made no attempt to better their condition, so he advised the council to let them alone. He instanced the street car driver and the locomotive firemen, who showed no disposition to organize, but were very anxious to have the Labor Council fight their battles. He would help only those who helped themselves.

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The crying necessity of the day was for a remedy which would bring about the abolition of poverty.

The report heartily commended the action of the City Council in at last setting \$600 for the construction of separate apartments for children at the Police Headquarters.

It also urged that a City Engineer be appointed at once to push on the erection of the Court House and to properly superintend the extensive works lately undertaken by the Board of Works, and commended the decided stand of Architect Lennox in exercising his right to accept or reject a contractor.

All those who rose to discuss the report of this committee spoke on the subject of low wages to female employees and agreed with the views expressed in the report except Delegate Simpson, who said the cause was the great competition between firms which compelled them to pay low wages. The remedy could be applied and the cure brought about if the labor unions would agree only to buy of that merchant who did pay fair wages.

The report concluded by commending the wise and judicious course of the Property Committee of the city council in allowing Architect Lennox to use his own judgment as to the fitness of men who may be placed in responsible positions in connection with the construction and erection of the new city hall.

Secretary Cribben, always level-headed, claimed attention for a few minutes and said: "I would like to draw the attention of the Municipal Committee to the fact that the City Council has been recommended to give \$5,000 to be spent in one day's solid enjoyment on Dominion Day. As to the volunteers turnout on that day, I don't think that any are very anxious about it. I understand that the Queen's Own never got the grant for the last time they turned out, and I don't believe that the Grenadiers are at all anxious for another feast of meat pies and pop. Our last celebration caused the city to be dubbed 'Doddsville,' and perhaps this one will bring us the nickname of 'Sheppardville.'" The matter was referred to the Committee mentioned for further consideration and report.

In explanation of the terms "Doddsville" and "Sheppardville" used by Mr. Cribben permit me to say that a few years ago Mr. J. K. Dodds (at the time an alderman and a man who had "stumped" the country in the liquor interest) and others engineered a "carnival" celebration in this city—in my letter of last week I was wrong in saying it was the semi-centennial of the city's charter. This "carnival" pleased no one, nor were the funds devoted to the purpose ever satisfactorily accounted for. The present "hurrah" on Dominion Day is being fathered mainly by Mr. Edmond E. Sheppard, publisher of Saturday Night.

I observe that the Ontario Government Bureau of Industries has determined on an extension of its work in matters of special interest to organized labor—to all who work for wages in Ontario. If the information sought is both promptly and accurately furnished by those applied to therefor, and who alone can give it, most valuable data will be the result.

The Department just referred to has recently issued the following circular:
Department of Agriculture, Ontario, Bureau of Industries.

TORONTO, June 1, 1892.

LABOR STATISTICS.

SIR,—With the object of enlarging the work of this Bureau in connection with the compilation of labor statistics, it has been determined to collect and publish such information as may be obtainable this year under the heads given below. It has been thought that such information would be interesting and valuable to the artisan, the mechanic, the skilled and the unskilled laborer, as well as to the employer of labor in Ontario. Other investigations will also probably be undertaken during the year.

1. Statistics as to Labor Organizations, Trades and Labor Councils, Trades Unions, Assemblies of the Knights of Labor—District, Trade and Mixed—Co-operative Societies, Benefit, Friendly or Insurance Societies; to include (a) name and nature of organization, occupation of membership, date and place of organization; (b) names and addresses of officers; (c) number of members for the past five years; (d) official reports of officers; (e) cash benefits to members or families of members in case of sickness, lack of work, superannuation or death; (f) rates of wages and days of employment of members; (g) any special work undertaken for benefit of members.

2. Statistics relating to Strikes and Lock-outs in Ontario in 1892, to include (a) nature and location of industry; (b) number of persons and of establishments directly affected; (c) cause or object; (d) how inaugurated; (e) date of beginning and of ending; (f) result, whether successful or unsuccessful; (g) strike allowance paid;

(h) loss occasioned employees; (i) loss occasioned employers; (j) any other information connected therewith.

3. Dominion and Provincial Legislation affecting labor in Ontario.

To obtain such details and to have them in reliable form the active voluntary assistance of workmen, (organized and unorganized) and of employers of labor is requested. All returns will be treated confidentially and handled impartially, and the results compiled in such form as we trust will be useful for all classes. It is desired that all blank schedules sent to you will be filled out carefully and promptly returned to this Bureau.

I remain,

Yours respectfully,
C. C. JAMES,
Secretary.

At the meeting of Toronto's City Council on last Monday night the Treasurer's return of expenditure for the year showed an expenditure of \$693,797 while the appropriation was \$2,001,424.

For years an effort has been continued on the part of organized labor in this city to secure the enactment of a municipal law to govern the erection of scaffolding on buildings in course of construction, but through one quibble or another failure resulted until last Monday evening. At the City Council meeting on that date Ald. W. Bell, although bitterly opposed, succeeded in carrying such a by-law with the amendment, however, that the city will not be responsible for improper construction, but where such exists it will be the City Commissioner's duty to prosecute. I hazard the prophecy that this by-law will be, in practice, a nullity, and that, worse still, it may endanger the rights and chances of an injured workman under the provisions of the "Compensation for Injury to Workmen Act" of the Province of Ontario. But as to this, I may have more to write at some future time.

Although the Trades and Labor Council at its last meeting did not go on record in opposition to a municipal grant of \$5,000 for Dominion Day celebration in commemoration of the Act of Confederation, as asked for by certain ultra-patriotic people in this city, and many of whom would oppose the expenditure of one dollar for the purpose of giving much-needed employment to men who wanted it to support their families or to keep them from having to leave for the United States, as many are being obliged to do at the present time, yet the remarks of Secretary F. C. Cribben at last Friday evening's meeting of the T. & L. Council against such an expenditure by the City Council had its effect as the sequel will show.

At the 1891 session of the Provincial Legislature the city sought certain powers and one of them was to expend, if necessary, the sum of \$10,000 annually for the reception and entertainment of distinguished guests. The representative of the T. & L. Council when the scheme was before the Private Bills Committee opposed this and was successful in having the power reduced to an expenditure of \$5,000. The cause of his opposition to any expenditure whatever for such a purpose is obvious—not one cent of it would ever be expended in the reception or entertainment of any person connected with the cause of organized labor, no matter how distinguished. And so the News says that the Dominion Day Celebration Committee made a mistake in not accepting the proffered \$2,500 when it was offered, instead of holding out for \$5,000. It now transpires the whole proposed grant is illegal. The City Solicitor's opinion this morning of the grant was as follows:

"I beg to refer you to section 37 of the act 54, Victoria, chapter 48, passed in 1891, which provides that in Toronto the city may include in the estimates \$5,000 to be expended in the reception and entertainment of distinguished guests and in travelling expenses necessarily incurred in and about the business of the corporation."

Before that act was passed any expenditure for such purposes was illegal. The Legislature legalized "blowouts" to the extent of \$5,000 altogether if the money was set apart in the annual estimates. In their economic fit the Council only set apart \$2,000, of this \$750 has been promised the Knights of St. John, \$500 for a cab drive to the Employing Printers, and \$1,000 has been spent on deputation trips, so that the \$2,000 is already more than expended. There is a miscellaneous fund at the city's disposal to draw upon, but if the aldermen vote it for festive purposes they become personally responsible or any citizen can stop the grant by an injunction.

And so the Department of the Interior at Ottawa has issued orders for the superannuation of the emigrant agents at Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton and London. The work done by them in the past will in future be done by the railway companies' travelling agents. This is another proof that constant dropping of water will wear away rock. Ultimately organized labor will succeed in forcing the abolition of the existing misleading, mischievous and unnecessary Immigration system of Canada. What practical result as to cost to the country of the new departure remains to be seen, for although money may be saved yet greater evils may be allowed to exist under it than even those complained of in the past. We shall see in time.

URIM.