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RELAXATIVE

Every day the business acumen and foresight of the promoters of the Labor Temple project are being displayed, and the expectations of even the most sanguine enthusiast are being realized. The unionists in the city are crowding the recreation rooms that are so far completed, and to relieve the congestion in the bowling alley and billiard rooms the other athletic features of the building are being hurried along. The gymnasium will soon be open, and then the punching bag, the rings, horizontal bars, horse and exercisers will give employment to the surplus energy of those who cannot now participate in the bowling alley.

An indoor baseball league is now forming and the games will be played in the large assembly room. Unions wishing to enter teams would do well to form clubs and enter teams with Secretary Simpson. This game has become very popular in the city of late, and as an indoor sport it has few rivals.

Among the younger fellows basketball is spoken of. This could also be played in the large assembly room, and should any interest be displayed an effort will be made to introduce the game.

A meeting will be held when the Temple is completed, and all the different recreation features will be consolidated into one large athletic club, under which system matters may be handled more advantageously than at present.

In a practice match on Labor Temple alleys between Union and Sunshine bowling teams, the following was the score:

Sunshine—Mitchell 534, D. Pringle 581, Pringle 501, Hackett 628, Fisher 534, Ewart 509, total 3,347.

Union—Glocking 458, Turvey 482, Martin 542, Stevenson 409, Huddleston 394, Wilson 630, total 2,915.

The Business Agents' Bowling Club is the latest organization at Labor Temple. They are eager for a game with any of the existing clubs, and expect to be able to hold their own with them all. Their particular prey is the Unions of the City League, whom they expect to show up one of these days. Sangster is doing some great pinnings—not sewing (a "Tweed" suit)—on the alleys, and Storey expects a "lead pipe." What's in a name will be shown when Billy's "bowlin'." The greatest advantage the agents have is that, like in ye olden time, they have a Moses to lead them out of the wilderness of pins. Conjointly they hope to avert many a strike by the Unions.

They're off!

Tuesday evening last at 8 the opening tournament of the Printers' Bowling League was held on the Temple alleys. The News faced the Star, and the Telegram took a whirl out of the Fleming bunch. The games were pulled off in two hours and by ten o'clock there was a commingling of sorrow and joy by the respective losers and winners. Great interest was taken by the large number of followers of each team, and the "strikes" and "spares" were applauded to the echo. Many of the cracks fell by the wayside, and the "selling platers" crowded to the fore at the finish. It was a night of enjoyment for all. The following are the scores:

Fleming v. Telegram.

Fleming—	1st.	2nd.	Ttl.
Stevenson, H. J.	142	168	310
Webster	127	182	309
Elliott	108	126	234
Gibbons	139	126	265
Wheeler	126	133	259
Stevenson, T.	143	113	256
			1633

Telegram—			
Mahoney	138	142	280
Morrison	96	143	239
Thompson	164	81	245
Nelson	100	178	278
Edwards	153	127	280
Dobbin	105	114	219
			1401

Majority for Fleming—132 pins.

News v. Star.

News—	1st.	2nd.	Ttl.
Worthy	195	168	363
Elliott	156	168	324
Pollard	164	187	351
Oliver	178	180	358
Sutherland	179	222	401
Williams	190	211	401
			2198

Star—			
Rogers	169	142	306
Webber	141	175	316
McDougal	169	158	327
Kidd	160	147	307
Benson	127	99	219
Thompson	192	123	315
			1790

Majority for News—408 pins.

The top scores were Williams, 401; Sutherland, 401. The lowest scorer of the News team was higher than the score of any player on any of the other teams.

Wednesday afternoon the morning papers' schedule was opened by the Mail and World on the Temple alleys. Interest was sustained until the following scores were run up:

Mail—	1st.	2nd.	Ttl.
Aggett	162	169	331
Macdonald	200	104	304
Hayes	134	138	272
Kelly	157	155	312
Hamblin	158	175	333
Mitchell	129	144	273
World—			
Barr	127	145	272
Robinson	151	138	289
Wilson	188	124	312
Cameron	118	137	255
Findlay	127	142	269
Williams	[illegible]	131	212

The game proved [illegible] Findlay, of the World, [illegible] secre, 309.

The O.H.A. is the greatest amateur organization in Canada to-day, if that Canada has ever produced. It fostered the game of hockey in many little hamlets all over Ontario. In the smaller towns it is easy to preserve the amateur nature of the game, because "Snoopy" and "Buckie" are always fighting for a place on the team, and are well satisfied with the honor there is to be derived from being in the limelight when your best girl has her eye on you. But, living in the district in which "Snoopy" and "Buckie" are playing there is a team that, besides being in the game for sport and pleasure, is actuated by championship aspirations. "Snoopy" and "Buckie" being the two best forwards in the district to which their team belongs, are sought after by this town that is after the championship. But they, being sure of a place on their own team, which would always be under the eye of their before mentioned best girls, do not wish to leave their home town, for are they not in hockey for the love of sport and the honor of their town? "Snoopy" and "Buckie," though, leave home, and are only two of a bunch of good ones we see on a crack team, not one member of which belongs to the town whose honor and glory they are battling for against their own home town. Now, the question arises, what were the inducements held out to "Snoopy" and "Buckie," who could not possibly be crowded off a team of which they were the two best members? When there is a general stirring up among the players of any game, and we find a fast bunch collected from anywhere and everywhere labelled "the goods," we naturally grow suspicious of their "amateur" status. And so we find in the O.H.A. the same thing exactly prevails as in the senior lacrosse circles, the players of which they have debarred from their association, the only difference being that the senior lacrosse players have been under stronger suspicion and for a longer time than their confreres of the frost game. Now, the reason for the collection together of a fast bunch is for the purpose of corralling a championship. Incidentally, in getting that championship, the public have been educated up to an article of hockey that they wish to see retained. In a large town the only inducement for a lover of athletics to witness a hockey game is the guarantee of a first-class article. But in getting the first-class article under the system at present in vogue, questionable methods, from a strictly amateur definition, have been employed, and eventually "Snoopy" and "Buckie" are found out and professionalized, and the game deteriorates. Now, why should the best men in the game—for who ever heard of the mediocre men being offered anything?—be relegated to "the palm room," when the public are clamoring for a better article of hockey than the present "tin horn" outfits are serving up? So that we need not look to the O.H.A. if they abide strictly by their amateur professions, to give the public a consistently good article of hockey. Take, for instance, the Marlboros of last year. A championship was taken into their camp by the gathering together of a coterie of experts, a better bunch than which could only be found in Ottawa. Has that team been retained intact for this season? Hardly. The purpose for which they were gathered together was accomplished, and their line-up will be much different when they next face the starter, not any strengthened, you will then acknowledge. There is a grand opening at the present time here for a team which could compete successfully with the Eastern teams, and the Federal League would with alacrity embrace the opportunity of being represented in Toronto. Standard Eastern hockey in Toronto would be appreciated so well that no fears need be entertained for the financial end of it. What better drawing cards could there be than the Ottawas (present cup holders) and the Wanderers, the latter being composed of the best players drawn from the crack Montreal team of '02? Teams formed in Canada with the main object the idea of developing and fostering a [illegible] hockey for the development of a national Canadian game, as a pastime, would soon stop the exodus of the experts to the other side, and it would be but a short time before an arena that would seat that of Montreal would take the place of theirs, and that Toronto at present has to put up with.

The Marlboros, senior O.H.A. champions, have invited the Ottawas here for New Year's Day. The O.H.A. has ruling debarring senior lacrosse players. On the Ottawas are at least two, Westwick and Smith. What will happen to the Marlboros "after they come out of the income?"

Semi-occasionally we are served up by the Telegram with the now famous query, "Where did the money come from?" Quite brilliantly it has flashed across our dope-pan that it may have come from the gate receipts of an O.H.A. game that the players didn't get.

The O.H.A. wants a first-class referee, therefore they admit the professional. The public want first-class hockey, but they can't get it from the amateur.

How like the much-abused professional J. R. R. hangs on to the presidency.

"Buck" McGibbon, lacrosse artist, formerly of Toronto, but originally of the Capitals, of Ottawa, has been the cause of the extinction of the Mintos of Winnipeg. It is alleged he foolishly endeavored to draw money that had a string on it. In consideration of a cash deposit of $50 and an additional $100 placed in the bank, to be drawn at the end of the season, he signed with the Mintos. Then he deserted to the Winnipegs. No objection would have been raised had there been no deposit in the bank. When the withdrawal of the money was attempted the trouble arose. The question arises, Why did "Buck" insert the Mintos and the $100 deposit? Probably it was merely a stampede back to the ranks of the amateurs. However, the only difference will be that the same individuals who composed the Mintos and caused the trouble will adapt some other club name and "Buck" will be relegated to the fireside "has-beens." Which merely goes to show up this "amateur" farce again. Every executive officer in the club should be professionalized if amateur professions were lived up to.

Co-Operative Echoes

Co-operation is voluntary united effort on the part of a number of persons for their mutual benefit in the furtherance of an enterprise which is under their mutual control. It illustrates the old adage that "in union there is strength." Its only limitation is the intelligence and administrative ability of the co-operators. Given sufficient virtue and intelligence, co-operation is the ideal system of human advancement.

Co-operation is the outgrowth and crowning achievement of democracy. It is democracy exemplified in the field of industry. Extended to its furthest limits it will accomplish all the good results hoped for from socialism, without the restraint of individual liberty which seems inherent in the latter system.

There are comparatively few things that can be as well done by one person toiling alone as by a number working in unison. Nearly all the great modern inventions tend toward the division and specialization of labor, and in our factories and workshops nearly every product passes through a number of hands before it is completed and ready for use.

Few great industrial enterprises are managed by one man using his own capital. Instead we see them conducted by stock companies, or in corporations, which are the most approved form of co-operative action. Many who blindly inveigh against "the corporations" miss entirely the great lesson that they should convey to every thoughtful observer. The way to fight tyrannical and robber corporations is by the inauguration of equitable and honestly managed ones. What is needed is not capital, for in the common people still lies the material as well as physical strength of the nation, but trained leadership and an intelligent appreciation of the opportunities that lie open on every hand.

The Socialist's vision of the human race as one great family, where all "contribute to each the concern of all" and the motto is "From every man according to his needs," is sublime in its conception but can never be reached at a single bound. The idea of a family implies a close acquaintanceship with one another, and voluntary co-operative effort is the first step toward this acquaintance.

Many men pulling together achieve success that one man, no matter how powerful, could never accomplish.

There is really no need for the consumers of this country or the working people, who indeed represent the millions of consumers, to complain too much that they are downtrodden by the monopolies or combinations. Let them co-operate and join their few dollars into large sums, and they will be able to meet all such combinations on their own terms.

CO-OPERATION OFFERS THE BEST.

By a Co-operator.

The great cry of to-day is "Cheap, Cheap!" until, as Carlyle said, everybody is worshipping the devil god, shoddy. Shoddy in its various forms pervades almost everything. It is to be seen not only in the commercial, but in the social, political and religious world. Shams are everywhere. Sham companies, sham prospectuses, sham everything. We can see in every large town articles marked to be sold retail at less than the cost of the material.

Workingmen and especially trade unionists should seriously reflect on this—if the material was genuine did the workmen work for nothing? The fact is it was shoddy in its worst form; but the workingman who patronizes such shops is not only encouraging rascality, but is taking the surest means of keeping his own wages low. Nay, more, he is placing the sweater in a more advantageous position and enabling him to attempt to screw wages down to starvation point. Co-operation covers all this and places pure goods within the reach of everybody.

Another advantage is, it frees a man from debt. Oh, the tyranny of the "weekly book" at the little corner shop where a man of small means and but little trade lives out of the helpless victims who are bound to him! Not only do these poor creatures keep him, but they often have to pay for those who do not pay. At the store the poor man trades for his own benefit; at the shop he trades for the benefit of the shopkeeper. At the store he trades for ready money, and is relieved from superfluous bookkeeping and knows nothing of bad debts; at the shop he trades on credit and becomes familiar with the doings of the county court.

I could give you many instances how men have been freed from the trammels of debt, and have not only become free men, but when I know have $1,000 standing to their credit in a society and never paid in anything but their entrance fee.

Again, co-operation will permanently improve the material condition of the people.

Talk about solving the question of capital and labor. This would do it, when labor commands the capital. Talk about a living wage—when the workers could control the financial forces of commerce. Talk about unemployed—when labor employs itself. Talk about the independent Labor Party. Why labor could be independent of any party if the workers were only true to themselves, for all these things could be accomplished by co-operative persistent effort and self-denial.

Again, not only does co-operation produce capital and secure pure articles, but it is able to provide that which is equally essential to the enjoyment of life—namely, healthy dwellings for the people. It matters not what dividends we may get, what amount of riches we may possess, if we have not health we cannot enjoy them, and there is nothing so detrimental to health as an ill-constructed, small, badly ventilated house. Everything points conclusively to this. The rate of mortality in certain districts over others prove it. The reports of medical men prove it; and, alas! the experience of too many poor families painfully proves it. Therefore, I contend that if a co-operative society had nothing else on its programme—if it had no other aim—than to provide pure food and healthy dwellings for its members, it has a glorious mission and one which ought to enlist the sympathies and active support of every lover of his fellowmen.

BENEFITS AND ADVANTAGES OF CO-OPERATION TO WORKING MEN—A FEW PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS BRIEFLY TOLD.

By the Late Amos Stotton.

During the past twenty years statesmen and philanthropists, and in fact all public men, have said that the great problem of capital and labor must be solved. It has been reiterated on a thousand platforms, and still the question is very little, if any, nearer a solution than it was at that time. I remember stating, in a paper thirteen years ago, that nothing but a application [illegible] principles of co-operation would solve it, and I still adhere to that opinion.

Now, I am clearly of opinion that all the working classes need can be obtained by and through co-operation. The very word indicates it—"co-worker," or each working for his own good through the good of his fellows.

But let us briefly glance at a few of the advantages of co-operation.

It teaches men the necessity for and the power of unity. "United we stand; divided we fall," is a proverb in common use among others than co-operators; it embodies the experience of ages, and working men, who must need the help it gives, have been slow to perceive its paramount importance. We know at what a cost of blood and money Italy attained the unity for which her patriots had sighed for centuries. American recognized its importance; hence the desperate struggle to uphold the republic against the separatist tendencies developed through the controversies occasioned by the institution of slavery. In fact, as the late E. V. Neale puts it, "The principal of unity is the life of co-operation." There is a power in numbers, if united; but numbers are a source of weakness, and would lead to confusion and defeat when disunited. History has given us many instances of an army in the field of conflict being almost invincible while united; but becoming disorganized, panic ensued, and they were not only defeated, but completely routed. Or take another illustration. A single drop of water can be held by a child on the point of a needle; the mighty ocean is composed of "little drops," and while they are at rest a ship can glide smoothly along its surface like a thing of life, carrying blessings to all parts of the earth. But these same waters when disturbed can be lashed into a fury until they spread destruction all around. A band of sailors singing at their work is not an indication that they are merry, but their songs assist them, for at a certain word they all pull, and how easily they move a tremendous weight. One might pull at one time and another at another, they might all be pulling, but powerless; it is pulling together that wins.

Another advantage is, it educates men. It teaches men their duty to themselves, to their homes, and to their fellow men. It reminds them, by the blessings they receive from the movement, that no man lives for himself alone; that although little can be accomplished by individual effort, that effort becomes a great power when united. It has given thousands a knowledge of business principles which they would not otherwise have possessed; and while it teaches men prudence and forethought it rewards them for exercising those qualities. And by attending societies' quarterly meetings and watching its various interests men become more reflective, and thus take greater interest in questions outside our movement. Two striking instances came under my notice some time since. A society had an estate on which were three streets, the houses in which were all occupied by the members, and at the municipal election it was found that all the voters in those streets had voted except two, a circumstance never known in any part of the town.

In another case a society was started in a village some five years ago; all the affairs of the parish were managed by the vicar and a select few, and this had been so for many years; but three years ago the members of the co-op began to take an interest in local affairs and they attended the parish meetings, much to the surprise and consternation of the powers that be. The result was they not only caused reforms to take place, but they put some of their number in official positions to watch over their interests. And its influence does not end here. They soon look at national questions, and take an interest in their country's welfare, and while some are bellowing out their benighted utterances in a tap-room of what they would do if they were prime ministers, the co-operator takes an intelligent view of things, which is not only a benefit to himself but to the country at large. And I am bold to assert that there is no government in the world, however tyrannical and powerful it might be, could stand long against the just demands of sober, intelligent, reflective and united people.

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THE CANADIAN LABOR LEAGUE.

Political Movement for the Working Classes Started on a Sound Basis.

After several weeks of consideration, the committee appointed by the District Council have arrived at a satisfactory understanding. It is proposed to make this the groundwork of a party that will spread in influence and numbers, and before very long will be a power in politics that will give returns to the workers for the labor expended. The following are the platform and rules, and it is to be hoped that every worker will take the matter up and get in line:

PREAMBLE.

We assert that the evils out of our present system of government does not give to the people of this country an equitable share of the material things of life, and to the end that a better system may be inaugurated, guaranteeing to all equal privileges and opportunities, we call upon all men to join hands under the banner of the Canadian Labor League, formed to bring into force the following progressive reforms in our present system of government:

PLATFORM.

1. Public ownership of all natural monopolies and public utilities.
2. The initiative, referendum and power of recall.
3. Abolition of all bonuses to railways and industries.
4. To the people belong the values created by the growth and organization of society, and to the end that they may get their rights in this respect we pledge ourselves to so legislate.
5. Equal protection to the worker and manufacturer.
6. Abolition of all child labor.
7. Women franchise.
8. Abolition of the appointive Senate.

NAME.

This body shall be known as the Canadian Labor League. Its aim and labor shall be the advancement of labor interest, as laid down in its platform and preamble.

MEMBERSHIP.

All persons of the age of 21 years and over shall be eligible to membership, but previous to their admittance they shall subscribe to the pledge.

PLEDGE.

I hereby pledge myself to do all in my power to carry out the platform and principles of the Canadian Labor League, and I further pledge myself to abide by the will of the majority in all matters pertaining to the furtherance of the said platform and principles in whatever way necessary, as adopted by the majority of its members in convention assembled.

DUES.

The dues shall be 60 cents per year, payable half-yearly or yearly in advance, for this sum to shall receive the official organ of the League (The Toiler).

The present committee appointed by the District Labor Council shall conduct the business of the League until 150 members shall be enrolled, when a convention shall be called to elect officers and perform any other business necessary for the future conduct of the League.

Any member found guilty of conniving to use this League in the interest of any party other than this League, or who does anything which will tend to bring the League into disrepute shall be expelled.

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