

# THE ECHO.

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## MEETINGS.

### CENTRAL TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL OF MONTREAL.

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R. KEYS, . . . . . VICE-PRESIDENT  
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P. C. CHATEL, . . . . . COR. SECRETARY  
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, 662 1/2 Craig street. Next meeting Sunday, June 6, at 7.30. 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, 662 1/2 Craig street. Address all communications to H. J. BRINDLE, R.S., No. 11 St. Monique street.

### PROGRESS ASSEMBLY,

No. 882, K. of L.  
Meets every First and Third Tuesday at Lomas' Hall, Point St. Charles.

### BLACK DIAMOND ASSEMBLY

171 1/2, K. of L.  
Meets next Sunday, in the K. of L. Hall, 662 1/2 Craig street, at 2 o'clock.

Address all communications to WM. ROBERTSON, 7 Archambault street.

## LEGAL CARDS.

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## QUEBEC NOTES.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

QUEBEC, June 2, 1892.

In conversation with a farmer from one of the neighboring parishes a few days ago he (the farmer) poured forth his grievances something after this strain: The maple sugar season being over, he had this season made more than he ever did before from his sugary, having left to dispose of a stock of 1,000 pounds after keeping sufficient for his own use. The largest amount ever previously made by him never exceeded 600 pounds from the same sugary or sugar orchard. Now for the grievance. The first was that the sap ran so plentifully that fully one-half ran to waste through inability to gather the same from lack of help; still the boiling process was run to its full capacity both day and night. Now, the second and worst grievance was that the price of sugar in the market was so low that he had to dispose of his stock, which was a superior article, for six cents per pound. This was, according to his reasoning, due to the fact that the Government having taken the duty off sugar, the selling price of the imported article was only about eight cents per pound. He consequently was not at all satisfied with the price of six cents which he obtained, as in former years the farmer had always been able to obtain at least seven cents per pound for it. He wanted a protective tariff on sugar, yes, and he wanted it bad. There was something else he wanted, too, it was a steel plow, but it being of American manufacture, the increased price did not apparently suit his views; and well, yes, he wanted free trade. Now, on Saturday the Legislature sat (a Saturday night session is rare), still there was one, probably to make up for lost time, there being two holidays in the one week, Ascension Thursday and the Queen's birthday. Now, I happened to drop in, hoping to learn something through listening to the assembled wisdom of the Province. And I did. I heard the Liberal member who represents L'Islet extoll protection, and condemn the Federal Government for removing the duty off sugar, and he wanted to have inserted in the estimates an amount to be devoted to the encouragement of the maple sugar industry in the Province. How thankful we should feel to have these giant intellects represent us in our legislative halls.

A bill is introduced dealing with the inspection of gear and tackle, or rather providing for the appointment of inspectors whose duties will be assigned by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and whose pay will be collected from the stevedores whose gear they will be called upon to inspect. Now this part of the bill completely stultifies it, as no man can serve two masters, naturally he will have to study his employers' interests, in this case the stevedores being the employers, the protection that labor may expect will be positively nil.

Mr. George Washington Stephens' Bill, re the non-seizure of working-men's wages does not meet with all the enthusiasm that some expected it would. There are a few who do not hesitate to assert that the bill if it became law will simply succeed in placing a premium on dishonesty, or in other words, the workingman, who has always been looked upon as the legitimate prey of the capitalistic exploiter (by legalized means of course) either in the shape of monopoly, combineism or natural advantages granted to privileged parties, are now about to be granted an opportunity of retaliating in kind upon some one else. Still I venture to express the hope that it will become law so that the present abuses be made to disappear.

There is at present in our harbor a steamship named the Angerton. This vessel has brought to Quebec the largest cargo of coals ever brought in a single vessel, namely, 3,577 tons. She hails from London and is owned by the celebrated and world renowned English shipping Co. of Wm. Milburn & Co., and is chartered to load deals at Montreal. Another item of interest in connection with this ship is that her stokers are East Indian Coolies. Now, had they been Englishmen it would require nine men to do the work, that is two firemen and a coal trimmer on each watch. This would make for the three watches a total of nine, whose wages at present are, for firemen, from £3 10s to £4 sterling per month, and trimmers £3, or a total monthly wage of about £30 sterling. Under the Coolie sys-

tem there are in all 20 coolies employed to do nine men's work; they receive about 25s per month. They have a separate cooking apartment of their own and live on rice and curry. High feeding shows upon them, as they are about as fat as laths, and one good square man would be able to do as much as six of them. Another thing, they are in charge of a chap who is called the Serang. I don't know if that is a new name for a slave driver, but I do know that it would take a mighty smart one to get much work out of this sample lot of coolies. Further description of these coolies is scarcely necessary. I will simply state that to see them eating is disgusting, and when you come to think of the whole thing you cannot help moralizing over the boast that "Britannia rules the waves," to which may be added by way of forming a couplet, that the Serang drives the slaves, and yet the whole world will declare there's no one in this wide world equal in patriotism to the British ship owner.

ATLAS.

## TORONTO NOTES.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

TORONTO, June 2, 1892.

Although without a correspondent in your columns, yet I am glad that organized labor in Ottawa city is not "behind the door" when occasion requires, as the letter of Mr. Alexander Macdonald in the Ottawa Free Press of a recent date illustrates. In his letter Mr. Macdonald deals trenchantly with the subject at issue as follows:—

COL. TISDALE AND THE WORKINGMEN.  
Editor Free Press—I notice in Saturday morning's Citizen a heading to its parliamentary report which reads as follows: "Certain too previous persons taken to task by Col. Tisdale." Now, sir, I do not hold the gallant colonel responsible for the above heading, or the slur it intends to convey—knowing as I do the source from which it emanated. My object in addressing you is for the purpose of calling the attention of the public to the remarks made by Col. Tisdale on Friday afternoon last, from his place in parliament re the resolution passed by the Ottawa Trades and Labor Council. I find the Citizen reports the hon. member as follows:—

"I feel quite satisfied the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fraser) would not have intentionally misrepresented what I said, or contended, still I find his unintentional, or misreported remarks must have misled the Trades and Labor Council of Ottawa, in passing the resolution."

Now sir, Mr. Fraser's remarks, while eliciting warm approval, did not in the slightest degree influence the members of the council in passing the resolution. It was introduced and passed on the representation of a member of the council who occupied a seat in the commons gallery and heard the speech delivered by Col. Tisdale.

And who by the way, is prepared to take the responsibility of his action, in calling the attention of the workingmen of Ontario to the language used on that occasion.

I notice that the hon. member quoted at length, from his printed speech, in Hansard, to prove that he did not use the terms "tailors and mechanics" I think before I finish I will prove from the same source that such terms were used. By the way I see he does not deny that he used the term irresponsible clerks, who were nevertheless voters. I am afraid Mr. Editor the hon. gentleman's speech, has in some way been "cooked." Of course it is an easy matter for a member when he finds himself taken to task by a fellow member, to have any offensive matter struck out of his speech before it finally goes to the printer. But in this instance the striking out process has been very improperly done as the following little disguise will show:

"Mr. Tisdale (interrupting Mr. Fraser.) The hon. gentleman is wrong, I said nothing about miserable mechanics—I said merchants and small tailors."

Mr. Fraser—"I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon if he did not say mechanics."

Mr. Sproule—"He (Mr. Tisdale) said mechanics but not miserable mechanics."

So you will see, Mr. Editor, while Col. Tisdale read from his speech, to prove he did not use the terms contained in the resolution, we have both his own and Mr. Sproule's evidence to the contrary in the above. Further comment is unnecessary.

A. R. MACDONALD,  
Vice-President,  
O. F. & L. C.  
Ottawa, May 17, 1892.

I also observe that the Ottawa T. and L. Council, at its meeting on May 25th, had the Letter Carriers' petition to the Federal Government praying for an increase of the maximum salary (now \$600) to \$750 per annum, under consideration. From the trend of the discussion thereon it is most evident that a large number of delegates in that body are most contracted in view and fit subjects for a much more liberal and advanced education. If the letter carriers are narrow and foolishly

selfish, is it not the bounden duty of those more enlightened (or supposed to be) to give evidence of the faith they possess? The Council also found fault with Factory Inspector A. O. Rocque for non-attention to the duties incidental to his office. In doing so several cases of gross neglect on the part of mill owners in properly guarding the saws were given. One delegate said that saws with long cracks in them were being used for which the proprietors were chiefly responsible. There were also too many naked belts in the mills and the lives of mill hands were always in jeopardy. I trust that the members of Ottawa T. and L. Council are aware of the fact that the provisions of the Ontario Factories' Act apply only where women and girls are employed as well as men and boys. The title of this law is misleading. It ought to be "An act for the better protection of women and girls employed in factories." "Be sure you are right and then go ahead" is an old adage which should not be forgotten by anybody.

At the last meeting of the Toronto T. and L. Council on recommendation of the Reception Committee, whose duty it is to look after arrangements for the holding of the Dominion T. and L. Congress in this city next fall a special committee was appointed to wait upon the executive of the Industrial Exhibition for the purpose of ascertaining if arrangements could be made by which the contemplated labor demonstration would be carried out as one of the attractions of the exhibition at that time. The Exhibition Executive met at four o'clock yesterday. Secretary Hill brought a letter of the Reception Committee anent this subject before the board as the first order of business. Messrs. James Coulter, Henry T. Benson and D. J. O'Donohue, representing the T. and L. Council, were then introduced, and these gentlemen detailed the object of their mission. They were courteously received and attentively listened to, and having satisfactorily answered questions put, they retired, after being assured that the matter would receive immediate consideration and action, and that they would be advised of the result without delay.

The regular fortnightly meeting of our T. and L. Council will be held on next Friday evening, and very likely the Letter Carriers' petition will be on the carpet. If I was a delegate and present I would move and argue that the Council memorialize the Government to fix the minimum rate of wages at \$500 per annum for letter carriers rather than be responsible for recommending the maximum. Recommending a maximum wages for working people is not judicious proceeding on the part of any trade and labor council, or any other like representative body.

A few years ago a few interested parties engineered a semi-centennial celebration of the city's incorporation and secured a large grant of corporation funds for that purpose. The whole affair was a huge failure, and loud and angry were the complaints of those lured to the city on the occasion. The Mayor and some aldermen were on the committee, but despite all effort a satisfactory account was never rendered the people as to how the money was spent in detail. Now some of the same fakirs are busy with a scheme for a grand celebration on Dominion Day to commemorate Confederation. To this end they are asking the City Council for a grant of several thousand dollars, but it is to be hoped that the aforesaid Council will not forget the previous experience, and will refuse to grant these schemes one cent. If they do otherwise an injunction can prevent the expenditure. No doubt the T. and L. Council will have something to say on this subject—at least it ought to—on next Friday evening. At the same time if there are certain or any wealthy and very patriotic citizens who desire to spend their money in such a celebration no bar should be placed in their way. And they would be entitled to the usual and ordinary police protection, but nothing more at the city's expense.

Owing to judicious and continued joint negotiation I am led to believe that amicable arrangements have been come to between the organized labor bodies interested in the building line and the body known as the reconstructed Master Builders' Exchange, and to that extent serious trouble to all parties concerned has been averted. Voluntary and joint compromise is always better in the long run than would be a strike or a lock-out even when the latter are successful. Experience demonstrates that when those who employ and those who work have common sense enough to meet on equal

terms to talk calmly and dispassionately over matters affecting their several interests, compromise almost always follows, as in the case just mentioned.

"The King is dead—long live the King." A Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario died nine or ten days ago. His successor has been appointed. Uppertendoms is delighted and say Lieut.-Governor Kirkpatrick is wealthy and will spend his money freely in entertaining—the aristocracy, God save the mark. Who said "Shoddy"? To the masses of the people little matters it who is the figure-head in the Provincial Government House. Each one in his turn comes without notice or enthusiasm on the part of the people; each punctually draws his stipend, and each, when his time arrives, departs without notice or regret. They "entertain" certain classes, or rather certain people from time to time, rarely a merchant or business man and never a mechanic or workingman no matter how honest or worthy of character. Perhaps the new incumbent, who is reported to be a very sensible and somewhat democratic man may change the record. When he does the readers of THE ECHO will be duly informed of the important fact. But if he does not I am satisfied there is not a merchant, mechanic or laborer in Toronto who will trouble a minute over the slight, if slight it be.

"Dull, dull, dull," is the cry of every man you meet in Toronto, and the workingmen are—as the London Times once said of the exodus of the Irish people—going away with a vengeance, and almost every one of them to the United States. A friend of mine writing from Buffalo last Saturday says that of 18 boarders in the same house with himself 16 are from Canada—all workmen, from Quebec, Montreal and Toronto.

Yesterday's Globe says that at the last regular meeting of District Assembly No. 125, Knights of Labor, the following resolution was unanimously passed:—Resolved, that this District Assembly do enter its strongest protest against any redistribution that does not adhere to the principle of representation by population; and be it further resolved that this District Assembly do petition the Dominion House of Commons to so amend the bill now before them as to provide for grouped constituencies and cumulative voting. Have the representative labor organizations of the cities of Quebec and Montreal nothing to say on the subject? With grouped constituencies and a cumulative vote organized labor could most assuredly have direct representation in Parliament. Under such a system there need not be so many members of Parliament (will anyone say Canada would not be better off with less of the calibre now constituting a large majority of Parliament?) and the cumulative vote would operate as follows: In a riding or constituency entitled to say, three representatives, the voter would have three votes which he could divide between the candidates as he pleased giving one to each candidate, two to one and one to another, or three votes to one candidate, if that suited his purpose best. Under such a system no political party could remain long in power and be dishonest, or neglectful of the general good of the people and the country. In fact government by party as now understood and prevailing would be impracticable.

It is announced that in a few days active work will begin in changing our present street car system to the electric trolley form. His Worship Mayor Fleming has made a very thoughtful suggestion to the company to the effect, with the view of expediting the change, when the work is begun it be continued uninterruptedly day and night, that is by having three gangs of men, and each gang to work eight hours at a time. The manager of the company is reported to look favorably upon the scheme, and if adopted would give employment to a large number of men while the work lasted.

The Industrial Exhibition Association are to erect a permanent grand stand on the Exhibition grounds at a cost of \$40,000. This is badly needed, as the present seating arrangements have been totally inadequate to the requirements of the public when the exhibition was in progress each year.

URIM.

The K. of L. Juvenile Band.

The members of the band continue to make gratifying progress under their instructor, Mr. Barley, who takes every pains to give them a thorough grounding in the elementary branches of music. On account of the hall being occupied by the District next Thursday, the usual weekly practice will take place on Tuesday evening.