

# THE ECHO.

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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 Jos. Renaud, Corresponding Secretary, P. O. Box 414

**RIVER FRONT ASSEMBLY,**  
No. 7628.  
Booms K. of L. Hall, Chaboulliez square. Next meeting Sunday, Nov. 15, at 2.30. Address all correspondence to  
J. WARREN, Rec. Sec.,  
P. O. Box 1458.

**DOMINION ASSEMBLY,**  
No. 2436 K. of L.  
Meets every FRIDAY evening at Eight o'clock in the K. of L. Hall, Chaboulliez square. 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.

**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**  
1711, K. of L.

Meets next Sunday, in the K. of L. Hall, Chaboulliez square, at 7 o'clock.  
Address all communications to  
WM. ROBERTSON,  
7 Archambault street.

## LEGAL CARDS.

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## WOMEN IN FACTORIES.

Interesting Talks on the Subject by  
a Woman of Experience.

Mrs. Florence Bagnie of London, England, gave two talks at the Women's Union of Buffalo last week.

On Thursday she spoke on the subject of advancement of women which she said was not confined to America or to England, but was one of a thoroughly cosmopolitan character. The work for women in America was similar to that in England, but had advanced in somewhat different lines. While the associations and clubs of this country had been principally of a social and educational nature, those of England were political in their character. This was necessary because in order to get any legislation in favor of women in was necessary that they should grapple with politics themselves. These clubs have resulted in considerable legislation in the interests of women.

She said much in commendation of our police matrons and woman factory inspectors, and added that it was to be regretted that England, a country that claims to be civilized, had no such officers.

On Friday her subject was on "Modern Factory Girls of East End London," but Miss Bagnie said much of the working people of the country outside of the East End—and outside of London.

She first reviewed briefly the progressive improvement of the working woman of England during the last 50 years. She did this, she said, that her hearers might not go away with the idea that the condition of things she presented was hopeless, which she feared would be the case if she confined her utterances to the modern factory girls of East End.

In England, she said, the wages paid to women, in all walks of life, were one-third lower than those earned by men in the same positions or occupations. This was a thing that should bring women together into unions. There should be an equality of wages. The number of women in the professions was small, but there were enormous numbers of them in manual labor. Three-fourths of the work of London was done by women. The average wages received was \$3 to \$5 a week. Because the wages of women were low, the pay of the men also was low. Unskilled work always keeps wages down. The low pay that women get reacts upon the men—upon the families, and women are employed because they do work for less than the men. Thus men are thrown out of work, and women take their places. All agitation for higher wages and betterment for woman is just as helpful to men. None of it is selfish.

She thought one great trouble was that most of the wage earning women were not wholly dependent upon their earnings. They had husbands and families, and did the work at odd times—waiting for supper time, or after the husband's regular working hours. This caused sometimes a competition between the women, and so kept the wages down. Where there was competition, the woman of a family could not be induced to refuse to work for wages that her sister could not live upon.

Miss Bagnie said that she knew trades unions were not "fashionable" here, but she believed in them, and was here to speak for them. They were not popular in England at first, but so long as they were kept under and suppressed, just so long was there anarchy in the country.

The working woman of East End London were the poorest paid and most degraded class of the whole kingdom. The speaker recited a portion of Hood's "Song of the Shirt," and said that that was true even now. The factory girls might be seen leaving their work, ragged and dirty; but on Sundays and holidays they decked themselves out in flaming colors and gaudy apparel. They were of small intellectual caliber and could not help themselves. It was hard to help people of that kind. The association with which Miss Bagnie is connected had found the secret of success in its work was to leave the girls to work out their own salvation—only to show them how. She recited interesting incidents and experiences of the working of her Trade Union Association, the object of which was not to foster strikes, but to form unions among the wage-earning women who could not help themselves. Higher wages was not the greatest thing. The workers needed more time for self improvement. They needed more and better educational facilities—institutions. They needed better factory regulations. The factory inspectors were doing a good work, but

they were not strong enough nor influential enough. They needed help.

She thought there was a need in America of such unions. It had been her privilege to see in the real state of things here—not to pass through the country as a mere traveler. She had spent days in Philadelphia with a woman factory inspector. She had found candy factories where girls are working for three cents an hour! Constant immigration tended to lower wages. American working girls, she said, were in no way as bad—sunken so low—as the English working girl. They had not so lost their self-respect. But still she thought there was ample scope to do good work among the wage-earning women of America.

## Conflict of Wages and Capital.

From a report of John Birkinbine, a special census agent in charge of the division of mines and mining, it appears that in the four principal states that produce iron ore—Michigan, Alabama, Pennsylvania, and New York—the amount paid in wages in 1889 was \$13,800,108, while the capital used was \$109,767,199.

Let us look a little way into these figures. Of the capital, \$78,474,881, probably a low estimate, is nothing but land value, which leaves only \$31,292,318 in the category of capital proper. Again, also accounted as capital, we find in the item of "cash and stock on hand," \$15,572,253. But little, if any, of this is capital necessary for mining. It is capital, generally speaking; but as a product of mining it cannot properly be considered in any comparison of miners' wages with mining capital, unless some of the cash be so considered, and the amount of that, in a total of \$15,572,253 for "cash and stock on hand," would be too small to materially affect the result. But pass this item by, and deducting land values only, let the capital proper stand at \$31,292,318.

With this capital and these wages, aggregating \$45,172,426, there was produced, according to the same report, 10,234,259 tons of iron ore, worth an average of \$2.30 per ton, or an aggregate of \$23,538,795. Thus, it will be seen that the labor in iron mines in these four states in 1889 produced enough ore to pay all the wages expended, and enough more to replace one-third of all the capital used. As the capital consisted of buildings, fixtures, and tools, it was available in great degree for further production.

Since it appears that, for the purpose of producing this result, a royalty that capitalizes into \$78,474,881 of land value came out of the \$23,538,795 worth of product, it would be well to inquire what influence that fact had in giving an appearance of antagonism between capital and labor, and in keeping wages down to less than two thirds of the product when so very little real capital was used.—N. Y. Standard.

## The Rights of Labor.

I may say that for workmen employed in mines and in other places of hard and painful labor, a day of eight hours seems just and reasonable. For labor less severe a day of ten hours may prudently be accepted. It is not reasonable to fix one sole measure for the least fatiguing and most exhausting employments. It is hard to understand how the mother of a family, at the head of her household, can be employed at a distance from her children. The sacred and precedent contract of marriage prevents any new contract of interest in violation of the first. As regards other women, eight or ten hours work a day are all that they can give without compromising the duties of their human life and their right to enjoy family life in the home. As to children, no work whatever should be permitted until after the proper accomplishment of their education. The time necessary for this varies according to the condition of social life in the several nations. Nevertheless, in almost every country the age of the close of education needs to be increased. For young girls all employment injurious or dangerous to health should be forbidden by law. It should be absolutely illegal to employ women or children in mines, or for night labor. The Sunday's rest should be secured to workingmen; this intermission of work, except in certain urgent cases, should be obligatory under penalties. If any government desire to signalize itself amid the Christian world by refusing to recognize the Lord's Day, it should, for hygienic and physiological reasons, grant one day of rest in seven days to the laboring classes.—Cardinal Manning.

## LABOR IN ENGLAND.

The President of a Powerful Miner's Association Gives Some Valuable Hints.

In the course of an address at Wakefield, England, Mr. Cowey (the president of the Yorkshire Miners' Association) referred at some length to the eight-hour question, and to the necessity of taking political action in the matter. They were told, he said, that the Miners' Eight Hours Bill was grandmotherly, and that it was wrong to ask for such an enactment for grown up men. That might be true as far as it went, but they contended that labor had never been in a position to enforce their demands because unscrupulous colliery-owners had taken advantage of the men's necessities during times of bad trade, and enforced upon men that which they would never have done except from sheer necessity. Then, again, they were told that the eight hours question was wrong economically—that it was a restriction of men's labor; others told them that they ought to get the Eight Hours Bill by combination, and some said they ought to force it by a strike. He had never advised the men to go on strike until every possible and peaceable means has been adopted with a view to secure what they required. They had approached the colliery-owners, and asked them if they would arrange this wages question peaceably and amicably, and many and peculiar and varied had been their answers. Some of the colliery-owners had even had the audacity to assert in a printed circular which had been issued, that the occupation of the coal mines is "healthy and pleasant," but miners knew that it was unhealthy and dangerous, and they also knew that when they wished to become members of some Friendly Societies they were rejected, and they wished to insure their lives, they had an extra premium demanded from them. In 1872, when they attempted to shorten the hours of labor in mines, the colliery-owners said it was wicked to do so, and that it would ruin the trade, but, although labor had been considerably ameliorated by act of Parliament, there had been a steady increase of trade and of wealth. If the miners were only true to themselves the eight hours question was sure to become an accomplished fact, because they intended at the coming election to appeal to the country upon it. He was quite aware that it was said they were splitting up the Liberal party; but, Radical as he was, and intended always to be he maintained that when he had a grievance he had a right to ask that it be righted, and to help himself. He maintained that miners had as much right to go to the polls and vote for their own interests upon their party as anybody else. It might be a fad on their part, but there were about 125 seats of which miners hold the key, and the miners intended doing their level best to use their powers in support of the miners' Eight Hour Bill.

This attitude of the New Trade Unionist movement has had for its effect to draw something very much like a groan from Mr. Herbert Gladstone, who sees labor is no longer to be fooled in England. In the course of a recent address at Ambley, Leeds, he made this significant reference to the relations between labor and Liberalism. There was, he said, in one quarter a sign of somewhat ominous significance, and that had regard to the relation which existed between the official Liberal party and the leaders of the labor organizations. At Bradford, at the present moment, the political organization of the Liberals was thrown into confusion by a threat of a three-cornered conflict between a Liberal, a Tory and a labor representative. In the Colne Valley division a distinguished leader of the labor party was coming out against a Conservative and their friend Sir James Kitson. What was to be the end of it? He wished to point out that, however much they might have the interests of labor at heart, in the present condition of things in the country, nothing could be done without organization and discipline. It might be that the present state of things was wrong. It might be that labor should be better represented. But it was evident things were not going on at the hustings in the way they used to do.

Mr. Herbert Gladstone is undoubtedly right in his forebodings. The "Pure and Simpler" is played out.

## How It Feels to Meet a Tidal Wave.

It is a well known fact that in every storm there are occasional groups of three or four waves considerably larger than the others. These are no doubt caused by the increased force of the wind, or the squalls which are a prominent feature of every big blow. Waves travel at a rate in proportion to their size. Those 200 feet long travel a less speed than those of 400 or 500 feet length. The former from hollow to hollow move about nineteen knots per hour, while the latter will make considerably more than twenty. There are some waves of 600 feet in length whose irresistible onward rush thirty-two knots per hour. Supposing that a wave 400 feet in length and thirty-five feet in height is rushing along at thirty-two knots to join a slower and smaller wave making only twenty knots. At the point where the two seas become one, and for the moment of their meeting one enormous wave. In the far distance, nearing the great swell of rushing, rolling water, appears ocean greyhound. Now it is a known fact to every seafaring man and even passing across the seas that these vessels do not slacken speed unless it is absolutely necessary for safety. She is riding along in the teeth of a head wind at the rate of eight or ten knots an hour. Nearer and nearer approaches the rolling mass, and presently she runs plump against the great wall of water which seems to have suddenly sprung out of the general tumult. There is a full crash, a lurch forward, a steep climb accompanied by a deluge, while tons of water rush along the forecastle deck, there is a deep dip, as the ship runs into hollow on the other side of the wave. She comes up she pitches and rolls in efforts to shake herself free of the wave which has deluged her from stem to stern and as the huge wave recedes the vessel again riding along on her course. The seafarers who have been below wondering what has occurred soon learn from the officers on the watch that the steamer has struck by a "tidal wave."

## THE CHILIAN WAR CLOUD.

The United States Long Dislike the South American Republic

Out of a clear sky has come a thunder that startled three nations. Or, to drop a metaphor, in a time of profound peace the United States and Chili suddenly find themselves in belligerent attitudes. Only a few months ago the Pan-American conference decided that all Americans, from Green to Patagonia, were to be brothers and to freely, and Chili was relied on to lead the way south. Now the United States war vessel Baltimore is at Valparaiso, the Yorktown in those waters, the cruiser Boston is on her way there and other vessels are "on their readiness."

The immediate occasion was an assault upon American marines in the streets of Valparaiso, the killing of one, the mortally wounding of another, and serious mistreatment of all. Back of this, however, was a series of complications resulting in great ill-will. When the Hon. Thomas H. Nelson, American minister to Chili the friends of that country for Americans of the world reached a maximum of intensity. Mr. Nelson was simply delighted with the situation. His successors, each in turn, found it unpleasant, and the expressions of American regret at the disasters and humiliations of Peru at the hands of Chili complete alienation. American interests in the guano and nitrate beds also led to complications and their discussion in the politics of the United States enraged the Chileans.

At length Chili herself had a civil war. The American minister at Santiago died of friendship for President Balmaceda. On the other party, the Congregationalists triumphed, Balmaceda killed himself, decidedly unpleasant position, the new government openly speaking of him as an enemy. There are complications also concerning his use of the ministerial quarters as an asylum for refugees. Under circumstances he thought he should better if the Baltimore remained in the harbor. She did, her marines went up and were mobbed, and there we are. Chili authorities flatly refuse to pay compensation till they investigate, and English are almost as much excited as the principals because of their headquarters in Chili.

The war, if war there must be, will be a naval one, and Chili has a navy larger than the United States and at the same time a good deal of damage. The United States has the stuff to make a did navy, and if need be can build it so that her citizens feel inclined to sing the famous London music hall song:

We do not want to fight, but, by jingo, if we've got the men, we'll get the ships, and we'll get the money too.