LABOR'S LEGISLATURE.

MEETING OF THE TORONTO TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL LAST FRIDAY

Municipal and Educational Committees Reports – Strong Opposition to Militarism in the Schools. A new Street Railway Committee Appointed

THE first meeting in 1891 of the Toronto Trades and Labour Council was held on the evening of Friday 2nd instant, President Glockling in the chair.

After approval of their respective credentials, the following gentlemen were invited to seats as members of the Council, viz: W. H. Wilson, J. McR. Marrill, and J. Rose, Branch 426 Am. Society of Carpenters and Joiners; T. G. Ryves, Wm. Coulter and R. J. Nichols, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners; and Michael O'Halloran, from Local Assembly 2622, K. of L.

Delegate O'Donoghue announced that as the meeting nights of the Legislative Committee had fallen on those nights of Christmas and New Year's, there had been no quorum, and as a consequence he had no report to present. He anticipated ample amends in the matter and importance of the next report.

Delegate J. Armstrong, on behalf of the Municipal Committee, submitted the following report:

Your committee beg leave to submit the following report.

There is every indication to believe that Ald. McDougall's Civic Reform scheme will materialize. While the scheme is not all that could be desired, inasmuch as traces of the old ward system still remains, yet on the whole it will be an improvement on our present cumbersome manner of conducting municipal business. Several alterations have been made to the worthy alderman's original plan, notably one of great importance—that of running the wards or divisions from south to north, which may now be looked upon as finally settled.

One benefit accruing from this arrangement will be, the bringing of municipal candidates in contact with mixed communities, thereby creating cosmopolitan ideas which every broad-minded citizen would wish to see supplant the narrow and insipid ideas and sentiments which are exchanged around our present council board. An alderman, representing a large and mixed community or division cannot continually talk his own personal feelings and remain popular with such a constituency. The fewer the divisions the larger will be the constituencies. Your committee are of the opinion that five divisions are sufficient, with four aldermen from each. These twenty aldermen to be divided into four committees of five members. Each committee to choose its own chairman, and all to be equally responsible for the proper carrying out of civic affairs, would be a much preferable plan than having the members graded into a Board of Control and ordinary aldermen, with two grades of salaries. Aldermen are not to be elected on the grade principle, and to be graded after election, is degrading. Besides, paying a board of control, consisting of four chairmen, a salary of $2,000 each per year, is simply making a sinecure of these positions. It would be a less evil if these chairmen were elected as such by the people. But no; Ald. McDougall's scheme is to place the selection of this Board of Control in the hands of the Mayor. The position of mayor is sufficiently powerful as it is. The more democratic our civic government becomes, the more likely will it remain in touch with the people, and the simpler will be its operations. Under the new *regime*, all the positions which aldermen may occupy should be elective, and not appointed. It may be said that an advisory board or Board of Control should be in harmony with the Mayor's views. That may depend upon who may occupy the position of mayor. As your committee has said in this report, allow all the aldermen to be placed on an equal footing, divide them into committees of sufficient number to conduct the various departments, all having equal salary, and elected for such a period, as would remind them that they are servants of the people, is the most simple scheme, and one, in the opinion of your committee, that would meet with the approval of the community.

In a local paragraph of to-day's *Mail*, it is stated that the civic employees are hustling in behalf of Ald. Frankland, in the east end of St. Lawrence ward. If this be true, it ill becomes the heads of departments at the city hall, to allow their under-graduates to interfere in municipal elections. The salaries of all civic employees come out of the pockets of the ratepayers, and, while they have a perfect right to use their franchise as they please, it is stepping over the mark of toleration when the servants of the community at large canvas and wire-pull for certain municipal candidates. Organized labour has always advocated an honest remuneration, and the shortening of the hours of labor for all employes, whether they are organized or not, and our civic employees have felt the benefit of such advocacy on more than one occasion, and it comes with bad taste from them to choose an alderman for their idol who has repeatedly cast slurs and aspersions upon the rank and file of labour in his position as alderman of the City Council. Recently Ald. Frankland, around the Council board, has designated trades unionists as fads, without either cause or provocation. That gentleman in private conversation may speak cooingly of the "poor workingman," and the "hard-wrought mechanic," and then plays a double part in the Council Chamber. An Iago in reality is not fit to be an alderman.

It seems the Property Committee is going to renew the Heber lease at Island point. This is not in accordance with the sentiment of the committee on a previous occasion when they stated that all spring leases would not be renewed, and the City Council also acquiesced in this understanding. Every one knows the congested state of the Island Point on a summer's evening, and this particular plot of five acres joining Hanlan's leasehold, if owned by the city and converted into a free opening for the people, would be highly appreciated. But, no. Chairman Moses advocates the releasing of the land. For what purpose? How has this property paid rent and taxes these past ten years? By violation of the license law, if one would believe the police court records. And still a temperance chairman of the Property Committee advocates a continuance of the illicit traffic by extending the said lease. Would it not be far better if the city would take in this land and make it a respectable landing place for the work people of the city, when they choose to go to that portion of the Island on a hot sweltering evening. If the decision of the Property Committee and its chairman in this instance becomes law to the great disadvantage of the people, then Alderman Moses lacks the character and principle of his great namesake.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. A. MAYERHOFFER, Chairman.

Delegate O'Donoghue desired to offer an apology as to some of his utterances regarding Ald. Frankland at the last meeting. He had intimated that the alderman in question had an intellectual looking face, and also that he had a most intimate acquaintance with hogs and cattle. The intimate friends of Mr. Frankland deny both statements, and he (Mr. O'D.) consequently accepted the authority, and withdrew his remarks. The motion was then adopted.

Delegate Watson then read the report of the Education Committee, as follows:

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

AT the recent visit of the Hon. Sir A. Caron, Minister of Militia, to this city, a deputation of the School Board waited on that gentleman for a purpose of securing a grant from the Dominion Government for the purpose of purchasing toy rifles and teaching the pupils of the various schools military evolutions. Your Committee desire to express their strong disapproval of this course. We think that the proper sphere of our public schools is the giving children a proper elementary education, so that in the future they may be able to properly follow industrial pursuits. We think that anything which smatters of a military character in the education of a youth, (such as the drilling with toy guns, as now taught in our public schools), is done to the detriment of the more useful branches. It also has a tendency to encourage in youths a certain amount of indifference for honest industry and inspires in them a corresponding amount of highfalutin notions of militaryism, now so common in European countries. In this connection we also regret the language made use of in certain school demonstrations recently held in connection with "the raising of the *Empire* flag," given by a certain journal for essays [illegible] fought half a century ago by two neighboring peoples. Some of the speeches made were of a nature calculated to inspire feelings of hatred between two friendly peoples,—to make us have an animosity towards a country to which many of our workmen have turned for employment, which has been denied them at home. The more is this to be regretted because the most violent of these orators were clergymen, whose duty it would seem to us to be rather to teach love and friendship towards their fellowmen.

The nominations for School Trustees came off last Monday. There are only to be contests in four of the wards. It is with pleasure that we have to report the return of Trustee Middleton by acclamation to the Board. This gentleman has been untiring in his endeavors to secure free school books, and may be regarded as the father of this movement. We have no doubt but now he will agitate this question until it becomes an accomplished fact, in Toronto at least. We are also pleased to see the return of some of the old members of the Board, who will lend their usefulness for another term.

Your Committee would desire the working classes of St. Mark's ward to note the stand taken by one of the aldermanic candidates, Dr. Orr, on grant by the city to the University. This gentleman, according to an account in the public press, promises to oppose this grant. As your body has expressed hostility to the giving grants by the city to the University, and as we think he is the only aldermanic candidate who has done so, we hold that the electors should remember him favorably when casting their ballots.

The meetings of the Separate School Board have recently been characterized by frequent bickerings, arising, it is alleged, out of the chairman of the Finance Committee, being also auditor of the school accounts. We think that this is a very unbusiness-like proceeding, and it is no wonder that such unharmonious conduct characterize their meetings. Their nominations for candidates to serve for the coming year passed off very quietly, except in two of the wards, where quite an amount of personalties and recriminations were indulged in. We think when things come to such a pass it would be wisdom for the trustees to accept the ballot, and then persons would be elected to the Board who would conduct the business in a proper manner, and would leave less room for outside criticism. Respectfully submitted.—F. C. CRIBBEN, Chairman.

It being moved and seconded that the report be adopted as read,

Delegate Cox desired to take exception to that part of the report dealing with the question of drilling the school children. He held that if we had reached a condition as outlined in Bellamy's "Looking Backward" then the views of the Committee might be tenable, but under existing circumstances such drilling was commendable and necessary; and it was also beneficial to children from a physical standpoint.

Delegate Rose said that while at school children should devote all their attention to the acquisition of a thorough and useful business education. In after years, if so inclined, they could devote themselves to the study and seeking of military glory.

Delegate Cox thought that for giving a general knowledge of military work the volunteer system counted for little. Only a few young men in the cities got any advantage that way.

Delegate Bradley protested against obliging his children to study military tactics. He had no desire for military glory nor did he desire his children to have any such ambition. The Denison family should have a monopoly in that direction. If we train up our children to be volunteers these are the very ones who will be called out in time of a strike to shoot their struggling brothers down like dogs. We want no volunteerism or militaryism in our schools.

Delegate O'Donoghue supported the report which was adopted as read.

An enquiry having been made as to whether or not the Joint Committee on the Street Railway had anything to report,

Delegate Parr replied that the rejection by the Council of the unanimous recommendations of the Committee left the latter body practically powerless to proceed further without positive instructions. Delegates J. Armstrong, G. H. Harris and C. March coincided in this view.

Delegate Putsey asserted that the Committee had been negligent in not reporting a recommendation as to how members of labor organizations should vote on the Street Railway question on the following Monday.

Delegate O'Donoghue was astonished at the innocence of the last speaker in not knowing that that question was not to be one of those which the people would pass upon on Monday.

Delegate Bradley charged that the Committee had purposely delayed the submission of the last report so as to hamper the subsequent action of the Council.

Delegate O'Donoghue challenged the truthfulness of the assertion, and moved that the committee be discharged.

Delegate Coulter thought the existing committee had still further good work to do, and should not be discharged.

Delegate Cribben and others having expressed their opinions that the committee were on the "high horse" on the subject, the motion to discharge prevailed, and a new committee in their stead was appointed, composed of Delegates Cribben, Bradley, Waghurst, Sim and Spencer.

Delegate Parr having risen to move that a committee be appointed to take steps to secure public meetings while certain prominent labor representatives of International repute were in Toronto during this month,

Delegate Coulter said the body he represented was in communication with President P. J. McGuire of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, who informs them that President Gompers of the Federation of Trades, and President Duncan of the National Granite Cutters' Association, and himself would be in Toronto on the 19th or 20th of January. The local body here would see to the necessary details, but this need not deter other labor bodies in doing their share to make the occasion successful.

Delegate Sanderson reminded the Delegates on the eight hour committee to be more diligent in attention to their duties.

Delegate Beals in moving for a grant of five dollars towards defraying the expenses of the Sunday afternoon meetings, said that there were good reasons for believing that in a short time the voluntary contributions would be sufficient to cover expenses. The sum was promptly voted.

Delegate O'Donoghue having exhorted the delegates to the Council not only to become subscribers themselves but to use every effort as well in securing readers and supporters for the LABOR ADVOCATE, the Council adjourned at 10.15 o'clock.

SUNDAY LABOR LECTURE.

INTERESTING ADDRESS BY MR. STEWART LYON ON "LABOR PROBLEMS IN THE MUNICIPALITY."

THERE was a fair attendance at Central Labor Hall on Sunday afternoon last at the second of the series of meetings for the discussion of social problems. The gatherings are under the auspices of the District Assembly K. of L., and the Trades and Labor Council and District Master Workman, J. W. Davey took the chair. After a brief address by the chairman explanatory of the objects of the meetings, Mr. Stewart Lyon gave an address on "Labor Problems in the Municipality." He laid down the foundation in the assertion that for many years to come trade unionism—broader and less selfish than of old—but still trade unionism, would be the chief organization for the reform of adverse social conditions. The lines along which the new unionism would proceed in all probability would be threefold. first the ownership by the people of all natural opportunities such as lands and mines; second, the control or operation by the people of all natural monopolies, and third, the regulation of all such industries as may be regarded as proper subjects for governmental interference. In the application of these principles to the municipal problems of Toronto, the speaker pointed out that, including the island, the marsh, the city property under lease in all parts of the city, and the public parks, the people are now the direct owners of about 4,000 acres, out of a total area within the limits of less than 15,000 acres. The argument that the ownership of the land values by the State will prevent the erection of good buildings, was refuted by references to the city land on the south side of Front street between Yonge and York Streets, on which lessees have built some of the finest warehouses in the city. This property it was urged should be used in such a way as to demonstrate the advantages that would accrue from the assumption by the government of all ground rents.

Turning to the second part of the subject; the control or operation of all natural monopolies, Mr. Lyon urged that the citizens instead of handing over the street railway on a long lease, elect a commission to manage the road. He strongly opposed the operation of the road by a committee of the city council as at present constituted. The fifteen cents an hour by-law and various other steps of a kindred nature, were spoken of as evidence of progress in the third class of reforms. In an animated discussion that followed Mr. A. F. Jury argued in favor of leasing out the street railway franchise, urging as a reason for this course that the city government as at present constituted has more to do than can well be managed.

Messrs. G. Howell and W. B. Prescott advanced strong arguments in rebuttal of Mr. Jury's contention.

THE DOCKER'S FATE.

[A few weeks back a dock laborer, through sheer exhaustion and inanition, fell down in a swoon at his work and was conveyed to an hospital, where he died shortly afterwards. It transpired that he had been able to obtain only two days work during the fortnight previous, and that the scanty crust which might have saved himself from a death by starvation he had manfully resigned to his famishing little ones at home. What a bitter satire this on the boasted wealth and prosperity of this island!]

He starved in the golden city,
'Mid all its pomp and state,
Nor found one friend to pity
Or save him from his fate.
He asked not of his neighbor,
He scorned to beg or crave,
He asked but leave to labor,
And found instead—a grave.
Oh who can tell the feeling
Of utter grief and pain,
That through his heart was stealing,
When round him cried in vain
The children whom he cherished
For bread he could not give?
The heart within him perished,
The hero ceased to live.
Is this the happy nation,
Where wealth and splendor lie,
Where man in every station
Has plenty, and is free?
So say the sons of Mammon,
The pilf'ring, selfish train,
Who'd stifle the cries of famine
That ring from slum and lane;
That float on the north wind sighing
Of winter cold and grim,
From lips of wretches dying
Of want in hovels dim;
In dens were sunlight never
Pierces the sullen gloom,
But fever and famine ever
Hurry the inmate's doom.
Rise from your death like slumbers,
Ye toilers, in your might!
Rise in your matchless numbers
Till tyrants yield your right.

—*Michael M'Grath in Labor World.*

PREACHERS SALARIES.

THE following information regarding the salaries of some of the Clergymen of New York and Brooklyn is believed, says the [illegible] to be authentic:

Dr. Morgan Dix, of Old Trinity, has $15,000 a year, and his assistant $6,000; Dr. Huntington, rector of Grace church, has $15,000 and a house, the rental of which is worth $5,000 more; Dr. Greer, of St. Bartholomew's, receives $19,900, and being wealthy retains nothing of it for himself; Dr. Brown, of St. Thomas', has $15,000; Dr. Rainsford, of St. George's, has $10,000, and, like Dr. Greer, gives it all away. A dozen Episcopal parishes pay from $4,000 to $8,000, and the bishop receives $15,000. Among the Presbyterians Dr. Hall draws $13,500; D. Paxton, $12,500; Dr. Parkhurst, $8,000; Dr. Taylor, $15,000. Rev. Robert Collyer, Unitarian, has $10,000. Dr. Talmage receives $12,000 from his congregation, and doubles this income in literature and the lecture field. Dr. Abbot is paid $8,000. The pastor of the largest Methodist church has $5,000 and rent of an elegant parsonage, and the Methodist bishop receives $5,000.

HOBBY OR NO HOBBY.

AN old and esteemed subscriber gives notice of the discontinuance of his subscription in the following words:

"I appear to have reached a point where it is in order to stop *The Leader*. I do this as a matter of principle, and not as an immediate financial necessity. I regret extremely to interrupt the pleasure and profit I have derived from your scholarly and able editorials; but since *The Leader* was founded, its course has set, very properly, toward Trade Unionism, and I have developed by an equally urgent moral necessity in ethical directions."

On the other hand, an observing mechanic from a thriving shoe city in this State, speaking of the reasons why this paper is not more extensively taken in his locality said: "Most of the boys had hobbies and they take a paper that is devoted to their especial hobby. The *Labor Leader* is too general in its composition for this class."

We quote these two instances as illustrations of the diverse way in which different people look at the same subject.

It may not be amiss to say again what we have said before about the attitude of this paper as to different branches of the reform movement.

It is true that increasing years of study and experience have convinced us more and more clearly of the value of the Trade Union form of organization, both as a medium for present results and as a basis for the social and industrial development of the future.

So evident does this fact loom up from the standpoint of familiarity with the practical workings of labor reform movements, that the attempt to change the social structure by "fad" chemicals has commonly appeared to the writer as a species of social empiricism.

Granting that the Trade Union is defective in its structure, imperfect in its methods and oftentimes narrow in its purposes, it still contains the germ of progress, and is the natural and consequently the scientific organization of labor. To surrender it, is to duplicate the dog in Æsop's fable, who snatched at the shadow and lost the substance.

On the other hand we are sensible that the Trade Union possesses no monopoly of earnest men or valuable ideas. There is much ground, especially of an educational nature, that the Trade Union fails to cover.

Progressive Trade Unionism is not a hobby. It welcomes as auxiliary the agitation of the social leaven from any source. From this position the Trade Unionist should keep abreast of the news of all movements.—*Boston Labor Leader.*

SCIENCE AND PROGRESS.

TIMELY AND PRACTICAL NOTES BY A WELL KNOWN SPECIALIST.

RELIC FACTORIES.

THE Neapolitan police have unearthed another establishment for the wholesale manufacture of "classic antiquities"—coins, medals, vases and statutes. Some of these counterfeits have an appearance of superannuation apt to deceive even connoisseurs, and are indeed, perfect fac-similies of specially characteristic models—lobsided coins and slightly damaged sculptures. It will not be long before some Yankee specialist will try his hand on Indian relics.

MENTAL EPIDEMICS.

A French writer calls attention to the continued appearance of epidemic mental disorders, which he proves to be propagated quite independently of physical causes by agencies changing with changes in the spirit of the times. Miracle excitements still occur in Southern Europe, but are getting rarer from year to year; manias of suicide and of insurrection afflict the Slavonic races nearly as much as ever. The law of propagation determining the spread of such movements might possibly explain our own occasional storms of political discontent, or the emigration fever which every now and then affect whole districts of western colonists.

MAN-FOOD.

On the large islands in the delta of the Amazon river there are banana gardens which have continued to produce enormous crops for nearly a hundred successive years, though the cultivators never use any kind of fertilizers or think it necessary to practise irrigation, or rotation of crops. Two hundred bushels of fruit per acre is considered only a moderate yield, while on the Irish potato farms incessant toil and the use of all available fertilizers fails to insure the tenth part of that produce, and too often even fails to prevent complete degeneration of the plant on which millions have staked their hope of survival. It is true that the potato is not indigenous to the soil of the British Islands, but would it be possible to substitute any perfectly reliable food plant, and might it not after all, be the best plan to adopt Paul Courier's suggestion to devote the colder [illegible] and factories, and raise all our [illegible] crops in the tropics?

RACE CHANGES.

Prof. George Barbour, in his work on the resources of Florida, describes the strange race of bipeds which isolation and abnormal climatic influences have developed on the border of the tropics, in the next neighborhood of enterprising Yankee like communities. But is it not possible that those communities, too, will by and by experience the influence of a winterless climate? Thus far their energy has been sustained by a constant influx of Northern immigrants, but that influx will cease after the population of the North and South has reached the equilibrium of its distribution, and the "cracker" of the hummocks may then come to form the type of a new race. Strange metamorphoses have happened in Southern Europe, and only the incontrovertible testimony of historical records can pursade an ethnologist to recognize the present inhabitants of Sicily as the direct descendants of athletic Grecian colonists and of the heroic Normans who followed Robert Guiscard across the Strait of Messina.

CENSUS ODDITIES.

The statistics of the last census prove that in nearly every civilized country of the Caucasian race, cities exhibit a slight preponderance in the number of female infants, while in new colonies and rustic communities a hundred births include an average of fifty-five boy babies. The cause of the phenomenon is rather obscure, though the Buddhist doctrine of metempsychosis might attribute it to the millinery-ward tendency of female souls; but there is no doubt that its recurrence has already begun to affect the character and the social tendencies of several old communities on this side of the Atlantic.

A LAND OF PROGRESS.

Charles Dilke, the widest-travelled of all modern writers on ethnological subjects holds that the settlers of New Zealand are on the whole the most progressive of all British colonists—the descendants of those colonists in North-east Yankeeland not excepted. They originated the "Australian ballot system," the best known models of free schools, and as a class, are ardent advocates of free trade. They have also a constitutional penchant for mechanical improvements, and as an illustration Mr. Dilke mentions the combinations of circular saws and wind-mill motors found on nearly every forest farm, and reducing wood-pile work to a mere pastime for adults or an occasional exercise for children, half-grown specimens of which will pick up a piece of wood and fling it on the sliding board in front of the saw, whenever they see the wings of the mill whirl in a lively breeze.

VASSAR College points with pride to the fact that no graduate of that institution has ever been divorced from her husband.