

# THE ECHO.

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## MEETINGS.

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Meets in the Ville-Marie Hall, 1628 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.

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171 1/2, K. of L.

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## TORONTO NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

TORONTO, May 25, 1892.

According to a letter from Architect Lennox to His Worship Mayor Fleming the erection of the new city hall in this city is fully two years behind in the matter of progress. This state of affairs involves a little tale covering quite a chapter of scheming as usually exercised by contractors on public works. Last summer the principal and practical partner in the firm constructing the new city hall died. This brought another partner to the front to carry on the work. This man is Sylvester Neelon of St. Catharines. In early days, I understand, Mr. Neelon was first a captain and afterwards owner and captain of a vessel (or vessels) on our inland waters. Such officers had almost arbitrary powers over sailors in their employ, and this license almost invariably produced, in the course of time, unreasonably dogmatic and overbearing characters, having little or no regard for the rights or privileges of those in their employ or under their control. Mr. Neelon was a term in the Provincial Legislature some years ago as an independent and generally supported the Mowat administration. He represented Lincoln. At the last Federal elections he was the conservative candidate in the same constituency against Mr. Gibson, as he was again (Mr. Gibson being unseated) against the same man at the recent by-election is that riding. He was again defeated, however. Some years back the corporation of Hamilton built a new city hall also. A man named Piggott had the contract. He employed cheap labor and the union bricklayers of the city "scabbed" the job. During the struggle consequent thereon this man Piggott had some of the union bricklayers arrested for conspiracy. He prosecuted bitterly, and mainly through the outrageously prejudiced charge of the presiding Judge at the trial, the jury rendered a verdict of guilty. The Judge stayed sentence pending an appeal, but the appeal was not sustained in the upper court. Meanwhile organized labor was not idle in the premises. The subject was brought under the official notice of the Dominion Minister of Justice, and Mr. J. T. Carey, at the time representing the Dominion T. and L. Congress at Ottawa even furnished him with a verbatim transcript of the Judges charge to the jury. This involved more or less cost. Sir John Thompson (the Minister of Justice) expressed surprise at the peculiar character of the Judges charge, but naught else of a tangible character was done in favor of the convicted. Ultimately the prisoners (Mr. David R. Gibson, and two others whose names have escaped my recollection,) were fined in the nominal sum of \$5 and costs. If they did not go to the county jail or the penitentiary, it was not through the kindness of this man Piggott. Evidently Mr. Neelon saw that Piggott would be a useful man as a partner in the Toronto city hall contract, and I believe he formally took him in as a partner. But here a difficulty presented itself. Mr. Lennox the architect of the building positively declined to consent to any change in the contract and so Piggott is not as yet a partner. He has also refused to allow Piggott to work in any capacity on the job. He has also thwarted other schemes of the contractor, and all of which would be to the disadvantage of the city in the premises. I am glad to record also that His Worship the Mayor and a large majority of the aldermen have determined to sustain the Architect not only in what he has done but in any further legal steps to force the contractor to proceed with the work with more diligence. At this date, although the season is advanced there are only some twenty or thirty men at work on the job, instead of having two hundred so employed. I need hardly add that organized labor is keenly watching the various phases of the case. A nod is as good as a yank sometimes, and so your readers may read between the lines of the foregoing for further information.

The regular semi-monthly meeting of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council was held on last Friday evening, with Mr. President Banton in the chair as usual. After the introductory proceedings and the reading and acceptance of the credentials the order called for reports of committees. At the previous meeting the President talked plainly to the Legislative Committee because of its palpable neglect of duty, having presented only two reports since its election last January, and intimated that it would be well to have a report for the next meeting. They had. It was

submitted by delegate W. J. Watson. The News report of the proceedings in speaking of that report says that in view of the bad manner in which manhood suffrage worked at the recent election to the Legislative Assembly it was recommended (1) that a sufficient number of registration offices be established throughout the constituencies; (2) that these be open for thirty days prior to any election from 9 o'clock in the forenoon till 8 o'clock at night; (3) that simple registration of the names of those entitled to vote under the act be all that is required to allow such names to be entered upon the voters' lists.

It was recommended that the Council leave no stone unturned to secure the repeal of the amendments to the Landlord and Tenant Act. It was urged that the Council should not act hastily in the matter of the establishment of blast furnaces in Toronto, as generally the capitalists, and not the workers, received the maximum of benefit. The proposal to surrender the Intercolonial railway to a private corporation was viewed with alarm. Child immigration was condemned, and the action of Sir John Thompson and Hon. Wilfred Laurier in hoisting the Alien Labor law was spoken of as being inimical to organized labor.

Delegate O'Donoghue while concurring in the report as far as it went, thought that the matter of the new Redistribution Bill should have been introduced into the report, but Mr. Watson didn't see how the labor interests were affected in any way by the Redistribution Bill. It was no use talking to the Government; Sir John Thompson would take no notice of the matter.

"There's not a man in the Government of whom I think less than of Sir John Thompson; for I know him to be untruthful," said Mr. O'Donoghue, "but eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, and we should keep hammering away however our suggestions may be received." He further wondered that the report did not touch on the consolidation of the criminal laws. He pointed out that when the statutes were revised in 1886 laws of vital importance to working people had been left out in the revision, and that may occur again if the Council was not vigilant.

Mr. Watson did not like what he characterized as the "carping criticism" of Delegate O'Donoghue, and boldly declared that it was merely the intention of the delegate to draw a heering across the track to divert attention from the reference to the law of landlord and tenant.

"If we quit being Grits and Tories and simply vote as labor men the Government won't always ignore us," said the delegate from Hugo, warmly. "But to talk about being labor men," he snorted, "and see how things worked at the last East York election is disgusting. Why, down in the World office that day, you could see any number of labor men being hauled out to vote with the party halter round their necks by those who are supposed to be labor men."

This was rich, and loud and long laughed many delegates.

Bro. John Armstrong, however, observed a silence that was positively massive.

The matter of the Criminal Code had not been touched on for the simple reason that the committee had not had time to go into the matter thoroughly.

"Have you seen the bill?" asked the O'Donoghue returning to the fray.

"I haven't," admitted Mr. Watson.

"Then why haven't you?" inquired the O'D.

"I haven't had time," explained the delegate.

"Oh rats!" returned Mr. O'Donoghue politely, while the president rapped frantically for order.

Mr. Watson's brow grew black.

"I give as much of my time to labor interests as any one," he cried hotly.

"With your slippers on," suggested the undaunted O'Donoghue.

"Yes, with my slippers on," returned the man from Hugo.

Then J. H. Gilmour, Charles March, Robert Glockling and J. A. Smith emptied the vials of their eloquence on the devoted head of Mr. Watson as the spokesman of the unfortunate Legislative Committee. The O'Donoghue stuck an ear in occasionally.

George Brown, a member of the committee, objected to being hauled over the coals, and was informed by Delegate March that he did but little work on the committee and shouldn't kick.

Delegate Tweed explained that it was only at last meeting of the Council that he was appointed on the Legislative Commit-

tee, that at the meeting of that committee since then he had been elected chairman, and that neither the redistribution bill nor the criminal law bill had been mentioned, not to say considered. Consequently, neither Mr. Watson nor Mr. Brown were speaking for the committee in respect of the questions referred to; they were simply airing their own individual views on these and other matters. Finally the report was adopted, but Delegates Watson and Brown tendered their resignations as members of the committee. They were accepted without comment, and John A. Smith and J. H. Gilmour were appointed in their places.

In the opening of the Municipal Committee's report, which John Armstrong chanted, it was delicately suggested that the City Council should get a "move on" in the matters of the reclamation of Ashbridge's bay and the adoption of an electric system for the street railway. The time-honored question of the new Union station that is to be was regrettably resurrected, and it was hoped that something would soon be done toward its commencement. The delay in building the new City Hall and Court House, and the stoppage of necessary corporation labor, were pointed out as instances of the present City Council's utter incompetency.

"But these same aldermen are competent to vote money for carriage drives for strangers coming to our city. In this respect they rise, phoenix like, to the occasion, but the laborer can go idle and the landlord can come in under the law and seize everything in sight for rent," said the report.

The clause referring to the building of cars in the city by the street railway company should be enforced. The site chosen for the Isolation Hospital was spoken of as a good one, and it was hoped that no further opposition to the hospital's erection would be met.

"Through the appeals, threats and coaxings of your committee the Scaffold By-law has been resurrected. Those aldermen who opposed it in the past will have an opportunity next Monday night, when the measure comes up for third reading, to make amends for their lack of judgment in not permitting the same to become law," said the report in conclusion, and a hope of the by-law's adoption was further expressed.

The Council, having exhausted itself on the Legislative Committee, accepted the report as read.

Delegate Coulter read the Educational Committee's report in a fine, easy tone. It noted with satisfaction that the City Council had favorably received the estimate of \$5,000 made by the Public School Board for providing free school books. The Council's action in throwing out the amount necessary for new school buildings was strongly condemned as false economy. Inspector Hughes was commended for his recent challenge to the Evening Telegram to name one city in the United States similar in size to Toronto in which the school system is as economically administered. The work done by the Technical school had been very satisfactory, and the board of that institution should be proud of its work. The multifarious rules and regulations at present in vogue in the public schools were strongly condemned as being disheartening to children who are, by their existence, severely punished for trivial offences.

The report was adopted.

Under the head of new business R. Glockling moved, seconded by J. H. Gilmour, that "whereas a bill is now before the Dominion Parliament that is supposed to have for its object the redistribution of political representation on the basis of population, and whereas should such bill become law it will have a great tendency to give a minority of the electors a majority of the representatives in Parliament, in opposition to the sound principle of representation by population, therefore be it resolved that this Trades and Labor Council do enter its strongest protest against any redistribution bill that does not adhere to the principle of representation by population; and be it further resolved that this council petition the Dominion House of Commons to so amend the bill now before them as to provide for grouped constituencies and cumulative voting, this being the course consistent with action of past labor councils of our Dominion."

Mr. Glockling explained his motion, and was supported by D. J. O'Donoghue, Robert Lamb and John Smith, while W. J. Watson and John Francis declared themselves as uncompromisingly opposed to it. The

motion carried, only two or three voting nay.

Delegate H. T. Benson drew attention to the fact that the union he represented (the builders laborers) had spent and were spending large sums of money in sending men out of the country who could not find work in Toronto, the work on the new City hall was not being proceeded with, and on his suggestion the president selected D. J. O'Donoghue, Chas. March, Alexander Bruce, Robert Glockling, George A. Howell and Harry Benson as a special committee to wait on the Mayor to hurry on the work at the new city and county buildings.

This ended the proceedings of one of the liveliest meetings of the year.

The special committee just referred to above, accompanied by Mr. A. Jury, (who is always on deck when practical work has to be done) had a lengthy and very satisfactory interview with His Worship Mayor Flemming on Saturday afternoon, on the subject respecting which they were appointed.

For days past the weather has been rather wet and cold, and such a condition does not help to mend matters for those dependent upon chance employment at our door work.

URIM.

## DO GOOD MEN DIE?

A good man never dies. His spirit and his work live on. Mortality is but the birth, in eternity is reached the consummation.

A good man dies—his life is simply told. An earnest life filled with thoughts and deeds. His great heart beats with love for his fellowmen. They are brothers all to him. Why do they wound themselves with selfishness and plot against each other? Has Christ died in the human heart because he lived so long ago? What shame it is that men contend and will not aid each other! Call you it civilization when men starve and a few are rich beyond the counting? What ails the world when honest men would work and yet must live like paupers? His strong mind struggles with problems; his heart aches with the sight of needless human woe. He sees the wrong; it must be righted. There are, he knows, some noble men. He will call them together; they will help him teach and purify the world. But men are blind, the ears dull, their days are filled with labor. Their children must have bread; what time have they to hear of truth and great freedom? Yet the good man works on, spite of all indifference. Poor people! they cannot help their ignorance. They have but one command:

So thy seed, though thou no harvest see  
Nor springing blade; nor in time are free  
The prisoner peoples, yet they shall be free  
So thy seed.

Death to him comes quickly and whisp'ers to him gently, "come help them in your higher life." Another strong soul joins a band of invisible workers who by their aspiration reveal to mortal brethren "Truth that makes men free."

The poet says: "The spirit world around this world of sense floats like an atmosphere." Can Paradise be other than continue in our freer spirit life the work begun on earth? There is no happiness higher than "Love ye one another." With our clearer angel eyes we may get the friends we leave behind to truth, simple justice, is bias to contemplation. Mrs. A. H. Colton.

## Genuine Friends of Labor.

It seems to be the delight of the New York Tribune to speak of the "genuine friends of labor," such genuine friends being generally those who act on the basis of charity rather than of justice. In last analysis the "genuine friends of labor" are those who believe in letting labor rather than protecting it through the action of itself.—Boston Globe.

The annual meeting of the Pacific stockholders was held on Wednesday in New York and resulted in the re-election of old board of directors. The report presented showed that the gross earnings for the year were \$4,409,262, operating expenses \$3,688,045.

William Henry Parker, convicted of murder, at Lockport N. Y., has been sentenced to death by electrocution at Auburn, during week commencing on July 11. Charles another principal in the crime, was sentenced to life imprisonment, and William Charles the third of the trio, was given 11 years at Auburn prison.