

"The Tribune"

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
TORONTO DISTRICT LABOR COUNCIL

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THE TRIBUNE will endeavor to be in every
essential a first-class newspaper, and zealously
labor to further the trade union movement and
economic progress. Contributions and items of
news concerning the labor movement are requested
from our readers. Anonymous communications
will not be printed. No name will be published
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Address all communications and make all remittances by Post Office Order, Express Money Order, or Bank Draft to

FRED FERRY,
106-108 Adelaide St. W., Toronto
"In Union there is Strength."

The unionists of every class in the city of Toronto are loyal to their paper, as may be seen by the way they are subscribing, not in ones and twos, but by the hundreds, each and every week. The growth of The Tribune is prodigious.

The Tobacco Workers are about to open a general campaign from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Combined Trades Unionists could soon kill any tobacco Trust.

Read the advertisements in the columns of The Tribune, and stand by those who are asking for the trade of union men.

It costs more nowadays to purchase a Bay of Quinte ciscoe than the real one used to cost that was brought all the way from the Pacific.

The officials of the Street Railway Union have sent in 1169 names for The Tribune. This is the largest yet from one organization.

The Bread Drivers have a swell agreement for the busses, surely. They are bound not to work at their calling for one year after leaving their present employment. These drivers have no right for a kick.

The agitation of the Iron Moulders is proceeding merrily.

The people on the Pacific coast are not so wrapped up in the Chinese servant question, as they are finding the yellow fellows are not as clean as they were thought to be.

Help the Bakers' Union by purchasing your bread in their interests.

Support your unions and they will procure you higher wages and better conditions.

The judgment given in the Sheet Metal Workers' case shows us more clearly than ever that the best weapon that organized labor has is the union label and the only weapon we may expect to fight and win with.

Demand the label in every instance. This will override any injunction.

As far as the Iron Moulders of London are concerned, the McClary firm will be fought to a standstill. The International has now stepped in and taken charge of the fight, which means that 30,000 men in Canada will back the moulders to a man.

Every commodity is much higher today than ten years ago, especially air ships.

While the subject of life insurance is causing so much attention in the States, it would be as well for our authorities to investigate our own companies doing business in Canada, if only to quiet the general unrest that prevails in all circles. If our companies are in the same shape as those of the States, our prospects are not bright. To say the least, an investigation is in order.

While the authorities are busy investigating the plumbers' combine, it is to be hoped that other combines that are formed and are forming will have just as thorough an overhauling.

James G. Merrick, Secretary of the Employers' Association, was convicted of importing alien labor into this country. He was fined \$50 and costs, which was thought to be insufficient by the prosecuting lawyer, O'Donohue.

We want to know the man who cannot show us how to conduct a labor paper. This would be as an oasis in the middle of a desert.

Were it not for the labor press the labor movement would not be what it is today, and any man who tries to injure a labor paper is a traitor to the cause.—President Gompers.

The man who doesn't read the labor papers is living in pitiful ignorance of the rise and growth of modern economic ideas.

There are some union men who are not content with not supporting a labor paper, but they want to crucify those owning it for differing from them in some particular.

The organization known as the Woman's Union Label League has done more to advance the union label than all other organizations combined, and it is the duty of every woman who spends her husband's money to become a member of the local organization.

Merchants whose desire is prosperity should encourage trades unionism because it means good wages, and, consequently, good customers. The toiler cannot buy much when he is working for starvation pay.

The fellow that persistently pounds into your ear what he would do if he had your place is not overweighted with medals for past performances, nor can he show by example just what he pretends is "dead easy."

HOW TO WHIP A LIAR.

(Incubator Johnston in Printers' Ink.)

The easiest way to whip a liar, a man who lies about you, is to encourage him to lie harder. Then all you need to do is to keep straight ahead telling the truth and doing the right thing. The liar will whip himself more completely than you could have done it; besides, you have the satisfaction of knowing that you have not lowered yourself in the fight. If you are right, and have made a reputation for right, you need not fear the people's sober thinking. They draw their own conclusions regardless of what we may say.

An accident occurred on Tuesday of this week which cost the life of one man and serious injuries to another which the city fathers cannot blame on the death-dealing trolley. There is a by-law which says any scaffold more than ten feet high is to be built with ropes and poles, and yet here was one forty feet high built out of ordinary scantling. A by-law was also passed appointing building inspectors at salaries of \$25 per week, part of whose duty it was to see that this by-law was carried out, and we are informed on good authority that not one of them have ever been seen on this job, which, if true, is a serious state of affairs, and if not true, why was a scaffold of this kind allowed to be erected when it was strictly against the by-law and a death trap, as it proved to be. Our council or their officials are joint slayers of that man. One official is asked to prosecute the street railway, and he doesn't; others are appointed as building inspectors and they don't attend to their business. Will someone kindly tell us when we will have a council that will be able to see its by-laws enforced by the people it pays to do it?

THE LIQUOR QUESTION.

Again the daily papers are publishing reports showing the difficulty in giving effect to the Local Option liquor law. Municipal councils balk at submitting the matter to popular vote; then there are petitions and counter petitions and deputations to the council, and counter deputations and button-holing and underhand influence and boisterous galore. All of which would be avoided if the Legislature were to enact two simple things. First, that the municipal council MUST submit a liquor by-law when asked for by a certain reasonable percentage of the voters; say ten per cent. at the outside. Secondly, that the municipal council MUST obey the will of the people.

Why are these provisions not in the statute now? Probably because your average legislator has a habit of leaving loopholes and loose ends in laws; and then it does not do to make laws complete and efficient. It looks too radical, you know, and is too great a departure from the old-established practice. Then it might endanger the stability of the party machines and of that wise and beneficent political method which divides the whole country into two factions, and keeps them busy in fighting each other, whilst the monopolists wink and gather in their plunder.

DIRECT LEGISLATION BY THE INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM.

In its endeavors to secure this great reform, organized labor is asking for no untried theory. Switzerland, one of the best governed countries in the world, has had the initiative and referendum in operation for years, both in its Cantons (States) and in its Federal Government.

But these are not Anglo-Saxons, say you; they speak German and French and Italian; what would be suitable to them would not suit us. Very well then, we won't stop to argue, let us look across the boundary line to our neighbors of the United States.

Direct legislation by the initiative and referendum is in force in at least four States in the Union, namely, Oregon, Utah, South Dakota and Nevada.

We have some further information about the first of these. There are now on the statute books of the State of Oregon two laws that were never passed by the Legislature! yet are in full force and effect. Queer, isn't it? But quite simple when you understand it. These liquor law, and a direct primary nomination law. In each case eight per cent. (or more) of the voters demanded by petition that the law (which they set out) should be submitted to a vote of the people. Then the Secretary of State had to submit it accordingly. A majority of the people voted "Yes" in each case. Then the Secretary of State was bound by the Constitution to take the necessary formal steps to make these two statutes the law of the land. Each statute begins thus

"Be it enacted BY THE PEOPLE of the State of Oregon."

Two laws are a municipal Local Option Grand words, those! Wouldn't it be fine if we could have in this Province

one or two statutes beginning like that? Not exactly that way, because our Ontario statutes all begin thus:

"His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows."

God bless King Edward, he is too good a fellow to be left out. So when we get as far advanced as to boss the Legislature instead of having the party-ridden Legislature boss us, we could have it this way:

"His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of THE PEOPLE OF ONTARIO, enacts as follows."

That is, of course, only for such laws as the people wanted and the Legislature were too slow in granting. Their pace would be quickened if they knew that the people had the power to prod them in the rear. They might then get a move on without waiting to be prodded.

But the lawyers and the politicians and the wisecracks shake their heads solemnly. Such an innovation would never do. Why, if real, direct political power were put in the hands of a majority of the people, the workmen, who are a majority, would learn to vote together, and might pass some law that would cut down the profits of respectable monopolists, don't you know?

So the contractor for the waterworks tunnel wants to save \$50,000 after signing his contract and specifications by having the shape of the tunnel changed from horseshoe to cylindrical, and by using concrete instead of brick. And the Board of Control actually recommended to council that permission be granted him to make the change without any reduction in price! What an easy mark this year's Board of Control is, to be sure. Council very properly refused to sanction any such unbusiness-like arrangement. For ourselves, we believe that brick would make the stronger and better job. In any event, if there is to be a saving in price of construction, the Board of Control should realize that the city, not the contractor, should reap the profit.

Speaking of the tunnel, the engineer now says that what the contractor asks will give a stronger and better tunnel. The engineer drew the original specifications. Why did he not then ask for the best?

The Board of Control did only what was just in approving of Ald. Jones' proposition that all regular civic employees should receive a weekly half holiday throughout the year and two weeks' holidays in summer. There was no reason why these years the civic employees on the streets should not have been receiving the same consideration as the clerks in the City Hall.

While there are two sides to the question of the fairness or advisability of reducing the number of licenses by cutting off some and giving the remaining ones a monopoly, no set of men in the council have the right to refuse to let the people express themselves at the polls upon an important question of this kind. If the Labor party is to be a factor, it must stand firm by its principle of the referendum and how to the line, let the chips fall where they may. The controllers and aldermen who voted to refuse to allow the people a say in the matter have voted in direct defiance of one of the main planks of our platform.

The Legislation and Reception Committee have again considered Ald. Jones' motion for the appointment of a commissioner of industries. The mayor, Ald. Church and Ald. Graham strongly supported the principle of the proposition, and it will likely receive a favorable consideration when it reaches council.

There are thirteen bankers in the Ohio penitentiary. What a sweet morsel it would be for the trade union crusher if that number of "labor agitators" were under conviction for penal offenses in a single state.—Hamilton Herald.

Messrs. Mosses and Gilmore, Fraternal delegates from England to the American Federation of Labor Convention held in Pittsburgh this week, will visit Toronto upon their return journey, when it is hoped they will address the workmen of Toronto.

"Labor unions have never corrupted a State Legislature by bribery, nor debauched a city council, a compliment to which many of the employers' associations are not entitled."—Judge James Phelan, Detroit.

The greatest mistake of some men seems to be the carrying of the impression that they can get along without the assistance of others. We are all due to get over the idea that this good old world would slip a cog if we didn't show up next day in our accustomed place.

If you expect to succeed in your undertaking you will find that it is much more beneficial to your ideas of progress to do many things yourself, for if you turn the job over to some one else, they may not remember your plan of action and spoil the "whole works."

To hear some men prate of a "square deal" one would suppose that it was the most natural thing in the world for them to handle the "Golden Rule" with absolute fairness; and yet, the loudest shouters for a "square deal" will be found totting a delinquent membership book in a struggling local union of his craft. Exceptions? Yes—some.

Of Interest to Women



CORRESPONDENCE.

Address all communications to Women's Department, office of Tribune, 106, 108 Adelaide street.

Write only on one side of paper.

Dear Editor.—Can you tell me where I can get brooms with the union label on. And oblige,

Reader.

I am sorry to say that it is not so easy to get the union label on the brooms as it was formerly, but I believe there is a grocery store at the corner of Seaton and Gerrard streets. I have not been able to find them in any other store so far.

Women's Department, Tribune:

Dear Madam.—In answer to a letter from me in your issue of Nov. 11th, Scherzo in last issue says she agrees with me, but qualifies it with "that the working girl should have more opportunity of coming together." That is my position. The best possible course is through settlement house plan. To objection by her that working girls would not take advantage of them is disproved when we know that in Chicago they do. That girls earning no more than \$2 per week should pay to go to places of amusement was not said by me. What I did say was, that we could prove that girls were paid that wage for service. The city was Montreal; time, year ago last summer. The whole question of amusement was brought up by herself in her first letter, in answer to my plan that women should get busy on those lines in the interest of their sex. The causes, to my mind I think they are historical, that produced the American and French revolutions at least was made a handle of by the American patriots, were tax on tea coming into Boston harbor. American balked on that. Result in that connection was new set of rulers—local and largely wealthy rulers—who legislated on special privilege lines in their own interest, with the result now being made known by Thos. Lawson in "Everybody's Magazine." Of the hugest financial robbery and swindling, with all its awful horror and effects as an aftermath, the history of the world tells of. The poor pauperized, the rich enriched beyond the dreams of world-robbers and usurers of any time. A perfect saturnalia of unholy and damnable methods to exploit the free (!) American sovereign, who is fettered more fully by statute law than any chattel of past times, of his last hope to place with the rest of the capitalistic spoils, by legislative enactment jugglery on the altar of greed, guarded by constabulary and military, to be worshipped from afar by the common people, the dear public. Read Mr. Russell's articles on "Greatest Trusts in the World," which was running in same periodical all last summer, if you really want to know the effects of that war to the common people. The cost of it to the people was much hardship, great want, large loss of life. The return was as bad, or worse, possibly, than England was handing to them. What broke the back of the latter, the French revolution, was division amongst the revolutionists and outside interference on the part of other governments, who feared for themselves in the event of the revolution being successful. If, as you say, that the Russian people are in the red grasp of anarchy; apart from the red, nothing could be better than anarchy! Anarchy is self-government, non-privileged, non-taxing, non-exploiting, no rulership. What has made possible in Russia to-day the conditions that obtain but rulership in the interest of the rulers, Czar and nobles, against the ruled? What do the rulers offer the people who have gone on strike to make their demands operative? Promises! Mere empty promises! The people want free conditions. To the Russian people anarchy spells that to them. The rulership of the past has made necessary the evils of their lives to-day. Better death than a continuance of these conditions, with the man Gapon at their head they told the Czar. Bullets was their answer. On that Sabbath day the clean, pure white snow of that embittered country was stained by the red blood of defenceless, innocent women and helpless babes. The reward of loyalty at all times by all governments! War alone makes possible for freedom, when war achieves it. Freedom is peace, contentment, love. My friend, I don't say that it is not possible for a girl to rise above the common level. What I do say is that girls in the aggregate cannot rise above their present level without improved conditions, and change of environment. I do say that settlement houses are a splendid factor on those lines.

Marie Hall may have been all that you say as a violinist, past and present, yet we all know that all the great musicians have had great natural ability.

You may be able to do all you say regarding your ability to fill volumes with names of people who have through sheer force of will and determination made success for themselves. To my mind, it is you who are the sophist. I have merely taken concrete facts for my plan, garnered from the cradle of my experience. If, as you say, Providence or God, as essentials, are within us, under right opportunities, correct environment, proper tutelage, its manifestations would be very apparent in a people of the fullest intelligence, splendid physique, highest possible order, through largest possible freedom.

I like your breezy studied way, and believe you mean right. Against your theoretical reasoning I merely place experience, the surest possible guide. If this question, through our discussion, will bring about anything calculated to help the coming mothers of the race in this land, enough! May God speed the time!

An Enquirer.

Dear Madam.—I was surprised, going into the lobby of the Labor Temple the other day, to see a number of advertisements on the wall. I did not see one bearing the printers' or the painters' label. This, to my mind, is a very great mistake. If the directors of the Labor Temple Board do not set the example of seeing that the label is used in all that pertains to labor's home, I do not see how the rank and file can be expected to pay any attention to this matter. Shareholder.

I am sorry to say that your statement is true. But I hope, when the attention of the directors is drawn to this fact, that it will be remedied. It is, as you say, not at all a good example to the rank and file of organized labor.

Editor Woman's Column:

Dear Madam.—Will you kindly give me your opinion regarding the question following: If a woman or man studies for the stage do you think they degrade themselves? Your honest opinion will settle an argument.

Stage-struck.

Only the other day we had the spectacle before our eyes of the people of a great nation gathered together to do homage to the memory of a dead man—an actor. I would like to ask Stage-struck if she thinks Sir Henry Irving degraded himself by adopting the stage as a profession. If she does, I do not think the people of England would agree with her. Many good men and women have also made the stage an educational factor and in my opinion (since you ask for it) the stage can do as much to uplift humanity as the Church. Shakespeare himself was an actor of no mean merit, as well as a playwright, and I think you will have to admit that he has left his mark on posterity. If Stage-struck has real talent, and a genuine love for the work, go ahead, only your own actions can degrade—not the study of the stage.

M. D.

This sign should be placed over the entrance to every "open shop": "Let those who enter here leave hope behind."

No. XLV.—Buying Asparagus. A greengrocer purchased, for a certain sum, as many heads of asparagus as could be contained in a string a foot in length. Wishing to purchase double the quantity, he returned next day to the market with a string twice the length, and offered double the price of the former quantity, for as many as it would contain. The salesman thought the price should be more than double, but a friend of the buyer expressed the opinion that it should be less. Which of the three was right, and what would be the proper price?

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