

# THE ECHO.

JOURNAL FOR THE PROGRESSIVE WORKMAN, AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

Vol. 2.—No. 34.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1892.

SINGLE COPIES—THREE CENTS  
ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR

## 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 P. C. CHATEL, Corresponding Secretary 127 1/2 St. Lawrence street.

### RIVER FRONT ASSEMBLY,

No. 7028.  
Rooms, K. of L. Hall, 662 1/2 Craig street. Next meeting Sunday, May 23, at 7.30. Address all correspondence to  
J. WARREN, Rec. Sec.,  
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### 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. 3852, K. of L.  
Meets every First and Third Tuesday at Lomas' Hall, Point St. Charles.

### BLACK DIAMOND ASSEMBLY

1711, K. of L.  
Meets next Sunday, in the K. of L. Hall, 662 1/2 Craig street, at 2 o'clock.  
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WM. ROBERTSON,  
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## TORONTO NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

TORONTO, May 19, 1892.

East York for Dominion elections takes in the wards of St. Paul and St. Matthew of the city of Toronto. The late Hon. Alex. Mackenzie was, until his death, its representative in the House of Commons. To fill the vacancy in the riding caused by his recent death there was an election held in that constituency on Wednesday of last week. The candidates were W. F. Maclean (Conservative), and Ald. J. K. Leslie (Reformer), and the former was elected by a majority of 227. Those interested in the labor cause before every other consideration cared but little, if at all, which of the two worthies mentioned came off as victor. At a meeting in the interest of Mr. Maclean held on the previous Monday evening, among those on the platform were Messrs. W. H. Parr and John Armstrong, of Toronto Typographical Union, and two of its representatives in the T. and L. Council; and Mr. Andrew B. Ingram, M.P. Mr. Maclean (the candidate) is proprietor and editor of the World newspaper, and its report of the meeting referred to says, among other remarks, that "Mr. A. B. Ingram, M.P. for Elgin, was next introduced as the only workingman in the House of Commons," etc. As Mr. Leslie was of no use in the campaign he was forgotten. "Mr. John Armstrong, in the interests of the workmen, next addressed the meeting. The National Policy had been the prime cause of the opening up of the Northwest and the inhabitants of the Dominion were the consumers of the goods made in Ontario. He did not want Mr. Leslie either in the House of Commons or in the City Council. The latter had opposed labor movements every time. He had refused to support the proposition to remove the property qualification for aldermen. For this reason, if for no other, he opposed Mr. Leslie, and supported Mr. Maclean, who owned a union newspaper, and who had always stood up for the rights of the workmen."

Mr. Armstrong (a member of the Royal Labor Commission) spoke truly as to candidate Leslie as a member of our City Council, and the speaker's character for veracity, if for nothing else, would not have suffered had he stopped at that. But he went further, and "supported Mr. Maclean, who owned a union newspaper, and who had always stood up for the rights of the workmen." The italics are mine! Mr. Parr must have wriggled in his seat at such a statement. Your readers may imagine the latter gentleman's feelings when they are told that the world is the only daily paper in Toronto on which, within the past twelve years—or perhaps over—the composers had to go on strike to force the payment of arrears of wages; that for years previous and up to the last Provincial elections in Ontario the World was a "rat" or "scab" office; that when the strike took place, and the union issued a circular giving correct details of the difficulty with that office Mr. Maclean sought and secured a perpetual injunction against the Union and its officers, prohibiting any further publication of the said circular or other matter akin thereto; that that injunction is still in full force, and that other labor bodies had to take up such work of publication on behalf of the Typographical Union; that at said election a "deal" having been consummated in the proper quarter, Mr. Maclean became the Conservative candidate against Dr. J. McMahon, the Reform candidate in the County of Wentworth; that certain parties in Toronto influenced the late Rt. Hon. Sir John Macdonald to bring pressure to bear on Mr. Maclean to "square" his office; and that even then it took considerable other manipulation in the same direction before the World became a "square office," and that when this was ultimately accomplished some of its recent "rat" composers went to Montreal and took situations on the "ratted" Montreal Herald. How Mr. Armstrong forgot all this is a conundrum, as is also the fact that Mr. Parr had not stamina enough to instantly contradict such a bare-faced and wilful untruth, even though uttered in the interest of the candidate of the Conservative party.

The Toronto News of last Thursday in its Ottawa correspondence of the day before from the House of Commons says: "That

faithful retainer, George Taylor, sat as dumb as an oyster this afternoon when Rouleau read 'Item one: Resuming adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Taylor: That the bill (No. 4) an act to prohibit the importation and migration of foreigners and aliens under contract or agreement to perform labor in Canada, be read a second time, and the motion of Sir John Thompson in amendment thereto, that the said bill be read a second time this day six months.' The question is upon the amendment," said the Speaker. The doughty champion of the bill said nothing. "Carried," said the Speaker, and so the eloquence of Ingram, McKay and Ryehmann, of whom only the last was in the chamber, and the bill fell to the ground again."

Where was Mr. A. B. Ingram, "the only workingman in the House of Commons?" Where was Mr. Lepine, the other "only workingman in the House of Commons?" Where were they when this very vital question was given the six months' hoist so promptly, so silently, so ignominiously? Were they playing ball, were they in the cellar—where were the "only workingmen in the House of Commons?" Methinks I hear some one crying "Rats."

I read that Le Canadien (Montreal) of the 6th instant claims to have information from a high official of the Grand Trunk Railway Company that for two months the regular trains of the company have carried each week about one thousand French-Canadians to the States. Now, that is all right. The men who now represent most of those French-Canadians in the House of Commons—Lepine et al.—have voted the sum of \$197,500 of the public money of Canada to bring in (to encourage) immigrants from abroad to fill the places made vacant by the forced emigration of these people from their native land to the United States.

For cool cheek or child-like innocence the following deserves a note. A few days ago an application new to the annals of Hamilton was made to the Mayor of that city. It was made by a newly married couple who are just winding up their honeymoon. They had spent all their available cash, and coolly asked for railway passes to London. When the Mayor found words to reply he promptly refused the request, and the cooling doves retired, loving still, but unhappy.

What is the matter with Ottawa T. and L. Council? How dare such people (*la canaille*) pass between the wind and a member of Parliament? Why should that body have the temerity to call to task a member of Parliament for anything he chose to say in the House of Commons? And worse still that member of Parliament was a Lieutenant Colonel (God save the mark) of something or another. Could anything be more daring or outrageous than the fact that at a regular meeting on Wednesday evening of last week, President Alex. Macdonald being in the chair, Ottawa Trades and Labor Council (ignoring the sacredness of the title of Colonel) unreservedly passed the following resolution:

"Whereas, it has come to the knowledge of this council that on the night of the 9th May inst., Colonel Tisdale, member of the Dominion House of Commons, during the debate on the petition presented by forty-nine residents of the city of London, and took to question said petitioners' right to present such, on the ground that many of the signers were clerks, tailors, and other mechanics, the said member holding the said petitioners up to public scorn on account of their calling, and at the same time regretting the absence of the names of doctors, lawyers, and clergymen instead. Therefore be it resolved that the Ottawa Trades and Labor Council, in meeting assembled, do hereby on behalf of the workmen of Ottawa express our unqualified condemnation of such an unwarrantable attack on the wage earners of Canada; and be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the different Trades and Labor Councils of Ontario."

This had its effect, however, and the "Col." felt called upon to "get down a step or two." We read in Saturday's newspapers, in speaking of the previous day's proceeding in the House of Commons that before the orders of the day were called Col. Tisdale asked leave to make a personal explanation. He quoted a resolution passed by the Ottawa Trades and Labor Council, condemning him for having questioned the right of the petitioners in the London case to present a petition on the ground that they were "clerks, tailors and other mechanics," and at the same time regretting the absence of the names of doctors, lawyers and clergymen instead. The Council resolved to express its "unqualified condemnation of such an unwarrantable attack on the wage-earners of Canada." The colonel said that he had not in any way questioned the petitioners' right on the ground that they were clerks, tailors

or mechanics. He had never, in public or private, expressed such a sentiment, and had never felt or believed in such a sentiment.

There is a question of veracity involved in the foregoing, and I incline to believing the T. and L. Council, and in this I am not governed by partisan prejudice, but by the opinion of the gentleman who writes "Impressions" from Ottawa for the Globe. I know the gentleman, and hence my faith in his truthfulness. In his letter to that paper, dated Thursday, 13th instant, he took occasion to say that:

Col. Tisdale won the just censure of the Ottawa Trades and Labor Council by his sneering allusions to workmen while criticizing the signers of the petition condemning the conduct of Judge Elliot in the London election case. He tried to defend himself in the House by a long extract from The Hansard report, which was endured with patience. Those who know the free access that all members have to The Hansard room are not surprised when a member is understood by the whole House to voice a certain sentiment and is afterwards proved by Hansard to have expressed views entirely different. It is the height of wisdom to change an opinion, and the colonel saw his mistake the moment he was taken to task by Mr. Fraser, of Guysboro."

The Globe writer must have been right for I read that during the debate Mr. Fraser, in dealing with Col. Tisdale's attempt to discredit the petitioners, said that if the gentleman on the petition had given the House a case it should be examined, and not the characters of the petitioners. It was no reply to the charges made against Judge Elliot to look into the character of the petitioners, and certainly their characters were not shown by their occupation. Col. Tisdale had referred to seventeen of them being clerks, some of them poor tailors and four of them hotel-keepers. What did that prove, and did he prove that this petition was to be discredited because there was no professional men on it.

The Toronto Technical School has proved a success far beyond the expectation of its most sanguine friends. I find by the report of the Principal, Mr. John A. Duff, dated May 5th instant, that "the secretary's books show that 292 students registered during the term, and the greater number of these were in regular attendance. On account of keeping the roll by classes it is difficult to state the average number of students in attendance each night, but it was at least 125. The difference between this number and the number on the roll is accounted for by the fact that many students took only one subject, while very few took more than three, and thus few students were required to attend every night. The average attendance at the different classes during the term was as follows: Practical Geometry, 75; Projections, 65; Chemistry and Physics, 50; Arithmetic and Mensuration, 60; Algebra, 44; Trigonometry, 26; Statics, 19; Dynamics and Kinematics, 15. It is expected that the attendance will be very much larger during the coming year, and I recommended that the Board provide accommodation for a regular attendance of three or four hundred."

The Principal also takes occasion to say, "Examinations were held in the different subjects during the last week of the session. It being understood that, for this half term, the examination was perfectly optional, only about thirty per cent. of the students presented themselves for examination. The results were very gratifying, several of the students obtaining over ninety per cent., and only a few falling below thirty per cent."

When will the working people of the great manufacturing city of Montreal have its technical school or schools and on lines akin to those of our technical school? Who will answer satisfactorily?

Toronto has an architect who dares to do what he thinks right in the public interest, and I refer to the fact as an example worthy of general following not only by architects but others as well. At a recent meeting of the Property Committee of Toronto's City Council the following letter from Architect Lennox was read:

"There are several matters in connection with the new city buildings which I thought well to bring before your committee's notice, and I write in haste, only knowing to-day that your committee met this afternoon, and I wish to state what actions I have taken. In the first place, with regard to the complaint of the builders that they could not get Credit Valley stone for the buildings, I may say within three days after the builders were informed that I would not allow any change in material they sent the order for Credit Valley stone. I sent Mr. Hunter, clerk of works, last week to see the quarries, to inspect the same, and his report to me is that the quarries are now preparing to fill the contractors' orders, and in the course of the next ten days I expect to see the first shipment of stone. But what I wish to draw

your attention most particularly to is the following fact:—After the action of your committee in backing up my report not to allow Mr. Pigott to be associated in connection with the contract for the use of the buildings, Mr. Neelon, the contractor, called on me and made a statement that he would make other arrangements for carrying on the work; and that Mr. Pigott, as far as he was concerned, or any other person in connection with the contract, would have nothing to do with the works. After some further conversation with Mr. Neelon, he asked me the privilege to allow Mr. Pigott to remain on the works for a few days until he placed some machinery that he had taken in hand. I granted this privilege, with the understanding that Mr. Pigott would be removed off the premises, and not have any connection with the contract before or after the work started, and Mr. Neelon gave me his word that my wish would be gratified. It is now about a month since that time, and I did not see any reason for action until today. Yesterday I made an inspection of the works and was given to understand that work would be commenced to-day in a small way, and a few men have been started. But it is the class of men that are being put on that I object to. Mr. Neelon has not kept his word with me. Pigott still remains, and is giving orders on the work, and I find that this man Pigott is doing all he can to make things unpleasant. I find that he is bringing men from Hamilton to work on the buildings, while there are hundreds (if I may use the term) starving workmen of Toronto who have to walk the streets looking for work. This is a state of things I do not propose to stand. Pigott has done all he can to upset previous contracts and arrangements, and employ outside labor, and change the class of men that were previously employed on the works, and I look upon Pigott as an outsider on the works, and one whom I cannot tolerate. I have written to Mr. Neelon to-day requesting Pigott's removal, and if my orders are not complied with I will take such definite steps that I may consider necessary to expel Pigott from off the works. I will inform your committee of Mr. Neelon's intention with regard to this matter as soon as possible.

Ald. Atkinson said Mr. Neelon was a most honorable man and this trouble seemed most unaccountable. After a very short discussion the committee declared its determination to support the architect in carrying out the work for the best interests of the city.

Mr. Lennox said he had no power to prevent the employment of workmen from other cities, but he had power to order off the building any workmen who were not capable of doing good work, and this power he would use without flinching.

For the information of your readers it may not be amiss to explain further that the Pigott above referred to is a professional in his opposition and hostility to organized labor. It was to him was primarily and mainly due the trouble which led to the building of the Hamilton city hall some years ago being declared and was carried on as a "scab" job, and which action resulted in Mr. David E. Gibson and other union bricklayers in that city being arrested, tried, convicted of conspiracy, and if that gentleman and others were not incarcerated in jail for a period it was through no fault of this man Pigott.

It will be very pleasing to the many friends of Mr. David A. Carey, D. M. W. D.A. 125, K. of L. in this city and elsewhere to learn that, as a reward and acknowledgement of zeal, honesty, tact and unceasing effort, the International Society of the Emerald Beneficial Association, at its recent annual meeting in London, Ont., re-elected him as its president. There are some appreciated people in this world evidently.

The Master Builders' Association of Toronto are under written stipulations with organized labor in the building line as to hours of work and rates of wages. Times are dull and the former are trying to evade their written obligation. They have changed their official name to that of the Builders' Exchange and as such are attempting to show how dishonorable they can be. But it won't work at this time of day.

The weather in Toronto is beautiful but there is nothing, comparatively speaking, doing in the building line. Hundreds of men who have lived in this city for years are fleeing to the American Republic to seek the chance for a living which they could not secure in the Dominion. How could it be otherwise when they read, while stagnation and depression prevail in Canada, that according to the United States Bulletin, dated April, 1892, the average annual decrease in the national debt of that great country during the decade was \$100,000,000; the decrease per capita of combined national, state and local debt during the same period was \$60.73 to \$32.37, while other statistics show that the value of property assessed for taxation increased meanwhile from \$17,000,000,000 to \$25,500,000,000, or 50 per cent. indicating a reduction of public debt and increase of wealth for the country unprecedented at least in modern times.

In quoting these figures I suppose some croaker will cry out that I am decrying Canada, but facts are stubborn things, and even thoughtless enthusiasts are, sooner or later, forced to take into consideration.

As one strongly in sympathy with the men in British Columbia who are persistently fighting against the Chinese curse I read with interest and advantage the communication from Vancouver, signed G. B., your issue of last week. I do hope the Eastern labor organizations will "take hand" in the battle and that most prompt

URM