Local News.

[illegible] Hendricks will preach at St. [illegible] church Sunday next at half-[illegible]

[illegible] D. Smith, Toronto, has been [illegible] president of the Plas[illegible] International Union, which held a [illegible] at Boston last week.

[illegible] Association will hold an [illegible] next Tuesday at Wolsely [illegible] Interesting programme of readings, [illegible] All invited

[illegible] Lewis Cossins, of Local Union No. [illegible] of the Shoemakers International [illegible] has received authority from Pres[illegible] Rogers, of the A. F. of L., to [illegible] financial assistance for the locked [illegible] shoemakers of Rochester in their [illegible] battle with concentrated capital. [illegible] a cause in which all organized [illegible] deeply interested. Bro Cunningham's address is 15 Wood street, to [illegible] contributions may be sent.

[illegible] of the usual address and dis[illegible] at the weekly meeting of the Single Tax Association on Friday evening [illegible] was a literary, musical and artistic entertainment, entitled "An Evening With Tom Hood." The leading participants were Mr. Samuel Jones, Miss Cragg, Mr. Keith Smith, Mr. A. F. Chamberlain and Mr. A. E. Phillips. The presentation of Hood's whimsical and pathetic creations was greatly appreciated by the audience. A telegram from King[illegible] announcing that Father Huntington's meeting there had been highly successful was received with loud applause.

At the Assizes held here on the 15th inst. the case of Miss Barbara McClogherty, 622 Bloor street west, against the Gale Manufacturing Company was tried. Miss McClogherty was employed in the laundry department of the business, and while at work on the 18th of last June had her hair caught in a shaft. It was some time before the machinery could be stopped, and her hair had to be cut before she could be freed. She claimed that the shock has rendered her liable to paralysis, and demanded $2,000 compensation. The jury returned with a verdict giving her $624.

A similar suit, that of [illegible] against the Ontario Rolling Mills, was settled by the payment to the plaintiff of $600 and costs. This case was also the result of an accident which happened to the plaintiff while in the defendant's employ. He was working at a fly wheel, when, through a mistake, steam was turned on, and Douglas, being caught by the wheel, had his leg broken.

On Saturday afternoon, at 4 o'clock, Rev. Principal Grant, of Kingston, delivered a lecture at Trinity University in criticism of Henry George's "Progress and Poverty." There was a large attendance. Dr. Grant admitted that on first reading the book he was almost converted, but it had set him thinking and inquiring, and he had come to the conclusion that George was wrong from first to last. He contended that there was no truth in the premises of Mr. George that poverty was increasing in proportion to material progress and the accumulation of wealth. It was not true that rents generally were rising or wages falling. Mr. George's theory that commodities tended to increase in price, a continually larger share going to the land owner was equally unfounded. Some land owners in cities were wealthier than ever before, but so were other classes. For the community to take the value of land without compensation, as proposed, would be simply stealing. If this were done it would be specially injurious to the working people, who would be huddled into tenements to save the ground rent. The rich man who had only a small office would escape taxation, while poor men who required land for productive purposes would be heavily burdened. As to remedies, the speaker proposed taxing unimproved land at the same rate as improved land and exempting improvements. Society should not be considered as a mere collection of individuals, but as an organism which suffers by injury done to any member.

OPENINGS FOR AGENTS.

The Cosmopolitan Life and Casualty Associations of Toronto are seeking reliable agents. The public press is unanimous in its praises of the Cosmopolitan.

A wise man from Minneapolis has the latest and most ingenious thing in the nickel-in-the-slot machines on exhibition. It is a contrivance that "takes your picture for a nickel." In forty seconds it turns out a photograph on tin.—*New York Times.*

THE BRICKLAYERS.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF BRICKLAYERS AND MASONS INTERNATIONAL UNION

Entertainments—Measures in the Interest of Labor Before the U S Congress—The Convention Addressed by Mr. Samuel Gompers

PRESIDENT JOHN HEARTZ.

PRESIDENT JOHN HEARTZ is a resident of Denver, Col., and has been identified with Union No. 1 of that city since its inception having been chosen its treasurer for five times in succession. Mr. Heartz was born in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, on December 27th, 1856, and went to the States in his eighteenth year. Previous to settling in Colorado, he lived in California and other western States. Mr. Heartz was chosen vice president of the Bricklayers and Masons' International Union at the last annual convention, held in Kansas city, and on the death of the president, A. J. Macdonald, on November 22rd, succeeded to the presidency, which he has filled acceptably. Mr. Heartz is well fitted for the duties of a presiding officer, being a man of good judgment and decision of character.

VICE-PRESIDENT ANDREW McCORMACK.

Mr. McCormack is an ex-president of Bricklayers' Union No. 2, of this city, in which organization he has for many years taken an active part. He has held numerous representative positions in connection with the labor movement, having attended no fewer than seven conventions of the International Union. He is widely esteemed among his fellow-workers for his honesty of purpose, and the sturdy common sense which characterizes his course. Mr. McCormack was called to the vice-presidency of the International when Mr. Heartz became president, but on a previous occasion he filled the same office by election.

ENTERTAINING THE DELEGATES.

On Thursday evening, the 15th inst., the following delegates to the Bricklayers' and Masons' International Convention were dined at the residence of Mr. Andrew McCormack, 243 Spadina avenue: John Hearts, president, Denver, Col.; Thomas O'Dea, secretary, Cohoes, N.Y.; Patrick Murray, treasurer, Albany, N.Y.; Jeremiah Harrington, Boston, Mass.; John A. Ernst, New York city; Joseph Hourigan, Hoboken, N.J.; Michael Campion, Cleveland, Ohio; Alexander Darragh, St. Louis, Mo.; Joseph D. Smith, Trenton, N.J.; George R. Cushing, Salt Lake City, Utah; I. J. Marsh, Toronto, Ont., and William Wickham, Toronto, Ont.

THE BALL AND BANQUET.

On the evening of Monday, the 19th inst., the Bricklayers' Union No. 2, of Ontario, held a grand ball and banquet at Webb's in honor of the visiting delegates. There were about 500 present, including Mayor Clarke, Ald. Shaw, ex-Ald Yokes and 250 visiting delegates. The dancing programme consisted of twenty of the newest round and set dances, with music excellently rendered by Napolitano's orchestra. Refreshments were served on the ball-room floor throughout the evening, and at eleven o'clock the members and guests sat down to an elaborate dinner. Mayor Clarke made a brief speech, in which he welcomed to Toronto the delegates from other cities. Especially was he delighted to see before him so many strong and intelligent looking Americans. He hoped they would return to their own country, carrying with them the kindliest feelings of Canada's fellow-workmen in Ontario, and the Canadian people at large. After dinner, the company returned to the ball-room, which was beautifully decorated with evergreens and flags. The twenty-fifth annual ball and banquet was without doubt the most successful that the delegates had ever known. The officers of the reception committee were J. Alderson, chairman; William McGowan, treasurer, and J. B. Dixon, secretary.

TUESDAY'S SESSION.

The convention spent a large portion of Tuesday considering the eight-hours-a-day question. A copy of a resolution on the subject recently passed by the Federation of Labor was received and considered. The resolution asked the enactment by the convention of certain laws bills pending in the United States Congress. The bills provide that eight hours shall be a day's work on all government contracts, that prison labor shall not be utilized on Government work, that goods made by prison labor shall not be used in any Government departments, and that workmen shall receive ten hours pay for eight hours work on Government contracts. One of the bills is to make the alien labor law more effective. It fixes penalties for all who bring aliens to the United States under contracts, and makes it a misdemeanor to encourage aliens to come under contract to the country. It also empowers the Customs officials to investigate immigrants as to this matter, and imposes penalties for false replies. The convention passed a resolution endorsing the action of the Federation, formulating a letter announcing the same to Senator Blair, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Labor and Education.

President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, and President Duncan, of the Granite Cutters International Union, addressed the convention at some length, urging upon them the advantages of joining the Federation.

A committee was appointed to procure a suitable testimonial as a recognition of the kindness extended to the Union by local Union No 2

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PROFESSOR.

Editor LABOR ADVOCATE:

Poor Henry George! it is with feelings of sadness that I think of him, retiring into obscurity and weeping over a misspent life. He has been annihilated, crushed. But memory plucks me by the ear and reminds me that he has been smashed up and pulverized over a score of times, and it is often by the merest accident that he hears the news of the tragedies.

In this there is a ray of hope, but O! how faint, for this time the slaughter has been perpetrated by a professor, a real professor, and more than this the principal of a college located somewhere between Toronto and Montreal; "Queen's," I think, they call it. But let us glance at the Professor's plan of campaign. First, he proves (and when the Professor wants his own satisfaction) that the rich are not growing richer and the poor poorer, but that the reverse is true, and workers are receiving a larger proportion to share. This proof having no bearing whatever on Mr. George's scheme, grows somewhat wearying, when the proceedings are enlivened by one of the Professor's uninteresting essays of humor. He proceeds to prove that, through the operation of his distorted version of the law of wages, that although the individual results of labor increase with the growth of population, wages must fall. How a workman can produce increased results, receive less wages and obtain an increasing proportionate share, is, like the Sunday street cars, a question for superior minds. The mundane brains of a mechanic cannot comprehend its vastness. After his usual misconstruction of Malthus, the Professor proves what nobody has claimed that the present owners have paid for their land, and concludes that it would therefore be immoral to take it from them. All the while he seems perfectly innocent of having also proved that it would be immoral to liberate a slave, recover stolen goods from an innocent receiver, or release the victims of those nefarious purchasers exposed by Mr. Stead. Yet the Professor tells us that he has proved George's proposition to be immoral; and when he says so, that settles it, although history is mute regarding the event. I will not afflict the readers of the LABOR ADVOCATE with his proof that the George system would lead to the erection of permanent houses and the heavy taxation of market gardeners. We had it all from the Professor three years ago. His absurdities were then exposed in many newspapers throughout the Province, and it is passing strange that he reiterates them without any attempt to meet opposing arguments. But the Professor does not like argument.

"His ways are ways of pleasantness,
And all his paths are peace."

Can it be that the Professor's massive intellect has been affected by years of communion with dull-witted youths of the class that gives the police force of Toronto so much trouble? Come, Professor, brace up, get yourself together and discuss the question with somebody. Place—platform or press; grounds—morality or expediency.

S. T. Wood.

CHARLES BRADLAUGH has introduced a bill in the English Parliament which is meant to legally mitigate some of the evils of the exclusive ownership of vacant land. It proposes that if a Land Lord will not use his land it shall be subject to the disposal of the municipal authorities, the Land Lord to receive a yearly rental equal to the amount of the tax he pays on the vacant land. The municipal authorities are supposed to rent out this vacant land to actual workers. This bill goes in the right direction. Whether it passes or not (and of course it will not), it may call the attention of some persons to the fact that exclusive property in vacant land is the greatest of all evils. Its so plain that the cessation of property in vacant land is the solution of the land question that the wonder is that any sane person can fail to see it. There is really but one side to the question, and I am heartily glad that Mr Bradlaugh is moving in a direction that may bring it out on that side.—*Twentieth Century.*

Established 18[illegible] A. Fitzpatrick

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