

=The Echo=

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MONTREAL CENTRE.

In the columns of the Star the other evening a correspondent drew attention to an article which had previously appeared in that paper in reference to Mr. McShane's dual position as Mayor of Montreal and member of the Legislature, which contended that it was incompatible with a proper attention to the duties of each that the two offices should be held by one and the same person. The correspondent, not unreasonably, takes up the argument and applies it to Ald. Kennedy, but the Star fails to appreciate this boomerang, and summarily disposes of the matter by pointing out that there is a yawning gulf between the mayor and a common alderman and that the duties of the one are not to be contrasted with those of the other. We are prepared to admit, ordinarily, there might be distinction; but in the present case, if Ald. Kennedy faithfully looks after the interests of the ward he represents, attends regularly the Council meetings and sittings of committees of which he is a member and holds proper supervision over the fat Government contract of which he apparently has a monopoly, he has very little time to spare for legislative duties at Quebec. On this portion of the Star's defence, however, we have nothing further to say. What we wish to get at is the position it takes in regard to the labor candidate and the present attitude of the labor party, for it does now concede that there is a labor party, although it ignores its right to enter into this political contest. At the same time, it would have its readers believe, when such is not the case, that the labor party came upon the ground at the eleventh hour to confuse the straight issue as between convicted boodlers and those who pretend to inaugurate an era of honest government. Long before Mr. Kennedy received the Conservative nomination, the Trades and Labor Council had placed Mr. Boudreau—who, it was well known, was prepared to give the De Boucherville Government a fair trial—in the field; and if that gentleman had received the moral support of the Conservatives, to which he was certainly entitled, as in the case of Mr. Parizeau, we have no hesitation in saying that McShane would have been beaten off hand. As it is, with the three candidates in the fight, the result is very uncertain; but the chances are it will be to the regret of all men in sympathy with honest government. The only solution to the triangular problem is this: Let the Conservative party take away the props from under

the figurehead they have set up before the intelligent electors of Montreal Centre, rally to the assistance of the candidate, and success is assured. Whatever the result, at all events we believe it will be such as to show those who pose as leaders of the people that organized workingmen must in future be recognized as a factor in the politics of this province. Hitherto workingmen have never been consulted or had any voice in the selection of a candidate, and it must be apparent, even to the bitterest partisan, that this state of things cannot forever continue. Workingmen are beginning to read and to think; they are hungering for things now beyond their reach, and political leaders will act wisely by taking them into confidence. The case stands thus: Mr. Boudreau was unanimously nominated by the representatives of nearly every branch of organized labor in the city and has, besides, the support and sympathy of the majority of unorganized men; he is one of ourselves and an intelligent and progressive young man. Ald. Kennedy is the nominee of a party organization which does not number in its ranks a baker's dozen of bona fide workingmen, and those who so nominated him readily admit that he is totally unfitted for the position. Mayor McShane was nominated by himself and is running as the apologist and defender of boodlers, depending on his popularity and powers of blarney for success. Workingmen, which of the three will you have?

ELECTION NOTES.

If workingmen have never spoken clearly before it is their bounden duty to let themselves be heard unmistakably now. The assertion is boldly made by friends of the party candidates in Montreal Centre that the workingmen of the division can be bought—that they will vote with those who have the most money; but, if we are not mistaken, the intelligent workingmen of the division will fling back into the faces of those who make it the base calumny. They will prove by their ballots on the 8th of March that they refuse to sell their birthright and are worthy of the fullest political freedom. They will not give their enemies the further opportunity to say they carry their votes in their pocket book. It is true there have been, and always will be in the ranks of labor, creatures who, at the loss of self-respect, seek to curry favor with wealthy politicians; these sycophants are devoid of principle, and would as soon go with one party as with the other. Instances of this kind have unfortunately cropped up during the present campaign. There are some who, either from self-interest or disappointed ambition, have proved traitors to the cause which they formerly advocated and to the army to which they loudly protested they had the honor to belong, by working for party candidates. In course of time this renegadeism will recoil upon themselves, when those for whom they are now working turn round and laugh, and they lose the confidence of those with whom they formerly associated.

* * *

There is a conspiracy of silence on the part of the party organs in this city, imitated even by the self-styled "independent" journal, in all that relates to the labor candidate. They imagine by thus ignoring the candidature of Mr. Boudreau to lead the electors to believe that it is not to be taken as serious, and that he will retire before nomination day, but in this view they are very much mistaken. Nothing was ever more seriously meant, and nothing will more surely be carried out to the bitter end. These papers print columns of abuse of one party candidate and columns of speeches (manufactured in the editorial sanctum) said to have been delivered by the other, but they can find no room, except perhaps in an occasional five-line paragraph, to

record the addresses which have been delivered by the labor candidate and editorially ignore altogether his appearance in the field. By following out this course the Conservative organ confesses the weakness, unpopularity and unfitness of its candidate; it is afraid of a contrast between the two, as a comparison would not be flattering to Ald. Kennedy. The silence of the "independent" journal is only another sample of the unbiased position it takes on all public questions, and in the present instance it is afraid to give utterance to the true reason why it refuses to recognize Mr. Boudreau as a candidate, although it is evidently not very much in love with Mr. Kennedy. The vote on the 8th of March will demonstrate whether the electors can be hoodwinked in this way.

* * *

The labor candidate in St. Mary's has had several very successful meetings lately, and his candidature is daily growing in favor among the English-speaking electors of that division. It is well known that he holds first place among his own countrymen, so that he is safe to be returned by a large majority. While his friends have this confidence, they are none the less active in his behalf, determined not to leave anything to chance.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

There is trouble reported brewing among the conductors and brakemen on the Canadian Pacific Railway at Winnipeg. They demand the same standard of rates in force in the Western States, which would materially increase the wages now paid. The Company, it is said, have had the matter under consideration for some time.

* * *

The proposal to grant free water to the Section of Applied Science of McGill University comes with a bad grace at the present time when so many poor citizens are clamoring for a more equitable distribution of the rates and contemptuously refused. McGill is a wealthy corporation, and that section in particular has been handsomely endowed, while those who take advantage of its educational facilities generally belong to the monied class and are well able to pay fees high enough to cover the consumption of water without begging from the Corporation and robbing the civic treasury. It is clearly the duty of the City Council, under the circumstances, to firmly negative the proposal unless they can see their way to yield to the just demands of the citizens for a substantial reduction on the present rates to tenement houses.

A DOUBLE-BARRELLED ARGUMENT.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

The Montreal Daily Star, commenting upon the contest in the Centre Division recently, advanced the argument that it was impossible for a man to perform the duties of mayor and be a member of the Local legislature, whereupon one of its correspondents naively remarks that the argument applies with equal force against Ald. Kennedy as well as Mayor McShane, and on these grounds asks his readers to support Mr. Boudreau. Now, since the Star has fairly got off on the Kennedy side of the fence, this argument comes back somewhat like a boomerang upon the man who started it. It was good logic, according to the Star, when applied to Mr. McShane, but it is lame and limping according to that same oracle when brought forward in defence of the nomination of the labor candidate in Montreal Centre or in opposition to the candidature of Ald. Kennedy. Yet we believe the argument is as sound and logical to-day as what it was when the editor of the Star first got hold of it. If the Star is anything, it is consistently inconsistent. In criticising the ac-

tion of organized labor in placing Mr. Boudreau in the field, it delivers itself in this characteristic manner: "Now, the labor party has its work to do and, in ordinary political fights, has its own great place. But surely it can have no higher work to do than to secure the honest administration of the people's money, and that is the great issue between the two political parties in this contest." Just so. The labor party has its work to do, and if we know anything about it, is doing it pretty effectively just now, although perhaps, not exactly to the liking of our contemporary or its protegee, the "People's Pat." Labor has also found its just place, the hustings, and it will be found there in the future both in ordinary and extraordinary political fights, and its highest aim is certainly to secure honest government. But the Star has its misgivings that labor, if left to itself, will miss its mark of purifying politics, and winds up by giving it the fatherly advice of electing a straight De Bouchervilleite as the best means to that end. Now, either the Star is crassly ignorant of the primary cause of political corruption or else it is most hypocritical in its advice to labor and in its professed desire to purify politics, or both. It must be patent to the most superficial observer that the practice of electing out-and-out party men, as advocated by the Star, has been the most fruitful source of bribery and corruption both at Quebec and Ottawa. It has created that partizanship which during the past has sacrificed the interests of the people to those of the party and thereby brought this province to the verge of bankruptcy. To replace one party man by a willing and pliable tool of the opposing party would under the circumstances be labor wasted. What the honest men of both parties must do in Montreal Centre to secure honest government is to vote for the candidate who is absolutely independent of both.

A PERFECT ARTICLE!

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