

# THE ECHO.

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## MEETINGS.

### CENTRAL TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL OF MONTREAL.

L. Z. BOUDREAU, . . . . . PRESIDENT  
R. KEYS, . . . . . VICE-PRESIDENT  
P. J. RYAN, . . . . . ENGLISH REC. SECRETARY  
A. DEGUIRE, . . . . . FRENCH REC. SECRETARY  
V. DUBREUIL, . . . . . FINANCIAL SECRETARY  
P. C. CHATEL, . . . . . COR. SECRETARY  
JOS. CORBELL, . . . . . TREASURER  
J. A. RENAUD, . . . . . SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

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. 7628.  
Rooms K, of L. Hall, 662 1/2 Craig street. Next meeting Sunday, May 15, at 2.30. Address all correspondence to J. WARREN, Rec. Sec., 29 Basin Street.

### 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. 3862, 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 7 o'clock.

### LEGAL CARDS.

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## TORONTO NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

TORONTO, May 11, 1892.

In my letter of last week I referred in a few words to the fact that Mr. Phillips Thompson, who was a candidate at the recent bye-elections in this city as a "Labor Reformer," was very much annoyed and bitter of temper because of the very insignificant figure he cut after the polls closed. On Saturday morning, (the day after the election) the World made the announcement that, on being interviewed at the close of the contest, Mr. Thompson said:

"I am not at all disappointed at the result. We never for a moment supposed there was a possibility of winning the election. We had expected a somewhat larger vote, but the wholesale disfranchisement of citizens under the so-called 'Manhood Suffrage' Act disarranged all calculations. Our relative vote as compared to that of the other candidates comes fully up to our expectations.

"We went into the fight at the last minute simply in order to give Labor Reformers some one to vote for, as a protest against plutocratic party machine work. We had no money, no organization and no newspaper organ. Our total expenditure during the campaign has been less than \$75.

"The educational work of the campaign in bringing the principles of Labor Reform before the people has been amply worth all it has cost us in time and means. We are in the field to stay and intend that the Labor Reform Committee shall be the nucleus of an organization for political work in future contests. We now know who can be depended on, who are our friends and who are our opponents.

"The difficulty in Labor Reform campaigns hitherto has been that the leading men in the organizations have been identified with one or other of the political parties. This has prevented harmony in our ranks and sown the seeds of mutual suspicion and distrust. The campaign just closed has been remarkably free from anything of this kind. Those who took a leading part in the work had never been identified with party politics, and everything went smoothly. The days when men usually and habitually acted with the Grit or Tory parties can dictate the labor political movement are passed. We must keep free from party entanglements. The people will not believe in the sincerity and single-mindedness of the men who pose at one election as Tory or Grit heeled and the next as Labor Reformers.

"We have been told again and again that it is no use, because 'workmen won't stick together.' I for one never expected them to—that is as workmen merely. But every workman isn't a Labor Reformer by long odds. Labor Reformers do stick together. Ours is not merely a workman's party; it is on a much broader basis than that. Our aims are to bring about social reconstruction, not to stop at mere palliatives. Some people think the term 'labor reform' unfortunate; it is difficult to find a phrase that comprehends the idea without at the same time conveying a wrong impression.

"I must thank the press, and especially The World, for the fair, even generous, treatment accorded me during the short campaign."

All the "peculiar" judges are not in the Province of Quebec. We have one or more in the Province of Ontario also. How strikingly it affects the character of a man in any place of life—how he suffers in a person's estimation when he dogmatically essays to speak as an authority, and thus intimating that he is well versed as to the various phases of the subject he passes upon, when it becomes most evident to the most common-place of his hearers that he does not really understand what he is talking about. And this is much more the case when the character of a high court judge is at stake. To avoid "contempt of court" and consequent punishment, I must say I only pity the judge I am about to speak of. At the recent assizes in this city Judge Falconbridge presided. Among the cases which came before him was that of the City Engineer vs. a certain city alderman for libel. In dealing with this case his honor (can there be "honor" in prejudice, ignorance or untruthfulness?) took occasion to add that "there is a singular by-law of the City of Toronto by which the minimum rate of wages to be given a workman is fixed at 15 cents an hour, without reference to his capacity for work." In making the statement just quoted this judge must, or at least should, have known that he misquoted and misstated the fact. If this be true, he cannot clear himself of unpardonable prejudice, to say the least of it. If he did not know, then he made a judicial statement from his place on the bench without having taken the trouble to assure himself that his premises were unassailable as to fact. Under either phase his position is not creditable as a judge on

the bench. As a matter of fact there is no by-law, singular or otherwise, of the City of Toronto of the character or in the words used by him. This may be "news" to the "learned" judge, but it is true nevertheless. The fact is, however, that a committee of the City Council recommended that a minimum rate of wages of 15 cents per hour be paid on all city work, whether such work be by contract or by the city itself. The Council adopted this report, and its purport in this particular has prevailed up to date. But even if a by-law did exist in the words of the judge, he should have realized, if not blinded by a prejudice congenial to his own personal views, that the existence therein of the word "minimum" precluded the assumption of a "uniform" rate of wages, and that there was no limit as to a maximum rate or a grading upwards where extra ability of any kind justified such a step. I know it is rank heresy in the minds of some people to dare question a judge in any particular, but I can't help it—I'm made that way.

I observe that Abbe Dugas is credited with a letter in reference to the exodus of French-Canadians to the United States. In this letter he says "it is useless to deceive ourselves. We may boast as much as we wish of the prosperity of Canada, but the truth is that the tide of emigration towards the United States has never been so great as at the present moment." His trite and true remarks apply not alone to French Canadians, but to wage earners generally throughout the whole of Canada as well. So great is the depression in this city of Toronto that a large labor organization therein lately voted several hundred dollars to defray the travelling expenses of a large number to enable them to seek employment elsewhere, and mainly in the neighboring Republic. Labor organizations will heartily concur in the conclusions of the rev. Abbe, when he very logically remarks that Europeans must find it very strange if our Northwest is really what it is claimed to be that Canadians flock to the United States, and that while agents are sent abroad to secure immigrants, nothing is done to keep a good class of settlers at home. This is certainly of a nature to raise doubts in the minds of foreigners as to the truth of all that is said concerning our Northwest.

At last Friday evening's meeting of the Trades and Labor Council, other routine business having been disposed of, as The News reports the proceedings, Secretary Cribben read a letter from the Secretary of the Trades and Labor Council of Vancouver, B. C., decrying the manner in which that place is being boomed as an Eldorado. A large percentage of men there were unemployed and had no immediate prospect of finding employment. It was asked that publicity be given to the statement.

A number of copies of the petition now being circulated in British Columbia against the allowance of Chinese immigration were received. Upon the motion of Delegate O'Donoghue it was resolved that the petition be signed by the president and secretary of the Council and that the official seal be attached thereto and forwarded for presentation to the House of Commons.

Speaking on his motion, Mr. O'Donoghue drew a striking picture of the results inevitable from the continued influx of almond-eyed Celestials. He believed in the total exclusion of them and pressed upon delegates to aid in the circulation of the petition.

Delegate J. Francis did not agree with the views of Delegate O'Donoghue, and thought the laws of the Dominion should be changed so that efforts could be made to assimilate and Christianize the pig-tailed Asiatics.

Delegate Watson and others having agreed with Delegate O'Donoghue, Delegate Francis was alone in his view and the motion was concurred in.

There was no report from the Legislative Committee (in fact this committee has made but two reports since its election last January.) Delegate Watson said this state of affairs was due to the fact that the chairman having resigned, the secretary had failed to summon a meeting. This admission called forth a reproach from the president and Delegate Watson promised a report for the next meeting.

Delegate R. Glocking, of the Municipal Committee, also reported. He announced, in terms of indignation, that the committee had a lengthy and valuable report concurred in, but that, at the last moment, Secretary John Armstrong notified them that because he had a friend from Quebec in his room as a guest he could not be present, and hence no report was on hand to

present. He reported verbally, however, and in that report the Police Court clerk came in for a mild measure of abuse from the fact that a man who had applied for a summons for a man who owed him wages was told to come back in a week. Upon returning it was found that it was too late to have recourse in the Police Court. As a parting shot Mr. Glocking remarked that for general incompetency the City Council for 1892 was certainly the equal of any previous Council.

Delegate A. Couter presented a valuable report from the Educational Committee, in which it was hoped that the newly-appointed truant officers would keep their eyes on the large stores in which so many young children were employed. The stand made by Ald. Orr in defending the management of the Technical School Board from the attacks of S. G. Curry was highly commended. The action of the City Council in cutting off supplies asked by the School Board for free books was strongly condemned.

Speaking to this report gave Delegate O'Donoghue opportunity to say in respect of City Council proceedings generally that "it depends altogether upon who you are, what you are, and how you move socially in the matter of economy at the City Hall."

After a lot of talk about amalgamating two departments and discharging a few poor devils who got bare living wages they found another place for the head of one of the departments because, forsooth, he had served the city faithfully, although no such argument was ever used in dealing with some or any poor man who worked for any number of years as a laborer in the city service, as an argument why he should get another job." As a representative of the T. Council on the Technical School Board Delegate O'Donoghue replied to a recent statement of Mr. A. G. Curry, of the same board who, while before the Executive Committee of the City Council as a member of the Ontario Artists' Association claiming aid from the city, took upon himself to say that the business of the Technical School was mismanaged and extravagant, and that he knew whereof he spoke. Mr. O'Donoghue said that as a member of the Technical School Board Mr. Curry agreed with every item of expenditure which the board had made. There was one exception; Mr. Curry had wished to obtain an engineer and caretaker for the magnificent salary of \$30 a month, but \$50 was decided upon. To offset the unfounded assertion of Mr. Curry, representing the Architects' Guild on the Technical School Board Mr. O'Donoghue presented the following details of the receipts and expenditure of that Board to date:

RECEIPTS.	
By cash in Imperial Bank by City Treasurer	\$1,628.50
Grant from City Council	6,000.00
Cash from sale of school supplies	44.17
	\$7,667.67

EXPENDITURE.	
Advertising, printing prospectus, &c	146.30
Office supplies for teachers and board	33.47
Sundries	10.41
Fuel, light and heat	165.94
School supplies, chemicals and chemical and electrical apparatus	325.21
Rent	300.00
School Board room and office furniture	505.82
Salaries of teachers and officials	1,640.49
Balance on hand	4,640.03
	\$7,667.67

This gratifying state of affairs existed in spite of the fact that 299 scholars were on the rolls, instead of the 150 anticipated.

Delegate Glocking then made an informal report of progress in the matter of preparing for the great labor demonstration which is to be held at the Exhibition grounds next September, after which the Council adjourned.

In the early part of the week the Executive Committee of our City Council, in an excessive fit of economy and by a large majority, struck out of the estimates of Public Schools expenditure for the present year the sum therein for free school books, despite that the electorate last January by an overwhelming vote at the polls declared in favor of the free text books. Well our T. & L. Council may be sneered at times and its work go unappreciated by those most immediately interested but its utterances are taken note of sometimes. At its meeting on last Friday evening several delegates in discussing the report of the Educational Committee spoke out in very plain Anglo-Saxon English their condemnation of the conduct of the majority of the city's Executive in this particular, and

since then members of the T. & L. Council have not been idle in the matter, and they were able and without trouble to point out where judicious economy could be exercised, and the saving turned to providing the free school books. The result of their efforts to secure the \$5,000 will indicate itself somewhere further down in my remarks. The City Council held a special meeting on Tuesday evening of this week for the purpose of dealing finally with the estimates and to fix the rate for this year. The report of the proceedings in the News of next day said that after a good deal of discussion the estimates were passed in committee of the whole by 12 to 5, several of the members not taking the trouble to vote. Then the fight commenced when their adoption was recommended to the Council. Amendment after amendment poured in. Ald. Gowanlock wanted more money for the Waterworks Department, Ald. Graham for the Health, Ald. Orr \$28,000 for Queen's park, Ald. Stewart \$5,000 for clocks, and so on. But all were defeated but two.

Ald. Shaw—I beg to move, Mr. Mayor, that the old flag be printed on the front page of the estimates.

The Mayor—Ald. Bell will second that.

Ald. Bell (who had not heard the resolution)—What's that, Mr. Mayor?

The Mayor—Ald. Shaw, seconded by Ald. Bell, moves that the old flag be printed on the front page of the estimates.

Ald. Bell—That's all right; let it go.  
Chorus—Carried.

The only other successful amendment was one granting \$5,000 to the School Board for free text books. The treasurer said he could find that money without raising the rate, and it was granted, only five members dissenting. Then Ald. Wm. Carlyle and Ald. Hallam wanted to change their nay votes to yea, and the change was made.

The Mayor—Ald. Saunders, do you want to change your vote, too?

Ald. Saunders—No, sir; I was told this morning that any alderman who voted against this grant would never get back in the Council again, and I would vote against it if for no other reason.

After the previous question had been twice moved to shut off hopeless amendments it carried, and the estimates passed on a vote of 12 to 8.

URIM.

### Christopher Columbus' Early Home

In Genoa, Italy, there still stands to this day, on one of the narrow, crowded streets, the house in which Christopher Columbus passed his boyhood days. An effort was made to secure the building and bring it to Chicago for exhibition at the Columbian Exposition, but the Genoese still retain a great admiration for Columbus and his achievements and refused to permit its removal. They will themselves celebrate this year the great explorer's successful voyage, when all things belonging to him and his time will be on exhibition.

Columbus, during his boyhood and early manhood, gave no greater promise than many of his companions and associates of being the one to open to the world new continents, and prove to the men of science that their theories were false. In fact, the very theories that in after life he proved to be correct, by his successful explorations, made him the subject of ridicule. There were only a few who looked upon them with any favor whatever. Yet, through all the ridicule, disbelief and continued discouragements, he held steadfastly to his purpose of some day giving them incontrovertible evidence that he alone was right.

He asked the aid of kings and noblemen to further his proposed voyage, but met with refusals upon every hand, until finally, appealing to the Spanish Government, he gained the support of the beautiful Queen Isabella. She was advised against the undertaking by her counselors, and confronted with an empty treasury, but against all opposition she undertook the expedition, and was ready to pawn her royal jewels to provide the necessary money. The scene in the royal court of Spain, when the Queen offers her jewels and they are brought forth and placed upon the table before her, Columbus standing by, realizing that at last he had the means and support he had so long striven for, is the subject of a beautiful picture.

A detachment of the Salvation Army sent to Waterloo, Ont., on Thursday met with rather rough treatment. The soldiers were pelted with stale eggs and the big drum and other instruments smashed.

The Czar has signed a ukase permitting the exportation of oats and corn.