

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by the Boarders.

"The Knights of Labor of Nebraska don't make a great deal of noise," said Brown, "but they are doing a good deal of work in a quiet way. They have just succeeded in having a ballot act passed, and have every chance of making eight hours a legal day's work for all laborers excepting those of farm and household. The maximum freight bill, the bill guaranteeing labor organizations the right to use labels or trade marks, another one, making it a misdemeanor for employers to refuse their employees time to attend the polls; a bill requiring prison-made goods to be stamped and a bill prohibiting the importation of Pinkerton thugs have all become law. Just now a single tax bill, a bill fixing tolls at stockyards, and one prohibiting passes to be issued to office-holders occupy their whole attention. When you consider that the maximum freight bill was passed by the Senate after a deadlock of seventy-two hours, and passed in opposition to the railway companies with unlimited money at their back, there is every chance that the other three labor bills will also become law. But whether they do or not, the men of Nebraska have accomplished more in one single session of their Legislature than we have in a dozen."

"There's no doubt about that," said Phil. But those men don't do as we do—they don't elect party men to office and then humbly petition them to do this or that—they elect party men to stop at home, but send their own men to the capital to make laws such as they demand, and that explains their success."

"Had the Knights and Farmers of Nebraska heeded the hypocritical advice of the capitalistic press and sycophantic time-servers," said Gaskill, "and not gone into politics, they, like us, would still be petitioning, but they didn't, and the consequence is they are now 'enacting.' If labor organizations are content to confine themselves to constitutional means why don't they go and take what they want by due process of law—by the ballot. They must know that nothing can be gained from the old political parties; then why not form an independent party and show politicians that you are in earnest. Or, if organized labor in this Province really wishes to accomplish something without going into politics—buy Winchesters and use them—I really see nothing else for it. I do not believe in a 'force' policy, but neither do I believe in the policy or want of policy under which we work at present, and which leaves half of us in one political camp, while the other half is in the other; and all for the want of an independent ticket."

"The workmen of Montreal have shown, on more than one occasion" said Stevens, "that where a straight labor candidate is in the field they will loyally support him, but where this is not the case they will never act unitedly in support of any political party. As far as legislative results are concerned this would be immaterial because I am convinced that none of the old political parties will adopt Labor's platform, but the fact of men finding themselves in opposing camps creates friction between members and is a danger to unionism which should not be underestimated. Let us build a platform on which all organized labor can stand and let us fight for every seat at every election. Give unionists a chance to vote on principle and they will enthusiastically do so. This cry of 'don't touch politics' is like telling a man not to go into the water until he can swim, and knowing at the same time that his very existence will depend upon his ability to swim."

"At the last session of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress," said Brown, "a motion was passed 'that

the resolutions of this Congress are its political platform.' Let the various organizations affiliated with that body now demand that these resolutions be boiled down and formulated into a platform which organized labor throughout the Dominion would support. Let that Congress be the executive of this new political party as far as the collection of funds and the direction of a campaign in general is concerned, and no other party candidate or nominee should, under any circumstances receive the endorsement of organized labor. This, I think, would fill the bill."

BILL BLADES.

EDUCATE

ORGANIZE AND UNITE.

(Written for the Echo by Cyrille Horsicot.)

With all its drawbacks, and horrors, and shortcomings, the great epoch of the French revolution, now but a century gone, is about to repeat itself in the United States. Liberty, equal rights and fraternity embody the aspiration of every workingman in the world to-day. It remains to the intelligent workingmen to re-establish the republic in that country—not the republic of millionaires and tramps. What was done in 1776 must be done over again.

It is the duty of every upright and judicious American to get rid of the unwholesome gang of buccaneers who transformed their free country into an oligarchical haunt in order to satisfy their cupidity, to the detriment of the masses. What they need is another Washington to free their country from the clutches of these vultures, and a new Lincoln to redeem the white slaves from the yoke of the soulless monopolists. There are many things in this world which we do not approve, but which we nevertheless admit as fact. A revolution is undoubtedly before us, every fair-minded person foresees that and never ceases to warn the abettors of the evil, but to no purpose. Whether it shall be a bloodless one, or be marked with all the horrors of the French revolution remains to be seen. It may work its ends peacefully through the ballot box, as it ought to do. One of the means to this end will be the election of upright and practical men in the legislatures, mayoralty and, above all to the bench. If an appeal to the ballot box is ineffectual; if every important demand of labor continues to be refused; if Pinkerton's thugs are let loose upon the workingmen in every country to fasten crimes upon them of which they are not guilty, and to shoot them down in cold blood; if capitalists combine in extensive lock-outs to starve and freeze their employees into a debasing submission, if labor is insulted, and degraded, and robbed in the future as it has been in the past, then let capital beware, for it will have pronounced its own doom. The horrors of the French revolution, as manifold and terrible as they were, did not exceed the atrocious wrongs suffered for centuries by the peasantry and bourgeoisie of France from the hand of that inhuman, cruel and unchristian barbarians who concealed their crime behind the screen of titled names. Probably no less an atonement would have sufficed and brought about a condition in which it was possible for personal and political liberty to take root and grow in that country.

May the eyes of the oppressors of labor be opened, and their hearts be touched in time to avert such dreadful calamity on this continent and undergo the same fate of the arrogant nobility of Europe before which they flatter themselves when they take a pleasure trip across this free country.

Our rare philanthropists speak as prophets telling what they foresee—not what they desire to take place. We repeat with them "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity" amongst the true children of the creation. That

alone can embody the aspirations of every honest workingman in the world to-day. There is nothing seditious in that. That is not the utterance of anarchy, though it may be revolutionary in sentiment. What was done in 1776 in the United States and in 1789 in France must be done over again everywhere. That is not treason, but divine and human justice. If the acts of that time are to be commended, then the same acts something more than a century later cannot be condemned. Our great need is education, organization and a labor press of our own. Without these powerful auxiliaries we are condemned to remain the playthings of our extortioners until doomsday.

MONTREAL NEWS.

A public meeting of coal handlers is called for to-morrow (Sunday) in the Weber Hall, St. James street, at 2.30 p.m., to take into consideration matters of the greatest importance to members of that calling. A full attendance is requested.

Printing Pressmen's Union, No. 52, of this city has elected the following officers for the ensuing year: N. Stephens, president; George Owen, vice-president; Albert Abson, recording and corresponding secretary; Thos. Bell, financial secretary; John Clendinneng, treasurer; Arthur Took, sergeant-at-arms.

Montreal Typographical Union, No. 176, has elected the following officers for the ensuing year: C. J. Maguire, president; T. J. Finn, jun., vice-president; David Smith, financial secretary; John Taylor, corresponding and recording secretary; L. Z. Boudreau, treasurer; James Freels, sergeant-at-arms. The executive committee is composed of James Wilson, C. W. Gorman, W. J. Murphy, John Beckingham; board of directors: J. P. Kavanagh, James McIntyre and J. O'Connell; delegates to Central Trades and Labor Council: L. Z. Boudreau, C. J. Maguire and J. P. Moncel.

A company has been formed in this city which will at once commence the erection of large rolling mills for the manufacture of brass and copper wire, rods and other goods. Mr. C. F. Sise, of the Bell Telephone Company, is at the head of the company, which includes some of the largest consumers of brass and copper in Canada. Some American capitalists are also interested in the company, which will supply all points in Canada. The company will also manufacture brass and copper sheets, none of which are now produced in Canada. Lake Superior ingots will be used exclusively in the class of goods the company proposes to turn out. The works are expected to be completed this summer.

The bricklayers of Montreal have elected the following officers for the year 1891: Zotique Brien, president; Joseph Bleau, first vice-president; Calixte Valin, second vice-president; Jean Goyette, recording secretary; Joseph Corbeil, treasurer; Pierre Deguise, collecting treasurer; Joseph Royal, assistant collecting treasurer; Benjamin Bleau, marshal; Joseph Deschatelets, Philias Nadeau, Ovilia Chamberland, auditors. The union has also elected three delegates to represent them at the Central Trades and Labor Council.

The annual concert and ball of the Crescent Baseball Club took place last night in their Assembly Rooms, Panet street. There was a large attendance at the concert, and the various performers acquitted themselves to the satisfaction of all present. The dance which followed was well patronized by the youth and beauty of the East End, who tripped the light fantastic till an early hour this morning. The success of the affair is greatly due to the efforts of the committee of arrangements:—Messrs. E. R. Fordham, E. M. Mitchell, Patrick Phelan, James Murray and Humphrey Kearns.

There was a shove on the river at one o'clock yesterday. It had been expected and hundreds of people lined the dyke and enjoyed the scene. Just as the hands of the Harbor Commissioners clock pointed to the small hour the gauge, which registered 30 feet 9 inches, was seen to rise, and in five minutes it had risen to 32 feet 1 inch. There it remained stationary for a few minutes. The view of the river from the tower of the Harbor Commissioners' building was splendid. The centre of the river from Nuns' Island to Hochelaga was one moving mass of broken fragments of ice, which passed down at the rate of two miles an hour. It kept moving for fully half an hour, finally settling itself when it came to the Hudson Cotton Company's factory. There it piled up and jammed. When the ice stopped moving the water began to rise again, and at two o'clock had reached 32 feet 8 inches—exactly the same height as the highest point attained this year. It continued to rise steadily, and at 2.30 stood at 33 feet 5 inches, and was still going up.

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