

THE ECHO.

A JOURNAL FOR THE PROGRESSIVE WORKMAN, AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

Vol. 1.—No. 26.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1891.

SINGLE COPIES—THREE CENTS
ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR

LEGAL CARDS.

Mon. J. A. Chapleau, Q.C., M.P.
Armand D. Nicolls.

John S. Hall, Jr., Q.C., M.P.P.
Albert J. Brown.

Chapleau, Hall, Nicolls & Brown,
ADVOCATES,
Barristers, Commissioners, &c.,
TEMPLE BUILDING,
No. 185 St. James Street, Montreal.
Bell Telephone No. 42. P.O. Box 296.

Hon. H. MERRITT, M.P.P. C. BEAUSOLEIL, M.P.
F. X. CHOQUET, B.C.L. P. G. MARTINEAU, B.C.L.

MERCIER, BEAUSOLEIL, CHOQUET & MARTINEAU,
ADVOCATES,
No. 76 ST. JAMES STREET,
MONTREAL.

DOHERTY & DOHERTY,
ADVOCATES,
BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, &c.,
Savings Bank Chambers,
180 ST. JAMES ST., MONTREAL.
T. J. DOHERTY. | CHAS. J. DOHERTY, Q.C.

CARTER & GOLDSTEIN,
ADVOCATES,
Barristers, Commissioners, &c.,
115 St. Francois Xavier St.,
MONTREAL.

CHRISTOPHER B. CARTER, MAXWELL GOLDSTEIN,
Q.C., B.C.L. B.C.L.

P. E. NORMANDEAU
NOTARY PUBLIC,
Commissioner & Justice of the Peace
for District of Montreal,
Conveyancer & Commissioner for Ontario & Manitoba.
LOANS NEGOTIATED.
90 St. James St. Montreal, Que.

TUCKER & CULLEN,
ADVOCATES &c.,
Room 6. 162 St. James street,
MONTREAL.

BUSINESS CARDS.

B. E. MCGALE,
Pharmaceutical and Dispensing
Chemist.
2123 NOTRE DAME STREET,
MONTREAL.
Sunday Attendance—From 1 to 2 p.m.
to 6 p.m.; 8.30 to 9.30 p.m.

LAVIOLETTE & NELSON,
DISPENSING CHEMISTS,
Corner of Notre Dame and St. Gabriel Streets,
MONTREAL.

TRY
TAMARAC SYRUP
For Coughs and Colds.
25c a Bottle.
Dr. GUSTAVE DEMERS,
2193 NOTRE DAME ST., MONTREAL.

LORGE & CO.,
Hatters and Furriers
21 St. Lawrence Main Street,
MONTREAL.

E. HALLEY,
PLAIN AND ORNAMENTAL
PLASTERER.
Plastering repairs a specialty.
Tenders on Contract Work given.
Address: 16 Victoria Square.
47 Cadieux Street.

J. TIGH & CO.,
AUCTIONEERS AND COMMISSION
MERCHANTS.

Always on hand a Complete Stock of New and Second-Hand Household Furniture.
Particular attention paid to Auction Sales at Private Residences. Advances made on General Merchandise and returns promptly rendered.
Auction Sales every TUESDAY and FRIDAY at ten o'clock a.m. and two p.m., at our rooms, 205 St. James street, near Victoria square.
J. TIGH & CO., Auctioneers.

COAL IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The Early Prejudices Against the Introduction of the Fuel.

It is generally asserted that in the year 1234 Henry III granted a charter to the freemen of Newcastle-on-Tyne "to dig stanes and coal" in the common soil without the walls of the town. But it is proved beyond doubt, after recent and careful investigation, that this statement, must be regarded as a historical fiction. It was not until the reign of Edward III, and in the year 1350, that the townsmen of Newcastle received such a privilege. Between 1260-63 Walter de Chilford obtained permission from the King "to dig coals within the forests of Le Clie to sell or give away." This was the earliest notice of coal in Shropshire. Coal pits are named in Wednesbury in 1315. Much of the coal at this early period was most probably quarried and not mined.

The Earl of Winchester sometime between the year 1210 and 1219 granted to the monks of Newbattle, Midlothian, a coal field situated between the burn of Whytrig and the lands of Pontekyn, Inveresh. This is understood to be the first coal worked in Scotland. The monks of Dunfermline soon followed the example of their brethren at Newbattle, and obtained coal from their lands at Pinkie and Inveresh. For nearly a century after the discovery of the "blackstone," as it was called, the peasantry were its chief consumers. In the reign of Edward I, the aversion to this fuel was most pronounced, and a proclamation was issued prohibiting its use in London. Even dyers, brewers, etc., were forbidden to burn coal on pain of a fine, loss of furnace, etc. This stringent law was not merely confined to the city; it extended to the suburbs.

The proclamation was brought about by the prelates, nobles and gentry, who complained that they could not stay in town on account of the "noisome smell and thick air" caused by burning coal. Stow, referring to this period, says: "The nice dames of London would not come into any house or room where sea-coals were burned, nor willingly eat of the meat that was even sod or roasted with sea-coal. It was in the reign of Edward I that a man was tried, convicted and executed for the crime of burning sea-coal in London. The students of Oxford and Cambridge were not permitted to have fires until the days of Henry VIII, and to warm themselves they ran for some distance—certainly a cheap mode of obtaining warmth.

Toward the reign of Elizabeth coal was becoming a popular kind of fuel, chiefly owing to the difficulty of obtaining a cheap and plentiful supply of wood. A strong prejudice, however, lingered against it and the queen prohibited the burning of coal in London during the sitting of Parliament, for it was feared that "the health of the knights of the shires might suffer during their abode in the metropolis." In the days of Charles I. the use of coal became very general, and as the demand increased the price went up to such an extent as to preclude the poor from obtaining it. Not a few died from cold for want of fires.

SHARING PROFITS.

A manufacturing establishment in Brooklyn N. Y., is quoted as meeting with gratifying success in a plan of sharing profits with their employees. The plan is somewhat different from those previously noted, but, though more limited in its scope, is still so successful as to entitle it to favorable mention as an illustration of the advantages and growing popularity of the principle of profit-sharing as a bond of mutual co-operation and profit between employers and employees.

According to this plan the employees get interest at the annual rate of six per cent upon one or more of the shares of the company that have been assigned to them, and if they remain in the employ of the company for ten years become the full owners of the shares. Those shares are not assigned to all the employees, but to such as have proved themselves most devoted to the interests of the company. The plan is accepted by the employees to whom the shares have been assigned as entirely satisfactory, and has acted as a stimulus to their taking a greater personal interest in the success of the enterprise. The fact of its not being uniform with all the employees will prevent anything like a general acceptance of this plan, but it goes to show that the idea is steadily growing in popularity. A recent report made to Parliament on the subject of profit-sharing in Great Britain refers to forty-eight profit-sharing firms, properly so-called. One of them

dates back to 1869, one to 1876, one to 1877, one to 1878, one to 1880. A majority of the firms have come in during the last two years, and twenty-one of the number as late as 1890.

This is proof of the increasing interest felt in the subject on the part of the commercial community of Great Britain; and there is a prospect of the extension of the system to new industries, on account of its success in many of those cases in which it has been tried. The present wage system is so continually interfered with by labor disputes and strikes that there is a crying need of some improved method which will tend to bring the employers and employees into closer and more mutually dependent relations. The experiments that have been made by simple co-operation enterprises, especially in manufacturing, have not proved so successful as they were expected to be, for they lacked the unity of method and the business skill made so necessary by the pressure of competition. The profit-sharing idea has not this inherent weakness, but the chief difficulty in the way of its very general approval and acceptance by organized labor lies in the fact that the employers retain such full control over the management. Still, the question should be kept under the investigation and study until a satisfactory solution be effected.

"LABOR OMNIA VINCIT."

The following circular, which speaks for itself, has been issued by Mr. Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor:—
To the Trade and Labor Unions of America:

Fellow Workers.—Greeting: True to the pledges made to continue in the struggle to establish the eight hour workday for all the toilers of our country, the Detroit Convention of the American Federation of Labor selected the coal miners of the country to make the demand for its enforcement, May 1st, 1891.

You are aware of the brilliant success of the movement of the carpenters last year, so that it requires but a reminder to bring all the toilers of the country to a full realization of the importance of the eight hour workday in the trade selected to lead in our present movement—the coal miners.

Of all classes of wage workers there are few that appeal more directly to one nobler impulse to co-operate and help them to an improvement in their material and social condition than the miners.

I am aware that the opinion is held (and I earnestly hope that events may verify it) that the coal operators will concede the eight hour workday without the necessity of the men resorting to a strike to enforce it. Be that as it may, there is no doubt that if there be a large fund on hand to aid the miners it will have a potent influence on the coal operators to either concede the eight hour workday, or in the event of refusal to convince them in a short time of the necessity of complying with the demand; in other words, the battle for eight hours will be won when our men are not only marshalled, but when they have sufficient funds to carry on the battle; hence, in the name of the American Federation of Labor and our great cause, I appeal to organized labor to immediately proceed to the work of raising funds for the coal miners in their impending struggle for eight hours.

I would suggest that organizations would voluntarily assess their members a small stipend weekly, collecting it and forwarding the same weekly. Wherever there is a central organization or trades council committees should be appointed for the purpose of taking in charge such moneys as may be collected by them; to appeal to the public in various localities to aid in this worthy work; to arrange benefit concerts or entertainments with the same end in view, and to take such other steps as will appear to all most feasible and which may promise the best results.

It is essential that our battles, one after another, shall be won. We have come to learn our rights and propose to maintain them. No step backward; "Onward and Forward" must be our watchwords in the battle for labor's rights, and I appeal to the wage workers of America to recognize the position we are in, and to nerve ourselves for "Victory and Eight Hours."

Remember that if we succeed in a few more battles to establish eight hours for different trades and callings, the remaining contests to establish the eight hour workday throughout the country will be just so much easier of achievement.

WHAT DO I LIVE FOR?

What do I live for? I live for health, happiness and the good that I may do. Although I cannot do great things, one thing is certain, I am not without a work to do. Surely everyone has a work to do; if not, what is the use of living?

But what is life? Is it merely a state of being in which the natural functions of the body are performed, or is it a portion of time given us to educate and develop these, our natural abilities, for the higher life that awaits us? If it is the latter, it is my duty to do all in my power for those who are struggling along in this tumultuous throng.

The first and best place to begin a life work is at home. How surprising what an amount of sunshine or shadow one person may bring into a home! The best way to retain peace and good-will in a home is for each to try to be cheerful and loving at all times.

It is very wrong for us to stir up discontent or jealousy in others when we should be trying to help them by cheering them on their way. We receive good by doing good so let us all try to do good. Sometimes we find people who tell false tales of their neighbors and exaggerate that which is true, and to hide their own faults. Such persons make themselves miserable and also those about them. Then again we speak cross and even cruel words when irritated instead of speaking words of kindness to subdue anger and restore peace in the minds of those about us as well as in our own minds. "A soft answer turneth away wrath," while "Sharp words never yet made friends."

As a sister I should strive to keep my brother in good company so that he may never know what it is to put the glass to his lips or taste of the tobacco or play at the gambler's table, which has led many a bright young man to worse than a pauper's grave and brought many tears to the eyes of fond parents and caused them to bow in grief. And now, dear sisters let us gain the love of our brothers and we will do much good by letting them know that we have an interest in them. We should also gain an influence over the children and teach them to respect themselves so they will not be degraded by this alcohol, and it will not be long before the highest offices of our country will be held by noble men who will do what is right, instead of being held by whisky men, as many of them are.—M. E. H. Western Rural.

ANCIENT LABOR UNIONS.

In the Cosmopolitan for March is an article on "Labor Unions in Ancient Rome," by Professor Leipzig, in which he shows the ancient origin of the organizations of workingmen, which afterward became the guilds of the Middle Ages and the union of present day. Corporations, or Collegia, as they were called, of seven trades, musicians, carpenters, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, shoemakers, potters and a miscellaneous lot of trades all incorporated in one body, existed in Rome way back in the times of the kings; Numa is mentioned as their founder. The membership of these Collegia included independent, self-employing artisans as well as wage workers, just as the guilds of the Middle Ages included the masters and the employees and apprentices. They grew rapidly in importance, and soon branches were formed all over Italy. In Rome they each had a building, in which their meetings and feasts were held. They had burial funds, such as our mutual benefit orders have, and their processions, festivals and anniversaries were frequent. They had full control of their own membership, and members had certain legal rights, such as the privilege of conducting their own law suits. Of course their objects were mainly to keep up wages and the price of products, and give their members a monopoly of the market. To secure these objects they had to struggle with the non-union guilds and the unorganized labor, just as our unions do to-day, for they had no legal monopoly. Attempts to keep up the prices of products led to several imperial edicts, which sought to prevent the corporations from successfully carrying out these "price conspiracies," as old Plautus called them. The first organized "strike" of which we have any record is mentioned by Livy as occurring in 312 B. C. It was a strike of the Roman musicians, who, on being deprived of the annual appropriation for their feast, left the city in a body and refused to return until they received the appropriation. As their services were necessary for religious ser-

VICES they won the strike without much difficulty.

The unions took an active part in politics, sometimes nominating their own candidates, sometimes indorsing others, and their influence was greatly respected and feared. A letter of the Emperor Trajan, in which he deprecates the political activity of the unions, reads very much like modern newspaper editorials of a certain class. The bitter class prejudices that prevailed made the unions more desirous of showing their power politically, for socially a mechanic, no matter how rich he might become, was a nonentity. A trader or merchant might buy his way into aristocratic circles, but not an artisan; he was looked on as but one degree above a slave.

CURRENT OPINION.

The Cincinnati Commercial Gazette tells the story of a corner lot in that city that is more than usually interesting. The lot is at the corner of Fourth and Home streets, and it was bought by the Methodist Book Concern two weeks ago for \$90,000, or over \$2,300 per front foot. The records show that this same lot was sold in 1799 for \$4; in 1801 for \$80; in 1804 for \$300; in 1862 for \$11,000; in 1891 for \$90,000. There is a story between the lines of this paragraph that our Single Tax friends can read to the uninitiated.

At the opening of the new music hall in this city, to which he was the principle subscriber, Mr. Andrew Carnegie took occasion to say that he had been induced to go into the enterprise by a great man—a Mr. Reno—and he added, "If you must put an epitaph on my tombstone, let it be this: 'He was not clever himself, but he knew a great man when he found one.'" This is a pretty epitaph, but, like most epitaphs, it is not true. Mr. Carnegie is clever, very clever. A man who, enjoying an income of \$1,500,000 a year or so, can write a book on "Triumphant Democracy" to prove how easy it is to get rich, and then cut down the wages of his men right after the victory of his own Protectionist party, must be clever, very clever.—The Standard.

Kate Field calls Blaine's reciprocity scheme, "Free Trade on the half shell."

The Boston Globe sarcastically says that as Minister to China Mr. Blair will have a fine chance to see how the Chinese system of protection operates to raise the wages of labor.

SCIENCE.

India ink is made from burned camphor. The Chinese are the only manufacturers of this ink, and they will not reveal the secret of its manufacture.

The pressure of natural gas wells in Indiana and Ohio is steadily diminishing, the diminution having already amounted to between 30 and 40 per cent.

A recent contract provides for street lighting in Paris on a novel plan. Power distributed by the compressed air system to a great number of small motors, each of which supplies electricity for a small number of lamps.

An English engineer proposes making double shell boilers, maintaining a pressure between them. By these means he calculates that a much higher pressure can be carried than is possible even with the coil boilers already in use.

The period of a "generation" has been lengthened; it used to be thirty years and was later increased to thirty-four; now, a scientist says, the average term of human life has increased in the last fifty years from thirty-four to forty-two years.

A new mareographical observatory for the study of the tides has been built a short distance east of Marseilles. The instrument traces the curves of rise and fall in the tide by means of a diamond point on a traveling band of paper coated with black varnish. The point is actuated by a float which rides with the sea.

According to a careful estimate of scientists, not less than 20,000,000 luminous meteors fall upon our planet daily, each of which in a dark, clear night would present us with the well known phenomenon of a shooting star. If the number of minute meteorites were included, many of which are entirely invisible to the naked eye, but are often seen in telescopes, the number would be increased at least twenty-fold.

The striking tobacco workers at Hamburg have formed a co-operative association and solicit the patronage of German workmen everywhere for their product.