

=The Echo=

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MONTREAL, July 25, 1891.

THE ECHO is mailed to subscribers at a distance every Friday evening, and delivered in the city early on Saturday. Parties not receiving their paper regularly should communicate with the office.

THE ALLAN CASE.

The dismissal of Mr. Allan from the Corporation employ without any reason being given therefor led the Central Trades and Labor Council to appoint a delegation to interview the Mayor on the subject, the outcome of which interview we gave last week. The deputation subsequently waited upon the Water Committee who decided upon reinstating Allan. The Mayor, however, is determined that justice shall not be done in this case, and has come down with both feet upon the Water Committee for daring to go contrary to his wishes, and has vetoed the man's reinstatement. In support of the position assumed by the Mayor, he has caused to be published a letter bearing the official seal of District Assembly No. 19 K. of L., which runs as follows:

Noble Order Knights of Labor, District No. 19.

MONTREAL, July 20, 1891.

Hon. James McShane, Mayor of Montreal:

It is always with regret that we see in the newspapers that certain persons bring in the Order of the Knights of Labor into the interviews which they have with our public men in the name of other organizations, for the purpose of giving more weight to their requests, and I venture to believe that these persons do not act in bad faith, but this does not prevent the Order from suffering the consequences of their mistakes, and this is what has occurred in connection with the interview you had with the deputation from the Central Council. The Order of Knights was drawn into the matter by the statement that Mr. St. George had dismissed an employe because he belonged to the Knights. This was never brought under the notice of the Order, and in the event of any complaint ever being made to them in this connection all possible information would be sought, and the complaint would be made to the proper authorities by a delegation regularly authorized to do so by the District Assemblies Nos. 18 and 19, which are the highest authorities of the Order in Montreal, and by no means by a single person devoid of proof or authorization, such as that proffered by Mr. Keys in his interview with you. The way you acted on that occasion (in so much as the Order is concerned) is generally approved of by the labor organizations, who have always seen in you, hon. sir, the true friend of the people, and we venture to believe you will continue such.

I am, Mr. Mayor, with profound respect,
your humble servant,

(Signed) A. BLONDIN,
Secy. District Assembly No. 18 K. of L. P.S.—The above has received the approval of the Executive Committee of District Nos. 18 and 19, with leave to publish it if you see fit.

A. B.

In contradiction to what is stated in the postscript we have been desired by two or three members of the Executive to say that the matter has never even been submitted to that body, and so far as they were concerned the first inti-

mation of a letter having been sent to the Mayor was seeing it published in the daily papers. The parties calling upon us were very vigorous in their denunciation of the communication, which they characterized as wholly uncalled for and only playing into the hands of opponents of the labor cause. They also expressed their intention of having the whole matter ventilated at the first meeting of the Executive or of the Assembly.

The Mayor has sent the following reply to Mr. Blondin, from which it will be seen that he takes it for granted that the letter from the Secretary was directly authorized by Districts 18 and 19:

DEAR SIR,—Allow me to acknowledge receipt of your very kind letter of the 20th inst., on behalf of District Assemblies 18 and 19 K. of L. concerning the interview which took place between Mr. St. George, Mr. Keys and myself, and in the course of which letter you endorsed my action on that occasion. The circumstances which led up to the interview in question being well known to you, it is unnecessary for me to enter into detail. You correctly assert that I have always been the true and trusted friend of the people, and despite the attempt of certain parties to create strained relations between myself, as Chief Magistrate of the City of Montreal, and the people, whom it is my dearest wish to serve, I can only repeat my former assertions that I will ever continue in the same path. When, with the advice of the committee, I dismissed Mr. Allan, I could not consider, nor did I enquire, whether or not he belonged to the Noble Order of the Knights of Labor. But, after weighing carefully all the circumstances of his case, I felt that in the interests of the citizens it was my painful duty to dismiss him. In conclusion, I desire to tender you and the other members of your noble order my sincere and heartfelt thanks for your kind words of encouragement, sympathy and support. They will most certainly help me in the not very easy duties which the mayoralty office of a city like Montreal calls for. I have the honor to be, dear sir, your most obedient servant,

JAS. MCSHANE, Mayor.

As the Mayor has not condescended to give his reasons for the dismissal of Allan, further than that it was in the interests of the city, we are not in a position to say how far he is justified in the course he is pursuing, but we hope the Water Committee will not allow itself to be bulldozed into accepting everything advanced by even the Mayor without proper enquiry, and that they will adhere to their expressed determination to see that Allan is justly dealt with.

In connection with the publication of Mr. Blondin's letter, the following appears in the evening dailies:

SIR,—In your issue of the 21st inst. I notice a communication from the Secretary of D. A. 19, K. of L., repudiating the deputation to the Mayor on the subject of Allan's dismissal from the Corporation employ, which I fail to see the necessity for, as the deputation never posed as representing the Knights of Labor, although they did represent the Knights of Labor and labor unions combined—the Central Trades and Labor Council, whose authorization they undoubtedly had, the representatives from District 19 being present at the meeting at which it was given. I do not wish to refer to the communication itself further than to say that I will leave it with your K. of L. readers to judge whether its publication was not uncalled for under the circumstances.

Yours truly,
L. Z. BOUDREAU,
President C. T. and L. C.

Montreal, July 22,

SPAIN AND THE LABOR QUESTION.

The workers of Spain, who up to the present time have been living in misery under the iron heel of capital, have the prospect of a better future just opened up to them, which may be noted as one of the results following from the labor conference held in Berlin last year. The Ministry have submitted a plan which from the position now occupied by the industrial classes of Spain may be said to be a great advance stride. The plan embraces the regulation of labor on Sundays and holidays, restriction of the work of women and children, supervision of factories and unsanitary dwellings, the creation of workmen's insurance societies and savings banks

and the securing of some provision for the widows and orphans of workmen. The Cortes, through a Commission, have reported favorably on the plan, but the proposed reforms have not yet taken definite shape in any bill before that body. However, something has been done by the Government, which has introduced a bill to regulate the hours of labor of women and children. This bill absolutely prohibits Sunday work, except in cases of urgent necessity; provides that a day's work for women between 16 and 23 is not to exceed ten hours in the twenty-four; prohibits the employment of women in mines, in underground work, in un-sanitary work, or when approaching confinement; forbids children under ten years being employed in any kind of working establishment, factory, mine, workshop, shop or office, and provides that the working day for boys under 14 and girls under 16 years of age shall not exceed six hours. Should the provisions of this bill become law it will release from absolute slavery a large army of children whose lives have hitherto been blighted and their days shortened by early years of toil. It is safe to predict that the example of Spain will be followed by other nations where the conditions of labor are simply barbarous.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The reception tendered the Hon. Mr. Mercer on Thursday night by the citizens of Montreal was a magnificent one indeed. Thousands upon thousands of our citizens, from whatever motive they were drawn, assembled on the Champ de Mars, joined in the procession, or lined the streets and cheered as the carriage containing the Hon. gentleman passed. From the numbers present and the enthusiasm displayed by all classes it is doubtful if anything equal to it has ever been witnessed in this city. The friends of the Premier worked hard to make the reception a success and it must be admitted that they succeeded, and Mr. Mercer may well feel flattered at the result.

Fresh disclosures of irregularities continue daily to be made before the Public Accounts Committee, which, together with the evidence submitted in the Tarte-McGreevy inquiry has distracted public attention from everything else. The revelations so far made reflect the greatest discredit upon all connected with the scandals and shows that gross carelessness, if not actual connivance at roguery, can be attributed to the heads of departments involved. But notwithstanding the humiliation which all true Canadians must feel over these exposures of wrong-doing by those in high places and in positions of trust, it is better that all uncleanness should be brought to the surface than that these scandalous proceedings should go on. We only hope that Parliament will have the courage to use the broom vigorously and impartially by sweeping out everyone implicated. The public will not rest satisfied with the dismissal of a few clerks—great and small alike should go.

"Nonpareil" promises more revelations in re the interior work of the Witness composing room next week. He says: "The medicine is working." All printers should buy and read.

Mr. Andrew (Millionaire) Carnegie has been enlightening the British public on the difference of treatment accorded old and disabled soldiers of the glorious Republic to that meted out to the veterans of Great Britain in a communication to the widow of an American soldier resident in Edinburgh to whom he had secured a pension for her husband's services. Some people will say that the implied reproach to the Mother Country is undeserved seeing that she gave \$100,000 and a peerage to Sir B. Seymour for the pleasantly exciting and perfectly safe work of demolishing the forts of Alexandria.

A railway engine-driver recently gave evidence before the Royal Labor Commission now sitting in England. This delightful specimen of an English workingman stated that during four months of the year he worked seven days a week or ninety-eight hours! and further added that he was quite satisfied with his hours and did not wish them altered. There is no accounting for tastes, and the Pope, in his recent Encyclical, has by anticipation told us what is wrong with such a man. He is one who has, despite the law of nature and of God, "given up his soul to servitude," and is endeavoring to defeat the end and purpose of his being, which is beyond his right.

But the engine-driver does not stand alone. A workingman engaged in the cotton industry at Oldham expressed himself as opposed to any limitation of age in the case of children employed in factories. "It would never do," he said, "to have the children at school until they were fourteen years of age," and gave as his reason that children could not become proficient after fourteen. "Even twelve," said this free and independent specimen of the British workingman, "is too late an age, and he would prefer to see them enter the works at ten, as a child starting at twelve or fourteen could never become an expert." This same witness admitted that he had seen children of ten years of age tramping through snow for nine weeks last winter to their work at six o'clock in the morning. And this is evidence given by men who are themselves workmen but whose notions of what is just and humane have been blunted by their daily experience of outrageous cruelty practiced on defenceless children and they see nothing remarkable about these sickening details. And, in spite of all the grinding tyranny that exists in her factories, Great Britain is proud of her legislation in regard to them, and her only fear is that she may be undersold in the market by competitors less careful than she is of infant life.

The Duke of Fife (elderly son-in-law to the Prince of Wales) should lay in a store of paragoric if he has any faith in astrology, for the "Astrological Magazine" contains a horoscope of his infant daughter of a very alarming character. The writer says: "I should not be surprised to find that during the dentitional period stomachic troubles will manifest themselves." Ah, yes, a man's natural rest is pretty much broken just about that time and his patience sorely tried, but fathers of families do not usually want Saturn and Jupiter and Gemini and all the rest of the heavenly host to tell them that much.

The good folks of Aberdeen, Scotland, will not tolerate the music of military bands on Sunday, representations having been made to the War Office that such entertainments were opposed to the feelings of the citizens and instructions have been sent to the commanding officer there to discontinue the practice of band playing on Sunday.

The Gladstonian party have secured another victory, namely, in the North Division of Cambridgeshire, for a successor in Parliament to the late C. W. Selwyn. Mr. Brand (Liberal) has been elected over his Conservative opponent by a majority of 260.

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Was P. T. Barnum's way of putting it. It is not ours. Ours is not the biggest show on earth, but our Dress Goods Department at this season certainly presents the finest and most select display in the city. Don't allow the phantom of "largeness" to mislead you, ladies! A giant is large, but he is often the weakest of mortals. There is no vitality in him. So it is in business. There is an overgrowth in certain establishments which is not healthy. The size of a concern is no guarantee that it will return you the best value for your money. Remember that fact! Also, bear in mind, ladies, that our adoption of the cash system prevents us at all times from being forestalled in the markets of the world. Our prices cannot be beat, no matter by whom. We pay "spot" cash for our goods, and we buy direct from the manufacturers, therefore when we cut down prices, and offer such inducements as at present, you stand in your own light if you do not take advantage of our "wind-falls."

NEW PRINTS. NEW PRINTS.

Just received a large consignment of New "Polka" Spot Prints, all sizes. Navy with White Spots.

Fast Colored English Prints, only 7c per yard, during July Sale.

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White Victoria Lawns, 12 yards to the piece, \$1.08 per piece.

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