

THE HAMILTON TIMES

MONDAY, JAN. 18, 1909.

EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW.

In his address on taking the chair as President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Champ had something to say on the relations of capital and labor, and his remarks were so reasonable and pointed that they should be taken into consideration not only by employers and employed, but by the lawmakers of the country whose duty it is to provide for enforcement of the principles of equity, regardless of a man's wealth or station.

Mr. Champ freely concedes the reasonableness of the law permitting the association of workmen for their protection and the promotion of their interests. It is not to be denied that there have been, and are likely always to be, employers who are not willing to be employed, but by the lawmakers of the country whose duty it is to provide for enforcement of the principles of equity, regardless of a man's wealth or station.

Perhaps nobody will challenge the statement that the limit of concessions which associated employers, or associated employees, should be permitted to force from the other, should not exceed the terms which a perfectly moral and considerate single employer or employee would give freely as a matter of pure justice as between man and man in individual bargaining. To demand more would be to seek to do injustice. Right ends where injustice or privilege begins. The power of association must be carefully regulated, else association becomes an instrument of tyranny.

That the truth of this has been generally felt is shown by the carelessness with which we have built up a system of laws hedging about associations of capital, and placed limitations upon it. For it is well to get rid of the foolish idea that we "create corporations" for the benefit of the man whose money is employed therein. The law forces incorporation upon them, in order that they may be directed, restricted and regulated in the interests of the general public. Now, if we require of capital, as a set-off for granting it the legal powers which association gives, that it incorporate and submit itself to the laws which society finds to be beneficial, why should associations of labor not also be required to incorporate and shoulder their share of responsibility, as well as exercise wide powers? Is it not reasonable that responsibility should go with power?

That is the question which Mr. Champ asks; and it is one that should be asked by every man who seeks the well-being of his country. It would be intolerable to deny workmen the right to associate, while we permit capital to do so. It is no less unjust to compel capital to assume great responsibilities and submit to stringent regulations, while labor exercising all the power which association gives is not required to submit to the control of society, is exempted from incorporating or assuming any responsibility for its associated acts, and is subject to practically no legal regulations.

The situation is not unlike what results from despotism. A benevolent despotism may work well; but it is ever a source of danger. To-morrow it may not be benevolent; then it is harmful, unjust. No one will contend that much good has not accrued to labor by association; no one will deny that it has not prevented and undone wastes, although many times and oft by wasteful and unscientific means. But few will have the hardihood to say that it has invariably administered equity. As a fact, untrammelled, it shows the same errors, weaknesses and injustices as untrammelled capital would show. Human nature is much the same whether in factory or office.

It is this anomalous condition that Mr. Champ would improve. He would not destroy or injure the labor machine; far from that, he would add a balance wheel and governor as aids to its usefulness and permanency. In the course of his remarks he had something to say, too, about the influence of agitators from without our country, and the too-little-recognized variation in the capacity of workmen in some lines. Perhaps the former danger would be lessened if Canadian labor organizations asserted their Canadianism and freely showed their good faith by seeking incorporation and accepting responsibility commensurate with their powers. The latter will come—must come in time; the better men will not always be content to occupy the lower level. And when labor accepts Mr. Champ's advice and takes its proper and proper place, it will probably not find much difficulty in having its label legally recognized.

in those resorting to it. The case is not made a whit better by the suggestion that the Cataract Company may be allowed to present its side of the matter to these aldermen of the secret conference. The question affects the bona fides of the aldermen and the proper way of doing public business; it is not one between the Cataract Company and the Hydro-Electric agents. Under Mayor Stewart establishing and causing would have created no astonishment; but it was hoped that the day of better things—of Hamilton first—had come, and that the council of 1909 would eschew all that sort of thing. It is so far satisfactory that Mayor McLaren feels constrained to disclaim calling the secret meeting; and it is to be hoped that confidence in the new council will not again be so rudely shaken. Perhaps, indeed, some of the aldermen at the secret conference may not even have understood how they were being "used" by the Hamilton interests in the plot. The least they can do, however, is to disown and repudiate the plotters and their works and seek to retrieve the situation by declaring against such machinations and for the transaction of all business affecting the city as a council and not as groups of partisans or tools of other agencies. No hole-and-corner meetings; no cliques and secret caucuses. Honor demands that much.

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HISTORY OF CANADIAN JOURNALISM.

To commemorate the jubilee of the Canadian Press Association; that body has published a handsome volume of 208 pages, entitled, "History of Canadian Journalism." Recorder of history itself up till now there has been no attempt, in any adequate way, to preserve the historical facts connected with the press of Canada, and this work of the Association will accordingly be all the more prized and all the more valuable. While giving a very complete sketch of the rise and progress of the Press Association, the volume does not stop there, but in special articles, deals in an interesting way with the press of the country, past and present. It contains contributions from Mr. Goldwin Smith (formerly a vice-president of the Association) Mr. J. W. Bengough, Mr. John Reade, F. R. S. C., Montreal, Mr. J. E. B. McCready, Charlottetown; Mr. Arthur Wallis, Toronto; Mr. Robert Sellar, Hamilton; Mr. J. P. Robertson, Winnipeg; Mr. A. H. U. Colquhoun, Toronto; Mr. R. E. Gosnell, Victoria; and Mr. J. K. McInnes, Regina. Mr. Sellar's reminiscences of the Toronto press, raise the late Mr. Gordon Brown, of the Globe, brother of the late Hon. Geo. Brown, to his proper place as a newspaper man. Contrary to the general belief, Mr. Sellar gives Gordon the principal credit for making the Globe the leading newspaper in Canada. He was who, by his energy, made it not only a great political paper, but also made it a "newspaper," leading all the competitors in those days in the matter of news. His brother, the Hon. George, spent little time, we are told, in the office. His energies were principally employed in the political field, leaving the newspaper work to his brother Gordon. Of Goldwin Smith, the book speaks almost lovingly, as a great newspaper writer and as a man who has conferred an honor upon Canada by his residence within its borders.

The Association was organized in Kingston in 1850. Mr. William Gillespie, then proprietor and editor of the Hamilton Spectator, being the chief figure in its formation. As a somewhat peculiar coincidence, it may be mentioned that the late editor of the Spectator, Mr. J. Robson Cameron, was not only not a member of the Association, but he from time to time attacked it in bitter terms, and took delight in holding it up to the ridicule of the public. The late Mr. J. C. Buchanan, city editor of the Hamilton Times, was for three years Secretary-Treasurer of the Association. In 1875 the Association met in Hamilton, President Hough in the chair. At the close, the record states that "The party were entertained by Mr. John Eastwood, of the Times. They also went to the house of Mr. George Tackett, where Mr. Somerville, (Mr. James Somerville, then of the Dundas Banner) made a happy speech. The visited Hon. Isaac Buchanan at "Auchmar," and Mr. James Turner at "Highfield." The book is copiously illustrated with full page engravings of Goldwin Smith, Sir Mackenzie Bowell, and Wm. Gillespie founder of the Canadian Press Association, and half-dozen photographs of editors like Messrs. Willison, Pease, Blackett Robinson, Geo. Pattullo, Dr. Dewar, J. T. Clark, R. V. Somerville, T. H. Preston, Wm. Buckingham, H. P. Moore, P. A. James, Col. J. B. MacLean, John A. Cooper, Robert Holmes, W. S. Dingman, D. McGillivuddy, H. J. Pettipiece, J. S. Brierley, Wm. Watt, C. D. Barr, the late John Cameron, E. Jackson and many others.

Orders for the book may be sent in care of John R. Bone, Secretary Canadian Press Association, Daily Star, Toronto. The price is \$2 a copy, postage 15 cents extra.

The fact that one new senator has already been appointed from Ontario, and that the three remaining vacancies are to be filled from Nova Scotia and Manitoba does not look hopeful for Hamilton getting a senator immediately. The blunder made by placing partisanship before the city's interests, and sending two "wooden men" to represent us in the popular house was a very serious one. And the business men who have to deal with Government matters realize it keenly.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A man named Thorogood has been sentenced at Owen Sound for bigamy. "Thorogood" seems to be a misnomer.

Arguments which sink deeply into the public mind are being furnished daily for the abolition of the deadly level crossing.

Now, Messieurs Aldermen, are you a Council sworn and devoted to Hamilton, or will you be an aggregation of calblers? It is early in the year yet. Choose ye!

Senator Kerr has been chosen as the new Speaker for the Senate. The choice is a good one. Senator Kerr is by training well qualified to discharge the duties of the position.

The inquest into the Grimsby disaster will be held on Wednesday afternoon, when a searching inquiry will be made into the cause of the fatality. Until then it will be well to defer conclusions on the subject.

City Engineer Rust, of Toronto, declares that Toronto is "the dearest place in Canada in which to live." It is probably right. And Toronto's civic government is making sure that it will be a still dearer place in which to live.

The British torpedo-boat destroyer, Tartar, steaming under actual war conditions, made over 38 knots an hour. That, in the language of the street, is "going some." The marine knot is 6,080 feet. The Tartar, therefore, made over 43 3/4 miles an hour.

If "Saturday Night's" argument for the restoration of the "n" in "honor" means anything, it is that it fancies the "Frenchified" form would lead Canadians to be more moral—more scrupulously honest. But we hardly think any such "cool" idea ever entered the writer's noddle.

Partisans of ex-Mayor Stewart who boast that he is still as good as head of the Council exhibit as little understanding of Mayor McLaren as they do respect for propriety. His Worship is not to be made the creature of Stewart or any other man.

According to the United States Government statistics, Uncle Sam's immigration and emigration reports show an excess of the latter for the year ending Oct. 31st, resulting in a net loss of population of 46,756. How happy some people should be by these figures!

The Standard Oil suit is likely to make a record for costliness. It is estimated that it has already absorbed nearly \$10,000,000. What a snap for the lawyers! No wonder their feelings are divided between the rich United States Government and the not poor Oil Trust!

Frank Law, the mining broker, charged with conspiracy to defraud the public in connection with the flotation of the stock of the "Highland Mary" and other mines, has been found guilty by the jury. An appeal will be taken on his behalf, it being alleged that the Attorney-General's Department had promised him immunity as the price of giving evidence against another.

The Dominion Parliament will open on Wednesday next, and the members are already beginning to gather at Ottawa. Old suits are being aired to get rid of their scent of moth balls, and "plugs" of the vintage of 1890 are being polished up or exchanged for new ones. The Government has the programme of the session well advanced, and there will be no excuse for the members delaying business and lengthening the session.

The numerous Hamilton friends of Mr. J. Alfred Goodearie, the popular general manager of the Turbine Steamship Co., will be glad to know that they will be no change as far as his position is concerned by the steamboat merger, in which Mr. John C. Eaton controls the Hamilton-Toronto boat lines. Mr. Goodearie is a gentleman of wide experience and very capable, has a splendid record as a business getter, and is well thought of in marine and other circles.

Laymen have no right to assume to superior knowledge of the law than the judges on the bench, but it is not improbable that Justice Tetterton's decision in that Grest-Potlery case will lead many to readily agree that "the law is an ass." An allegation made at a public meeting and spread broadcast throughout the country represents a man as seeking to induce an official to become a party to violating the ballot box. Under the law, we are now told no crime has been imputed, therefore, if the statement was false no slander was uttered! Perhaps Col. Potlery was just throwing a rose-scented bouquet of compliments at Mr. Grest!

Old Country Storm. (English Exchange.) The snowstorm was the worst experienced since 1881, and the present generation has never before seen such scenes in the streets of London. One remarkable feature of the storm was that no corner of the three kingdoms escaped. It is estimated that the snowfall varied from between fifty and 150 tons an acre, and it was accompanied by the lowest temperature on record. Snow plows in many country districts were absolutely useless, so deep were the drifts. In Scotland trains were literally buried in the snow, and passengers experienced great hardship and inconvenience. The blizzard was followed by a day of intense darkness.

OUR EXCHANGES.

Tied Up. (Toronto Star). Meanwhile the busy guessers who are selling the Intercolonial had better look the thing up and see if it isn't tied up with the British, North America Act.

The Frost. (Galt Reporter.) The frost is down about two feet, eighteen inches. Last year at this time the earth was frozen to a depth of five feet.

Whip Him. (London Advertiser.) Justice Magee advocates the lash for the wife-beater. There would be simple justice in treating the wife-beater just as he treats his wife.

More Trouble. (Toronto News.) A woman in England proved that she was old enough for a pension by producing a bundle of old love letters. Hitherto love letters have been kept only for sentimental and breach of promise case reasons. Thus do old age pensions add a new terror to life.

Law's Fate. (London Free Press.) The conviction of Frank Law, the Toronto mining broker, is a telling blow at the practice which has made some crafty men suddenly rich and that at the same time has harmed legitimate Cobalt trading. If Law goes to the penitentiary for a few years at least, his victims are not likely to lament.

Paid Their Share. (Bramford Expositor.) The Toronto Telegram would exclude Bramford and Hamilton from the power union because they "have not borne the burden and heat of the day." This "burden" was a cash contribution for the purposes of investigation. It may be added that Bramford bore its portion as did also Hamilton. And as for the "heat of the day" the power campaign here was as hot as anyone could wish.

SCARING THE BRITON. Canada Not Asking That Her Loyalty be Subsidized. (Saturday Night.) The average Canadian who reads the despatch quoting the words of the London Daily Mail will scarcely know what that journal wants him to be patient about. He is not aware that he has a grievance; that he has waited long, and being rebuffed. Nor is he conscious of having had his opinions stifled or in any way influenced by the speeches of Lord Milner delivered to a few people of his own way of thinking while he was here. It is quite evident, however, that a small group of Britishers and a small group of Canadians are busy helping to stir to fashion and fat rewards when tariff reform comes—the attempt to picture this country in this light is one that can scarcely prove pleasing to Canadians.

There is no crisis anywhere in sight so far as one can see from any of the hills surrounding Toronto. Almost any of the oldest inhabitants will testify that he never knew the country so entirely at its ease, and indulging in so few conjectures as to what is unfolding in the midst of the year ahead.

Very few among us show any concern about the agitation in Great Britain on tariff reform. Most of us regard it as a domestic matter in which we have no inclination to meddle. Some of us are not quite sure that international relations will become more fond if put on the basis of bargain and agreement.

Great Britain gives Canadian products a preference in her markets. It should be given because the United Kingdom has become convinced of the soundness of the policy in so far as she herself is concerned. It should not be granted through fear of losing Canada. We do not want to be accused of taxing anybody's bread. We do not want to lose, in the future, responsibility for domestic conditions in England, which may be charged against the change of policy at present proposed, for we do not expect Great Britain to become a paradise after tariff reform.

SURPRISE PARTY. A very pleasant affair in the nature of a surprise party took place on Friday evening at the residence of Mrs. J. Barron, 3 Pine street, when about 20 couples of young folks made a rush visit. When Mrs. Barron saw that her visitors were in for a jolly time, she gave them a hearty welcome. The evening was spent in progressive euchre, Mrs. J. Barron and Casson Cameron winning first prizes and Miss Abbott and Fred Beckman the booby prizes. Dancing was indulged in till the early morning hours, after which supper was served. The crowd voted Mrs. Barron an excellent hostess.

DUTCH TO WATCH. The Hague, Jan. 18.—The Government of the Netherlands has decided to keep its warships in the West Indies until the dispute between Venezuela and Holland is definitely disposed of.

Broken Lenses Replaced While You Wait. Remember that I have my own grinding machinery so that I can replace a broken lens or fit almost any prescription promptly. Absolute accuracy is assured. Open evenings, 8 to 9 o'clock. GLOBE OPTICAL CO. 111 King East HAMILTON L. B. ROUSE, Proprietor. Opp. Waldorf. Phone 681.

Advertisement for Bank of Hamilton. Text: 'To-day usually takes care of itself---it is the uncertain to-morrow for which we must make provision to-day.' Includes an illustration of the bank building and contact information for the Hamilton office and branches.

FROM THE DEAD.

W. T. STEAD IN COMMUNICATION WITH HIS SON. English Editor Tells That He Has Received Many Messages From the Spirit World—Spirits Anxious to Establish Communication With Mortals.

New York, Jan. 17.—A cable despatch to the Sun from London says: "New and wonderful letters are coming me almost daily from my boy Willie, who died a year ago," said William T. Stead, the veteran editor, today. Mr. Stead seemed in perfect health, talked rationally and looked happy.

"I have no time now," he continued, "to tell you everything. I will leave London for the sea-shore in half an hour, but in the near future I will show you some of Willie's letters. They were written by my own passive right hand, which moves absolutely automatically. I exercise no will-power in the matter either to hold the pen or to move it.

"Willie's letters are simply splendid. They are exactly like him and full of his characteristic spirit. He talks with me at great length and tells me everything he sees, hears, feels and what his hopes are respecting himself and other members of the family. He says that the spirit world is quite as anxious to establish communication with this world as we are with it.

"For many years I have known that spirit communications were a reality. I declared my faith to this effect at a time when I knew that the assertion would injure me in all my worldly relations. My declaration of faith did injure me. It tended to discredit me in business and placed me under suspicion among many of my friends whom I valued most highly. The loss to me was great, but it was quite insignificant when compared with my inexpressible gain. I would not give one of the letters written me by my

TREASURE ISLAND.

ROMANTIC TALE OF SEARCH FOR GOLD IN SOLOMON GROUP. "Blood Brother" to Chief a Fakir and Organizer of Brokers' Expedition Committed Suicide.

Victoria, B. C., Jan. 17.—A romantic story of a vain search for a treasure island in the Solomon group by an expedition from Sydney on one schooner, when the vessel was wrecked by the steamer Ararat, just arrived. A story like a romance by Stevenson, with its main character a white man, who had become blood brother to an islander and king of tons of hidden gold, all lost when search was made twenty years after, and of discovery and suicide among the treasure hunters.

The Wheatshed, which had returned to Sydney, was dispatched by a syndicate formed there on an agreement whereby Mr. Mason, the organizer, agreed to have the captain, who twenty years before had aided a chief of Maaito to power and by cutting their arms and intermingling blood, had become the chief's blood brother, direct the expedition to a large amount of gold discovered by natives, and "in his capacity as sovereign's blood brother secure sole right of trading throughout the country."

"After arising from place to place in the Solomons, conferences being held with many of the native chiefs, the captain finally said his blood brother had been slain by dynamite in his absence, after depositing the captain and leaving him among the natives. Mason, the organizer, succeeded on the way back to Sydney."

E. H. Harriman, writing to Yale Daily News, says high school students are more useful in railroading than college graduates. Four young men of Owen Sound were sentenced to 6 months in jail for theft of 5 turkeys. Dr. L. J. Lemieux, M. L. A., may succeed Turgeon in the Quebec cabinet.

DUNDAS NEWS.

Dundas, Jan. 18.—The Young People's Society of the Baptist Church will take up the study of Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," commencing on Thursday evening. The Methodist Church was crowded last evening the service being a memorial one, in which reference was made to the recent deaths of three well-known members, Mrs. Samuel Burrows, Wm. Powell and J. M. Reynolds. The last meeting of the Burs Board of Education will be held this evening.

HIGHLANDERS' PIPE BAND.

The election of officers of the Highlanders' Pipe Band was held on Thursday, resulting as follows: Honorary President—Col. Bruce, President—John Fotheringham, Vice-President—Geo. Campbell, Treasurer—W. Dwyer, Secretary—A. J. Somerville, Sergeant-at-Arms—Frank Adams, Business Committee—Pipe Major McGregor, J. Fotheringham, Alex. Somerville.

Hall Committee—Thos. Minis, David Tate, Forbes Adams and Alex. McIntosh.

Advertisement for Finch Bros. Text: 'Final Reductions on Children's Winter Coats.' Includes a list of coat prices and a small illustration of a child in a coat.