

The Echo

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DOMINION CONGRESS MEETING

The Dominion Trades and Labor Congress is now holding its annual session in Toronto. The sittings commenced on Thursday, Mayor Fleming extending an official welcome to the delegates. The only business was the appointment of a Committee on Credentials by the president, Mr. U. Lafontaine. The president's address, which will be found elsewhere, points out several matters which he considers it would be well for the Congress to consider. Among the most important of these is the question of a further restriction on Chinese immigration, which has become a burning question in Canada. The delegates, we believe, are almost a unit in favor of not merely restriction but total prohibition of this undesirable class, who never can, from the nature of their existence, assimilate with Europeans. Quite recently there has been an alarming influx of Chinese into this city, and it is felt by the authorities that large numbers have come into the country without the payment of the license fee. It is more than time that some stringent measures should be taken to prevent their increase ere the evil of their presence becomes felt through the spread of disease. Only the other day officers who made the arrests of several Chinamen on suspicion of smuggling opium reported that the building in which the almond-eyed Celestials herded together was a den of filth, and recommended a visit from the sanitary officials. A vigorous protest from the Congress, backed by affidavits and an array of facts, which are readily obtainable, might have some effect with the Federal Government at the present time when the gaunt presence of the spectre cholera is so close at hand.

Another very important question likely to come up for discussion is the establishment of State boards of conciliation or arbitration for labor disputes. Boards of arbitration would, no doubt, become effective if compulsory and their awards binding, but otherwise their usefulness would amount to nothing. But we have always found that capitalists are averse to arbitration in any form, even of the go-as-you-please description, and what a howl would be raised if an attempt is made to make reference to them compulsory supporting the wage-earners could get Boards constituted. The capitalist argues that arbitration of the compulsory—or effective—variety is impossible under any circumstances, and the arguments he adduces to prove this statement are of the usual rickety

kind, warranted not to stand the application of any reasoning power. It is alleged that if the conclusion of an arbitration board is unfavorable to the employer he cannot be forced to carry on "his" industry at a loss, and in like manner, if the workers find that the decision is against them they cannot be rounded up by militia, armed with rifles and bayonets, and forced to labor at that which they abhor. These difficulties, however, may easily be surmounted by a well-considered Act; but parliament as at present constituted will never deal seriously with such a matter. The monopolist has by far the best chance of success at present in all industrial conflicts, and he and his legislative tools are aware of the fact. A just measure of arbitration would interfere with the liberty of the subject, that is of the capitalistic subject—to pulverize his workers; the pulverized one has little or no liberty left to interfere with. And we scarcely wonder at capitalistic opposition to a just measure of arbitration, because it would remove long-enjoyed privileges of which he has had a full monopoly up to the present time and distribute these privileges fairly between both parties. With a just measure of arbitration in Canada and an honorable board of arbitrators industrial strife would come to an end and strikes and lock-outs would cease.

We hope that the deliberations of the Congress will result in procuring an increase of material prosperity for the wage-earner and the advancement of his social and political condition, besides helping to cement and build up Canada as a nation, which cannot fail to follow if the workingmen are helped to a higher plane and taught to think over and work for their own interests.

LABOR DAY CELEBRATION.

The most sanguine predictions of the promoters of the Labor Day demonstration were more than fulfilled. There was a splendid turn-out in the procession and a large and good-humored crowd at the picnic, which, by the way, was the most successful, bar none, of any ever held under the auspices of any society or body in this city. The sports were run with a promptness and celerity which was appreciated by the spectators, and for almost every event there was a large number of entries while in most of them competition was extremely keen. A very gratifying feature of the picnic was the orderly behavior of the vast crowd and the entire absence of any appearance of drunkenness on the grounds. This was undoubtedly due to the strictness with which the committee adhered to their resolution to allow no liquor of any kind to be sold on the ground, and although they may have lost financially through the adoption of such a resolution they will ultimately profit by gaining the countenance and support of the best class of citizens for their next undertaking.

Through what must have been a mistake, the funny man of the Witness was let loose to report the proceedings of the day for his paper, and the way he jumbled up things—through his efforts to keep under the comic side of his nature and give something like an intelligent description of what transpired—was something amazing. His conception of the walking delegate loitering in a carriage and smoking a prime Havana at the expense of simple-minded wage-earners is not entirely original. This caricature has been drawn time and again by other capitalistic papers than the one he represents, and yet the poor deluded fools of workingmen fail to see their folly! Our comic friend evidently knows very little about walking delegates and their mission else he would not have fallen into the error of supposing every man who wore a plug hat in the procession one of the class whom he overwhelms with his cutting satire. If the

truth must come out, there is only one walking delegate in the city and he, poor fellow, had to hoof it with the majority. But the walking delegate is not the only one who suffers at the hands of this petty scribbler of the Witness. He sneers at everything connected with the procession and at everyone who took part in it, the little fellows who headed it even coming in for a share of his thinly veiled malice. We would advise the managing editor on another such occasion to avoid calling upon the funny man to write up the report.

A rumor is in circulation that Mr. M. P. Ryan, the present Collector of Customs, will shortly be placed on the superannuation list and that Mr. Robert S. White, editor of the Gazette, will succeed to the position. Mr. White's well-known urbanity and genial disposition should make the appointment a popular one among all classes, and as to his fitness for the post there can be question. Mr. White is an established favorite with his confreres of the press, who will no doubt, while regretting his severance from journalism, to which he is such a high ornament, be ready with their congratulations as soon as the appointment has been officially announced.

The Provincial Board of Health is evidently alive to the gravity of the situation at the present time, and have issued a proclamation, backed by the Provincial Government, that no immigrants will be permitted to land within the borders of the province. This may be a stretching of the powers, but just the same it is the proper course to pursue under the circumstances, and the people of this country will breathe all the easier knowing that their safety is being well looked after. It is not believed that there will be any conflict between the Federal and Provincial authorities over this usurpation of the former's powers, as the danger is too great to admit of delay in discussing questions of procedure.

Single Taxers will regret to hear that the Standard, the foremost exponent of that doctrine has ceased to exist, the last number containing the editor's valedictory, alongside of which are a few short words of farewell from Mr. Henry George. The paper was founded and carried on by Mr. George, who, however, severed all connection with it over a year ago, to propagate his theory of taxation from land values and well and ably has it performed its mission. Its editorials were generally trenchant in tone, while containing sound and unrefutable argument and were altogether of a high order of literary merit, so that by its non-publication a void will be felt in the world of letters. Mr. George in alluding to the suspension says: "The work that the Standard was intended to do has been done, and the larger field into which our movement has passed, there is no longer need for it. For the usefulness of a journal devoted to the propagation of an idea must diminish as its end is attained. Needed while it is the only means of presenting that idea to the public and keeping its friends in touch, that need ceases as the idea finds wider expression and journals of general circulation are opened to it."

The Machine Wood Worker truthfully remarks that if all Union men were workers scabs would soon be as scarce as vegetation in Sahara. The curse of unionism is the deadly apathy that at periodical intervals overcomes its members. The first symptoms of this apathy are non-attendance at meetings, which leads to growling and dissatisfaction if they hear of anything taking place that does not go down with them. Growling is rapidly succeeded by discontent and suspicion, all of which might be obviated if the dis-

contented had attended the meetings regularly and watched the course of business. Boys, don't neglect the meetings, you will always learn something at them good for you to know.

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(CUT PLUG)

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S. CARSLEY.

Miss Vere—"Why, Mr. Bat, how many times more are you going to be 'best man' before you get married yourself?"
Mr. Bat—"Oh! not yet—there are plenty of good fish left in the sea yet."
Miss Vere—"Yes, but are you not afraid of the bait getting a bit stale?"

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