

THE TOILER

TORONTO COUNCIL NOW UP-TO-DATE

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8. It has opened sixteen children's playgrounds and set aside 1,665 acres for public parks.

It has done all this and at the same time reduced the rate of taxation, proving that public ownership is a practical and profitable way to settle many city problems.

Germany's Social Work. The German Government will set the Reichstag for \$1,250,000 to continue the work of building homes to be occupied rent free by civil employees. The Berlin Landlords' Association recently appealed to the Government not to build any more of these homes because 9,000 flats in Berlin are already without tenants. The protest was not heeded, the Government's position being that it is cheaper to provide houses free of rent than to increase salaries sufficiently to meet the prices of the combination of Berlin landlords.

Stray Thoughts. The coming message. The press is waiting to print it. The wires to sing about it. Oh, who will write it on paper? The wage slave forever is free.

Industrial Reformers Unite. With our hands clasped in each other, We will set the worker free; Though our minds be widely asunder, Yet our hearts like one agree. That the worker is Christ's brother, Bound for ages in despair. Can't you hear him meekly waiting "All unite and set me free"?

Meetings

PRESS FEEDERS. No. 187 Marlborough Ave. Wednesday, 8 p.m. Stratford Hotel.

WOMEN. No. 24. Miss Jane Duggan, 21. Meets 14th St. Hotel.

OPERATORS. No. 1. Joseph Little, 11. Meets 14th St. Hotel.

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LABOR WORLD

News and Views of the Ever Advancing Army of Workers

Women's Union Label League hold a box social to-night in Temperance Hall, Bathurst and Queen streets. Ladies provide, and a good time is assured.

Tom Johnson, boss, won his fight for three-cent street car fares in Cleveland, O. The electric railways there were compelled after a long fight to give in.

The Bookbinders' at-home in Strathcona Chambers on Feb. 11th is their tenth annual, and will be more enjoyable than has been if that is possible. Go and see the binders off duty.

The Northmeier Piano Company have generally provided a smoking room for their employees. It is a boon to these men to have a pleasant smoke in a warm room at the dinner hour when the thermometer hovers around zero.

The Bakers' banquet on the 9th of this month was enjoyed by quite a company of bakers and their friends. The reputation of the bakers was continued for giving their patrons a good time.

The Architectural, Bridge and Structural Iron Workers held a very successful social entertainment in Richmond Hall on Tuesday evening. Oysters were served, and after the repeat speech-making and songs were the order.

All newspapers in Cripple Creek, Col., have been muzzled. The military officials who are attempting to break the miners' strike have prohibited the printing of statements issued from the headquarters of the miners.

The Picture Frame Makers are experiencing a slight difficulty in the Cobban Company's shop, caused by the firm cutting the wages of one of their members agreed upon last year. It is expected that the difficulty will be settled without a strike.

Ladies' Auxiliary of the Machinists are to hold their first at-home in Forum Hall on Friday evening, Feb. 10th. A pleasant entertainment is assured, and whether you dance or not, you should go and enjoy the other parts of the programme.

The regular meeting of Tobacco Workers' Union, Local 63, was held on Thursday evening of last week in Richmond Hall. The meeting was largely attended, it being the occasion of the installation of officers for the term of 1904.

An important conference was recently held in London to consider the general question of the unemployed. Mr. Will Crooks, M.P., L.C.C., put forward a scheme, the ultimate effect of which, he declared to an interviewer, will be to make the able-bodied pauper an "empire-builder" in the best sense of the expression. In order to get able-bodied men out of the workhouse, where their independence is sapped as their bodies are fed, Mr. Crooks would send them into the country for a couple of years, give them a good training in agricultural work, and then put them on the land, either at home or in the colonies.

The quarterly report ending September 30th of the Co-operative Wholesale Society shows an increase of sales over the corresponding period of last year of 73.3 per cent. The cash value of sales for the quarter was \$2,738,444. The productive departments have increased their output 95.8 per cent. Other branches of the society's business show an equally healthy condition. In spite of the depression in trade, the co-operative movement continues to develop rapidly—on a certain proportion of its sound basis, and the support it is receiving from the more intelligent of the working classes.

On the evening of Dec. 12th, some 600 of the workmen employed by the Westminster City Council were present, at the invitation of the mayor (Mr. W. Euden) at a reception and concert in Causton Hall, Westminster. After a few words of welcome from the mayor, the party adjourned to the lower hall, where an excellent programme of vocal and instrumental music was enjoyed, the proceeds being devoted to a similar function took place in the same building, when the remainder of the staff were entertained.

At a recent meeting of the Greenwich Borough Council it was agreed, in view of the distress at present prevalent in the borough, to commence forthwith certain works sanctioned by the council, and the highways committee was authorized to employ residents in the borough for three days a week at a day, preference to be given to married men.

Whatever foundation or lack of foundation there is for the now celebrated statement as to the 12,000,000 people in these islands who are always on the verge of starvation, an official report gives us one fact which is sufficiently terrible in itself. Thirty-four deaths resulted from starvation in London last year.

A resolutions majority secured control of the Sheffield Corporation at the recent municipal elections, and one of their first acts was to pass a resolution to abolish the works department of the council. The Trades Council and Building Trades Federation are vigorously protesting against this action.

Mr. Edward Cowey, president of the Yorkshire Miners' Association, died on Dec. 16 at his residence at Crofton, near Wakefield. Deceased was a native of Long Benton, Durham, and was nearly four years of age. He was one of the founders of the Miners' Federation.

Due to the severe depression in the book trade, great distress prevails in Kettering and the surrounding districts. Relief committees have been started to provide free meals for the children, and parades for collecting food and clothes have been held.

Non-unionists from Manchester, Liverpool and Newcastle, to the number of about fifty, arrived in Dundee recently to take the places of the engineers on strike in that town. A number of Dutchmen have also been engaged to work.

It was reported to the Effe Miners' Board at their last meeting that the membership of the association is now 31,500, an increase of 1,500 having taken place during the past few months.

The members of the Typographical Society of Perth ask an increase of the 'stab' wage from 20s to 22s 6d per week, and a reduction of the working hours from fifty-seven to fifty.

There are at present 2,000 heads of families unemployed at Belfast.

AFFIDAVIT Re GURNEY

John Cunningham Tells What He Knows in an Affidavit.

The following affidavit speaks more eloquently than we dare attempt at the present moment. It tells a story about something you all need to know. It's another chapter in the continued story of a valiant struggle for the triumph of truth and justice. Truth will prevail. No injunction, however sweeping, can keep the truth from eventually being told. The affidavit speaks for itself and tells of the whole crowd.

John Cunningham, of the Town of Wingham, in the County of Huron, manager, do solemnly declare:

1. That I was foreman of the stove motters' department in the Gurney Foundry Company in August, 1901.

2. That Mr. Carrick, vice-president and general manager of the said Gurney Foundry Company, in or about the month of August, 1901, returned from Hamilton, where he had been attending a meeting of the Stove Manufacturers' Association, and told me he had been informed there that the stove motters in the Gurney shop had become union men. He said he knew of this fact, and I asked him, "Well, we will have to take some getting rid of the whole crowd," and they were got rid of accordingly.

BRITISH LABOR NOTES.

The increasing trade depression is unpleasantly illustrated in the boiler-makers' monthly report, which shows the unemployed list to be steadily growing bigger.

As compared with last month, there is an increase of 1,097, divided as follows: 603 in the boiler-makers' monthly report, 315 in the increase of unemployed in this trade in three months of over 2,000, and is higher by 630 than the previous highest point reached during the present depression.

The actual number unemployed is now 9,947, and the amount paid away in benefits last month reached the sum of £13,276 8s 2d. The number of unskilled laborers out of work in connection with this industry is estimated to be very large, and the actual distress immeasurable.

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