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## MEETINGS.

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Meets in the Ville-Marie Hall, 1623 Notre Dame street, the first and third Thursdays of the month. Communications to be addressed to P. C. CHATEL, Corresponding Secretary 176½ St. Lawrence street.

**RIVER FRONT ASSEMBLY,**  
No. 7628.  
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**DOMINION ASSEMBLY,**  
No. 2436 K. of L.  
Meets every FRIDAY evening at Eight o'clock in the K. of L. Hall, 624 Craig street. Address all communications to H. J. BRINDLE, R.S., No. 11 St. Monique street.

**PROGRESS ASSEMBLY,**  
No. 3852, K. of L.  
Meets every First and Third Tuesday at Lomas' Hall, Point St. Charles.

**BLACK DIAMOND ASSEMBLY**  
1711, K. of L.  
Meets next Sunday, in the K. of L. Hall, 662½ Craig street, at 7 o'clock.  
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## QUEBEC NOTES.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.  
QUEBEC, April 26th, 1892.

The [session of the Provincial Legislature opened to-day with all the fuss and feathers that could possibly be crowded into the proceedings. I don't want to report the opening of the Legislature in the usual newspaper style, "assembled wisdom," etc., but rather put it in this way: "The representatives of the largest amount of ignorance in the Province have met to-day and will continue to meet for some time to make laws for the whole Province."

Something else has happened too since my last communication. Another organization has been formed in Quebec, not of laborers, mechanics, or that sort. Oh, no, they are too slow to organize, but the employers in our largest present industry in this city. They have met and joined issues, and the working of the body is already making itself felt, more particularly on Saturday nights when pay time comes. The aim and object of the organization is to equalize the wages of their employees, and with this object in view, price lists per diem and per case for the different processes are furnished to the body by its members. The idea is beautifully simple. The lowest rate is chosen and, of course, adopted. Under this system it is hoped that, by the time the snow re-appears, wages in the shoe trade in this city will be reduced to fifty cents per day for men, women employees will be reduced accordingly, and for boys, well—I suppose they will be expected to pay for the privilege of working.

The system is not a bad one for our Quebec business men to adopt; they have tried a good many, and the failure dodge is getting used up. I would certainly not like to give advice to legitimate capitalists; still I may be allowed to tell them in all fairness that unless they feel very like throwing their money away they need not credit our very liberal manufacturers in this line. The plan won't work all the same, for when it is looked into just a little it will be found that a certain class of the said employers could swamp all of the others; they will all of them find it out soon. Their unfortunate employees have found out something else already, and the exodus to the United States is correspondingly swelled.

I see in your last number that you are well informed about our civic finances. We have a revenue of five hundred thousand dollars and an expenditure of seven hundred thousand, leaving a deficit of two hundred thousand dollars annually. The remedy is increased municipal taxation, and the poor, unfortunate worker will find that a kindhearted landlord will raise his rent to meet the increase of taxation on real estate, and on the other hand his generous-minded employer will combine with others in the same line to reduce his wages; truly, a blue look-out, and the more so as the Allan, Dominion, Beaver and Thompson lines of steamers are in a position just now, if reports be true, to dump immigrants into the Dominion at the rate of about 5,000 weekly.

Another item, no doubt interesting to all around. The judges in our law courts are going to get their wages raised. I congratulate them; I wish I was there myself, but I ain't. Now, precedents once established are usually followed out. At the last session of the Federal Parliament a reduction was made upon the duties charged upon sugar entering the Dominion for consumption. It was computed that the loss of revenue would amount to \$3,000,000, and to make up this amount an increase of duty of five cents per lb. was put upon tobacco and the tax on beer was doubled. In other words the tax on malt was increased from one cent to two cents per lb. The poor man's beer and tobacco had to pay for the increased sweetness. Now, our judges' salaries having been increased it naturally follows that the amount will have to be made up. In looking through the Auditor-General's report I see a large number of employees on canals and elsewhere in receipt of the enormous salary of \$1.00 per day. In the Quebec Cartridge Factory the rates are even less; the lowest whose name is given is paid at the rate of 90 cents; those receiving less than that are bunched. Now, how about following the precedent alluded to above and reducing these people's wages so as to meet the increase granted the judges? Of course this would be very hard upon the men, but then when Parliament meets again, won't it be just grand for the Minister of Justice to inform the House that this increase granted

to the judges did not cost the country a cent. They might at the same time amend the constitution by altering the name of one of the departments. Although a rose by any other name would still remain as sweet, still there is nothing like calling a spade by its proper name, leaving out the agricultural instrument. I would therefore suggest that as justice is an unknown quantity, the Department of Justice be called in future the Department of Law, and the head of that department the Minister of Law. This would be highly desirable from a moral standpoint, as, if it were adopted the people would not be compelled to lie when they named either.

ATLAS.

## TORONTO NOTES.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

TORONTO, April 21, 1892.

I note the particulars of that case against the ex-treasurer of the Quebec T. & L. for the sum of \$296, as detailed in your last issue by "Atlas." Contrary to the experience in the case, on every case of like character arising in Ontario, so far, chapter 70 of the Dominion Larceny Act, when called into action, had the immediate effect of bringing delinquents "to time" most promptly. Perhaps it is due to the fact that the mode of legal procedure is much shorter and more pointed in Ontario than is the mode of legal procedure in Quebec. Whatever the prejudices of Police Magistrate Dennison of Toronto against trade organizations, it must be said of him that delinquents of the character indicated receive but little—in fact no sentimental consideration at his hands. His usual judgment in such cases is prompt restitution or in default the common jail.

Nominations will be made to-morrow to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mr. H. E. Clarke, one of the representatives of Toronto in the Provincial Legislature. The Conservative party at its convention selected Mr. Kent as its standard-bearer in the coming contest. Mr. E. E. Sheppard, who had once been the Labor candidate for the House of Commons from this city, was Kent's strongest opponent. Mr. Kent is a Public School Trustee and a prominent Orangeman and a life-long Conservative as well. It is said that Mr. Meredith, leader of the Conservative opposition in the local House was extremely desirous of having Mr. Sheppard as a follower, and canvassed for his nomination, but all to no purpose. The "machine" in Toronto knows its business and rarely brooks outside interference. The Reform party convention takes place to-night, and I hazard the opinion that it will be determined not to contest the seat. I hear to-day that as the labor element did not deem it wise to put a candidate in the field the Nationalist Society have determined to nominate Mr. Phillips Thompson, not because it is thought he would have any chance of election, but merely to make the occasion an educational one.

April 27th, 1892.

Nominations took place last Friday to fill the vacancy in the city's representation in the Provincial Legislature caused by the death of the late Mr. H. E. Clarke. The Conservative party put Mr. H. A. E. Kent in nomination. He is a common-place lawyer (I understand), a public school trustee, and a past or present something in the Orange order. The Reform party nominated Mr. N. G. Bigelow, who is a lawyer also, but who does not score on the other points to the account of Mr. Kent. Ex-Ald. Ernest Albert McDonald is also a candidate as a straight out and out annexationist to the United States, under the guise of political union. Whatever the number of votes cast for him will not be for the individual, but for the principle he represents, and there is no doubt but the number of votes which may be recorded for him would be much larger had some one else championed the cause. Up to this "break" on Mr. McDonald's part he has been a stalwart Conservative. The Nationalist Society nominated Mr. Phillips Thompson, journalist, as an exponent of labor reform. Such of your readers as are really interested in this subject will recollect that the Trades and Labor Council of this city by a large majority vote decided not to put a labor candidate in the field. Yet in spite of this determination the city papers in reporting the nomination proceedings tells us that Phillips Thompson, journalist, was nominated "by T. W. Barton, president Trades and Labor Council, seconded by F. C. Cribbin, secretary of the Council." And so to-day the

general public believes that Mr. Thompson is the "labor candidate," despite the action of the Trades and Labor Council. This, to say the least of it, is unfortunate, and for many reasons which may be seen at a glance. Under the circumstances if organized labor recognizes and acknowledges Mr. Thompson as a labor candidate, then it must at any time in the future acknowledge that any fifteen or twenty men calling themselves any name they please as an organization, and professing to be in favor of one or more planks of the platform of organized labor, have a right to pose as the Labor party, and in this way give prominence to one of their number by placing him in nomination for parliamentary honors, and one, too, who at a convention could not secure a baker's dozen of votes in a large meeting. On the other hand, in this case if they (the Labor party) do not vote for Mr. Thompson, they will do a gross injustice to a man who in the past has done signal good service to the cause, both in this country and while on a long visit to England about two years ago, and who, I am sure, would suffer at the stake on behalf of the rights of labor and true democracy. As to his platform, I will let him speak for himself. A city paper in reporting the nomination proceedings, says:

"Mr. Phillips Thompson, the independent labor reform candidate was the next speaker introduced to the convention, and from the reception he received it was evident that he had some followers in the audience. He began by saying that he asked their suffrages as an independent labor reform candidate, who was not connected with any party or faction. He was a candidate nominated to represent the labor reformers of the city in the Ontario Legislature. They were a very important portion of the people of Toronto and their interests heretofore had been almost wholly neglected. The representatives that we have sent to the Local House have not recognized the labor reformers, and for that reason, he believed, workingmen were entitled to and should have a member of their own. Large financial institutions and corporations could have the services of the Toronto members of the Local House at almost any time, but when it came down to a question which affected the wage-earners it was considered too radical, or something of that kind, and they were told that public opinion was not ripe for such a movement. He was opposed to the labor contract system in large public buildings, and thought that the wage-earners should have fair play in this connection, and that the Government should deal with them directly without the intervention of any contractor. He believed that a minimum rate of wages should be carried into effect. If the fifteen-cent rate brought into force by the City Council worked satisfactory, why should the Ontario Government not follow that example? There were scales of prices for professional men, and why should the laboring classes not have the same privileges? He thought it was a mistake to bring emigrants and laborers from foreign lands into Canada to compete with our home workmen. Public money should not be spent in large sums for the publication of pamphlets which told foreign laborers that there were good homes and plenty of work here. Very often these pamphlets much exaggerated the facts, and emigrants came here only to find that if they wished to work they would have to do so by underselling Canadian workmen. Such conditions as these had a tendency to decrease the earnings of the native laborers and should be put down. The deputations of the labor reformers were invariably put off when they asked for some legislation, but no question was raised when a step to increase Mr. Mowat's salary by \$2,000 was taken. He claimed that the public should be brought into closer connection with the Government than it now is by allowing them to vote on every question of great public interest. Very important measures had been taken for the amelioration of the condition of the masses in England, and why should Canada not fall into line and come to the conclusion that matters concerning the masses of the people are of the uppermost importance? In conclusion Mr. Thompson declared himself in the field to stay. He was there on principle, and asked them to return him on election day. (Applause.)

Every evening since nomination each party has been holding meetings, and if an outsider was credulous to believe what the speakers say at the meetings, each party is sure of electing its candidate, although of course only one of them (if all are elected!) can take the vacant seat. As the daily press will have announced the successful candidate before your readers could see this letter, I hazard no opinion as to the possible result at the polls on next Friday.

URIM.

**OPINIONS OF THE PEOPLE.**  
SARCASTICALLY TRUE.  
TORONTO, April 25, 1892.  
To the Editor of THE ECHO.  
SIR,—As a reader of your journal for some time past I waited for a week or two expecting that your correspondent in this

city would be so keenly alive to the keen irony and real truthfulness of an article which appeared in the columns of Grip—a most ably conducted literary, comic and pictorial weekly publication of this city—a week or two ago, that he would have sent it to you for publication. As he failed in this I send it, as appended, for publication with the remark that an actual occurrence is recorded, the names only being fictitious. The occasion was when a company sought incorporation to take possession of and own Askbridge's Bay for all time and without the consent of the people. I am pleased to add, however, that through the efforts of Messrs. "Toyley," "Squareman," (Messrs. Jury and O'Donoghue, who represented organized labor in this case) and others, the "sharks" were thwarted to the extent that before they can do anything the matter must be submitted to the votes of the electorate. Failing in securing this consent the company can have no legal standing. I opine, however, that what Grip records as having taken place before a committee of the Ontario Provincial Legislature may also be witnessed from time to time in you Provincial Legislature Committees as well as within the Canadian House of Commons. The following is Grip's article, heading and all:

### AT THE MONOPOLY LEGISLATION COMMITTEE.

At the last meeting of the Monopoly Legislation Committee of the Provincial Legislature, Hon. Adam Antine in the chair, the application of the Universal Vampire Corporation for an indefinite extension of its powers, franchises and privileges, so as to enable it to acquire control of anything left in reach in Toronto, or within a reasonable or unreasonable distance thereof, as the case may be, in spite of any legislation to the contrary, came up for consideration.

The Vampire was represented by Mr. Grabsneak, Q. C., of the eminent firm of Grabsneak, Pillager & Squeezum, Mr. Verbose, Q. C., of Pompas and Verbose, and Mr. Wneezey Sprout, as considerable opposition to the measure was anticipated. It was contended that the bill was an infringement upon the vested rights of the Municipal Freebooters Company, which was ably represented by a distinguished array of counsel, including Hon. P. Twister, of Twister, Scalliwag and Boozey, Ananias Limberjaw Q. C., and Mr. Mullethead, who refused to be a Q.C. on the ground that the thing was getting altogether too common, don't you know. Mr. Larger, city solicitor, watched the proceedings on behalf of the city as a matter of form. There was also a large number of contractors, boddlers, promiscuous on-hangers, influential citizens and citizens who want to be considered influential, in attendance.

The members of the Committee, knowing that it wouldn't get to work until at least half an hour after the appointed time, strolled in leisurely and took their places. Hon. Adam Antine, after a brief conference with the leading counsel, called the Committee to business.

Mr. Grabsneak on behalf of the Universal Vampire Corporation, said that the measure had been fully discussed and approved by the City Council, the guardians of the public interest. He need not do more than mention that his clients had vast financial interests at stake, interests which would be seriously imperilled if some of the limitations which it was proposed to introduce were imposed, to show them how unjust, how unreasonable, what an unwarrantable interference with the rights of capital it would be to amend this legislation in the direction sought. He did not in the least wish to cast any reflections upon the Municipal Freebooters, but he would point out that, by an Act passed in the year 1856, the Universal Vampire acquired a potential right, a locus standi in the matter, which in no way could be interfered with by any subsequent agreement.

He spoke in this strain for half an hour, and his remarks were received with an amount of deference duly proportioned to the amount of capital he represented and the \$100 a day retainer paid him by the Vampire Corporation.

The chairman said that as the only opposition was likely to come from the Municipal Freebooters Company, their representative would be next granted a hearing.

Mr. Ananias Limberjaw, Q.C., said he represented a company possessing two and a half millions of capital—

Mr. Hawbick, M.P.P., (in a deeply reverential tone)—"Gosh!"

Mr. Limberjaw—invested in good faith and on the prospect of being enabled to extend their operations. They claimed that the sphere of their operations under their contract with the municipality of Hcggy's Hollow might be seriously interfered with by the powers granted to the Universal Vampire Corporation, of whom he desired to speak with all the respect due to their position in the world of finance. As to the Act of 1856, quoted by his learned friend, it was clearly ultra vires, if indeed it had not been repealed by subsequent legislation, and so on for about three-quarters of an hour.

Mr. Verbose, Q.C., ably replied on behalf of the Universal Vampire Corporation, and was followed on the other side by Mr. Mullethead (not a Q.C.)

(Continued on Fourth Page.)