

## MACHINERY

Has Not Lightened the Labors of the Men

WHO ARE ENTITLED TO THE BENEFITS.

The Hours of Labor Should be Reduced in Proportion as Machinery Takes Labor's Place.

To the superficial observer, the introduction of labor-saving machinery, the pressing into the service of mankind those immense sinews of steel and iron, propelled by muscles of steam and electricity, would seem to remove the pressing drudgery demanded by the advancement of our civilization, and make life a holiday, shorn of poverty and the fear of poverty. But what is the fact? We find youth stunted and starved; age harried by avarice, men forced to idleness and virtue sacrificed to poverty.

But workingmen are not alone the victims of the wrongs which afflict mankind, for while it impoverishes and degrades them, it brutalizes and debases their spoilers. A rotten purse-proud plutocracy admires and imitates a rotten purse-proud aristocracy. Acts that would make a mechanic a social outcast, when committed by a sprig of nobility become only little picadillies, if not meriting approval, certainly not meeting their contempt. "The king can do no wrong," is as slavishly adhered to in the United States as in London. The readers of this will remember that a couple of years ago, one of our ex-Governors was sojourning in Europe, at some watering place in Germany, in company with his wife, when one of the princes of England sent insulting proposals to his wife by a lackey, Lord somebody or other, and how was it received by the husband? Did he show the just indignation an outraged husband would naturally feel? Not at all. It was rather a feather in his cap that his wife attracted the insult. How was it received in America? Why, a lot of scribblers in the society columns of the daily papers seriously discussed the question whether she was justifiable in repelling the insult, or was guilty of an act of prudishness. The very act of considering it patiently instead of indignantly denouncing the dastardly act, shows the kind of creatures they were.

Some newspapers sound the alarm from an influx of foreigners upon our shores, but there is much more danger to our institutions from the importation of foreign ideas by a class of snobocrats who go to Europe yearly and spend hundreds of dollars wrung from the sweat and blood of the toiling millions at home. They copy all that is base and belittling to manhood, and upon their return they are copied in turn by others. These are the people that draw a distinction between themselves and the "common people." Let working people practice self-respect, and instead of being impressed with the importance of these snobs, look upon them as moral lepers, not fit for association with freemen.

And her abuse which it is the duty of workingmen to rectify, is the tendency of the courts to apply different rules of law to the rich and the poor. If a poor man commits a crime, it is soon ascertained that there is no statute of limitations, however remote the act may have been; let a rich man be the wrongdoer, and it is spoken of lightly as a "back number." Now, this is no fault of the law. We have probably the most equitable system of laws on the face of the globe; but, there is no law, however good, that may not be perverted; on the other hand, there is no law, however bad, that its rigors may not be softened, if administered by a humane man.

It will be remembered that a couple of years ago a little boy picked up some lumps of coal on the track of the East

Tennessee railroad, and forthwith an officious policeman thought it necessary to vindicate the law. It was ascertained that the little fellow's father and mother were at home stretched on a bed of sickness, but it mattered not to the hide-bound fellow who was clothed with a little brief authority. We want a little more of the spirit and less of the letter of the law.

It is worse than idle, however, to discover faults, unless a rational effort is made for their correction. What must be done to attain that result? We have already pointed out that the invention of labor-saving machinery has not lightened the labors of the men who are entitled to the benefits. On the contrary, it makes the struggle for life sharper and more uncertain. If workmen would only reduce the hours of labor in proportion as machinery takes the place of laborers, the introduction of machinery would be a blessing instead of a curse, taking bread out of the mouths of their children. If machinery could be improved to such an extent as to produce the necessities of life by each one working one hour a day, it would be the part of prudence for all to shut off nine hours out of the ten.

## ARMY OF THE UNEMPLOYED.

The Times of Chicago has made a careful estimate, and declares that there are no fewer than 25,000 idle men in that city alone. Recently an explosion took place in the new water tunnel under the lake at Chicago, killing a number of men. Within an hour after the disaster the places of the unfortunate men had been applied for a dozen times over. The work was very hazardous, as shown by the accident, and was not very well paid. Yet the contractor stated the following day that he could, within twenty-four hours, have got 500 men to fill the places of the five who were killed or disabled by the accident. Every advertisement of "help wanted" in any newspaper of general help brings from a dozen to a hundred answers, and there have been single advertisements of this character in New York papers which brought answers by the thousands.—Indianapolis Sentinel.

## THE A. B. C. BABIES.

Three babies have been born in this world lately, and about them an idle man might write for hours and days. Consider how close to each other fate has put them in the alphabet and how far apart in other ways. A. B. C.—Astor, Bissell, Cleveland. These three babies have one thing in common, and women's rights ladies may make capital of the fact if they want to. From the physical point of view, at least, their three mothers are much superior to their three fathers. Everybody knows about Mrs. Cleveland. Mrs. Bissell is a splendid type of an American woman, and so is Mrs. Astor, who was Miss Willing. The three would make fine additions to any woman's boat crew or tennis match. Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Bissell, his former law partner, on the other hand, are much too big to be voted perfect, and young Astor is much too weak and unsubstantial. A trained novelist might take those three infants and make money weaving a tangled tale about their lives. The Astor baby might live to edit a Henry George paper and the little Bissell boy to take the little Cleveland girl into everlasting partnership, or any number of other interesting combinations might be made.—N. Y. World.

## Election of Officers

At a regular meeting of the Local Union, No. 376, of Montreal, of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America the following officers were elected for the ensuing term: Pres., Samuel Priestly; vice-pres., Jas. Williams; rec. sec., Thos. Furlong; fin. sec., A. O'Leary; treas., Jas. Cameron; conductor, A. Ramsay; warden, Jas. Kilgour; trustees, Thos. Philippe, John Quinn, James Williams.

## THE TRADES COUNCIL.

Annual Meeting—Election of Officers.

The regular meeting of the above Council was held on Thursday evening last, the President, L. Z. Boudreau, occupying the chair. Credentials were read and accepted from Ed. Lortie, H. Lemire and A. Chartrand, representing Hope Assembly, K. of L.; Ed. DeDaNaan, Jno. McCarney and Thos. McGreevy, of Cigarmakers' Union, No. 226; R. Ouimet, of La Grande Hermine Assembly; B. Cody, Glassworkers' Union; O. Deloge, A. Blondin and Philip Robitaille, Co-Operative Assembly; M. H. Brennan, Jas. O'Brien and John Kennedy, River Front Assembly; Jas. Melver, Dominion Assembly; Chas. Fortier, Painters' Union, No. 222; A. Deguire, E. Pelletier and P. Blanchi, Painters' Union, No. 74; E. Massie, A. Gariepy and M. David, Cigarmakers' Union, No. 58; A. E. Abson, N. Stephens and Geo. W. Upjohn, Pressmen's Union, No. 52; J. R. Pigeon, G. Bernard and H. Charest, Hochelaga Assembly; L. Martin, Montcalm Assembly.

The credentials of the Clerks' Association of St. Jean Baptiste were referred to the Organization Committee for investigation.

The Widow Flynn Committee reported having turned over to Mrs. Flynn's counsel the sum of \$910.32, being the amount collected to date, as it was the intention to make the deposit required by the Privy Council before the first of February.

After a lengthy discussion the report was accepted, and a motion was passed that the lawyers in the case be notified that the Council would guarantee to them the amount necessary to carry the case to the bitter end.

The election of officers for the ensuing six months then took place, Delegates J. Brennan, Royal and Garrigan acting as scrutineers, and resulted as follows:

President—L. Z. Boudreau.  
Vice-President—R. Keys.  
English Recording Secretary—P. J. Ryan.  
French Recording Secretary—A. Deguire.  
Financial Secretary—E. Pelletier.  
Corresponding Secretary—O. Fontaine.  
Treasurer—Jos. Corbeil.  
Sergeant-at-Arms—B. Rodier.

Legislative Committee—Delegates Thibault, Sandilands, Boileau, Fontaine, Schaff.

Organization Committee—Delegates Pelletier, Keys and Farrell. Two others to be elected at the next meeting.

Committee on Credentials—Delegates Garrigan, Royal, Sandilands, Thibault.

Auditors—Delegates Royal and Thibault.

On motion of Delegate Garrigan, seconded by Delegate Blanchi, a vote of thanks was tendered the retiring officers.

The meeting then adjourned.

After adjournment a requisition was handed the President, asking that a special meeting be called Sunday, 10th inst., at two p.m., "to take into consideration the present political situation and take action if necessary." The President accordingly notified the Corresponding Secretary to send notices to all the delegates to attend said meeting.

## OPINIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

ARE BRITISH-CANADIAN WORKINGMEN SLAVES?

To the Editor of THE ECHO.

SIR,—Will you kindly insert the following letter in your paper, which was suggested after hearing a discussion on the subject of "Britons never shall be, or are they slaves," by the members of Local Assembly, 7628, K. of L., and oblige.

"Britons never shall be slaves" is an old maxim, and a good many Englishmen, especially capitalists, believe it to be the infallible truth. The word slave means a person in bondage, a drudge, a serf. Now the question is, are we, or are we not slaves? If we are not slaves, why is it we have to drudge like a serf from year to year for a mere subsistence, while the capitalists who are so proud of the national boast that Britons never shall be slaves are rolling in luxuries without contributing in any way or form towards producing them? It is true we have our liberty, but what kind of liberty? Liberty that compels us to work, not for a fair day's hire, but for what will barely keep the breath in our bodies; liberty that compels us to support a government for the purpose of booting and upholding monopolies, who, in their turn, cause us to beg of them to be their slaves in order to keep the wolf from our door. Before the abolition of slavery in South America, if they (the slaves) had not their liberty, they had at least plenty to eat and drink, and a home to shelter their weary bones at night; but with us it is far different, for we must toil for what the minority of Her Majesty's subjects are willing to give us, which is not near sufficient for the necessities of life, without speaking of a home.

Now, in the face of the above undoubted facts, I say positively that we are slaves, and not only ourselves, but our children, inasmuch that, instead of sending them to school to

enable them to journey through life as good citizens, we are compelled to hunt them to toil in the factories to keep them from starving, and the result is that they grow up in ignorance and end in misery like their forefathers.

AN ORGANIZED WORKINGMAN.

Montreal, 3rd January, 1892.

TORONTO vs. MONTREAL SCHOOL BOARDS.

To the Editor of THE ECHO.

DEAR SIR,—What are the Labor men in Montreal doing in the educational matter? Here we pay school taxes and school fees. We pay for school books. Very high it all comes. In Toronto they pay taxes, and no fees. The Common schools have no High schools at high fixed fees for the rich which the poor have to pay taxes for. Now the Toronto voters have done two things to be further proud of. They have elected three women to the Board of School Commissioners. They have made their schools absolutely free by voting to have henceforth free school books. What a curious anomaly in Montreal, the chief commercial city of the Dominion. The people do not elect their School Commissioners, but have a lot of men foisted upon them who may be one-half favorites or henchmen of the Quebec Government and the other half log rollers of the city corporation. Log-rollers mean men who trade off their votes with other aldermen for prospective patronage or for particular methods they may desire to carry. Sometimes in this Star Chamber of educational peculiarities there are queer goings-on that would not occur if there were women on the Board. I speak now of the Protestant Board. How would it be if there were a workingman on that Board? Horror of horrors, what an awful thing that would be to the solons of the higher educational school. An alderman is bad enough; but a workingman, per-adventure a Knight of Labor. The thing is monstrous. Still, Mr. Editor until our workingmen take this matter up the mediaevalism of the Protestant School Commissioners will remain as it is.

A TAXPAYER.

## Suing the C. P. R.

Messrs. David and Demers have taken some forty actions against the Canadian Pacific Railway in the Magistrate's Court in the name of laborers, who were hired, as they allege, to work at Fort William, Ont., for some two or three months, at 25 cents per hour. Instead of this they were dismissed at the end of a couple of weeks, and paid at the rate of 50 or 22 cents per hour. They now sue for the balance of their money as agreed upon and damages resulting from loss of time, which makes the claim of each about \$50.

## K. of L. Banquet.

The banquet of the Knights of Labor, under the auspices of Dominion Assembly, in their Hall, Chaboillez street, promises to be a very successful affair. The tickets are going rapidly, and the committee having the matter in hand believe it will surpass anything of a like nature ever got up by the banner assembly. Secure your tickets at once.

## A PERFECT ARTICLE!

**COOK'S FRIEND**  
BAKING POWDER.

Only the purest Grape Cream Tartar and Finest Recrystallized Bicarbonate of Soda are employed in its preparation.

Thousands are using the Cook's Friend. Just the Thing for your Christmas Baking.

All the best Grocers sell it.

McLaren's Cook's Friend the only Genuine.

## PRESSWORK

TO THE TRADE,

Publishers and Patent Medicine Dealers.

You don't require to put your money out on a big press, send it to HENRY OWEN, who will do it for you BETTER and CHEAPER than if you had a big press of your own.

## SEE!

Facilities for Printing Newspapers, Pamphlets, etc., to the extent of 120 reams per day.

FOLDING AND BINDING

DONE ON THE PREMISES.

769 CRAIG STREET.

## JOHN MURPHY &amp; CO.'S ADVERTISEMENT.

## WITH A BIG B.

The United States Treasury has issued a new set of coins on which a microscopic B is hidden away, as a sort of national puzzle, we suppose, to the citizens of the Great Republic. It is different with our BIG JANUARY CLEARING SALE now going on. We spell "BIG" with a big "B," ladies! The indications of public appreciation warrant it, and to make assurance doubly sure we print "REDUCTION"

## WITH A CAPITAL "R."

Observe the prices we publish from day to day, and you will see we are justified.

JOHN MURPHY &amp; CO.

## BIG REDUCTIONS AT OUR BIG

## JANUARY CLEARING SALE.

Good Gray Flannel. Cheap Sale Price only 9c per yard.  
Good Canton Flannels. Cheap Sale price only 7c per yard.  
Good All-Wool Scarlet Flannels. Cheap Sale price only 10c per yard.  
Good Fancy Printed Flannels. Cheap sale price only 40c per yard.  
Good All-Wool Colored Flannels. Cheap Sale Price only 20c per yard.  
Good White Blankets. Cheap Sale Price only \$2.00 per pair.  
Good Bed Comforters. Cheap Sale Price only 75c each.  
Good Fancy Wool Rugs. Cheap Sale Price only \$1.25.  
Children's Wool Sleigh Rugs. Cheap Sale Price only \$1.50.

## REMEMBER THE GREAT

## LINEN SALE

Every piece of Table Linen will be reduced. Every dozen Napkins will be reduced. Every dozen Towels will be reduced. Every Tray Cloth and Sideboard Cover will be reduced. All our stock of Linens of every kind will be reduced for this Great Cheap Sale.

JOHN MURPHY &amp; CO.

## Melissa Proofed Garments.

A full assortment in all the various lines of this splendid Waterproof and Overcoat combined, always in stock.

## JOHN MURPHY &amp; CO., 1781, 1783

Notre Dame street, cor. St. Peter  
Terms Cash and Only One Price.

## FOR THE SCHOOL BOYS

Now on hand a CHEAP LINE of BOOTS AND SHOES guaranteed to stand extra tear and wear. Just the thing for boys going back to school.

Misses, Girls and Children's Boots in great variety of Style and Price.

The above goods have only to be seen to be appreciated and they cannot be matched elsewhere for quality and cheapness.

Try a sample pair and we are sure of a continuance of your custom.

**J. CHURCH,**  
30 Chaboillez Square.

## Every Workingman

SHOULD READ

## THE ECHO

A BRIGHT, NEWSY,

ENTERTAINING WEEKLY.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

ONLY \$1.00 A YEAR.

## Job \* Printing!

— FOR —

SOCIETIES,

LODGES,

ASSEMBLIES

— AT —

REASONABLE PRICES.