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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, St. Lawrence street.

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## TORONTO NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

TORONTO, April 21, 1892.

Contrary to the fact as evidenced in past years, rare indeed are the piles of stone and brick and lumber to be found here and there on the streets of Toronto awaiting the building season. These are conspicuous in their absence. The outlook in the building line in this city as the season opens are disheartening indeed. Daily am I asked by honest fellows ready and willing to work "what are we going to do this summer; there are no large buildings going up?" I heartily wish I could answer that question satisfactorily. As it is my answer is forced to be "you must leave town while you have money enough left to do so."—that is if any is on hand for that or any other purpose. Already hundreds of men, laborers, carpenters, masons, bricklayers, painters, plumbers, and others more or less directly interested in the building line have left for the broader field "across the line." Evidently "the old flag and the old policy" offer no security for work and living wages to the workmen who voted year after year for that policy. In saying this I have no desire to be rated as a partisan—I merely state what appears to me to be an undeniable fact. And the exodus of workmen is not from Toronto alone—it is from all parts of Canada and more especially is this true of large industrial centres. Yet our Federal Government is practically pledged to "an energetic immigration policy"—i. e. a policy that will still further and to a much greater extent perpetuate the continued congesting and overcrowding of Canada's labor market, for it must not be forgotten that the Government is asking at the present session of Parliament for the enormous sum of \$198,300 in round figures for immigration expenditure for the year 1892-93. It is but poor consolation to say that if the workmen who, election after election, vote for protection can stand this kind of thing the Free Trade or Revenue Tariff workingman can stand it too. Frank K. Foster (a prominent and valued friend of mine and editor of the Boston Labor World) in an address delivered at the March meeting of the Unitarian Club in Boston on March 9, ult., took occasion to deal with the question of immigration from the standpoint of a workman in the United States. I know he will forgive me for paraphrasing his remarks so as to adapt them to Canada, and to which they are equally—in fact more applicable than they are to the conditions in the United States, where the Government does not ask for or expend the public funds in encouraging or assisting immigration from abroad.

This problem of immigration is many-sided. To the historian, the vast throng that surges through the inward swinging gates of the New World is but the continuation of that pilgrimage of the great Aryan race from its cradle valley, which was begun in the dim morning of time.

In this modern exodus, the statesman and the student of government may see either an ominous test for the institutions of our country, or a valuable contribution to the republic of the future.

To the employer, anxious only for the cheapest possible instruments of production, and careless of its social significance, this vast mass of humanity may be the most welcome of additions to the labor supply, enabling him to still further increase his vantage ground when bargaining for labor. That this is too commonly the case, evidence is not wanting to prove.

In reasoning thus the employers clearly indicate that they have "a plane of vision" all their own when considering the question of immigration.

Now as to the wage-earner himself, and more especially as to the wage-earner who is enrolled in the trade union movement. His "plane of vision" is by no means speculative. He feels the tangible pressure of increased competition in the labor market. What would you naturally expect his view to be? In the first place, it should be borne in mind that the trade union is a protective organization—a labor trust, if you will. It is formed for the purpose of securing an equality of bargaining power between the sellers and buyers of the labor commodity, and equality eliminated from the industrial equation when capitalist-employers are associated and laborers unorganized. The trade unionist sees on the one hand the legislative power of the government brought into play to impose upon

him a compulsory system of taxation for the ostensible "protection of American labor." He hears reiterated on all sides the axiom that the price of labor is regulated by the "law of supply and demand." He could not be accused of an illogical position if, in his attempt to regulate the supply of labor, he should ask government for the absolute inhibition of the foreign European labor supply. It is to his everlasting credit that he has not emulated the selfish policy of the manufacturing interests, and ask this to be done. It is not on record in Canada that any labor organization has sought to hinder the influx of free labor, foreign labor when coming at its own expense and volition. Nor can one be mentioned which has asked for a tariff, specific or ad valorem, upon the labor commodity of the Old World, when that commodity has been brought here by a free and untrammelled possessor.

Those shallow critics who prate of the "selfishness of trade unions" should weigh well this fact, that the trade union movement is not committed to the policy of forcing a free man to buy or to sell commodities in a market restricted by law. The trade unionist does protest against the importation of alien labor under contract. In the struggle for the survival of the cheapest in the world of industry, he does protest against the unfair policy of permitting the buyers of labor to import the cheapest commodity of labor as a means of breaking down the Canadian standard of wages and living which he the trade unionist is seeking to maintain. So much his plane of vision warrants him in asking—much less than his direct self-interest calls for.

The funeral of the late Hon. Alex. Mackenzie in this city yesterday from his late residence to Jarvis Street Baptist church, where religious services were held, and from there to the Union station where a special train was in waiting to convey the remains to Sarnia, was an imposing one, though devoid of "show." Whatever may or may not be said in favor of or against his political record and views any impartial person being honored in the personal acquaintance of the deceased must feel constrained to say of him that he was a man "not hypocritically humble nor hypocritically proud," that he was not possessed of "the pride that apes humanity," but true pride—pride in his own manhood. The Parliamentary Companion says of him that he was always (and this appears as if from his own pen). "A Liberal, and has always held those political principles—which by some in England may be considered peculiar—of the universal brotherhood of man, no matter in what rank of life he may have taken his origin. He believed, and now believes, in the extinction of all class legislation, and of all legislation that tends to promote any body of men or class of men, on account of the fact of their belonging to a body or class, to a higher position politically than any other class in the country. In our great colonies, while no fault is found with the political institutions of the Mother Country, or of any other country, we take our stand on the broad ground that every man is equal in the eye of the law, and has the same opportunity by exercising the talents with which God has blessed him of rising in the world, in possession of the confidence of his fellow-citizens—one man quite as much as another."

## COMING EVENTS.

A grand farewell benefit will be tendered to Messrs. Anderson Bros., the well-known and popular amateur performers of this city, in the Armory Hall, Cathcart street, on Wednesday, the 27th inst. A great variety of the best local talent has been secured, and anyone wanting a good night's enjoyment should not fail to take this in. The programme will be followed by a dance under the direction of Prof. E. Fordham.

The Typos are determined to make their festival "the" event of the season. The committee is working hard, the members are enthusiastic, and there is every indication that it will be a howling success. We have heard it whispered that a number of the "boys" are practicing the Grand March on the quiet with the intention of astonishing the natives with their gracefulness. "Remember, it comes off next Friday evening. You are all expected to be there, and bring your sisters and your cousins and your aunts. So secure your tickets at once."

Horace Talbot, the Public Works Department boodler, has skipped.

## OUR AUSTRALIAN LETTER.

MELBOURNE, March 3, 1892.

We are on the eve of a great political crisis. For the first time in the history of Victorian politics the workingmen are going to try and return a few of their own class to parliament. So far New Zealand and New South Wales have been successful in returning 26 and 36 labor members respectively, but I am afraid that Victoria will not be nearly so successful and there are several reasons for this. "The Progressive Political League," that is the name of the workers political organization is in a poor state of organization; then there is the apathy of the class you wish to help, and of course we are not entirely free from the self-seekers. One of these particularly who claims to have travelled pretty extensively throughout the States is causing us a great amount of trouble. He means by hook or crook to get into parliament; he is perfectly unscrupulous about the means he uses to obtain his end, packing the meetings, canvassing for votes, etc., before he has any right to be among the principal things he has been guilty of. Fortunately the Central Council have the power to vote, and they have used it. Another big stumbling block is the terrific scrambling after office. They seem to lose sight of the claims of the best men on account of their ability and honesty and select those who have the most front. Then again a lot of the candidates are entirely ignorant of economic questions altogether, and in a great many cases, so long as they are rabid protectionists, that is the only qualification these protection blind workers will require from them. At one political open air meeting, I was speaking on the land question and endeavoring to show the crowd how it was really the labor question, one individual hollers out "Oh! bosh, give us something about protection!" and he was echoed by a good many in the crowd. In conclusion I am going to prophesy that in Victoria we won't get more than ten (10) labor candidates in at the outside.

We have started another L. A. of the Knights of Labor over in Sydney and it is humming along. It is called Freedom. Over in Christchurch, N. Z., the Knights have started a boot and shoe factory and in Napier they are running a general store. The latter store was started with \$250 capital and now they are doing business to the extent of \$300 a week.

I am so busy with the elections that you must excuse the short letter. I'll try and give you full particulars next time.

WM. W. LYGHT.

## OPINIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

To the Editor of THE ECHO.

SIR,—In reply to an appeal for the amalgamation of the Cigarmakers Unions of this city, I observed in last issue of your valuable paper a letter signed by K. E., in which he attempts to deal with the two Union question, not from a practical or logical point of view, which would entitle him to some consideration, but from a purely selfish motive.

He has not only attempted to mislead those who are interested in the cigar industry, i. e. those composing the Unions, by fictitious statements, which he claims to have read in the appeal of the 9th inst., which clearly proves his inability to deal with a question on hearsay evidence and places him in his true colors. K. E. states he read in the appeal of the 9th inst. that a month ago the officers of both Unions were good, thus implying that the present set are no good. This is delusive, no such statement being made. What I said was that several months ago a request to meet those members who opposed the amalgamation scheme appeared in THE ECHO signed by "Sarapa." I did not quite agree with him, giving among other reasons that the officers of both Unions were active and painstaking members and believing the present system was the best. This does not imply the construction which K. E. has seen fit to put on it, without the slightest proof for his statement. The officers of the Unions, with one or two exceptions, are about the same as were in office some six months ago. They are just as active now as then, still we are not holding our own. Is it not time then, after some five years experience of the two union system, which seems to be a hindrance to any progress, that some practical method be considered for the bettering of our condition by both unions and that every honest mem-

ber lend a helping hand in carrying it to a successful issue. Again he states that in the appeal it would be better if No. 226 would send in its charter and go in with No. 58. I fail to see where K. E. read such a statement in the appeal, no mention of which Union should return its charter being made, this being a secondary consideration. But it appears that K. E. being an office holder of Union 226 who poses as a leader, it would be a terrible disaster to the labor movement were he to be removed from office by the amalgamation of both unions, for his communication goes to show that he would not be content to rank as a loyal follower. K. E. admits that men who came here through the circular are leaving as fast as they can but fails to assign any reason for the same; that the Advertising Committee are not doing anything practical, again no reason for such a conclusion.

Whether I know what I want or what I am talking about can be best judged by the readers of your paper in the cigar industry. They are clear to any person of sane mind, and founded on facts—the result of five years experience.

K. E.'s reasons "about what good it would do to send in 226 charter" has been omitted. Why does he not cast aside his personal ambition to be a leader and assign some logical reasons for his statement. His statement that the origin of sending in the charter of 226 occurred in a saloon, etc., is without any foundation whatever. Not one of the members who took part in the discussion which K. E. refers to withdrew their cards at the time mentioned, and each and every one of them were more competent to be leaders in the Union, than K. E., because they had a more practical knowledge of the state of things that existed in this city, as their knowledge was based on experience and not hearsay. The explanation which he gives for the men being brought on here—the famous circular, the report in the February journal of 60 jobs open, after it being decided by both unions not to use the journal for that purpose, is convincing proof that the cause of the trouble is due to the existence of two unions in our trade in this city, who are ever ready to adopt measures for their benefit, but by their actions violate the agreement which they had decided to carry out. It makes no difference which party violates the agreement, the result is certainly an impediment to progress and is detrimental to all concerned.

His attack on the officers of 58 is not proof of his sincerity. There is a constitution which provides a remedy for the violation of any regulation by an officer or for one who fails to do his duty. This seems to have been forgotten by K. E. His advice to me to withdraw from Union 226 "if I do not like the way it is run," is not going to remove the cause which produces the evil, nor is it one which should emanate from a leader who has assumed the responsibility of speaking for Union 226 and who has not advanced any logical reasons in defence of a continuation of the two union system.

In asking the members to consider the advisability of consolidating both unions, it was my honest conviction that it would to a great extent bring about a change for the bettering of our condition, which under the present circumstances seems to be impossible. There may be a few trivial matters which could be said against the amalgamation of both unions (but even these have not been advanced by K. E.) and when it is considered that the amount of good that could be realized by the consolidation of both unions even the most selfish person can not but admit, that the goal of success lays in the old adage in unity there is strength.

Yours truly,  
A MEMBER OF 226.

## Resolution of Condolence.

At the last regular meeting of River Front L.A. 7628, the following resolution was passed, ordered to be entered on the minutes, and a copy sent to their Past Master Workman, Thomas McNamara, and to the press for publication: "We, the members of L.A. 7628 desire to convey to Bro. Thomas McNamara our heartfelt sympathy with him in the great loss he has sustained through the death of his father."

Mr. Phillips Thompson, the well-known labor reformer, has been nominated as a candidate for the Ontario House in Toronto.

Robert McGreevy, who was found guilty some time ago of conspiracy and skipped to escape punishment, voluntarily returned the other day and was sentenced to one year's imprisonment without hard labor.