

THE WAY IT HAPPENS

Truth Don't Count - Meeting of Protest Held

At St. Joseph's hall Tuesday night, an informal protest meeting was held presided over by Alphonse Verville, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, and attended by all the business agents and organizers of international unions now in the city. The meeting protested against statements made in a local newspaper which were stamped as untrue, misleading and a detriment to the international trade union movement.

The quotation of men who were opposed to the international form of the trade union movement, said Mr. Landers of the Garment Workers, was a privilege and a right any newspaper enjoyed, but when a paper would go so far as to express an opinion that "One disadvantage that the National movement at present labors under is the fact that it cannot boast of so large a number of well-groomed, high-salaried special agents as the International unions, which spend a considerable sum of money on a growing number of organizers; then it savors of favoritism to the national movement." Mr. Verville added "what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander." Canadian employers are internationally organized and it is folly for the workers of Canada to look upon an imaginary boundary line or flag.

Mr. Flett, who was present, said: "The effect of United States employers' associations sending thousands of dollars and strike breakers into Canada to help defeat the efforts of Canadian workmen to better their conditions, is alone a rebuke to a national labor movement."

One delegate present remarked that the writer of the paragraphs referred to was a disgruntled internationalist, whose organization had refused to contribute further funds to assist him in organization, hence the national flavor of his writings.

A resolution was passed to protest to the proprietors of the newspapers referred to, and is they were not dissatisfied to be at least fair, the matter would be taken up in the central body, and action along certain lines taken.

Plumbers

The Plumbers elected their officers on Friday night, as follows: W. Bush, President; J. T. Gilbert, Vice-President; T. Maxwell, Treasurer; G. S. Kingswood, Recording Secretary; J. Richards, Corresponding Secretary; C. Corner, J. T. Gilbert, W. N. Brayton, Financial Committee; J. Stacey, Inside Guard; C. Horne, Outside Guard; W. Bush, G. Kingswood, T. Maxwell, W. N. Brayton, J. Richards, Executive Board; W. J. Storey, Business Agent. Owing to the lateness of the hour the balance will be elected at the next meeting.

THE POINT OF VIEW.

England is confronted with a gigantic unemployed problem. Hundreds of thousands of able-bodied men are loafing about the cities and tramping through the country unable to find a job. Petitions and deputations and demonstration meetings are held on behalf of the unemployed. But the English municipalities and the English government admit their inability to deal with the problem. To the proposal that the Government undertake some great industrial enterprise in order to give work to the workers and food to the starving they answer that the State finances will not allow it. The State finances, however, allow \$360,000,000 to be squandered every year on the army and navy, and another \$135,000,000 to pay the interest on debts incurred by senseless wars some generations ago. When \$1,250,000,000 was needed to deprive the Boers of their liberty and hand over to a handful of capitalists the mining resources of South Africa for exploitation with Chinese slave labor, nobody raised the question as to whether the State finances could stand it. But when money is needed to save life, to the State finances cannot stand it!

There is loud talk in some quarters of sending large numbers of out-of-work to Canada and Australia. And the Government of England incline their ears very graciously to these emigration schemes, as if they were going to solve the problem of England had an ounce of common sense in their nodules they would see that the only method of solving the unemployed problem is that of nationalizing the land and undertaking State agriculture. The British people import more than half of their food supplies and British agriculture is in a very decadent condition. If, therefore, the British Government should undertake to supply its people with what is now largely imported from abroad, it would at once give employment to the unemployed and at the same time enrich the country. If the landlords of England were compelled to tear down their hedges and pluck up their signs "Keep Out," one great step would be taken toward the solution of this problem.

We do not say that land nationalization will solve for once and for all the question of giving work to everybody who wants to work. We merely say that it is a safer and more effective method than sending a hundred thousand people every year to foreign shores when they might be made into useful citizens at home. The fact is that there will always be an army of unemployed in England and all other countries until industry is organized in such a way as to give employment to every willing worker. There is only one solution to the unemployed problem, and that is

the Socialist solution. Under the present system, or rather, lack of system, two men are compelled to work ten hours a day to do a certain amount of work, and a third is left out shivering in the cold. Under Socialism the three men will work seven hours a day and nobody left out shivering in the cold.

If anybody wonders why there is so much poverty and crime in this supposedly enlightened age, he will find an answer in the number of people who cannot find work. When a man cannot earn his bread and butter, and earn it under decent conditions, by honest toil, he will get it in a way which the eighth commandment does not sanction. When a woman cannot earn her living in a decent way she will earn it in an indecent way. As General Booth puts it, it is always a question of "Starve or steal" to the man who is out of a job and can't get one.

Many people have busied themselves making an enquiry into the causes of poverty. They may briefly be stated to be heredity, unfavorable environment, poor wages and enforced idleness. Especially are these two last items responsible for a large percentage of poverty. And it is just these two items against which trade unionism is fighting. Trades unionism demands fair wages and an eight-hour day. And apropos the unemployed problem, an eight-hour day is especially desirable. The eight-hour day will give many men now out of a job employment. For every four men now employed at ten hours a day five men would be employed under the eight-hour system. Multiply these figures by a thousand, and you would have 5,000 men working eight hours a day where now you only have 4,000. Multiply them by a million, and you would employ 5,000,000 men where now are employed only 4,000,000. Is not the eight-hour day, then, a scheme for diminishing the army of out of works.

Another method of attacking the unemployed problem is the abolition of child labor. This might come hard on some poor widows who depend on their children's wages for subsistence, but it would operate in favor of the people as a whole, and especially so to the chil-

dren. Something is radically wrong somewhere when children are working in the shops and factories, and able-bodied men looking round the country in vain for a job. But the unemployed problem is only one of many social problems, and it never will be satisfactorily solved until industry is conducted on a more rational basis.

HENRI RESTELLE.

FIRST STEAM BOAT COMET.

Henry Bell, having opened the baths at Helensburgh, was anxious to get some faster means of communication with the city than the "fly-boat" then in use. Steam had been already unsuccessfully tried once or twice for propelling boats, but Bell was of the opinion that if he could find a clever engineer the idea might still be properly worked out. Having heard of John Robertson as an inventive man, Bell went to his little workshop in Dempster street, a small lane running between George street and Cathedral street at the back of Allan Glen's School, Glasgow. There he found him finishing an engine for a coal pit, and while sitting watching him, asked him if he could not make an engine to propel a boat. On Robertson at once replying that he could, Bell arranged to get a boat if Robertson would fit in the engine. This was done in 1812, David Napier making the boiler. This is the story as told to me many times by old Robertson himself, and it is not surprising that so many mistakes have been made when none of our great marine engineers have made any effort to have his name preserved. There is a very true portrait of him in the Kelvingrove Museum, which was painted about two years before he died; and the original engine of the Comet was given by the late Mr. Yule of Hutchesontown Engine Works to the late Robert Napier of Shandon, who sent it to the British Museum. There is sufficient proof for John Robertson being the first maker of the engine of the Comet, as the promissory note for it similar to the one given for the boiler to David Napier is carefully preserved.—Kelburne.

Call for the Label.

HIS APOLOGY.

A large bicycle manufacturing firm in Montreal is said to have received the following letter from a French-Canadian customer:

"Mister T. J. Jones and compagne, Notre Dame street, Montreal, P.Q. Dear Sir: I receve, de bicykel witch i buy from you airite, but for why you don't send me no saddle. wat is de use of de bicykel when She don't have no saddle. i am loose to my kustomer sure ting by no having de saddle and date not very pleasure for Me. Wat is de matter wit you mister jones and compagne, is not my moneys so good like annoder mans. you loose to me my trade and i am verce anger for dat, and now i tells to you dat you are a fools an no good mister T. J. Jones an compagne. i send to you back at wunce your bicykel to morro for shure bekawse you are such a foolishness peoples. yours respectfuller  
"J. E. ST. DENIS.

"P.S.—Since i rite dis letter i find de saddle in de box. excuse to me."

Traitors are the worst kind of traitors. When a friend asks there should be no tomorrow.

Hard Coal at "Tribune" Office

All Union Men in good standing can purchase best hard coal, guaranteed, at \$6.25 per ton. This coal is delivered by union drivers. Now men be consistent and stand by those that stand by you. If you will purchase your coal from only union firms, you will not only be assured of fair treatment but will be helping to further the good cause along.

Labor Conventions

Jan. 8, St. Paul, Minn., Stone Masons' International Union of America.

Jan. 8, Washington, D.C., International Slate and Tile Roofers' Union of America.

Sept. 24, Toronto, Canada, Operative Plasterers' International Association of America.

When demanding the union label on any purchase be sure you get the genuine article. Many bogus labels are in the market, particularly in the clothing line. Beware of imitations!

UNION MEN CHEW UNION-MADE TOBACCOS

# British Navy

— IS —

STRICTLY UNION-MADE AND AS GOOD AS THE BEST

MANUFACTURED BY

McAlpin Consumers Tobacco Co'y, Limited

TORONTO.

## What will you have FOR Xmas? FREE Take Your Choice

Handsoms Presents for Boys and Girls Selling Our Picture Post Cards

after school, 4 magnificent cards in every set, and only 10c a set. Canada's most beautiful scenery and Public Buildings. Comic Cards and Xmas Cards. A few minutes' easy work after school will earn for you any of these beautiful presents or dozens of others that we haven't room to show here. Thousands of Picture Cards are sold in Toronto every day, and ours are far more beautiful and far cheaper than the majority of stores are offering, and consequently are meeting with an astonishing sale. Our Xmas Cards are particularly fine and people are glad to buy them. They make such attractive presents and cost so little—only 2-3c each; the best and cheapest Xmas Cards ever sold. Come in and see them and have a look at our prizes, any one of which you can easily earn in a few minutes.

EXTRA PRIZES—We give presents of Stick Pins, Brooches, Cuff Links, and Watch Chains for promptness in selling the cards; also other presents for distributing Circulars for us.

Two weeks more till Christmas. You have time to earn a Present for everyone in the family and yourself as well. Call for the Cards as soon as you can. We're open from 8.00 a.m. until 6 p.m. every day except Sunday.

If it's not convenient for you to call, write us and we'll mail the Cards, postpaid. Don't forget the address.

### The Colonial Art Co.

191 YONGE STREET (Upstairs)  
Opposite Eaton's Yonge Street Entrance.

Large Beautifully Dressed Doll  
Solid Gold Pearl and Ruby Rings  
Lady's Solid Silver Watch  
Lady's Solid Gold Watch  
Boy's or Man's handsome Pearl Knife  
Powerful Heavy Duty Bicycle  
Punching Bag and Boxing Gloves  
Large Magic Lantern and Slides  
Sings, Talks, and Plays  
Heavy Baker's Nickel-plated Hockey Skates  
Solid Gold Diamond Rings and Imitation Diamond Rings  
Death to Rats, Cats, Sparrows All-Steel Combination Air Rifle, a strong, accurate shooter, safe, sure, and harmless.  
Boy's Hand some Watch  
Dolly Sleeping  
Fountain Pen  
Complete Painting Posse  
Fine Imitation Blue Fox Ruff