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CANADA LIFE BUILDING, TORONTO

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Official Organ of the Toronto District Labor Council. Published Weekly in the Interests of the Working Masses.

TORONTO, MARCH 6, 1903

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## LABOR WORLD

News and Views of the Ever Advancing Army of Workers

BY UNIONIST

Mr. A. W. Holmes, is at present in Kingston, making another endeavor to settle the now celebrated Locomotive Works strike.

Laboring interests in Denver, Col., have expressed strong sentiments in favor of the establishment of an independent labor party.

Three hundred shoemakers who struck for higher wages in Philadelphia in 1878 were the first workmen to adopt such tactics in America.

Virginia House of Delegates has passed an act prohibiting factory labor for children under twelve, and regulating the work of those between twelve and fourteen.

The Machinists last Tuesday night initiated fourteen candidates. A deputation from the Lord's Day Alliance was present, asking the union for its support in requests for legislation, with especial reference to the preventing of Sunday excursions.

The Carriage Workers last Tuesday night determined to support the Oshawa men in their strike, and will find work for any coming to Toronto. The union card will be introduced this spring. The annual international convention will probably be held here in Toronto.

The Piano Makers at their meeting last Tuesday night, endorsed the action of the Cabinet Makers in asking for a fixed wage of 35 cents. They will attend in a body the mass meeting of the Cabinet Makers, to be held at 2:30 to-morrow (Saturday) afternoon, in Richmond Hall.

Twenty-five dollars was voted by Cigar-makers' Union, No. 27, last Monday night to help the striking Carriage and Wagon Workers at Oshawa, Ont.

The Tailors have dropped their bolt into the ranks of the merchant tailors and something has got to happen before another issue of this paper is published. A mass meeting of the Tailors will be held on Monday afternoon in Richmond Hall to decide what steps will be taken when these bosses who refuse a conference and will not pay the new scale.

The Brickmakers of Toronto were organized into a union on Tuesday evening of this week in O'Neill's Hall, Parliament street. Some 48 members were enrolled and another meeting is to be held on Tuesday night next, to further add to the membership. Mr. Huddleston was the organizer, and it is expected that there will be a membership of some 400 before long.

Thomas Graham, president of the Painters' Union, died Wednesday morning. The cause of his death was pneumonia, which commenced to work upon him just one week prior to his death. His funeral will take place from Stone's undertaking establishment at 2:30 on Friday afternoon, March 6th. The suddenness of his death will be somewhat of a blow to the membership of the union.

Bread Salesmen Union, No. 33, held a very successful meeting in Occident Hall on Tuesday night of last week. There were 150 members present and considerable discussion ensued over the Lawrence Bakery not employing union drivers. Belonging to the Trades Council were instructed to notify the delegates to that body to see that their bread driver carries his union card and get the members of their unions to do likewise.

At Monday's meeting of the Amalgamated Union of Meat Cutters and Butcher workmen, fifty-one new members were initiated, and there were already more than fifty applications for membership in to be dealt with at the next meeting. Over 200 members unanimously adopted a back benefit of \$5 per week. There are now 152 union butcher shops in the city. Business Agent F. C. Letts, deserves credit for the union having made more rapid progress this year than any other in the city.

The Garment Cutters and Trimmers for a junior organization, held their first meeting in attendance of the most, if not the most successful concert of the season in Victoria Hall, on Thursday night of last week. The hall was filled to overflowing, and several hundred people were turned away. They put up a programme worthy of the occasion, and although one of two very bad hearings on account of the boisterous condition of the boys in the gallery, yet the whole range of the programme could be clearly heard, and first class and warranted also by the higher admission fee. Little Miss Watsley, and Miss Stone, were especially deserving of the appreciation shown them by the seven hundred young ladies, for a seven year old child, can manipulate the keys of a piano with rare skill in one of her acts, while Miss Stone, a young woman, has accomplished as many years, is as accomplished as the young woman. The honor of the programme was well sustained by Messrs. Bart Lloyd, Harvey Lloyd, and W. H. White, who was a capital singer, and a really good comedian, and up to a really good actor.

Six employees of a Barrow, Eng., engineering firm, have received prizes ranging from \$5 to \$30, for suggestions leading to the more economical production of work.

All of the employees of the Dallas, Tex., street railway lines received on January 1st an advance in wages amounting to two cents an hour, making the maximum 20 cents an hour.

The Oshawa strike is causing the McLaughlin Company all kinds of worry. They find themselves face to face with the fact that almost the entire town stand against them, and in favor of the men's demands. The press despatches say that some 300 men are still working, but this is not so. The facts are that they are losing what they have from day to day. The attempt to bring in outside help very naturally caused a slight disturbance, which as usual, is made to appear much larger than the fact warrant, by that old time propagandist, the Associated Press.

The men who would come in and take men's places who were as poorly paid as McLaughlin's employees, are badly in need of a job, and we are thankful that that class of individual is getting scarcer and scarcer every day.

Mr. C. S. O. Boudreau has this to say in the Ottawa Journal, of February 28th:

Mr. John Flett is president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. He is also the president of the Canadian Labor, an organization analogous to the Canadian body in an official report to its superior officer at Washington, D. C., published in the American Federationist for last November. Organizer Flett, in writing of the Berlin congress of the preceding September, said the legislation was "pronounced along international lines of trade unions, and he might have honestly added, 'as it always has been,' and the condition would be as a result, but not his intention, in providing that 'in no case shall any body of workmen belonging to any trade or calling at present have an international or national union, be granted a charter.' Quite recently, however, and within the knowledge, as well as with the consent of President Flett, the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, and in Toronto have been organized into independent unions with charters from the Canadian Congress, in contradiction of its constitution and in spite of the existence of the Granite Cutters' International Union of America. How does this action tally with the declaration of the Trades and Labor Congress in the same trade?"

What will International President Duncan of the granite cutters say in this case? No doubt his reply to such questions would be that circumstances must be taken into account in such affairs and in saying so he would be right, although directly in opposition to what Mr. Flett calls "a policy pronounced along international lines of trade unions," as well as being grossly at variance with the present provisions in the constitution of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, and of which Mr. Flett, as president, is the official defender. Consistency is sometimes a very indefinite quality.

For one who should know better, this is certainly a misrepresentation of the views of the Granite Cutters of Toronto, who will not press their demand until April 1.

The Cabinet Makers are asking for an increase of wages up to 45 cents per hour.

International unionism is booming in Montreal and the Fake Congress is a dead issue.

The City Council of Ottawa has appointed a competent plumber as plumbing inspector.

The Fernie Coal strike is not yet settled, although rumors of settlement are in the air at this writing.

The Street Press and Electrotypers held a very successful supper on Saturday night last at the Merchants' Hotel.

The Stratford Trades and Labor Council is petitioning the Ontario Government to have the property qualification for mayor and aldermen abolished.

The leather workers on horse goods of Victoria, B. C., have formed a union in affiliation with the Leather Workers' Union, Horse Goods International Union.

The iron moulder of New Westminster, B. C., have been granted a nine-hour day. The minimum wage for the nine-hour day is \$1.50. The Vancouver moulders received the same.

The Executive Council of the A. F. of L. have authorized President Gompers to proceed to Porto Rico to investigate the labor conditions on the island and assist in organization.

The St. Thomas Carpenters' Union has raised the price of their cutting from 15 to 25 cents. Carriage painters in the same town have had an increase from 10 to 15 cents in their wages.

President Flett was in the city this week in company with Mr. Ames, of the Brotherhood of Carpenters' Executive Board, on his way to Hamilton to adjust a difficulty there in his trade.

The new label of the Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators has been registered in Canada by Charles March, of Toronto, and the vice-president of the international union. The label is registered at Ottawa.

The Ottawa Government printers are out for \$15 per week, and are likely to get it. The Government can well afford to be the leaders in the matter of wages, and it does seem that the magnificent sum of \$15 is not too great a price for men whose average period of longevity is but 37 years.

The Typographical Union will nominate officers at their regular meeting on Saturday night. The vote upon the question of having a permanent secretary will also be taken on that day. The fight for office promises to be quite warm this year on account of the strong feelings between those of the present "line" and "outsiders."

The battle of organized labor with the Biscuit Company of Chicago, has resulted in a complete victory. The girls have won all their demands, including recognition of the union. It was a fight to a finish, but the boys were too far-reaching to withstand, and now the girls in other industries are enrolling rapidly under the banner of unionism.

About twenty-five painters went out on strike at Guelph Monday, in consequence of the refusal of the Biscuit Painters' sign agreement drawn up by the Painters, Paper-hangers, and Decorators' Union of that city. The conditions of the agreement are that a minimum wage of 25 cents per hour shall be paid to all journey-men, and that only one apprentice is to be engaged to every eight men. The minimum wage now paid is 14-23 cents per hour; one apprentice is allowed to the first two permanently employed men, and one to each eight temporarily employed. A meeting of the Master Painters was called to consider the terms submitted by the union. It was considered that to make the increase in the wages and meet the other conditions would involve an advance of thirty-five per cent in the cost of work.

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Strengthens and Tones up the Nervous System  
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Corner Queen and Beaton and 407 King St.

While the Toller is still opposed to Mr. Banton's personal view of the matter, it is glad to recognize his attitude as a practical representative of organized labor in acting in accordance with the almost unanimously expressed opinion of the labor bodies of the city.

T. W. Banton.

THESE AGITATORS.  
The Union Station officials are somewhat agitated over the work of several men who have been noticed around the station for a few days, and whom they now call agitators. These men have been working quietly among the baggage men and freight handlers, and have, it is thought, succeeded in getting a union started, to which some of the officials object. One of the officials in speaking about the rumored strike of the baggage men, said: "It is too bad that these agitators are allowed to go about unsettling men in their positions. I am sure our men are well satisfied, and don't want a union, but these busy bodies get in amongst them, and the result is trouble."

"Are there any of the baggage men organized?"  
"Not that I know of," was the reply.  
"You don't think there will be a strike?"  
"No, sir; we will have no strike here. Our baggage handlers are well off, and I think they appreciate their position."—Daily Press.

It is really too bad that these officious individuals called agitators will not be put down. Think of them being so cruel as to wrong gentlemen who already have their hands full in taking all they can get out of the people and incidentally paying their employees just as little as it is possible for them to pay.

This gentleman's liver is certainly not in good order, or he would readily have recognized that the men being so cruel as to wrong somebody look after their welfare as he is entitled to be looking after the welfare of the company for which he works.

And, again, he misquoted the name. He should have said "foreign agitators" to be in keeping with the rest of his crowd. We have no doubt but that he would have said that it was not possible that he would have been making himself a fool in his own ridiculous because of the fact that it is sometimes necessary to bring in foreigners to get the business of the road done properly.

MR. AMES AT THE CANADIAN CLUB.  
No one is reported as having dined at Mr. Ames' table in the Canadian Club on Monday last in speaking against government and municipal ownership. We now know the loopholes through which corporations make their escape. There are few in a better position to know these loopholes than Mr. Ames. The man who sets a trap usually knows where to look for the quarry.

Mr. Ames considers the question of government and municipal ownership too momentous to be decided in a stampede. Many persons now advocating public ownership in Toronto have been doing so for ten, fifteen or twenty years—and that after careful consideration—and just because Mr. Ames finds the idea liable to interfere with profitable private enterprise, he suggests that we go slow. When advocates of public ownership were going slow, Mr. Ames was making money—while they were not. He did not wait for them, and they will not wait for him.

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**THE SCOTTISH LAUNDRY**  
Advances at one as the counter-argument. Good Work done by hand without chemicals.  
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Prompt call in reply to post card.

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Makes Anyone Cheerful  
There's something refreshing to a tired body in just the very look of stoney sweet-colored linen. Why not have us do your work regularly and then you can rely on the quality. Try us with your next bundle.

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Merchant Tailor  
1134 Queen St. West, Toronto.  
Union Label on All Garments.

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TORONTO, CANADA.

The number of striking garment workers in Vienna, Austria, has now increased to 19,000. As this is the height of the Vienna season, it is expected that the employers will be obliged to capitulate.

One million five hundred thousand dollars was paid in strike benefits to the coal miners.

**EVERY DAY NEEDS**  
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The following are the only firms employing Union Drivers to deliver their Bread.

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DALE & HARKNESS  
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W. CARLISLE  
BORTHWICK BAKING CO.  
A. W. CARRICK

See that Your Driver Has His Card.

**REMEMBER** That the Gurney Foundry Co. of Toronto  
Makers of  
**OXFORD STOVES AND RANGES**  
—ARE—  
**STILL UNFAIR TO ORGANIZED LABOR**

The Nasmith Company have been fighting the Bakers' Union for years. The Union has determined, with your assistance, to show this Company the error of its way. Tell your grocer that this Company is unfair and get the Union label on your bread every time.

Editor of The Toller:—In a recent number of the Toller, the statement was made that the acceptance of Mr. Carnegie's offer by the Toronto Public Library Board was unannounced, no mention being made of the fact that one vote was recorded against the acceptance, that vote being my own. Will you kindly make a note of this correction?

While recording my vote as opposed to the acceptance of the Carnegie gift, I did so as representing in some measure on the board, the labor organizations of the city, and as a believer in the referendum principle. Though there was no direct referendum taken on the question, still the labor unions, as you are aware, had availed themselves of the opportunity afforded them to express their opinion, and as that opinion was very largely against the acceptance, I deemed it most consistent with my duty as a representative to vote accordingly.

As to my own personal opinion on the matter, I have no hesitation in stating that I am, under all the present circumstances, in favor of accepting the Carnegie offer. I see no sense in refusing the money of one millionaire, and accepting that of another; I do not consider the acceptance by organized labor of some portion of the Carnegie money as in the least degree condoning the same offense, committed against labor at Homestead Against