

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by the Boarders.

"It would be hard," said Brown, "to find another city on this continent where the people are as slothful in the discharge of their duty as citizens, as indifferent to their interests and as regardless to their personal safety as the people of Montreal. We have seen, during the last few years, scores of men, women and children maimed and murdered at our level crossings, yet when a by-law is introduced in the City Council which in some small degree would protect the lives of the citizens, we see the men whom we have elected to protect our interests not only prove recreant to their duty but ready to sacrifice our lives rather than put rich corporations to the trouble and expense of providing necessary safeguards—and the most surprising part of all is that the people put up with it."

"Level crossings will never be abolished or citizens protected," said Phil, "until half a dozen aldermen and a couple of railway directors or members of their families are killed on them; meantime the members of the City Council must be held collectively and personally responsible for any accident that may occur in future. The men who voted against the proposed by-law to protect the lives of the citizens are Aldermen Germain, Griffin, Perreault, Hurteau, Shorey, J. B. Dufresne, Tansey, P. Kennedy, Villeneuve, Thompson, Conroy, Stevenson and Rolland. A few of them received the active support of organized labor during the late municipal elections; in fact, owe their election wholly to the labor vote. What I and others want from them now, is an explanation of their conduct in this matter—and we are going to have it. If these men believe that they were elected to look after the interests of the Grand Trunk and other railways they must be undeceived at once; they were elected to guard the interests of the whole people, and this they have shamefully neglected to do. They are on record as willing to sacrifice the lives of the citizens sooner than give offence to the money power—so be it. Their term of office has but just begun, but they will find when it expires that their actions and votes in the Council have been closely watched. Aldermen are no doubt tremendous persons, but public opinion has forced greater men into private life before now without waiting for the expiration of their term of office."

"It seems to me," said Gaskill, "that that if ever a coroner's jury returned a verdict other than accidental death in connection with a level crossing accident in this city the members of the City Council who were opposed to this by-law of Stephens' could be indicted for murder with a good chance of securing their conviction. Men have before now been severely punished, not for what they had done, but for what they neglected to do. The City Council has the power to compel these corporations to provide safeguards against accidents of this kind. They have neglected or studiously refrained from exercising this power; it is not to be expected that the railway company will voluntarily go to either trouble or expense to protect the public, they are not built that way. The members of the City Council know this, and knowing this, their action, or rather want of action, makes them directly responsible to the public at large for loss of life or limb that may in future occur at our crossings."

"This question," said Sharkey, "should be taken up by the citizens themselves. Surely enough of human lives have been sacrificed to satisfy corporate greed and arouse the indignation of all right-minded men. Press and pulpit alike have condemned the inactivity of the powers that be in this matter time and again, but without ef-

fect. It is necessary that the people themselves should act. Indignation meetings should be held in every ward in the city; this is not a question of class or creed or nationality, but one which concerns every man, woman and child in Montreal. The railroad companies do not stop their trains at the crossings to find out whether you are rich or poor, Catholic or Protestant, or English or French; they simply run you down and afterwards tell your relatives you had no business to be there. It is time that these corporations are taught that human lives are of greater importance than dollars and cents; it is time that they are taught that citizens have rights which they must respect. The City Council has failed in its duty to the people and it now devolves upon the citizens to take action in the matter. As for these railroad representatives in the Council they must be dealt with later on. The aldermen who cannot pass a by-law protecting the lives of citizens without first obtaining permission from the Grand Trunk Railway Company cannot be trusted with the administration of the commercial metropolis of the Dominion.

BILL BLADES.

WHAT HORACE GREELY SAID.

"He who is content to enjoy the fruits of others' toil, rendering mankind little or no service in return, can be but a very distant follower of the Divine Redeemer. On no point is error more common or more vital than on this. A life devoted to what is deemed innocent though selfish enjoyment is not usually regarded as inconsistent with a Christian profession. The wealthy disciple may devote half his time to a round of visits, dinners, tours, and entertainments without fear of reprehension from the sacred desk, and with little danger of reproach from his own drugged conscience, yet it would be difficult to say wherein such a life excelled that of the less depraved heathen of our own or ancient times. He that lives mainly to himself and his kindred can not be truly said to live to God, no matter whether he pray with his face to Jerusalem, Mecca, Rome, or the sky. There is no savor of Godliness in a life so devoted."

"The assumed innocence of a life of pomp and luxury will not bear a searching examination. It is not possible that such a life may be lived innocently, no matter how liberally it may be garnished with tithes and prayers. The man of substance who lives in luxury cannot fail to render the lives of other human beings merely auxiliary to his own enjoyment. Where some are only served, others must needs be merely servants; where some are to be habitually gratified, others must degenerate into the mere instruments of gratification, the machines whereby a certain quantum of supposed enjoyment is produced. Whenever one man deems the services of other human beings essential to his comfortable subsistence, and repays those services otherwise than by services in turn; whenever a family is divided into two or more classes, holding respectively superior and inferior positions, so that their reciprocal obligations differ wholly in kind and degree, so that one class, and but one, lives in constant dread of incurring the displeasure of the other, or rather of incurring the consequences of that displeasure, there is a relation which Christ never recognized, and which all his teachings tend to condemn and overthrow."

Insuring Employees.

The Kokomo Diamond Plate Glass Co., is insuring their employees in case of accident. They allow them their wages in full, and if death is occasioned by any injury received while employed, they pay all funeral expenses, and denote to the family \$100 on the following terms: Men drawing \$3 per day and upwards are assessed \$1 per month; men drawing \$2 and \$2 50 per day pay 80 cents per month; those drawing \$1.40 and \$1.75 per day, 60 cents per month. There are 25 on the disabled list at present, none hurt seriously.

WORKINGMEN'S LIBRARIES.

The labor organizations of Louisville, Ky., have founded a workingmen's library, which promises to be one of the features of that city. When one considers that all books are the product of the labor of workingmen, and the magnificent public libraries are the result of their work, it is strange that the workingmen themselves are only awaking to a realization of the fact that they are entitled to some of the good things of this world. If it were not for a false and vicious economic system, which too many of them regard as perfectly right and proper, the workingmen's libraries would be greatly increased. The system cannot be changed in a day, but every institution of the kind brings the time much nearer when justice will be done and the drones in the hive of industry will have to go to work or do without a good many things they now possess in such immense quantities that they scarcely knew what to do with them.

"AS IN A LOOKING GLASS."

Interesting Items for Glass Workers

The glass workers here are busily engaged in turning out an assortment of ware which will compare favorably with the best articles made in the country to the south of this place. It is expected that the company will operate in full up to the summer vacation. All glass workers are organized, and through the efforts of the Union, every year all the factories close down, beginning on the last day of June, for eight consecutive weeks. In this way employment is regular throughout the remaining ten months.

Joe Campbell, prescription blower, just out of his apprenticeship, is now making so much money that he is talking about getting—well, we'll not give you away if a piece of the wedding cake is passed around, Joe.

James Kernan, the gentlemanly local secretary, who represented this branch of the Union with such cleverness at the last annual Flint Convention, will likely be called on to fill a similar position this year.

Jas. H. Garrigan, of the Flint Executive Board, a resident of this city, is now away two weeks on official business. The importance to the trade of our member of the Board is shown by the frequency with which he is called off to do Union duty.

James Coakley, press finisher, has shown that he has a very good scientific knowledge of the manly art of self defence. He will, at an early date, open up a class for the benefit of the aspirants for fistie honors.

Thomas Lee, chimney maker, when getting off the street car stumbled, straining the "nervous system of his big toe nail." He talks of bringing action against the car-poration.

SAMIVAL.

BROTHERHOOD OF PAINTERS AND DECORATORS.

An English-speaking branch of the above Union (No. 222) was formed on Friday last with the following staff of officers:—

Thomas Fisher, President.
Geo. G. Brooks, Vice President.
Thomas R. Keat, Recording Secretary,
Frank G. Smith, Financial Secretary.
James Graham, Treasurer.
George Dewitt, Conductor.
James Lawrence, Warden.

A large number signed the roll and the number will be considerably augmented at next meeting. It is expected that every English-speaking painter and decorator will rally round the new union, for "in unity there is strength." The officers elected are a capable lot, who have had no little experience in unionism, and it is certain they will put forth their best efforts to place No. 222 in the front rank.

THE GLASSBLOWERS' BALL.

The annual ball of Local Union No 24 of the American Flint Glass Workers will take place in the Queen's Hall on Monday Evening first. Elaborate preparations have been made to make it the social success of the season, the committee working hard and sparing no expense to have everything in first-class style, and the guests are sure to be well looked-after. Mr. James Kiernan, the indefatigable secretary, and other members of the committee have covered themselves with honor by the manner in which they have worked to bring the affair to a successful issue.

When there is no hawk flying around the biggest thing in the barnyard is the strut of the smallest rooster.

When rats see a cat they always scatter.

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Two Bankrupt Stocks

COMMENCING

Saturday, 21st of March.

THE WHOLE TO BE SOLD INSIDE OF A MONTH.

LIST OF GOODS REDUCED.

100 doz. ALL-WOOL SOCKS only 5c, worth 15c.
75 " " " 15c, " 25c.
75 " MEN'S SHIRTS AND DRAWERS, 45c a suit, worth 75c.
100 " BOYS' " " 50c " " 80c.
100 " WHITE SHIRTS, all sizes, only 35c, worth 65c.
150 " COLORED SHIRTS, all sizes, only 45c, worth 75c.
1,200 " WHITE LINEN COLLARS, only 5c, worth 15c.
1 Job Lot of TIES at 5c, 10c, 15c, 20c, 25c.

SPECIAL

600 BOYS' ALL-WOOL JERSEY SUITS, all sizes, only \$1, worth \$2.50.
400 " " " " " " " \$1.50, " \$2.75.
1,500 Pairs PANTS for Children, Boys, Youths and Men, from 50c.

Come and see our prices before you buy and you will save 40 per cent.

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