

The Tribune

Labor Gazette

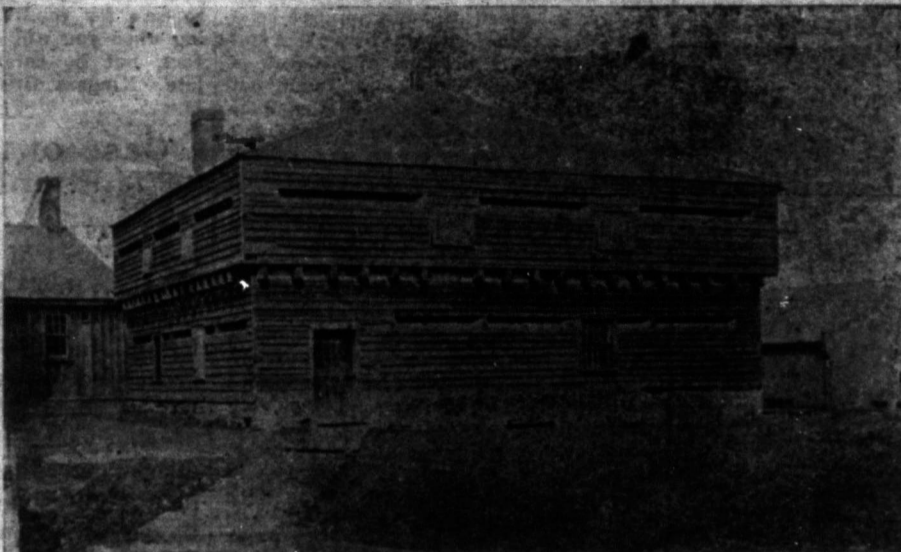
Ottawa

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SATURDAY, OCT. 21, 1905

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Labor Press

ORGANIZED LABOR HOODWINKED.

"The ordinary laboring man," writes J. R. C. in Union Label, "does not realize the importance, yes, even the necessity, of supporting the labor press.

"What do I mean by the labor press? Certainly not every paper that claims to be the friend of the workingman. Not at all! I mean by the labor press those papers that are published exclusively in the interest of the wage earners.

"Why cry out that labor papers do not give you the news. You must have your newspaper and you begrudge the extra expense of the labor journal.

"The labor journal does not give you the news, and the capitalists do give you the news, that is your claim. The truth is that the capitalists give you the news they think best to give you, and suppress the rest. They give you garbled accounts of labor disturbance, and no account at all of many other happenings. Consequently if you take a capitalist paper and no labor paper you remain in ignorance of the very things it is most important that you should know.

"Why do I say capitalists papers? Because the ordinary newspaper is owned by the capitalists and run for the interest of the capitalists. Its object is not merely to make money for its owner, but to manufacture sentiment in favor of any project they desire to advance, and to arouse antagonism against any

persons or objects which obstruct their path to wealth and power. And in order to influence sentiment for or against person or object these papers report falsely, magnify or suppress news as the case may be.

"The corruption of the public press of the country is hardly guessed at by the average man. Take up one of the daily papers and examine it carefully. You will find trifles magnified to ridiculous proportions in the news columns; great outcries and appeals to sentiments on behalf of the people of some distant land; records of the follies and fashions of the imbecile spendthrifts and do-nothings of the 'upper-ten'; silly advice to love-sick girls, etc. And the next day you will hear quite outside of your newspaper that this and that financial policy has been quietly made without a word being spoken to anybody until it is too late to do anything. Great suffering among certain masses of our citizenship is entirely unmentioned or receives only an inch or two of space. Or there is a labor war, and cruelty and hardships are endured by our own citizens which would be reported with glaring headlines if they happened in Russia, but, strange to say, your city newspaper does not say a word about them.

"What does this mean? It means that so-called newspapers are the organs of the employing class, and are controlled in the interest of that class.

"Sometimes the employers get into a quarrel and then one or both parties fish for the working-

man's support in their quarrel. Then they get plenty of 'news' of a sort. The pot shows up how black the kettle is, and vice versa, but where do you come in? nowhere, unless you will play cat to pull the monkey's chestnuts out of the fire. Their quarrels are not our quarrels, nor their gain is not our gain, and the quicker you realize this and fix your eye attentively upon your own ends, the sooner we will all come to an intelligent understanding of social problems.

"When the subject is thoughtfully considered it becomes evident that it is at least as much a union man's duty to support the labor press as to buy union-made goods of any kind."

Bakers' strike still on.

NOTICE.

There are many trades or callings in which a sufficient number of workers are engaged to form unions, which are still unorganized, in this city. The Toronto District Council are ready and willing to organize all such, and while they call on workers in such callings as soon as they are known, they may overlook some who desire to be organized. This is not intentional. A communication addressed to D. W. Kennedy, Secretary, 59 Edward St., from anyone who desires his trade or calling to be organized, will receive immediate attention, and secrecy will be observed if necessary.