

# THE Canada Labor Courier.

Every Thursday Morning.

From the office of publication  
Talbot Street, ST. THOMAS, ONT.  
THE COURIER CO., Publishers

## SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The COURIER will be mailed to subscribers in the Dominion, or in the United States, post free, for 60 cents per annum.

The price of subscription may be remitted by currency, in registered letters, or by postal order, payable to The Courier Co. Money sent in unregistered letters must be at sender's risk.

Failure upon the part of subscribers to receive their papers promptly and regularly, should be notified at once to this office.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

Advertising rates made known on application. Orders for new advertisements should reach this office not later than Tuesday morning of each week. Changes in advertisements will be made whenever desired, without cost to the advertiser; but to insure proper compliance with the instructions of the advertiser requests for change should reach this office the beginning of the week.

## EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

### INCREASED THEIR WAGES.

A deputation of thirty engineers on the Canada Pacific Railway between Port Arthur and Quebec waited on W. C. Vanhorne, vice-president in Montreal, for an advance of wages. They considered that the company's receipts justified an increase. The result of the conference was that it was agreed to raise the wages from \$2.30 to \$3.40 per day, with an increase of 20 cents per hour for detention time.

### MONTREAL KNIGHTS.

Through the pressure brought to bear on the Knights of Labor by the Roman Catholic clergy of Montreal, it is possible that some of the Lodges will have to be closed, and that all French-Canadian Knights will unite in one or two lodges. A prominent member of the order says that some members have been admitted to communion during the mission without leaving the order, on promising that should Rome pronounce finally against the organization as constituted in Canada, they would resign at once.

### HELP THOSE AT HOME.

The Hamilton Palladium says that to think of sending thousands of dollars to furnish Bibles and creeds to a lot of contented savages who are so warm that they cannot wear anything but a necktie and a fan, while many of our own citizens are suffering for food and clothing and fuel, seems to us anything but Christian to say the least of it. What helps to make Christianity unpopular now-a-days is sending a box of Bibles to a fat family of blacks in Zululand when the same money, judiciously expended in flannels and pants at home, would do more good. What lots of us want is trousers, not tracts.

### THEY STAND ALOOF.

The Toronto News remarks that it was a little bit marked that during the campaign there were many political persons on both sides who were ready and anxious to talk either for or against Mowat, but there was no man of the cloth who stepped forward and made himself noticeable by saying anything for the Labor candidates. It would be a mean insinuation to say that it was because the Labor party had no offices to offer, no emoluments, no social dignity to confer, that, amongst so many divines, the struggles of so large a section of the people remained unnoticed. When the Labor organization becomes a great party we will have plenty of preachers who will be glad to say something for us.

### THE GRAND TRUNK UKASE.

The Grand Trunk Railway has forbidden its employes to hold public offices of any kind—political or municipal—under pain of dismissal. The order is absolute and will be strictly enforced all along the line. It affects every employe no matter how high his position. The theory of the company is that no man can serve two masters, and that a proper discharge of official duties interferes with efficient work on the road. The theory is sound, and no one can gainsay the wisdom of the Grand Trunk officials who have issued this order.

But what about the Canada Pacific? Their theory is one of a different kind, so far, at least, as it affects the authorities themselves, one of whom is at this time a candidate for the mayoralty of Montreal and another for representative to the Dominion Parliament from Winnipeg.

### EARL OF OTTAWA.

Canada will soon be an aristocratic country. Already we have a considerable number of Knights; and even higher (?) honors are proposed to be given to some of our great men. This being the Queen's jubilee year it is proposed that Sir John be made "Earl of Ottawa," and that the mayors of all Canadian cities be knighted. If there be any virtue in the distinction proposed, the COURIER would like to know why farmers are to be overlooked. Why not confer the honor of Knighthood upon the wardens of counties, who certainly deserve to be honored as highly as the mayors of cities. But perhaps they are not aristocratic enough to fill the bill. Honesty and ability count for nothing when meaningless titles are to be distributed.

### POLITICAL CORMORANTS.

The array of political cormorants known as civil service employes at Ottawa are clamoring for an increase of pay. The eve of a general election is a fit and proper time for those leeches upon the public treasury to make this demand, but there is a danger that the mark may be overstepped. Should a change of government take place, which does not seem improbable, the dissatisfied ones may be allowed to find employment elsewhere. There are too many employes in the civil service, many of whom have little or nothing to do, and most of whom are already paid double what their services are worth, they having been chosen to fill positions, not because of their fitness therefor, but because they are closely or distantly related by marriage or otherwise—mostly otherwise—to those whose duty it is to select qualified men and women to fill positions in the several departments. Let the leeches howl, but give them no more pay.

### ABOLISH THE QUALIFICATION.

The Wallaceburg Herald-Record says:— "So much is being said about property qualification for municipal offices that it might be well to inquire if the system requiring it is not an injustice and one that results in keeping much good ability from the council board. It is very apparent that men are elected and serve who have not the property necessary to qualify, and yet they are good officers. Why not do away with the qualification and cover the responsibilities of an office with a bond? It would answer the purpose."

This is all right except the bond. Why require a bond at all? Of what use would a bond be? Of what use is property qualification? Voters who elect members of councils have property qualification and they should be able to choose honest representatives. If they want men who have property to represent them they will nominate and elect such men even should the property qualification be abolished, so that no one could be wronged. Why should property qualification be required for municipal offices when none is required for Parliamentary offices? The responsibilities of members of Parliament are as great as those of members of municipal councils. Let the qualification be removed in accordance with the resolution passed last fall by the Dominion Labor Congress:— "That this Congress petition the Provincial Legislature to abolish property qualification for holding municipal offices."

### FEW AND FAR BETWEEN.

The Canada Labor Reformer, Toronto, says that "the number of Grit votes cast for Mr. March were few and far between" in the recent election in that city. There were two Conservative and two Labor candidates and one Reform candidate. The Globe advised Reformers to cast their second vote for March, one of the Labor candidates. Had that been done March would have been elected instead of Leys; the Reform candidate. The votes polled were as follows: The two Clarks, Conservative, 7,023 and 6,833 respectively, Ley, Reform, 5,380; and March and Roney Labor, 4,055 and 3,408. The difference between the votes polled by the Conservative candidates was 340. These votes were either plumpers for E. F. Clarke, or they were recorded for Roney, the Labor candidate most favorable to the Conservative cause. Suppose the latter; then the actual Labor vote polled for Roney was 3,068. It would be impossible to figure the Labor vote to any lower number than this. If, then, the Labor vote was 3,068, add to that the Reform vote, 5,380, and the number, 8,448, should indicate the number of ballots that ought to have been cast for March if Reformers had done as they were advised by the Globe. What do workingmen think of it?

If Reformers had been honest enough to do what they promised to do, one of the Labor candidates would have headed the poll. They knew a trick worth two of that, however, and they played a game that elected their candidate. Perhaps the Globe "winked" when it gave the advice it did. In any case workingmen have had one more proof of the fact that what they obtain from either of the two political parties of the day must be wrested from them.

### CHINESE CHEAP LABOR.

It is understood that negotiations at Washington with the Chinese Government, to which allusion was made in the President's message, for such modifications of existing treaties as will entirely prevent the introduction of Chinese coolie Labor into the United States, have just been brought to a successful termination, and that in a few days an amended treaty covering this point will be submitted to the Senate for ratification. Sir John A. Macdonald is not, apparently, half as smart as Uncle Sam.

### WHITHER ARE WE DRIFTING?

It is argued that in America there is room for all, and that no willing workers need want for any of the necessities of life. Is the argument sound? If an equal distribution of the products of the country could be made, the statement would be true; but, unfortunately, the Dutchman's one per cent. goes to the few who control the many, and the many who are thus controlled are content to accept the humble pittance allowed. America is fast becoming a country that is governed by autocrats and aristocrats, and the result will ere long, if the progress of events does not stay the tide in the direction in which it is now flowing, be the same as is described in the following paragraph:—

"Out of a population of 1,200,000 in Berlin, (Europe) more than 150,000 are receiving public charity. Many of the workmen here openly favor the complicity of wives. Divorces have increased to 15 per cent. of the marriages solemnized. The attendance at the churches has decreased 2 per cent. of the adult population, and of 48,000 funerals last year nearly 30,000 were performed without any religious ceremonies whatever."

### KING HOG OF PACKINGTOWN.

This is the name by which P. D. Armour, Chicago, is now known. He is a many-millionaire. Years ago he made \$7,000,000 in a single day by "bullying" the market. He employs about 20,000 men in his packing establishment. The law of Illinois is that eight hours shall be recognized as a days work. Through the efforts of this man the attempts of the packers to establish the eight hour system have hitherto failed. There are other smaller firms than that of Armour, but he has bulldozed them to do as he commands, threatening them by "bearing" the market and running prices down, even if by so doing he lost millions of dollars, and promising if that were done he would soon again recoup his losses by having the market entirely to himself. Knowing that the smaller firms have been intimidated by the King Hog, the Labor organizations some time ago boycotted Armour's meats. It was a wise move to boycott Armour's alone and allow consumer's to purchase goods sent out by other firms. It is already bearing fruit, Armour's meat last November that he "would starve the 60,000,000 people of the United States into submission" having been proved to be a vain glorious one. Car load after car load of meats are being returned to the King Hog, who about this time is beginning to wonder whether or not it would be a wise move to call out the militia again—this time to compel people everywhere to buy his meats as of yore. Poor Hog! What will he now do with his carelessly packed goods? What thinks he now of the power of the Labor organizations to cope with men—men as all-powerful as he? What next will he do to uphold his dignity and remove the odium of defeat which is now staring him in the face.

One word to workingmen. What say you about your brethren in the West? Even in adversity they assert their power. Beaten in one way they adopt new methods of warfare, always observing the law of the land and working unitedly to accomplish their common purpose. Has this no lesson for you? Have you organized? If not, go to work at once and obtain a charter. If you have already organized, are you prepared to stand by your principles as have those of your brethren in the West who have almost brought the King Hog out of his trough? If not, why are you not?

### THEY MAY BE HONEST.

We are at a loss to know exactly how to classify the sixteen subscribers for the COURIER who, since receiving a statement of their subscription account, have returned the COURIER to us marked "refused," without settling the small scores against them, ranging all the way from ten cents to sixty cents each. It's pretty "small potatoes"—that kind of business—and if the list of that class of subscribers is increased to any extent we promise to publish the names of the miserly fellows who act after that manner. We honor a man who has the manhood, if he wishes to discontinue the COURIER, to pay up his arrears; and if he feels like it to state his reasons. We do not expect every subscriber on our large list to continue, but we should be allowed to expect every man to be honest enough to quit honorably and fairly. The small amounts due from individual subscribers are not a very big thing to them, but they aggregate a considerable sum to us. We suppose there have been some suckers on our list and it will be some satisfaction, at least, to know who they are.

### To Subscribers in Arrears.

—Every subscriber in arrears for the COURIER has had a statement of his account handed to him during the past fortnight. We have already heard from many but there is a large list yet of subscribers who are in arrears. Reader, if you are one of the negligent ones, now is your time to act. Read our remarks last week in article headed "to our subscribers and be governed accordingly. We do not want to lose any of our old friends, but we are compelled to take such action as is necessary to protect ourselves from loss. Pay up and read your own PAPER. We want to do what is fair and right in this matter. When we extended the term of payment to January 15th, we thought all should make themselves clear on our books before that time. In order now that none shall have cause to complain, we make a final extension to January 31st. Do not wait until the last day, come now and pay up, or send your remittance by letter.

### INDEPENDENCE OUR PLATFORM.

The editor of this paper was a few evenings ago referred to at a political meeting in this city as an active worker on behalf of Reform and a staunch adherent to the principles of the Reform party. The gentleman who made this assertion has been wrongly informed. Though brought up a Reformer, we became an independent voter and thinker at the Dominion and Provincial elections four years ago, casting then one vote for Reform and one for Conservatism, just as we expect to do on the present occasion. We voted for men then rather than for party, and we hope also to do so now. We believed then in a change of government in the one case and a strong opposition in the other, and we believe so still. We published then an independent newspaper in the rising town of Wallaceburg, and we now are publishing an independent Labor paper here. We passed through both contests then without losing a friend or subscriber in either party and without having acted the part of a partizan in any manner or form, and we expect to do so again in this contest. We did not then conceal the fact that this or that candidate was the one whom we preferred to support and we did not hesitate as an elector to use our voice in support of the candidates of our choice, but we refrained from using the editorial columns of our paper to influence electors to vote this way or that way in either election, although in both contests both parties used the advertising columns of our paper to further their respective interests. In the recent contest our programme was somewhat different for the reason that one of the candidates was a workingman and a member of a Labor organization in this city, but in the coming contest neither of these reasons exist why we should use the columns of the COURIER to favor either party. We do not propose to give up our franchise, which is as dear to us as to any reader of the COURIER, and we shall not deem it necessary to apologise to any one for voting as we shall do or supporting the man of our choice, since every reader of the COURIER will enjoy the same privilege that we claim for ourselves.

We deeply regret that there is not a Labor candidate in the field, even though that candidate had not the most remote idea of being elected. We recognise the baneful effects that contests like the recent one have had, and which party struggles like the coming one will produce,

upon the interests of Labor. But, while the result now is disastrous, we trust that when the din of battle has passed away the workingmen of St. Thomas will see, as we see, that they cannot afford to support either political party as they have in past days been wont to do.

### THESE PREMIUM BOOKS.

On and after the 20th instant, a supply of our premium books will be kept at the COURIER office where subscribers may then receive the numbers for which they have given their orders. The same books (supplied by the same publishers in Philadelphia) have been offered by hundreds of publishers in Canada and the United States, and the multiplicity of their orders at this season of the year has been the cause of delay. There are parties in this city who ordered through a Toronto publisher and failed to secure books for three months. No one has waited that long yet for those we have ordered, as all our first orders have been filled. After next week we will receive them in bulk and there will then be no further delays. Our first arrangement was that every subscriber would receive his books direct from Philadelphia. Hereafter all orders will be filled direct from this office.

### The Interest is Reviving.

It is pleasing to be able to report that since New Years in all the Assemblies there is not only a largely increased attendance, but that the interest taken in the work by the various members has been greatly enhanced. New work is being introduced and interesting subjects discussed in such a manner that good cannot fail to follow. It is pleasing to see the faces of many who have not for some time been able to attend regularly; and their assistance hereafter will be greatly valued, as many questions of vital importance will be discussed in the Assemblies and Trade and Labor Councils during the present quarter while Parliament is in session.

### HE LIED TO GET THERE.

H. E. Clarke, one of the Conservative candidates in the recent contest in Toronto, during the election campaign claimed the suffrages of workingmen because he was a friend of Labor. He had introduced the nine hour movement in his trunk factory and asked workingmen to support him in preference to their own nominees. He was elected, but had no sooner gained the goal of his ambition than he altered his tune to his employes. He had for some months allowed the nine-hour day to his men, and a few days ago he refused to do so any longer, a strike being the result. The men refused to work ten hours a day again, and their sincerity is evidenced by the fact that a very large number of the men are piece hands. The firm is no loser on their account by adopting the nine hour day. It is pretty well understood that the object of the firm is to gain time and save expenses during the dull season, and to work off a lot of the stock now on hand. If they were honest enough to say so they would get credit; as it is they are deservedly condemned for the course they have chosen to pursue.

"Clarke, the workingman's candidate,"—the "workingman's friend," &c., sounds well in the light of the new revelation, but no one is greatly surprised. Workingmen who believe all they are told by partizan candidates in election contests deserve to be deceived and beaten every time. Clarke, one of the Conservative candidates in Toronto, is no exception to the general rule, but his hypocritical appeal to workingmen so recently is rather too transparent a manifestation of cheek and brass.

—The Journal of United Labor will hereafter be published weekly instead of monthly, and will be circulated outside of the order as well as among members and Assemblies alone. Private matter will be forwarded to Assemblies whenever necessary in supplement form. The subscription price will be the same as before, viz.—one dollar per year.

—Chatham Knights had their difficulties settled satisfactorily last week, but just as we go to press we learn that there is new trouble in store for them. The pledges publicly given a week ago by a few business men have been violated and a rupture has once more been forced upon the Knights, who are determined to stand by their rights and compel their refractory opponents to abide by the decision they arrived at last week. Politics is said to be at the bottom of the new move, but the dodge is a little too transparent and the scheme will be exploded.