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MEETINGS.

CENTRAL TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL OF MONTREAL.

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Meets in the Ville-Marie Hall, 1623 Notre Dame street, the first and third Thursdays of the month. Communications to be addressed to O. FONTAINE, Corresponding Secretary, 391 Amherst street.

RIVER FRONT ASSEMBLY,

No. 7628.
Rooms K. of L. Hall, Chabouillet square. Next meeting Sunday, April 2, at 2.30. Address all correspondence to J. WARREN, Rec. Sec., 29 Basin Street.

DOMINION ASSEMBLY,

No. 2436 K. of L.
Meets every Friday evening at eight o'clock in the K. of L. Hall, Chabouillet square. Address all communications to H. J. BRINDLE, R.S., No. 11 St. Monique street.

PROGRESS ASSEMBLY,

No. 3852, K. of L.
Meets every First and Third Tuesday at Lomas' Hall, Point St. Charles.

BLACK DIAMOND ASSEMBLY

1711, K. of L.
Meets next Sunday, in the K. of L. Hall, Chabouillet square, at 2 o'clock.
Address all communications to WM. ROBERTSON, 7 Archambault street.

LEGAL CARDS.

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QUEBEC NOTES.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

QUEBEC, March 31st, 1892.

A young man about nineteen years of age, clerk in a wholesale store, has been arrested in this city. He is charged with robbing his employer. He is not, strictly speaking, a Quebecker, but like many others came to this city to earn a livelihood, securing employment at the magnificent remuneration of five dollars per month in the store above alluded to. Out of this salary, if it may be dignified by that name, he was expected to pay board and lodging, washing and clothing, and now he is going to be boarded and lodged free, or rather at the country's expense. I just give this little item to show the high standing of that section of our population that stand behind counters. And I would like to add this: If your paper reaches that far distant Province of British Columbia, whose inhabitants are at present exercised over the Chinese question, might they not find a solution thereof in sending the celestials east to become clerks in Quebec dry goods stores, either wholesale or retail.

I see by press reports that the members representing the Northwest had an interview with the Hon. Premier Abbott, and urged upon him the adoption of a much more vigorous emigration policy. The Dominion must in their estimation be a kind of terrestrial paradise, or perhaps like the fox in Esop's fables, having got their own tails out they want others to undergo the same operation. In the literature inviting intending emigrants to adopt Canada as their future home, they might as special inducements hold out the promises that if settled in the City of Quebec they might, if sufficiently educated, become clerks at five dollars per month, or if they preferred manual labor they might go to the Ottawa saw-mills, where the philanthropic mill owners would give them one-dollar per day for doing a day's work and would likewise allow them thirteen hours to do it in. If not satisfied with this, Toronto's charitable-minded City Council would allow them two days' work weekly to keep them from starvation. But then the kind of emigrants Canada wants is of the agricultural class, who, if settled in the Northwest, and by lucky chance escapes loss of their crops by July frosts, they won't be forgotten by the January blizzards. A fine country, and the metropolis passed by. But then, of course, unless they happen to be believers in Jenner's theory, they need not stop there. Your readers may ask, Why thus disparage the Dominion?—Well, it would seem just now as if we were going to have to fight for it, and I have no doubt that the inhabitants would like to know what they have to fight for. The seals of the Behring Sea seem intent on raising a quarrel. If press reports are true (I know they should be) Sir Charles Tupper is made to say that if England gives the necessary sea protection Canada will look after the land side. Oh yes, no difficulty whatever in saying that. But to recruit the Canadian army to get the citizens to defend—what? A right to labor for a miserable pittance barely sufficient to keep body and soul together, so as to enrich a few. Our legislators can talk big, and no doubt would be ready to defend their country with the blood of all their able-bodied relations, but it would surprise them when the crisis came, if ever it does, to find how few are their relations. As to volunteers, they might be enlisted out of the lunatic asylums.

Another item of news: There are in the Province of Quebec thirteen holidays recognized as legal holidays; Ontario has but 6. A project is on foot to wipe out the holidays so that men may be enabled to work six or seven days in each future year more than they have in the past. What a boon for the employers, for whose especial benefit this change is contemplated. Men whose employment is regular during the year will lose these occasions of rest and recreation, and their employers will no doubt reduce their wages five per cent to even up matters or through fear of their earning overmuch. One more phase of the never-ceasing conflict between capital and labor.

I see by press reports that one of our noble and brave country's defenders has found time to attend to his duties in the Dominion Parliament. And I likewise see that he took the first opportunity possible

to declare his future intentions. Having occupied a position astraddle the fence he found it galling in the fork and has slipped over to the side he formerly inclined against. In his explanation of the reasons that rendered this course necessary for him, as given by him in the debate upon the budget speech, he made no allusion to any special inducement. But he did not forget to attack bitterly the trades organizations of the Dominion. He conveniently forgot that he himself was a member of a protective organization—it takes a dirty bird to foul its own nest. And he likewise, during the course of his remarks, touched upon and treated of a variety of subjects, but he left out an interesting one to anti-trades unionists, those whom he should admire so much. They at least expected to get from him the straight tip: "How to make money out of canteens, portable altars and Northwest ponies."

A few words more: When Judas betrayed Christ he did so with a kiss, and as a sequel went and hung himself. If your readers will look up the speech of the member alluded to, well, they will see that he has not hung himself yet.

I began this communication with a story of crime. I don't want to leave off where I began, so I will finish with its punishment. The young man alluded to pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to a term in the penitentiary. The other, who had robbed the time of the worker (a sin, by the way, that the moralists tell us cries to heaven for vengeance) is still at large and a highly respected member of society. Of course your readers know that all men are equal before the laws of the Dominion. They have heard this often enough from our politicians—it is only demagogues who speak otherwise.

ATLAS.

TORONTO NOTES.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

TORONTO, March 29th, 1892.

Rarely if ever is anything worth fighting for on the part of the people won in a day or at the first fight. In a communication in your issue of the 19th instant "One in the Soup" makes bitter wail. Intuitively I know that L. J. Yet I would ask him to smother his justifiable chagrin and continue to fight in a righteous cause. The greatest of all reformers set him a notable example when he prayed (and I use the language with all reverence) "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

Some weeks ago I referred to the opening of the Engineering Laboratory of the School of Practical Science, Toronto, on the 24th of last February, and promised to forward for publication in THE ECHO the lucidly-prepared and eminently practical paper on "Technical Education" read on that occasion by Prof. Galbraith, by way of an opening address. A copy has just reached my hands and I forward it for publication (should you see fit) as promised. I offer no apology in being deemed a crank as an advocate of education generally on the part of the masses, and especially of technical education—primary and advanced—for our mechanics not only of the future but of the present as well, when and where they have horse-sense enough to avail themselves of opportunities offered them free of cost and of the highest possible character. To be plain, my design in troubling you so much with items referring to our technical schools in Toronto, and always in the direction of sounding their praises is with the object of prompting the labor leaders in the great commercial and manufacturing city of Montreal to forget for a time the great abstract planks of the platform of the Labor party and set about getting its city council to start one or two technical schools similar to that now so successfully in operation in Toronto. I feel assured such a step would need only to be taken in earnest to secure, as in our city here, public support and commendation. Will your T. & L. Council make the attempt? We shall see in time.

I also mail you herewith Vancouver, B. C., papers of March 3, 12 and 15 respectively containing much valuable information as to the Chinese question and the views of workmen thereon out in that country. As this question will in course of time be a "live one" in Eastern Canada, gives as much thereof to your readers as space will admit. Unfortunately, like in many other matters, the working classes can hardly be brought to a full realization of any danger

to their interests until that danger immediately confronts them. Despite this, however, it is the bounden duty of those who do see it and realize its vital importance to jog their memories, and perform a public duty.

St. Andrew's Hall was filled to the door, at the call of the Mayor, on last Friday evening at 8 o'clock. The meeting was for the purpose of voicing the views of the community in respect of the contract for the new Drill shed, sub-letting the taking out and cutting of the stone for that edifice to a firm in the Province of Quebec, and in that way depriving city stone cutters of work which they deemed should be done in Toronto, especially in view of the fact that the city had purchased and contributed the site at a cost of \$150,000. In the unavoidable absence of the Mayor the chair was taken by Ald. Bell, and on the platform were Messrs. T. W. Banton, president, Trades and Labor Council; H. T. Benson, W. J. Watson, A. F. Jury, D. J. O'Donoghue, L. V. McBrady, Wm. Coulter, G. M. Rogers, John Armstrong, S. R. Heakes, James Baker and Albert Phillips, president of the Stonecutters' Union, the principal sufferers by the action of the Government.

There were only three resolutions moved and all were unanimously adopted after being spoken to in strong terms by Messrs. Phillips, Benson, A. F. Jury, Coulter, Heakes, Armstrong, Simpson, Watson, O'Donoghue and others. These resolutions were as follows:—
Moved by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Benson.

"That in the opinion of this mass meeting of workmen the giving out of the tender for the construction of a drill shed in this city by the Federal Government, with out having it distinctly specified in said tender that the successful competitor must pay the prevailing rates of wages of the industries to be employed in the construction of said drill shed, is wrong in principle, and meets with the disapproval of this meeting."

Moved by John Armstrong, seconded by D. J. O'Donoghue, that whenever tenders are called for by either the Federal or Provincial Governments, or by any Municipal Council for the building of any public work or the performance of any public service, and where, in the building of such work or the performance of such service, workmen will be employed belonging to a trade or calling in which there is a usual and commonly recognized scale of wages, the specifications shall contain a clause that the successful tenderer shall pay the rate of wages prevailing in such trade or calling in the municipality in which the work is to be performed, or forfeit his contract.

Moved by L. V. McBrady, seconded by President Banton, Trades Council. That whereas the City of Toronto has granted a site whereon to erect a drill shed suitable to the requirements of the volunteers of Toronto at a cost of about \$140,000; and whereas the cost of the building upon the said site is borne by the Dominion Government; and whereas the greater portion of the stone work required on said drill shed is being done by contractors who neither carry on business in Toronto nor employ Toronto labor; be it therefore resolved that this meeting express its strongest disapproval of this action of the Dominion Government in awarding contracts affecting Toronto to persons residing out of the city who do not employ Toronto labor, more especially as the citizens of Toronto were induced to grant the site with the expectation that the money to be expended in the erection of the building would be distributed in Toronto.

In last week's letter I pointed out that the "philanthropists" of Great Britain imported no less than 1,284 children into Canada, and received out of the public chest of Canada a bonus of \$2 per head on that number. That account was only up to 31st June last. How many more arrived between that date and the close of navigation last fall we have no official knowledge of, but a despatch from Halifax, dated yesterday, tells us that

"Nearly 1,000 passengers came by two steamers which arrived from Liverpool last night, and over 1,000 more are on the steamers now en route from Great Britain to this port. . . . Among the Oregon's passengers were . . . 35 boys from Dr. Stephenson's Home. Seven of them go to Manitoba and the others to the branch house at Toronto. The Allan liner Carthaginian anchored in the stream until this morning. She had a total of 644, among them 305 boys from Dr. Bernardo's Home for the branch houses in Manitoba and Toronto. There were also on the steamer from 75 to 100 from Great Britain, mostly bound for Ottawa, Montreal and other Canadian cities. . . . The greater portion of the passengers went by the O. E. R., and Dr. Bernardo's boys were sent forward in the new tourist cars of the C.P.R., which were used here for the first time. The Hibernian, now due from Glasgow, has 76 passengers; the Parisian, en route from Liverpool, has about 1,000; and the Buenos Ayrean, due Sunday from Glasgow, has 76 steerage and 130 boys."

Some of these fakirs in their philanthropic zeal to secure the bonus of \$2 per head from Canada, practically kidnap some of these im-

portations from their parents. In proof of this I have had before me two grown up boys who were carried off to Canada without the knowledge or consent of their parents, and I am now trying through personal friends in England, and at the request of the boys, to find some trace of their parents, so that they could open up communication with them, and with the design on the part of the boys to return home to the paternal roof, although they have been in this country five or six years. They had been sent out by Dr. Bernardo, and as they allege, without their own consent either.

There are several very good bills now before our Provincial Legislature, and among them as likely to become law is the following, and the provisions of which are warmly supported by our Trades and Labor Council and District Assembly 125 K. of L.

An Act for the Protection of Persons employed in places of Business other than Factories.

1.—This Act does not apply to any place of business which is within the operation of The Ontario Factories Act or The Ontario Factories Amendment Act 1889; nor (2) to any place of business where the only persons employed are members of the same family, nor (3) to any place of business where the persons employed are not more than five in number; nor (4) to any place of business where women or girls are not employed. (R.S.O., ch. 298, s. 2; 52 Victoria ch. 43, s. 3.)

2.—Save as mentioned in the preceding section, this Act applies to every place of business in a city or town, whether for the sale or manufacture of goods, or for any other kind of business, in which women or girls are employed, and to all rooms and buildings used in connection with or for the purposes of the business.

3. Every building or apartment or place to which this Act applies should be kept properly ventilated so as not to be injurious to the persons employed therein, and shall have in connection therewith, or in convenient access thereto, a sufficient number and description of privies, earth or water closets and urinals for the employees of the business; such closets and urinals shall at all times be kept clean and well ventilated; and separate seats thereof shall be provided for the use of male and female employees, and shall have respectively separate approaches.

4.—Every person who in his own behalf, or as the manager or agent for the person, firm, company or corporation has charge of the business and employs persons therein, shall be responsible for all the said particulars and for every violation of this Act in the same manner as employers under The Factories Act. (s. 2, s. 3.)

5.—The municipal council of every city and town is to appoint inspectors, or to authorize persons to act as inspectors, for the enforcement of this Act, and shall make regulations or by-laws respecting their conduct and duties, and for the enforcement of this Act generally.

7.—The following sections of The Factory Act shall apply to this Act, namely 32 and 36 to 40 inclusive.

This bill was referred to a select committee for consideration and report, and when that committee met a few days ago the chairman (Mr. Water, who introduced the measure) startled the members when he presented an array of facts collected by representatives of the Young Women's Christian Association in regard to stores and other places where women are employed in the city of Toronto. In one place where there are thirty women and six men, there is only one closet. In a Yonge street store with thirty women and ten men there is but one closet. In stores on Queen street where there are two to ten girls working from eight in the morning until ten or eleven in the evening, there is only one closet to each business place. In one place where several women are employed the one closet provided is too filthy for use. The bill, which requires that separate closets for the two sexes shall be provided in any store or business place where there are five people employed, some of whom are women, was adopted.

At the last meeting of our City Council on Monday evening last, among other business Ald. Bailey moved that the 'longshoremen be secured union wages under the contract for unloading the city coal. Ald. Gowanlock and Leslie objected, the latter declaring that the Waterworks Board worked under a charter and would not take any orders from Council as to paying union wages. The mayor was asked for his ruling and declared that he knew of no rule against the submission of the resolution. The motion was carried on a division of 10 to 6.

Owing to the sudden death on the floor of the Legislature last week of Mr. H. E. Clarke, one of the members for Toronto in that body, we will shortly be face to face with a bye-election to fill the vacancy. Already the names of several Conservatives and at least one Reformer are mentioned as likely candidates, while several of those who take an active part in labor matters are making free with the name of Mr. John Armstrong (who had been one of the Royal Labor Commission, and who is and has been since 1881 a member of our T. & L. Council) as a possible Labor candidate. It may transpire that the latter rumor may ultimately become a fact, and if so John's chances ought to be fairly good.

URM.