

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by the Boarders.

"The other day a street car conductor who had appropriated the funds of the company by which he was employed was sent to prison and had all of his property confiscated," said Brown. "Nobody knows of just how much he had defrauded the company, but in order to make sure that the concern shouldn't loose anything by his actions the court ordered that all his property be transferred to it. I don't want to find fault with this decision; as a matter of fact I believe that it was perfectly right, always providing that all citizens should receive as full a measure of justice as this Street Railway Company, and all offenders be punished as promptly and severely as his conductor was. When, however, we see a lot of boodlers like the Arnolds, the Senecals, the Perleys, the Langes and McGreevys, all of whom have admitted fully as great crimes as this devil of a conductor, go scot free and retain possession of the plunder they have stolen, then I begin to believe that the sentence of the court was necessarily harsh and severe. Nay, more than that, according to the precedent established by the Government, that dismissal is sufficient punishment for malfeasance of office, this sentence of the court seems somewhat suspicious on the part of the judge; that he could have done without respect to the Government was to the company to simply dismiss the conductor; his action in going further than that places the Government in an awkward position. If imprisonment is the legal and authorized punishment for offences of this kind and restitution of stolen property the order of the day, then self-evidently the Government dare not let the boodlers off as it would seem disposed to do; if the matter is taken into court, the Government not only will the boodlers lose their liberty and their families pauperized, but it will seriously interfere with the affairs of the whole country, seeing that the seat of Government would have to be transferred to Ottawa to St. Vincent de Paul where the large majority of the Government, if full justice were done would eventually find themselves...

...yer fear," said Phil. "No one and no member of the Government will ever find himself in the penitentiary; the time-honored custom of such cattle plenty of time to get out of the country is religiously observed in Ottawa. This practice of allowing McGreevy to escape, and it allows all the others to do the same. Penitentiaries and jails exist for the punishment of those who commit some crime against capital. If some clerk with ridiculously low pay forges his employer's signature on a check of a hundred or two, or a half-starved conductor of some railway 'knocks down' a few passengers, else some poor devil, to satisfy the cravings of hunger, takes someone's bread, then the penitentiaries are requisitioned; but the thousands, the men who steal by the thousands, they go scot free, who form the majority of the population who have the power to alter the laws within an incredible short space of time put up with it. It shows the reality of the nation is low. Were it otherwise do you suppose any public man would be dishonest? Could a Government be so corrupt as ours has proved to be, remain in power for any length of time with an electorate which has no self-respect even if it claims to have a great deal of it? What is the real feeling of the people with reference to the boodlers in Ottawa and elsewhere, anyway? That nine out of every ten boodlers know that they are

being robbed, and they even go so far as to say that all professional party politicians are a lot of thieves, but they will hasten to add that after all they are not so much to blame and if they had a chance they'd do the same thing themselves. This is what nine out of every ten will say if you ask them, and the tenth man—well, he comes to the conclusion that he has been 'odd man out' long enough—and the probabilities are that he, too, in the future will devote himself to catching 'suckers.' The press of this country may publish columns about the people being roused by the investigations at Ottawa, but all to no purpose; the real fact in connection with this matter is that the people of Canada don't care a continental whether they are being robbed or not; and this is the material with which a few private cranks believe they can build up a nation. What madness!"

BILL BLADES.

K. OF L.

(Continued from First page.)

article of merchandise that would be a guarantee that fair wages had been paid for its manufacture. Bob Logersoll was not much of an orthodox Christian, he said, yet he had proclaimed a pure Christianity when he said that he would never wear a white shirt until he found out the woman who made it had been paid a decent price for her labor. The speaker also thought that fourteen years was too tender an age for children to be placed in factories. The latter part of Mr. Wright's address was devoted to a denunciation of usurers and the various systems of usury; advocating a national currency and the circulation of one dollar for every dollar's worth of wealth produced; intemperance, to which he attributed poverty as the cause, not the result, and closed by thanking the audience for their attention and the people for the hospitable reception which had been accorded the members of the Executive Board.

Mr. Wright's address was a most convincing one, closely reasoned out and replete with apt and telling illustrations which carried conviction to his hearers. The many good points he made were heartily applauded, which showed that the entire audience were in full sympathy with the opinions advanced. It is understood that Mr. Wright will return to Montreal during the coming winter in company with it is hoped, Congressman Davis, when the public will have another opportunity of hearing this accomplished speaker.

Messrs. Darlington and Lepage (the latter in French) proposed a vote of thanks to the two speakers, which was heartily accorded them, and Mr. Powderly having humorously replied, the audience dispersed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

THE CIGARMAKERS.

To the Editor of THE ECHO.

SIR,—I see by last week's issue that a special meeting of Cigarmakers was held to make an effort to supply a certain factory with a sufficient number of hands. That this should be necessary seems strange when you consider that the firm in question employ only Union men, comply with Union regulations besides according privileges to the men which are not recognized in any other factory, such as giving out smokers, etc., and I thought there must be something behind all this.

In this city there are some four hundred competent journeymen, who are employed on all kinds and shapes known to the trade. Some of these work in shops where the prices paid are from \$1 to \$2 lower than this particular shop. Still all are working for the one object—to secure sufficient salary to enable them to educate and support their family in a respectable manner. Now is it not reasonable to suppose under such circumstances, that men will naturally try and secure the best-paying jobs, knowing that in doing so, they will not be required to work as long hours or as hard, as would be the case in shops where the prices paid are much lower? Again the advantages of working in a Union shop are not to be lost sight of.

It will be remembered that several years ago a meeting similar to the one under notice was held by the same firm. One of the employers addressed the meeting, in which he stated that he was in need of men, and would be willing to employ a larger number and advance the price, (this was done and is continued at the present time,) and further that the matter be considered by the meeting, this was also done and what was the result? In most every instance we found men who knew the advantages of working in a Union shop, state that under the existing management they would rather work in a shop at reduced rates

than submit to the manner in which they were treated by the then foreman. I recollect that some men who expressed their honest convictions at that meeting have up to the present time been unable to secure employment although hands were taken on at the time these people were refused work. What has taken place since then? Have the causes for complaint been removed? Rumor says they have not. So long as favoritism displaces merit in any establishment there will always be dissatisfaction. Yours, ONE WHO KNOWS.

AMONG THE FIREMEN.

I have been informed that the Exposition Company intend to make a donation to the Firemen's fund, as a slight recompense for services rendered.

Henry King of No. 1 Station who was injured at Water Bros. fire on Craig street Saturday last is progressing favorably.

Paul Prevost of No. 4, is still confined in the hospital, the result of injuries received at the same fire.

Our Chief has been out of town for the last few days. He was supposed to be on business but I heard on the quiet he went duck shooting.

The regular meeting of the Benevolent Fund Committee was held Wednesday last. The attendance was slim.

The trouble which existed between one of the firemen and the captain of a station was investigated by the Fire Committee. The captain was found to be in fault and informed that in future men under him were to be treated with equality.

COLLAPSE OF A BUILDING.

Three Men Injured.

A few minutes before six o'clock last evening a portion of a building being erected at Nos. 116 and 118 Desrivieres street collapsed, burying beneath a pile of lumber and bricks Theophile Pouliot, a carpenter, 24 years of age residing on St. Margaret street. When the dust arising from the falling bricks and mortar had cleared away, the crowd which quickly collected, found that the portion of the house built over a gateway, some 10 feet in width, had given way and caused the falling of a brick wall, under which was imprisoned the unfortunate carpenter. Willing hands immediately began removing the debris, and soon they found that the prisoner was firmly wedged under three immense flooring joists, one of which was bearing heavily upon him and causing severe pain. A crowbar was immediately procured, and in a few minutes the rescuers succeeded in raising the beam sufficiently to relieve the sufferer of its weight. It took exactly one hour to saw off the timbers and remove the bricks that imprisoned the victim, who during this time was given stimulants by the physicians who were in attendance with the ambulance.

After the injured man had been removed to the General Hospital it was found that both of his legs were broken in three places, his head badly cut and the fingers of both hands severely smashed. An examination of the building, after the crowd had dispersed, showed that the wall that was erected alongside of No. 114, and on which the joists of the second floor had rested, had not been sufficiently fastened. The foundation had given way, causing the entire wall to slide down. The floor above having no support, one end immediately fell, followed by bricks from the front wall. Other men working on the building had a miraculous escape, two of them being hurt, but not seriously.

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