

Labor Parliament of Canada.

The seventeenth annual meeting of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada will be held in Brantford, Ontario, commencing on Tuesday, September 17. All labor organizations in the Dominion have been invited to send representatives.

A circular has been sent out from Ottawa to the officers and members of trades councils, trades unions, district and local assemblies of the Knights of Labor, and federal unions throughout the Dominion of Canada. It is signed by the following officers of the congress: Ralph Smith, M. P., president, Nanaimo, B. C.; John A. Flett, vice-president, Hamilton, Ont.; P. M. Draper, secretary-treasurer. The circular states that the basis of representation will be as follows: Trades unions, local assemblies of the Knights of Labor and federal unions will be allowed one delegate for each one hundred members or under, and one for each additional one hundred or majority fraction thereof; trades councils, central labor unions, national trades unions and district assemblies of the Knights of Labor, three delegates each. Two or more trades unions or local assemblies of the Knights of Labor, whose aggregate membership does not exceed 150, may unite to send one delegate. No proxy representative will be allowed, and all delegates must be members of the bodies they represent (except in the case of bodies composed of delegates from local organizations), at least six months prior to and at the time of election, but unions or assemblies can combine to send one representative who is a member of one of such unions or assemblies.

The expenses of the congress are to be met by a per capita assessment on the membership of the organizations represented at its sessions, and such other organizations as may signify their willingness to contribute to its funds.

The circular requests that in order that the wisdom of bodies which, through any cause, may be unrepresented by delegates, may not be lost to the congress; such bodies should forward, by resolution, such views as they entertain on any particular phase of labor, or the tenor of any question which in their judgment may be worthy of discussion or action by the congress.

B. C. Salmon Fishermen Strike.

Vancouver, July 8.—The threatened trouble in connection with the salmon canning industry reached a climax to-day. The fishermen and the cannerymen have been unable to agree upon the remuneration to be paid for the former for catching fish and as was the case last year, the fishermen, who are well organized, have declared a strike. The Fishermen's union comprises all the whites and Indians, who, by reason of many years service, have become experts in working for the fifty canneries operating on the Fraser river. The cannerymen, unable to come to terms with the union fishermen, have arranged to employ Japanese to catch salmon.

When the Japanese started out to fish to-day, the union men organized a system to patrol boats and every Jap found fishing was ordered to desist and to return to shore. A number of Japs resisted this command, and fights between Japanese and union men followed resulting in five broken heads for as many Japs. None of the latter are fatally injured, but all are pretty well battered up. Following this incident, the Japs held a mass-meeting at which it was decided that their entire strength should be paraded to-night. Consequently twelve hundred boats, each containing three Japs, started simultaneously this evening from the fishing village of Steveston, fourteen miles from Vancouver. Twenty-five special policemen were sworn in, besides the regular force at Steveston, but these proved unable to restrain the union men. The union patrol of 300 boats is arranging to follow the Japs at midnight and both sides significantly agree that the matter will be settled before morning. All the Japs are armed and so are the whites. There is talk of calling out the militia but it is likely the trouble will be settled, whether with or without bloodshed, before a military force could be got to the scene of trouble. A strange feature about the strike is that there is little difference between the price offered by the cannerymen and that demanded by the fishermen. Eight concessions on both sides would reconcile the opposing forces in the controversy.

Roseland Mining News.

Roseland, B. C., July 8.—The output of ore for the week ending Saturday night is the smallest in the records of the camp for the past six months and more, holidays and a temporary lay-off at several of the big mines reducing the aggregate to a little over 3,000 tons. The figures are: Le Roi, 1,150; Centre Star, 1,320; War Eagle, 510; Iron Mask, 100; I. X. L., 30. Total, 3,110; for the year 209,967.

This week the aggregate will be nearer to 10,000 than to last week's total, all the mines being in full swing with the exception of the Le Roi, which resumed to-day with a full crew.

The Homestake will ship the first car to-day and the Iron Mask will more than double last week's output, a scarcity of cars having prevented this being done last week.

Bright reports are to hand from the mines and properties still in the prospect stage. There is every indication of a busy and successful summer from this out.

20,000 Harvest Hands.

The local government and the C. P. R. are already collaborating as to the ways and means of bringing in harvest hands from the south. It was learned Monday that the prospects for a harvest are so good that about 20,000 hands will be required in Manitoba and the west this year. An effort to secure this number will be made by the C. P. R. and they will be advertised for in the east immediately.

Mr. C. E. McPherson, of the C. P. R., speaking of the number of men to be required in the harvest fields of the province this fall, said that at a low estimate 15,000 men would be required, but if the present splendid prospects continued good this number would not be enough. In 1899 the company brought 10,000 men. It is not likely that it will be an easy matter this year to get men from Ontario, as already this year a large number had come up and labor in the east was very scarce.

Wheat Crops of Europe.

London, July 8.—The Mark Lane Express to-day, in its weekly crop review, says it is doubtful if the recent rains will effect greater "transformation scenes" in the wheat crop of England. It thinks the yield may reach an average of 28½ bushels per acre.

The Express considers that the enhanced price and big weekly market in Paris furnish evidence that the French farmers consider the government estimate as being quite 10 per cent. too high. The agricultural press puts the yield at 35,000,000 quarters, 3,000,000 quarters below the government estimate.

Spain is reaping a magnificent harvest, estimated at 12,500,000 quarters. The Italian harvest promises to reach the full average and the Roumanian harvest is estimated at 9,000,000 quarters, leaving 3,000,000 available for export.

The spring wheat in Russia is less promising. In several provinces, the winter crop, however, is splendid, according to the moderate standard prevailing. Their rye will make an excellent harvest. The other autumn-sown crops are all above the average, but the spring barley and oats are below par.

The B.C. Sailing Fleet.

A letter to the New York Fur Trade Review from its special correspondent at Victoria, B. C., dated June 13, said:

The first schooner of the Behring sea fleet is now in the offing ready to leave. She is the C. D. Rand, and the Victoria and Zillah Bay are ready to tow down for the start. All the schooners are at the various wharves in the upper harbor loading stores and equipment, and by Monday quite a number will have started for the "smoky seas." There will be two other schooners than the fleet which hunted off the British Columbia coast this spring go to the Behring sea, the Fawn and the Carrie C. W. All of the coast fleet, without exception, will go to Behring Sea. A difficulty has been encountered in getting seamen for this year, as a heavy salmon run is expected on the Fraser and most of the seamen are going up to the canneries. The Indians are more independent, too, and it may be that they will stand out for more than \$3 per skin paid by sealers.

The fleet of eight schooners hunt-

ing off the Japan coast are having poor luck, the vessel having the highest catch at last reports (a letter was received dated May 21) having 399 skins; this was the schooner Carlotta G. Cox. One of the fleet from Japan, is now on her way home from Hakodate, having left that port for Victoria on June 5. A cablegram was received when she left, which for a time gave joy to the sealers, for, according to the manner in which the dispatch was worded, it seemed to read that the Borealls had taken 1,882 skins off the Japan coast, but this was found to be a mistake. She had 1,882 skins on board, but these included her own catch of 80 odd and the catches left by other schooners with the sealing company's agent at Hakodate. In a letter from the mate of the Borealls, he says that not many seals were seen from the schooners.

Great interest is being taken by the Victoria sealers in the catch made by the schooner Edward Roy off Cape Horn. The Edward Roy is owned by a number of Victoria sealing men, and when she was purchased and outfitted at Halifax last year, Captain Gilbert, master of the Director for many years, was sent across from Victoria to take command of her, when coming around the Horn in 1895 and 1896 to Victoria in the Director, Captain Gilbert took a number of seals off the South American continent, and it was due to his report that the cruise of the Edward Roy was made. The schooner took 1,600 skins off Cape Horn. Capt. J. W. Peppit, owner of the Umbrina, who went east last fall to buy a sealing schooner off the Atlantic coast, and who was reported by a Boston paper to have been robbed of \$4,000, is said by local sealers to have a similar venture as that of the Edward Roy in view, and, according to the belief of local sealers, there will be several vessels outfitted during the coming season to seal off the rookeries of Cape Horn and Staten's Island. It is a well known fact that there are fur seals off many points along the Southern American continent, and sailing ships coming out to Victoria from England have on several occasions reported seeing large herds off the River Plate.

Prof. Macoun, who went to the Pribilofs to investigate the habits of the seal on behalf of the Canadian government some years ago, is in Vancouver, in which city he arrived a few days ago. During a conversation regarding sealing, Prof. Macoun said that he had written to Rudyard Kipling a short time ago, pointing out how, by a wonderful coincidence, one of the fictions of the noted Anglo-Saxon writer had been borne out by the fact. In the Jungle Book there is a pretty tale of "The White Seal," which wandered off from the rookeries on Otter Island, in Behring Sea, to look for rookeries where hunters never came. During his investigations Prof. Macoun found one, and only one, family of white seals, and these were on Otter Island. But one white seal is known to have been taken by the Victoria sealers, W. Shields, a hunter of the schooner E. B. Marvin, having shot one in 1895.

The Torrens System of Registering Titles.

The difficulties attending the transfer of real estate from one owner to another, although much reduced in the course of the last century, still remains of sufficient magnitude and complication to be obstructive of business operations involving interests arising out of the title to real estate. It is within living memory that the transfer of a plot of land, or its use as security for a loan, entailed investigations as to the validity of the title, and such an elaborate deed to give effect to the desired transaction, as were so exceedingly costly and involved such prolonged delay as to constitute a very serious burden on all concerned—except the conveyancer. It was no uncommon experience for the expenses of a land purchase, or lease, or mortgage, to exceed the value of what was transferred, while costs ordinarily range from 25 to 50 per cent. of such value. In the old land the varieties of title, and of possible encumbrances upon it, are still more complicated. Not only has the written law to be considered, which only professional specialists are able to interpret, who constitute a distinct and very highly paid branch of the legal fraternity, but there are local usages

which have the force of law, some of which present a curious study of the habits and customs prevalent centuries ago. Thus, for example, in Derbyshire, a custom exists and is recognized which was established by the Romans in regard to the miner's right of way over another's person's land to reach a mine, or to test a prospective mine, and a right to occupy without purchase enough land for the mining works. Strangers who bought land in that country have been startled to find their fields or lawns taken for a roadway or for a mining shaft without having any remedy. Other districts have very quaint and some most absurd customs relating to the ownership and occupation of land, which have come down from the days when owning land was a rigid class distinction that required to be guarded against deterioration by barriers obstructive to transfers of title. After land was bought the title was often encumbered with a nominal charge to avoid its passing as freehold. Thus a plot of land once owned by the ancestors of a prominent banker in this city was held by them under a rent of a peppercorn per acre. In Canada the title in a large number of cases can be traced to the crown, so that a crown patent starts the title schedule and of which it forms an excellent basis, as it is indisputable. Trouble, however, often arises from the area conveyed in a patent being divided, and sub-divided, and mortgaged, or leased, or sold, or put under some other obligations complicating the title. In Ontario, however, there are many thousands of acres for which the title deed was drawn, or the mortgage covering them, by a school-master or storekeeper, or clergyman, or even by the owner himself. In numberless instances the title deed to 100 or 200 acres of land consists of nothing more than a copy of a statutory form of conveyance, the description being expressed through a number of ownerships, especially in cities where the original lots become minutely divided, the title becomes so intricate as to demand a legal expert to trace the ramifications and "to make assurances double sure" that the title is sound. To simplify the work of investigation and to establish an indisputable basis beyond which the enquiry need not be pushed, the Torrens system was devised which is highly favored by purchasers of land, by loan companies, by insurance companies and investors in mortgage loans. In ordinary cases the certificates of one solicitor, which was given at a previous stage of the title, is disregarded by a later examiner; by the Torrens system the certificate of title is issued by some state authority which is legally indisputable, as after the proceedings are complete, the title as registered cannot be assailed after two years has elapsed without its being attacked. After that period the owner of the certificate of title can rest as secure of its being inalienable from defect in title as the cash in the pocket, or a bond in his safe. Thus a deed of land with a Torrens certificate attached can be deposited as collateral for a loan the same as a bond, or scrip, and all subsequent transfers are simplified by the title passing by a new certificate being given to replace the old, which is destroyed when the transfer has been registered. The system is usually a voluntary one, but in some countries in the States the Torrens system of registering titles is compulsory—Insurance and Finance Chronicle.

MUCH IN LITTLE.

This is a fairly good old world, so 'tis well not to take it too literally, and it is as well to wink at its white lies. Fault-finding has its root in dislike, criticism in kindness.

Argumentative victories always leave scars behind.

Envy none. Every heart has some secret chamber of horrors, and those who seem most gay have often the grimmest skeleton.

It is rather a silly notion that men should be as pure minded as women. Who goes out into the world is bound to get a little mire upon its mental garment.

Impulsive women dig pits, into which they finally fall headlong.

Seraphim cannot abide here. Whereupon it behooves all women, and most men, to be grateful for decently amiable partners.

Many a very feminine body has a decidedly masculine mind, and vice versa.