

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by the Boarders.

"There is one thing that the workmen of Montreal should do at the present time, and that is to watch the antics of our aldermen in connection with this street railway business," said Phil. "A few weeks ago all hands and the cook condemned the present company in unmeasured terms, and things looked exceedingly blue for the Montreal Street Railway Company. It was said that the service was so bad and so unsatisfactory and the action of the company so arrogant and overbearing in the past, that no matter what kind of a tender they submitted it should not, and would not be accepted at the City Hall. The people believed what their aldermen said and felt glad about it, for if there is one thing more than another which the workmen of this city have cursed and damned, and most prayerfully at that, it is this self same Street Railway Company. Many and many a man has lost a quarter of a day because Lusher's windjammer either failed to put in appearance at the proper time or else because it was hove-to for half an hour or more upon some switch waiting for the Ark going in the opposite direction to heave in sight. When, therefore, it became known that the aldermen were dead set against this company everybody breathed freer, because they believed that the days of this monopoly, which had outraged the feelings of the people for years, were numbered. This was two weeks ago; now, look at the situation to-day. The citizen is just as sore against the old company as ever he was, and perhaps a little more so, but what a wonderful change has come over our city fathers. The men who at first would not even listen to a tender from the old company are now 'solid' for it, and if you believed but half of what they have to say in favor of it you would come to regard the directors of the old company as public benefactors—real live Canadian philanthropists. Will some of you kindly explain this? I am told that a few days ago the betting was two hundred thousand dollars to twenty-seven aldermen that Williams would get the contract; now Williams is nowhere, and gamblers stake their money on the old company against the field. Yet the old company is as bad to-day as ever it was; it has a record second to none as far as evading the city by-laws is concerned; it has a record of many years for disregarding the interests and wishes of the citizens, and it has been the most arrogant monopoly which the City Council has called into existence, yet in spite of all this it seems as though it would get a new lease of life. The alderman who votes for this company does not do so in the interests of the people, and I would like you to remember their names and send them to the right about when next they come up for re-election—each and every one of them should be 'fired,' no matter whether they be English, Irish or French. No matter what kind of tender the old company submits it should not be accepted, because it never yet has, and never will, live up to any agreement that it has made with the City Council."

"This street railway business is something in which the people take a great deal more interest than our aldermen are aware of," said Brown, "and I, for one, believe that the surest way of getting rid of the present Council is to say nothing about it now, but to let them go ahead monkeying with the old company if they like, and deal with them later on. The amendments to the city charter have given some of them another year's grace, just about long enough to demonstrate to the people of Montreal that nothing was gained by them in giving the old company the contract, and if they don't go

for these gentry then it will be nobody's business. Give them lots of rope—they'll hang themselves right enough. By that time the people will perhaps have come to the conclusion that the surest way of securing a good street car service is to run the cars themselves. The Hon Frank Smith fooled the people of Toronto for years in the same fashion until they finally turned on him and laid him out as flat as a pancake. The people of Montreal are a little thicker in the skull than those of Toronto, and it takes them longer to see the 'cat,' but they'll feel her claws right enough by-and-by, and then somebody is going to get hurt."

BILL BLADES.

ARE THE ABSENT ONES "CHAFF?"

Col. Denison, in a recent address, sneered at the Canadians who have been driven from Canada to the United States in search of work as "the chaff," those remaining behind being "the winnowed grain." As there is scarcely a family in Canada which does not have a member making a living in the adjoining country, including that of Col. Denison himself, the sneer was hardly seemly. It was certainly undeserved. Judging by our own experience in Western Ontario, it can safely be asserted that the young men who have gone out from among us to seek a home and a living denied them here by the policy of trade restriction were the flower of our population. They have done well, and they are less worthy of being called the chaff of the race than is the Canadian office holder who, rejoicing in a good stipend, secured at the expense of his fellows, can see no evils to remedy, no inequalities to remove, so long as he is enabled to enjoy his fat berth. It is all very well for men of the official class or the pampered few to belittle the exodus which has been stimulated by the trade restriction policy. But it is a serious matter for the average father and mother. They see their sons departing one by one to the country that provides wider opportunities for making a living than does Canada under its present management, while their daughters are left behind. In nine cases out of ten the young men settle down and marry in their new homes. They are influenced, as a matter of course, by their surroundings to choose helpmeets from their immediate associates, while the matrimonial market in Canada is clogged through the fact that while the ranks of marriageable young men is decimated by emigration, a surplus of marriageable women is left behind. This is an aspect of the case that is being forced upon parents in every rank in the older provinces, and it is one worthy of more than a passing note by the public journalist. Col. Denison may contend that the stalwart young Canadians who have left the Dominion, through no lack of love for their native land, are but the chaff, the refuse, of the population. If he will come down off his pedestal of superior virtue and superior loyalty long enough to make inquiry among the common people, he will find that far from regarding the hundreds of thousands of their expatriated fellow-countrymen as chaff they look upon their absence as a serious disadvantage to themselves and to their families as well as to the whole Dominion. The social side of this question is not the least important, as parents will have no hesitation in testifying.—Canada Farmers' Sun.

If that is "free trade" the protectionists are welcome to make the most of it. It is true, it is right, and it is the doctrine which ought to prevail in this republic. Republican protection is a fraud through and through, and imposes upon the wage-earners of the country the heaviest of the burdens under which they stagger.—San Francisco Examiner.

THE PINKERTONS

A brief history of this army of unscrupulous mercenaries will supply us with the reason for their being so cordially hated by labor. Some years before the war a Scotchman named Pinkerton established a private detective bureau for the purpose of ferreting out common, ordinary thieves. In the course of time it extended its operations. In addition to hunting down thieves it supplied watchmen for banks and business houses. In this way the "Pinkerton detective watch" was established at Chicago. This was the nucleus from which a standing army that has been estimated as high as thirty-five thousand has been evolved. On the death of the original Pinkerton the command of this standing army passed to his two sons, who have so improved on their father's methods that they can boast of being able to furnish in a few hours any corporation with several thousand men fully equipped, drilled, and ready to go anywhere or do anything they are ordered to do. The Pinkertons have regular agencies, with regular forces of men, in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, St. Paul, Kansas City and Denver. From these centres of population they are ready, at a moment's notice, to send out an army that has been recruited in the slums. It is well known that many an ex-convict has worn the Pinkerton uniform.

In advertising for recruits the only qualification the Pinkertons require is courage. When a man is accepted he is told off and instructed as to the duties he will have to perform. He is, of course, drilled like a regular soldier, and is subject to a discipline somewhat similar to that prevailing in the army. As he feels no sense of responsibility except to his employer, it is not surprising that when called upon to help overawe strikers he acts in a manner that has earned him the hatred of organized labor. Here are some of the murders that are laid to the charge of this band of thugs. During the great strike on the New York Central they fired into a crowd of strikers, killing one young man and wounding five other persons, one of whom was a woman. This occurred at East Albany. During the 'longshoremen's strike in New Jersey, about five years ago, the Pinkertons murdered a boy under circumstances that so aroused public indignation that the New Jersey Legislature passed a law making the employment of Pinkertons unlawful. New York has placed a similar law on its statute book. A law of the same character has been in force in Massachusetts since the first of July, which forbids the employment of any non-resident of the State to assist any corporation with arms in their hands.

We have called attention to only a few of the murders committed by the Pinkertons. We could easily swell that list. So numerous have these murders been that they at last attract the attention of Congress. Mr. Watson, of Alabama introduced a resolution calling for an inquiry into the workings and the methods of the Pinkertons.

With such a record as this behind them it is not surprising the Pinkertons are cordially hated by organized labor. Their employment during strikes is a direct incitement to violence. It is, therefore, high time the authority of the States be invoked to put them down. There is every probability that Pennsylvania will enact an anti-Pinkerton Law. Other States should not wait for a repetition of such scenes as occurred at Homestead before placing the brand of illegality on these organized thugs.—The Irish World.

The latest election returns from Great Britain indicate that the Liberals are leading with a majority of nine. Joseph Arch, champion of the agricultural laborers, has been elected.

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