

THE TOLLER

Official Organ of the Toronto District Labor Council. Published Weekly in the Interests of the Working Masses.

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JAMES MASON, Managing Director.

The Walking Delegate

FOUNDED ON FACT.

By James Simpson.

The evening paper had just been laid aside by one of Toronto's leading manufacturers, and in the stillness of the evening hour he was inactively cursing the vagaries of our present industrial system. The glaring headlines had told of the shame and dishonor of one of the representatives of organized labor, who, while in the discharge of his duties, had sold himself to the manipulators of the almighty dollar and brought into disrepute the organization he represented.

"It's time the thumb-screws on the stocks were fastened on these walking delegates," said the manufacturer, as he broke in upon the silence of the family circle.

The little black terrier in the corner of the sitting-room stretched himself out and raised his head in recognition of the break in the monotony.

Jack, the oldest boy in the family, a ledger-keeper in one of the large financial institutions of the city, aroused himself from the control of the latest sensation in the stock reports, and gave most sympathetic evidence of his sympathy with his father's sentiments.

"You're right, dad. It's time for a change, and I think the law should interfere with these lawless trades unionists who are so highly privileged, and don't seem to appreciate their many favors," said Jack.

"Turn up that light, Jack; we need a little more light on this subject," said Bill, the other boy of the family, whose chum at the business college was the son of a Toronto business agent.

"Oh, yes; Jack, you're just as usual strange," said Jack. "Evil communication corrupts good manners, and I think the sooner we get Bill away from that business college the better for the honor of his house."

"I don't like Bill's ideas; they favor too much of Socialism," said the somewhat irate father, "and I think I will have to send him to the Stanford University or some other educational institution where such economic heresies are discouraged."

"Hold up, dad; give me a few minutes and I'll tell you a story," said Bill.

"Well, you'll tell me anything anyway, so we might as well let you go ahead," said Jack, with considerable irony.

"You remember the bitter strikes of last spring, when all the strength of the employing builders was arrayed against the different trades in the building business. It was a bitter fight. All the ingenuity that both employer and employee could command had been put into action to win the victory. Bitterness between the union and non-union men had been engendered, and some of the men who had sworn to stand by their fellow-craftsmen when sickness had overtaken them, and when everything wasn't as rosy as it might have been. To him there was no institution like the union, even the church had to take a back seat to it. When the test came and he proved false there was nothing too bad to be said about the institution that had given him succor in his time of trouble, and as for his fellow-unionists, they were only in the union to serve their own selfish interests and impede the progress of industry."

"The strike came to a close, however, with defeat for the men. Peace was once more restored, and the men went back to work. It was shortly after the close of the strike that one of the walking delegates of one of the defeated unions was walking rapidly westward on one of the streets down town when his eyes caught the form of a man in a half-sitting and half-lying position on the doorstep of one of the city boarding houses."

"Although the face of the man was pale and haggard, the walking delegate recognized him as the man who had deserted the union during the strike."

"Hello, Jo, what's the matter now?" responded the walking delegate.

"I guess I'm a goner—this time, Tom; this is my last night. Lift me a minute from these hard steps."

SOUP HOUSES AND HARD TIMES

Judge Says Stealing is No Crime—Police Court Scenes.

Cincinnati, Jan. 10.—At the Vine St. Congregational Church this evening, the pastor, Herbert S. Bigelow, discussed the return of hard times, taking for his text scenes in the local police court. He said in part:

"Hard times and free soup houses are with us again. Every day for months has brought us reports of factories closed and wages reduced. Despite the demagogue's assurance of continued prosperity, the depression which has been predicted is here. The ugly facts cannot be concealed even by the papers which have been preaching for so long that hard times is a Democratic malady."

Our daily papers are beginning to read like the history of ancient Rome. The hungry mob clamors for bread, and the political bosses vie with each other in their ostentatious charities. Here, for instance, is a news item:

"Councilman Michael Mollen, of the Eighth Ward, Wednesday morning established a free soup house at 43 E. Front street. It was instantly surrounded by poverty-stricken people, with baskets, broken-spout coffee pots, bottles and tin cans to carry away solid provisions, soup and coffee."

The condition of the unemployed has become so desperate and threatening so epidemic that our machinery of justice, which is usually so relentless in the prosecution of little criminals, has broken down. In our police court, we have had the remarkable spectacle of the callous slouch of the law pleading for the accused, and the judge, grown merciful, dismissing acknowledged thieves whose hunger drove them to crime.

Here is a scene in this court. A man is on the stand who has been caught with stolen bread. The officer who arrested him is called as the prosecuting witness. His address is called. But, behold! this Jester abandons his role of sleuth. He speaks as a man and a brother. Listen:

"Judge, there are nearly two hundred people down there who are starving. This man Jones is a workman and not a thief. He was going to share what he stole with the others. To prevent worse crimes, such as burglary, we must arrest these men. They are out from three o'clock in the morning for what they can find to eat. A loaf of pork was stolen Monday morning, and the grocer told us not to look for it. Lord knows, they need it," he told us. In the buildings at 315, 320 and 322 there are many who have not a cent and who have nothing to eat."

What is the judge's reply to this politician's plea for mercy? The judge is not a preacher. Perhaps he is not a church member. He is a politician. He is a member of the "gang." Possibly he is worse than many he sends to prison. It is not without heart, and this is his verdict:

"The stealing of bread under such circumstances is no offence."

Another prisoner is arraigned. This is Charles Stevens, a white man. The night before he had gone to the jail, said he was out of work and hungry, and begged to be locked up. What crime has he committed? None. He is here to ask the judge for the privilege of being sent to the kitchen as a criminal. The judge says:

"You may go to jail, and when the sun begins to shine warm enough, go to the jailer and tell him you wish to be released. I will pocket him as your request."

Later the judge addressed a body of city officials before whom he defended these strange decisions. "Why," said he, "nearly every morning at one and two o'clock policemen on their beats find men picking potato peelings out of ash barrels. Why, gentlemen, even I would not hesitate to fracture one of the ten commandments if placed in this position."

A preacher's Confession.

And now listen to the words of a preacher who visited the politician's soup-house: "It is a sad picture. I have been studying this problem of human misery for 500 years at your own request."

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IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH.

If the trades and labor unions of Canada were to adopt the motto, "In union there is strength," and apply it to the ballot box at election time in the same way as they do when they decide to go on strike for higher wages and shorter hours, what could they not do?

The trades and labor councils of Toronto endorsed six labor candidates to run as aldermen for the city. Why did they not elect them unanimously? Because they did not carry out their motto in place of giving a straight vote to the labor man, they split them and gave one to their friend because of old acquaintance sake or some favor done in the past; some because they cannot get a phibsonian and benevolent institution to help them; some because they have bound their hands.

Union men, would it not be a great boon to the working masses of Canada to be represented in our municipal and governmental affairs where laws may be made more in favor of the workman and not so much for the capitalist?

Our government to-day is made up of doctors, lawyers, stockbrokers and all other men of that class who make their money out of the hardworking man.

Why should the hardworking man not represent his class in the affairs of our country as well as the rich his?

In union there is strength. Workmen, hustle and unite. Pick out your men and stand by right. And gain a sweeping victory.

If through the year that just has passed your vote you think you've lost, Do not forget and try again— We will succeed at last.

If you hate another, it is slow suicide for yourself.

No matter which way an election goes, the members of a brass band are usually sure of a job.

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With every \$ Grocery Order, or 24 lbs. for One Dollar without Orders.

10c. New Pink Salmon for 7c.
12c. New Pink Salmon for 10c.
15c. New Red Salmon. very best, 12c.
1,000 lbs. Good Evaporated Peaches, per lb. 7c.
15c. Boxes New Table Figs for 10c.
30c. Packages Black or Mixed Tea 22c.

Fancy Dairy Butter, 1 lb. prints, 20c.
Gold Seal Creamery, best made, 23c.

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THE WALKING DELEGATE

Major Dyke, of Fort William, Puts Some Pertinent Questions.

The Winnipeg Voice publishes the following:

Speaking at the Labor mass meeting at Fort William on Tuesday evening last, Mayor Dyke told the gathering of some of the tactics that are employed to discredit municipal ownership, especially of telephones. He said that recently a man arrived in that town and gave out the information that his mission was to write up the town in regard to its advanced advocacy of the principle of municipal ownership, and ingratiated himself in the good-will of the citizens by this means. After he had left the mayor was informed from the east that the man had never been known as an advocate of this principle, and the suggestion was given that he was probably working in exactly the opposite interest. Knowing that the citizens of Ottawa were to vote on a municipal telephone by-law at the civic elections on New Year's Day, Mayor Dyke took the precaution to have prepared a correct statement of Fort William's experience in the operation of its various franchises, and forwarded it to the friends of municipal ownership in Ottawa. The guess was a good one, for sure enough, a couple of days before election, the write-up of this casual visitor appeared in an Ottawa paper, and in it everything was shown in the worst possible light, libelling the policy of Fort William and holding it up as a horrible example. Owing to the forthrightness of Mayor Dyke it was possible on the following day to publish a full statement of the actual condition of affairs in Ottawa, to offset the erroneous one, and so give the citizens a fair chance to judge the case.

In the last two issues we have published accounts of a scheme that was put up to petition the Ontario Government to investigate the financial position of Fort William, in which Mr. Bryan, the agent of the Federated Trades Council, figured. Mayor Dyke has written a letter to the Toronto Globe on this matter, which more than puts it up to the Bell Telephone Co. to explain. The letter, in closing, says:

"To us it appears the rankest hypocrisy for the Bell Company to be anxious about our finances, when they have given us the most bitter opposition they were capable of, going even to the length of offering free telephony, of which we have sworn evidence. Reports have appeared in the press detrimental to our system and credit, and when, as mayor of the town, I expostulated with the press for publishing untrue statements, I was informed 'that the matters complained of were published as paid advertisements.' Who issued these statements and said for them? Was it the Bell Telephone Co. or any of its agents? Why has Mr. Scott made Fort William his headquarters for the greater part of last year? What object has he in view in doing the aggression with so many of our citizens? So far as I know, he has not denied his connection with this famous petition. The document was never before the Council in any shape; nor, as far as I know, has any citizen been refused a proper request for information. The town has no objection to a Government audit, as its affairs are above reproach, but we do object to an alien monopoly interfering with our business and the natural rights of our citizens. In any event, whatever the object of the Bell Telephone Co. may be, municipal ownership in Fort William has come to stay and prosper for the benefit of its citizens and not to fill the coffers of the Bell Company."

"Joshua Dyke, Mayor.

"Dec. 26.

DON'T YOU SEE that if you continue to Spend All You Make you will be Poor—All Your Life.

A Savings Account at the Bank of Toronto, King and Bathurst Streets Branch will help you to Save Money.

When a fleet goes on a cruise the crews go on the seas.

Love usually renders a man color-blind as to complexities.

No man knows what it is to be a woman—and ought to be glad of it.

If a play has a short run it usually means a long walk for the players.

A first-class scrub woman may be fatally ruined by a college education.

To aid us in the blindness of our route, God has given us a shining light—Conscience.—Lamarline

Gypsy Smith said she believes in a fence at the edge of a precipice rather than a hospital at the bottom.

THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM.

Henry George answered the question. He showed that industry is half strangled by laws which confer private monopolies upon the few and impoverish the many by artificial restrictions, by natural opportunities of employment. Put the taxes where they belong, upon land values. Stop taxing men for doing things. Make it ruinous for speculators to hold land out of use. Will that bring the millennium? Will that secure to each a full stomach? No, but it will be the recognition of an economic law which is just as real as the law of gravitation. Learn the laws of Nature. That is the beginning of wisdom. Obey them; that is the will of God. The programme of Henry George will do more than a thousand years of preaching to make impossible this shameful spectacle of able-bodied men starving for lack of work, in a country where boundless resources could well employ the labor of the world.

WORTH WHILE.

'Tis easy enough to be pleasant When life flows along like a song; But the man worth while is the one who will smile When everything goes dead wrong. For the test of the heart is trouble. And it always comes with the years, And the smile that is worth the praise of earth Is the smile that comes through tears.

It is easy enough to be prudent When nothing tempts you to stray; When without or within no voice of sin Is luring your soul away. But it's only a negative virtue Until it is tried by fire, And the life that is worth the honor of earth Is the one that roasts desire.

By the cynic, the sad, the fallen, Who had no strength for the strife, The world's highway is cumbered to-day. They make up the item of life. But the virtue that conquers passion, And the sorrow that hides in a smile— It is those that are worth the homage of earth.

For we find them but once in a while.—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

Men call their own carelessness and inactivity fate. The lucky man is the one who grasps his opportunity.

The lantern-jawed man isn't necessarily a brilliant conversationalist.

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Cross & Blackwell's 25c. Pickles..... 19
10c. packages Anania 9c. or 3 for 25c
6 large packages Napha Washing Powder..... 25
This is the largest package and best Washing Powder made. Try it.
Quick "O" for easy washing, 6 for 25c
65c. bag Choice Family Flour..... 49
48c. bag..... 29
10 lb. Graham Flour for..... 25
3 five-cent bags Table Salt for..... 10
15 lb. Cooking Salt for..... 10
15 lb. Large Nuts for..... 10
Pamcy Malaga Grapes, per lb. 10 and 15

3 packages Vim for..... 25
3 Life Chips for..... 25
1 lb. 35c. Tea, Coffee or Cocoa..... 25
3 large cans Baking Powder for..... 25
4 ten-cent pa. Kagen Corn Starch for..... 25
3 cans very best Pink Salmon for..... 25
2 cans very best Red Salmon..... 25
4 lb. best pure White Lard..... 25
1 lb. best Boiled Ham..... 25
10 lb. Balled Oats for..... 25
5 cans new Old Sardines..... 25
2 fifteen-cent cans French Sardines..... 25
3 packages Rolled Oats for..... 25
3 Flaked Wheat for..... 25
3 Flax for..... 25

4 ten-cent packages Jelly Powder for..... 25
2 fifteen-cent bottles Extracts for..... 15
10 bars best Laundry Soap for..... 25
6 packages Pearlina for..... 25
3 five-cent packages Blue for..... 10
1 gal. best 40c. Vinegar for..... 25
1 quart best Cooking Molasses..... 9
1 can best Table Syrup for..... 9
1 quart choice Mary's Syrup for..... 25
Imported Worcestershire Sauce 9c. 3 for 25
40c. five-cent nails new Jam for..... 20
10c. glass jars choice Jam for..... 20

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Restoration Bitters

Prepared at the residence of the famous physician, who has been practicing for many years, using many prescriptions, and his own story—nearly all the ailments of the skin, rheumatism, etc., cured.

For men who come in with some perfect curable ailments, many more in the coming treatment.

After the skin starts in the race of life, it is the most perfect curable ailments, many more in the coming treatment.

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