

**The Echo**

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MONTREAL, May 30, 1891.

THE ECHO is mailed to subscribers at a distance every Friday evening, and delivered in the city early on Saturday. Parties not receiving their paper regularly should communicate with the office.

**PROFIT SHARING.**

In an article on profit sharing some weeks ago, we pointed out some of the benefits that were likely to accrue to firms setting aside a portion of their profits for distribution among their workmen, and gave several instances where the practice had developed mutual goodwill and trust between employer and employed; its tendency to minimize strikes was also pointed out. The practice of profit sharing is carried on to a limited extent by several American firms, while in England it would appear to be getting common, and its progress there, where it undoubtedly exercises a sedative influence on labor troubles, is being watched with more than ordinary interest. Of such importance is the question considered by the United States Consul General in London, Mr. John C. New, that he has made a special report on the subject to his Government, in which is given the experience of over fifty firms employing about one hundred and fifty thousand workmen. According to Mr. New all these cases have been entirely successful, and while there is considerable variety in the methods employed, the underlying principle governing the whole is that of giving a direct personal interest to each workman in the success of the business. This interest arouses in the workman a desire to do his best for the business, makes him more watchful in stopping outlets of waste and more careful in directing his energies to the production of a superior article. The diligent exercise of these qualities by the workman not only cheapen the cost of production, thereby enhancing the profits, but also tend to increase sales, so that there is no diminution in the returns to the capitalist. The subject is one well worthy the consideration of all who desire to see the workman secure a full return for his skill in producing that which makes wealth for others.

**NOTES OF THE WEEK.**

The Gazette rejoices in the edict issued by Mr. Rockefeller, of the Standard Oil Trust, that all pumps in the Ohio wells must cease work on Sunday. THE ECHO rejoiceth along with its contemporary, but from a very different standpoint. The Gazette would have its readers believe that the edict is the outcome of purely religious feeling and respect for a strict observance of the holy Sabbath day, while the motive is entirely different. Trust that

prince of monopolists and rapacious combine organizer, Mr. Rockefeller, to entertain any such feeling if profit is at stake. The unvarnished truth of the matter is that the markets supplied by the Ohio wells are overloaded with stock, and it therefore becomes necessary to limit the production. On the other hand, the Pennsylvania oil wells, which are also controlled by the Standard Company and from which they draw their export supply, are in full blast—Saturday and Sunday. Perhaps Mr. Rockefeller and his greedy associates think that the stoppage of one portion of the work on Sunday will have a counterbalancing effect in the books of the Recording Angel, and in this view we have no doubt they will be sustained by the hypocritical sycophants who delight to applaud and exalt every little humanitarian move of such legalized robbers as millionaire Rockefeller. We rejoice that the employees will gain a much-needed day's rest, though the motive in securing them the boon is not exactly what the Gazette pretends.

The Road Committee appear again to be dilly-dallying, in the interest of some favored contractor, with a very plain question, that is whether the lowest tender, other things being equal, should be accepted. While wrestling with the subject the most favorable period of the year for road-making is slipping past, and the amount of work on hand is such that ample time should be given the successful tenderer to complete it before winter sets in. The difference between the lowest tender and the next is, according to the City Surveyor, something like \$11,000, a sum which, in the existing state of the city's finances, should be saved if possible. The company tendering the lowest have already done good work for the Corporation, their security for carrying out the present contract is ample, and there is no earthly reason why they should not get it.

In Scotland the other day a judge sentenced some starving Lewis crofters to seven days' imprisonment for raiding a deer forest. Probably on account of the lightness of the sentence his judgeship thought himself entitled to give the men a little lecture, so he told them that if they had "any grievance, any reasonable want, the law was open to correct it." Of course that was the proper thing for the judge to say under the circumstances, and in his position as an exponent of the law, and it is not likely that society is in any great danger of forgetting the aphorism. But we think that the plain duty of those who talk in this fashion to men bordering on starvation is to stimulate the law. Hitherto the law, except when pains or penalties are to be enforced, has been inert and lifeless, and it corrects grievances in such a leisurely way that those suffering under it have not the patience to wait for the remedy.

The Boston Globe says: "The Venezuelan methods for collecting duties are peculiar. If a cook stove has a brass knob on its door the whole thing is weighed as so much brass, and duty charged accordingly. A barrel of flour costing \$5, pays imposts not only on the flour, but the staves, hoops and heads, costing, when set down, with freights and duties added, \$15. And yet owing to cheap labor bread is about as low and quite as good in Caracas as in New York."

The Paris stage drivers have had a signal victory over the greedy concerns which employed and treated them just as though they owned them body and soul. Aided and abetted by public opinion, the drivers struck for a twelve hour day and the reinstatement of several union drivers who had been discharged by the company. The general public were so much in sympathy with the strikers that they assisted them in

obstructing the traffic, and even went so far as to administer salutary punishment to some scab drivers. Incipient riots took place during the week and a repetition of the Fourmies massacre was at one time feared, as soldiers were on hand to back up capital and its coercive acts. Wiser counsels prevailed, however, and the municipal authorities and others compelled the company to accept arbitration, the end of which has been that the men's terms were acceded to, the dismissed unionists reinstated and the persons apprehended in connection with the riots released.

A pitiful story comes from New York which gives a glimpse into the life of many a poor household who, rather than allow their sufferings to be known, would endure untold suffering and at last take refuge in death. At the same time it gives an insight into the startling social contrasts that abound in a great city like New York—millionaires on the one hand, on the other blackest poverty and deepest despair. An aged couple, 60 and 70 years respectively, committed suicide together because they were to be turned out of house and home for non-payment of rent. When the officers came to eject the couple they were found lying dead, having each taken a dose of oxalic acid.

The Chicago Mail says: "If the American consumer purchases only American-made goods the tariff taxes go into the pockets of the monopolists, who contribute part of their gains to the Republican campaign funds; if he buys foreign-made goods the tariff taxes go into the treasury to be dissipated by Republican extravagance in Congressional appropriations and misappropriations."

It is stated that the stage drivers of London, England, encouraged by the success of their Paris brethren, are in favor of striking for better terms.

**PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.**

Considerable anxiety is felt here concerning the health of Sir John Macdonald, and amongst all shades of politicians regret is felt at the prospect of his being unable to attend to his parliamentary duties any longer this session. It is hoped, however, that complete rest and his naturally strong constitution will enable him to pull through.

The past week has been unproductive of anything sensational in the proceedings of Parliament, which languish slowly along. Sir Charles Upper came in for a castigation when the question of his salary was up for discussion from several of the leading Liberals. The Government was taken to task for Sir Charles' presence here during the late elections, and the question was appropriately asked whether he was on a different footing from other civil servants, but the question was evasively met, and little was gained by the Opposition, save the satisfaction of being able to say some hard things of Canada's High Commissioner, and to rake up old scandals with which he was more or less connected.

**THE ILLNESS OF SIR JOHN.****Absolute Rest Enjoined.**

OTTAWA, May 28.—Our correspondent paid a visit to Dr. R. W. Powell, the Premier's physician, this evening and obtained from him the following statement:—Dr. George Ross and Dr. James Stewart, of Montreal, professors in McGill university, were called to Ottawa this afternoon to consult with Dr. R. W. Powell, Sir John's health not having been satisfactory of late. The result of their deliberations is found in the following bulletin:—

EARNSLIFFE, May 28.

Sir John Macdonald has had a return of his attacks of physical and nervous exhaustion, and we have enjoined positively complete rest for the present and entire freedom from public business.

[Signed,] R. W. POWELL, M.D.  
GEORGE ROSS, M.D.  
JAMES STEWART, M.D.

There is the best authority for supplementing the above bulletin by stating that there is

no truth in the report that Sir John has inflammation of the lungs. On Monday last the Premier had a return of his cold and has been weakened thereby, but it is believed that it is no constitutional disease, and that complete rest will quickly restore the old chief to his accustomed place. The issuance of the medical bulletin greatly calmed the public concern and every one now hopes for the best.—The Gazette.

**Latest.****ALL HOPE ABANDONED.**

Sir John had a serious relapse yesterday afternoon, and his condition is such that all hope of his final recovery has been abandoned. The Gazette correspondent telegraphs the following at 3.30 this morning: 3.30 a.m.—Enquiry at Earncliffe at 3 o'clock elicited the information that Sir John had had two hours' comparatively good rest. He awoke a few minutes since and took some nourishment and went off to sleep again. His mind is perfectly clear. He is conscious of all that goes on around him and can move himself slightly in his bed. There are now hopes that he may rally and live for several days yet; but hope is often illusive.

**MICHAEL DAVITT.**

The Great Irish Agitator Has a Talk With a Representative of The Echo.

Michael Davitt, the father of the Land League movement and a central figure in Irish politics is at present in Montreal, being on a tour through Canada, accompanied by his wife and family, with the double purpose of benefiting his health and seeing for himself the condition of the crofter settlers in the Northwest. Mr. Davitt says that while in this country he will eschew politics altogether and does not believe in dragging the quarrels of Ireland before the Canadian people.

A representative of THE ECHO called on Mr. Davitt to pay his respects and get some information regarding the labor movement in England.

On our representative stating that he did not come for information on the question of Home Rule, Mr. Davitt said he was glad to hear it as Home Rule for Ireland was none of our business, but would very willingly give what information he could on the labor question. Mr. Davitt said, however, that the Home Rule question had been relegated to second place in British politics, the labor movement having taken its place. He had advocated an equal representation of capital and labor on the Royal Commission recently formed but the Government had only appointed seven representatives of the latter to twenty of the former. Notwithstanding this he believed the Commission would recommend that all municipal and government works be done under the eight hour system. Although he did not consider the eight hour agitation a very important part of the labor movement it had had the good effect of uniting the peoples of Europe and other countries together.

Speaking of the May Day demonstrations, Mr. Davitt said they would be continued next year on a more extended scale, and that orators from England would address meetings on the continent and prominent men in the movement on the continent would speak in England which would have a good effect and lead to a wider interchange of views. There were not so many people at the demonstration in Hyde Park this year, he said, but there were more organized men, which was practically a gain for the movement.

There were two classes of Unionists in Britain at present—the old and new. The old unionists still believed in the efficacy of strikes to gain the desired end—higher wages and shorter hours of labor—while the unionists believed in the efficacy of legislation. Both were working to the same end and between the two were making great strides towards a universal eight hour day. Mr. Davitt himself did not believe in the strike policy. Up to the time that capital remained disintegrated there was no doubt the strike weapon could be made effective, but since capital had become federated labor was placed at a great disadvantage. Every great strike which had occurred during the past six months in England has been unsuccessful owing to capital all over the country combining to defeat it.

The nationalization of the land, which was the first plank in the labor platform, was not thought of some years ago, Mr. Davitt said, but now it was being discussed by all the leading papers and magazines and from every platform in the country. Owing to the small number of labor representatives in parliament, however, he believed the accomplishment of this a long way off, although all land legislation now lay in the direction of securing ground rents for the benefit of municipalities, instead of so-called owners, which was a hopeful sign. Attempts had frequently been made by politicians of all parties to use the labor movement as a stepping-stone to parliament, but he was very happy to say they had generally been unsuccessful. The labor party in Parliament were holding on to what they had

already secured and were steadily gaining in influence and adherents.

Mr. Davitt believed that Socialism and Anarchism were spreading in London to an alarming extent. It was not to be found, however, so much amongst English workmen as amongst foreigners who had immigrated there, being compelled, perhaps to leave their own country on account of holding these same opinions, and he anticipated trouble from this element in the near future.

Thanking Mr. Davitt for his courtesy in granting the interview our representative withdrew after bidding good-bye and wishing him a pleasant journey.

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ADVERTISEMENT.****UMBRELLAS.**

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**HUNTINGTON**

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IN THEIR HALL,  
CHABOILLEZ STREET,

On Sunday, May 31st,  
AT 2.30 P. M.

Members of the Order are requested to attend.