

TORONTO'S LABOR DAY

(FROM TORONTO NEWS)

There is probably no subject that has caused so many heated discussions among the members of labor unions within the past few years as the subject of the referendum of electing officers. Many labor organizations which have hitherto elected officers by means of the referendum have within the past few years arrived at the conclusion that the system cannot be worked out to the advantage of the organization, and are gradually changing their system to that of electing officers at conventions. Upon this subject much might be said for both sides, and if we were to argue for arguments sake, the referendum would in all probability have the best of the discussion. The referendum in theory, like Socialism, makes a splendid subject for an artist whose only object is to paint a picture that is merely to look at and not for any practical use. The advocates of the referendum appeal to the rack and file of labor unions in a sentimental way, pointing out the democratic principles of such a system, and asking: "Do you want the organization run by a clique?" "Has every member not the same right to vote?" "Are you going to allow a small percentage of our organization to get together and tell us what we must do?" and the boys in the gallery cheer the hero, and say: "The referendum for ours."

The truth of the matter is the theory does not work out to a successful or satisfactory conclusion, owing entirely to circumstances under which trades unions exist and instead of preventing clique rule it works out in the interests of cliques, and gives those holding office a decided advantage over any new aspirants.

If all members of labor unions would attend the meetings regularly or even a fair percentage of them, and take the required interest in the workings of the international headquarters, or if there was any chance of them becoming acquainted with the men running for office, that they might vote intelligently at elections, the result of the referendum would in all likelihood be very different. As a matter of fact, not more than one-quarter of the members of labor unions take sufficient interest in their union to watch the conduct of the international officers, and not five per cent. of members ever see or hear the men they are asked to vote for by the referendum. They therefore vote by guesswork, or by the man's name because he is the occupant of the office, or because someone who has an axe to grind asks them to do so.

It is not an unusual thing under

the system of referendum for a local union to vote its entire membership for one man because they are indifferent in the matter, and some clique leader asked them to do so in exchange for some favor that is to be conferred on him in the event of certain plans being successful.

Many of the unions are going back to the system of electing officers at the conventions, and rightly so, for there they see who they are voting for. They can hear him in the debates against his opponents, and should have no trouble in deciding who, in the best interests of the organization they should vote for.

I know of an organization which voted to a man for an international secretary because he was the occupant of the office. He had been corresponding with them, and they had no chance to know his opponent. He was elected and shortly after a convention was called. The union speaker sent a delegate to the convention, where he was introduced to both men. The one they voted for could scarcely write or speak the English language, while the man they had refused to vote for was a bright and intelligent fellow, and just the man for the position.

That union has ever since been opposed to the system of referendum realizing the fact that they had voted directly opposite to the best interests of their organization.

Though some of the larger unions refused to take part in the celebration of Labor Day, it is questionable if ever in the history of Toronto a more creditable or successful celebration of Labor's gala day has been held. The great interest manifested not only by trades unionists, but by all classes of citizens, surely means that labor is an important factor and that trades unionism is here to stay. The continued applause and demonstration of good will and the pronounced expressions of sympathy by the vast crowds who lined the route was inspiring to those who participated in the parade to show their loyalty to trade unionism, create a status for trade unionism, and show to the world what is being done toward uplifting and improving the conditions of the toiling classes.

The labor organizations have no desire to take all the credit of bringing to the national exhibition the largest crowd on record. They are pleased to note, however, that their day is always the greatest day of the fair and is every year becoming greater and greater.

The annual athletic sports of the

labor organizations which were so successfully conducted by the games committee on the exhibition grounds are year after year becoming more popular and are looked upon as one of the athletic events of the season. It is the object of those interested in the labor day celebration to within a few years place them upon a level with games of the Toronto Police and other important athletic associations.—R. Hungerford.

CANADIAN LABOR CONGRESS

Officials Report Wide Spreading Spirit in Favor of Organized Labor—New Organisations Formed

The fifth annual convention of the Trades and Labor Congress was commenced on September 10th at Grace Bay, N.S.

Officials of the Congress report a rapidly-growing spirit in favor of the organized labor movement, as evidenced by the formation of the Canadian Federation of Textile Workers, the Canadian Typographical union and numerous other organizations. The congress will decide on a greater uniformity in the use of the union label, for which there is said to be a growing demand throughout the Dominion. Other important matters to be considered are the trades dispute bill, immigration, education, factory laws, and tariff legislation.

Whilst it is the duty of all working men and trade unionists to rejoice in the welfare and prosperity of national organizations, especially when they have for their objects the betterment of the conditions of the working men, it is, nevertheless, a regrettable fact that the existence of national and international bodies in the same field give rise to a considerable amount of pusillanimity amongst a certain class of the fraternity. We notice that one of the latest acquisitions of the Congress is the Canadian Typographical Union. This noble band of heroes came into existence when the 10 per cent assessment of the International Union, which was instituted to carry to a successful issue the printers eight hour day, proved too much for these pleasant day unionists to bear. Their loss to the International Union is rather a blessing than otherwise, the only regret being that the National Union will have such a sorry bunch of cold feet gentry to rely upon for support and help in time of need.

Watchman! What of the Night?

Our old friend Sam was nearly all in at noon to-day. He had been working steadily on a pipe all day and got so badly mixed up with it that he was disgusted though apparently happy.

Freddy is walking about again attired like any other Christian—boots and all. One night recently, at a rather late hour he was found wandering homeward carrying his shoes in his hand. And yet in spite of all precautions he has changed his place of residence. Did you put your boots on before going up the steps Freddy, or did you fall into the bath tub?

Published every Friday by the Saskatchewan Labor's Realm Company at the Office of the West Co., Ltd., Rose St., Regina. Box 39, Phone 78. Address all communications to the Manager, JAS. D. SIMSON, Box 39, Regina, Sask.

We Cater

TO

Union Trade

IN

FOOTWEAR!

Engel Bros.

SCARTH ST., REGINA

UNION MEN

should patronise

HOME INDUSTRY and smoke

Saskatchewan CAPITAL CIGARS

Manufactured by

A. GUAY & Co.

REGINA, SASK.

Semi-Ready Tailoring THE POOR MAN'S FRIEND

WE want your patronage. We have suits of every description from \$15 up, and we feel sure that you will be satisfied with the class of goods we handle. There is no man like a well-dressed man, and there is absolutely no reason why you should not be well-dressed.

If you need an Overcoat for this Fall, we can supply you with any style at reasonable prices.

HINDSON BROS. & CO., Ltd.

1711 SCARTH ST., REGINA

"For the Man in the Overalls"

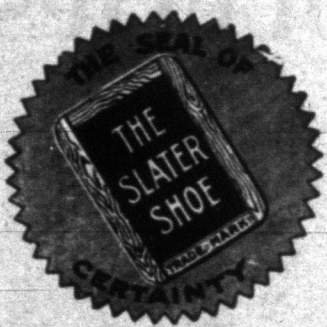
Nothing but the Best

"Uncle Tom" Tar Soap

"Uncle Tom" is Labor's Best Friend

MADE BY

The Young-Thomas Soap Co., Ltd. REGINA CANADA



Are You Particular?

You should be about Shoes
It Pays—Pays in Wear,
Comfort and Style

We are sole Agents for the SLATER SHOE for the City

Slater Shoes are high-grade footwear, made in Canada. They are always comfortable as well as up to the minute for style. They are guaranteed by the makers to be value for the price stamped on the sole. They are union-made by skilled labor

\$4.50 \$5.00 \$5.50 \$6.00 Leathers for all sorts of wear

R. H. WILLIAMS & SONS, LTD.

THE GLASGOW HOUSE

The Store that Serves you Best