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CANADA BUILDING, TORONTO

VOL. III. NO. 12

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Best? You can get Good Seats
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Where you are always sure of seeing only the
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Beginning Monday, March 2nd,

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By arrangement with the
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To be given here by the original English Com-
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THE SALVACIUS, World's greatest Whirl-

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Devine, Elegant Scenery; Beautiful Wardrobes.

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426 SPADINA AVE.

Where you can get a perfect fit in

SHOES

Can't be equalled in style, quality or low prices.

Union Make Our Specialty.

THE TOILER

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

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 27, 1903

Price 50 Cents Per Year

CARRIAGE WORKERS OSHAWA FIGHT

Against the Sweating System—
Other Grievances Which They Want Settled.

For some years past the McLaughlin Carriage Works at Oshawa have been working its employees under the sweating system, that is, letting out work to others at a certain figure per piece, who in turn give it to other workers at a certain figure somewhat below what the firm were paying them, thus making the overseer drive his men in order to get a much bigger wage for himself.

Some time ago these men organized themselves into a union, and after giving due consideration to the system under which they had been working, they decided that matters must be changed. They formed a strike, the wages on demand somewhat on the following lines:

An advance of 20 per cent upon the wages of all day workers.

A new work price to be arranged by a committee of the employees from each department in conference with the employers.

Sweat shop system as now practiced to be abolished.

Minimum wages to be fixed.

Locomotive firemen to be found a home for aged and disabled members.

Trevooston has a new union of freight and baggage handlers. Organized Shanty got the money together last week.

With greater respect for its self-respect than Toronto, the town of Lindsay refused Carnegie's money—they must have a majority of self-respecting citizens there.

Organizer Moore, of the Piano and Organ Workers, spent the past week in Western Ontario, getting in new recruits for his organization.

Niagara Falls, N.Y.—Typographical Union are applying for an extension of their jurisdiction to take in Niagara Falls, Ont., where it is expected the label will be introduced in some of the offices.

President Wilson, of the Pattern Makers, was granted a ten days' leave of absence, and although Mr. McLaughlin returned inside the ten days, the men received no word from the firm until three minutes prior to the limit set for a strike. Too late, entirely, to stop a strike, unless the communication had been of a definite nature. The letter sent, however, was merely asking for some information upon the most trivial matter in the demands.

Organizer Fleck got several new unions in Montreal last week. The Tile Layers and Builders' Workers' Union of 500 men were organized, and the stonemasons are getting these individuals added to their ranks from day to day.

The citizens of Oshawa know nothing of the history of this firm, and its miserable sweating system, and they are bound to strike the strike almost unanimously.

There are over 300 employees out on strike, and the old 30¢ per hour is still given, and the strikers are even getting these individuals added to their ranks from day to day.

The men are determined to win this strike, and are sticking together in fine style, with the good-will of all classes of citizens behind them. Their friends in the carriage workers in Toronto are also looking on at this fight with a keen interest, and the Oshawa men can depend upon Toronto Local to help them out in every way that lies in their power.

THE DIFFERENCE.

The coal-operators are here to the number of a hundred or two. They are principally quartered at the New Denise Hotel. They are representative business men, most of them progressive, and some are leaders of their bands; and is siding with some of them. They represent wealth and all of its environments.

It is reported that the Governor General has a hand in this. The Governor General is the one that has the constitution printed in German. He is German at heart at the bolt, but 28 applied and his bunch of political talkers in up-to-date fashion.

Organizer Fleck got several new unions in Montreal last week. The Tile Layers and Builders' Workers' Union of 500 men were organized, and the stonemasons are getting these individuals added to their ranks from day to day.

To organize new unions is sometimes an easy matter. But to get them thoroughly organized is difficult, and they might easily be split from older and stronger organizations. Several such unions exist in Toronto, and they need encouragement.

Governor-General of California says on street legislation: "I believe this movement is in the right direction, and there are favor it." It now remains for the legislature to pass the direct legislation bill, and it is evident that the Governor-General will do the rest—Lester News.

H. J. Hurd, general organizer for Canadian Federation of Electrical Workers, has planted another local in Toronto. This time the outside linemen, splicers, cablemen, undergrounders and trimmers are the ones to get in line. This makes three locals of electrical workers in Toronto, all in the brotherhood.

Internationalism is booming in Montreal.

The C.P.R. freight and baggage-handlers have been organized into a local committee with their own constitution, and is seeking a place to hold their meetings. The T.R.C. group off organization by making their emphasis a 10-cent increase in wages, provided they would not organize. The C.P.R. offered their employees an increase of 15 cents per day if they would throw up their union, but they could not be bought off.

Mr. Jas. Wilson, International President of the Pattern Makers' League of North America, and the gentleman who very nearly captured the treasurership of Eric on the Social-Democratic ticket, was at call at this office during the past week. He arrived here from Montreal, where he visited the local helped to brighten things up. He paid a flying visit to Peterboro on his way up from Montreal, and left here for Hamilton, where a new local was to be established last Friday night.

The Women's International Union League of Toronto, and the gentleman who very nearly captured the treasurership of Eric on the Social-Democratic ticket, was at call at this office during the past week. He arrived here from Montreal, where he visited the local helped to brighten things up. He paid a flying visit to Peterboro on his way up from Montreal, and left here for Hamilton, where a new local was to be established last Friday night.

The last meeting of Piano Makers, No. 54, was interesting to those who have stood by the organization in preference to the other one. Several new apprentices for membership were passed upon, and some reinstated took place, and everything was pronounced lovely, and is putting in new members in all his local at every meeting.

At the last meeting of Maple Leaf Asso-

ciation, at 19th Street, learned through the public press that Mr. Andrew Carnegie has offered to donate the sum of \$350,000 to this city for public library facilities, and believing the larger portion of the money in his possession was extorted from the workmen in his employ by the hardships and necessities of the sweat workers, and as a man who was shown to have never been a member of any trade union, and not municipalities; therefore, he is resolved that we as laboring men do earnestly protest against this city accepting any grant from this source, thereby perpetuating the name of a man whose name is connected with one of the most brutal mass-murders of the last century, at Homestead, July 12th, 1892."

The Taylor Scott Company, with whom the Broom makers have been fighting for a long time, is now on the fair list. They have agreed to give a 10-cent increase to the men, and will make considerable more prestige for the label of the Broom Makers. This has been a long and bitter fight, and no doubt both parties to the dispute are glad it is ended satisfactorily.

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The last batch of German machinists brought to Toronto from Kingston en route to good situations across the border, were left in a German boarding house here for a few hours' rest. Spots soon located them, and they were visited by a gentleman and an interpreter, who said he could give employment to all of them at wages running as high as 60 cents an hour. One of the Germans asked for a raise, and the employer said he would give him 70 cents an hour.

E. W. Tay, Secretary, Toronto Employers' Association of Toronto, 18 Victoria street."

The Germans were asked what reply they gave the gentleman, and one, who spoke a few words of English, said: "I say him, me no more German machinists; me American machinists; me all union men; he our agent. He want us." This little speech, which was tickled Billy Bob, the fair-haired fellow, of the Toronto legions of machinists, who was the champion of the little German band while in the city.

The Kingstone Times, in a recent editorial, says: "The strike between the Locomotive Works and the striking machinists should be settled by arbitration, and we nominate the man president of Queen's University as the arbitrator." At a meeting of the German machinists at Queen's professor told them that a contract signed in Germany was as binding in Canada as it was where it was signed, while the Ontario act says no. And now, dealing with the trades union question in the February Canadian Magazine, Professor Shortt, of Queen's University, Kingston, points out how influential these men are in making rules and laws of the trades union, and how important it is to have organizations to furnish within it whose actions are assumed to be beyond the law. The unions have become powerful, aggressive organizations, bent upon conquest. Their present methods are barbarous to some extent, because they are not legally responsible for their actions. Their methods are utterly inconsistent with the very essentials of civilized society."

The Kingstone machinists could not be blamed for not accepting the advice of the Times from such a biased class of men, even though the new principal may not be of the same mind as Prof. Shortt.

The Nasmith Company have been fighting the Bakers' Union for years. The Union has determined, with your assistance, to show this Company the error of its ways. Tell your grocer that this Company is unfair and get the Union label on your bread every time.

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Telephone Main 2351.

LABOR WORLD

News and Views of the Ever-Advancing Army of Workers

BY UNIONISTS

ED. O'DELL, of the Boot and Shoe Workers, is in Montreal, hastening for the International Convention.

Locomotive firemen are to found a home for aged and disabled members.

Locomotive firemen are to be located at Highgate Park, a

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