

**OUR BOARDING HOUSE**

Reflections on Current Events by the Boarders.

"When Jay Gould was asked to state his political views before the Interstate Railway Committee at Washington," said Brown, "he made the following statement: In a Republican State I'm a Republican, in a Democratic one, a Democrat, in a doubtful one I'm doubtful; but in every State and at all times I am an Erie man first, last and all the time. If the Canadian manufacturer was asked the same question he would tell you that in municipal affairs he was neutral, in provincial, Liberal, but in federal he was bound to protect his own interests and support the Conservative party. Not because he is afraid of American competition, but because the protective policy of the Government gives him the exclusive right to rob the Canadian consumer; he cares as little as Jay Gould about the development of his country or the prosperity of its people; all that he cares for, all that he fights for is his own personal interests. If workingmen would only pause and see who it is that supports the National Policy they would need no telling to vote the Liberal ticket. Capital and Labor have nothing in common; their interests under the competitive system can not be reconciled; they are and must remain enemies until a new system relegates capital to its proper place and makes it the co-worker and not the master of labor; and until such times anything that advances the interests of capital should be strenuously opposed by labor, otherwise you but add strength to the arm that wields the lash with which you are castigated."

"These men talk about patriotism and protection to Canadian labor," said Phil, "but did ever any one of them hesitate to put children and women into the places of these men whom they pretend to love so much? Did ever any one of them fail to take advantage of the keen competition among laborers to reduce wages? Is it not a fact that the Government was actually compelled to enact a Factory Act to at least in some measure protect childhood against the rapaciousness of capital? Taking all these facts into consideration, how dare a Canadian manufacturer ask a workingman to decrease the purchasing power of the dollar earned by his child, in order that he may pocket the difference. Am I to be an accomplice in robbing my children in order to satiate the greed and avarice of a few capitalists? The manufacturers will find that the Canadian workingman has more love for his family than he is generally credited with. Their manifestoes, their threats and imprecations cannot avert the fate awaiting them; and their nefarious designs, for thanks to the Reformers of the past—we have a secret ballot. Men can no longer be dragooned to do the bidding of their masters at the polls. I advise no man to risk his bread and butter in openly opposing the political wishes of his employer, but I would remind him that unless he himself makes it known no living man can tell how he voted."

"Sir John's appeal to the loyalty and patriotism of the Canadian people shows that his party is in the last ditch," said Sharkey. "Elections are won, not by appealing to the sentiment, but to the common sense of the people, and the very fact that Sir John dare not appeal to their common sense shows that his political platform does not contain a single plank which would commend itself to any intelligent man. Horace Greely once stated that the politician who was continually prating about loyalty and patriotism needed watching, because he was evidently creating a demand for these articles and would sell out at the first opportunity; I would advise you to keep your eyes on our patriotic Conservative party, for they have sold their

honor and conscience long ago, and now, like bucket shops, would be willing to sell something they never had—loyalty."

"This is not a question of sentiment at all," said Gaskill, "it's a question of dollars and cents. If the Canadian workingman is content to have free trade in labor (which reduces his wages) and protection for the products of labor (which reduces the purchasing power of his dollar) then he will support Sir John and his policy. If, on the other hand, he believes in increasing the purchasing power of his dollar by thirty-five per cent., then he will support the Liberals and their policy. He is a reformer between elections and creates a noise about the maladministration of public affairs; let him have the courage of his convictions and vote as he talks, or else forever after hold his peace."

BILL BLADES.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.**

"ENTRE NOUS."

To the Editor of THE ECHO.

SIR,—Would your pleasant, agreeable and versatile correspondent, "Bill Blades," bring on a discussion in his Boarding House on the undermentioned subjects, and thereby confer on myself and, I am sure, numerous other readers a favor by so doing, viz.:

1st.—What is to prevent the manufacturer or employer—whether protected or unprotected—from forcing prices down to what he calls the "living rate," when he can argue that the "living" price has gone down?

2nd.—We are informed by free traders, U. R. and limited reciprocity partisans that the necessaries of life will be cheaper under their systems than under a protective policy. Granted.

3rd.—But is it not true that the employer will always demand his present share of profits, whether protected or unprotected, and that at present the laws of the country are such that any endeavor to prevent him from acquiring or retaining his present unfair proportion of said profits would be futile?

4th.—Then, if this is true, is it not a waste of their energies for labor societies to discuss free trade or protection? Should the trade societies not devote said energies to securing (a) an apprenticeship law, (b) a true anti-combines measure, (c) a measure to protect the workman from foreign labor; as if the entry of the article be taxed for the benefit of the employer, should not the entry of the foreigner, who can make the article, be taxed for the benefit of the native artisan? (d) A measure to give the same legal recognition to trade societies that the lawyers' and doctors' societies now enjoy. (e) A measure to prevent the employment of boys in mines, as in the Springhill.

And other measures, all tending in the same direction—i.e., to assist our class in compelling a fairer division of the profits arising from our own labor.

Yours differentially,

AUGOURD/HUL.

Montreal, February 21, 1891.

**INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC REFORMS.**

The industrial movement of the day comprises many classes of reformers, all of whom are doing good in their way. The whoop-up class, including editors and speakers, that reminds one of the old-fashioned methodist exhorter calling sinners to repentance, don't think much themselves, but they cause others to think, and thus they contribute their mite to the great work. The Socialists and Anarchists, however impracticable many of their theories may be, however intolerant of the opinion of others, by their continual agitation, by the very force of their intolerance, calls the attention of the world to existing abuses and compels the seeking for a remedy. The mild mannered Nationalist or Bellamyite, with his prescription of sugar-coated socialism, does no particular harm and really accomplishes some good by invading the circle of dilettantism and compelling even that weak element of society to acknowledge the necessity for a reform of the prevailing social and economic systems. Who will deny the wonderful work accomplished by the trades unions and Knights of Labor during the past quarter of a century, and even now the latter organization, although but a shadow of its former greatness, has associated with it many earnest men and women vainly striving to find a way out from the labyrinthian maze of economic and industrial bondage. The farmers organizations, with their various ramifications, have succeeded within a decade in impressing that most numerous and important branch of the industrial army with a sense of their necessity as dependants on a system that despoils them on every side. But neither the whoop-up-reformer, the socialist, the anarchist, the Bellamyite, the trade union-

ists, the Knights of Labor, or the farmers, can of themselves do anything. They must not only combine—sinking differences, avoiding conflicts, discouraging personal ambitions and demanding earnest, honest work from every adherent—but they must be guided by reason and advocate only practicable reforms.

After all, it is the thinkers that must do the effective work. Quiet, unassuming men, with no desire for leadership, but with an earnest purpose to solve the problems that confronts the civilization of to-day. These men make no particular noise. They are not voted for as senators or presidents. They do not button-hole delegates to industrial conventions. They are not in the business of organizing political parties, selling expensive charters and collecting monthly dues. These men are engaged in educating the people; they are laying the foundation of a better system of society and a more equitable division of the products of labor. They very seldom receive either emoluments or consideration from the people for whom they are working, but it makes little or no difference to them; they are in the movement not for the emoluments, but for the principle that is in it. When the combat is finally won they will probably not be recognized even as auxiliaries in the victorious army; but history will do them justice, and a hundred years hence their name will stand at the head of the list as self-sacrificing, earnest reformers, while the mouth-organs of to-day will be lost in utter oblivion.

**PROTECTING OPERATIVES.**

The New Factory Bill in the House of Commons.

LONDON, February 27.—In the House of Commons yesterday Mr. Matthews, secretary for the Home Department, moved the second reading of the Factories Bill. This is a measure for improving the ventilation of factories, preventing overcrowding and limiting the working day to twelve hours, of which one hour and a half is to be devoted to meals; giving the inspectors power to call in surgeons to decide on the fitness of children for the work upon which they are engaged.

Mr. Buxton said he thought the measure was one of those milk and water questions which ought not to be dealt with in a party spirit and should be made as effective as possible.

Sir Henry James considered that the measure was better than nothing and must be extended in the committee.

The debate was conducted in a temperate manner and free from any party spirit by Messrs. Shaw, Lefevre, Burt, Bryce, and Mundella and others. The speakers generally regretted the fact that the Government had not adopted the recommendations of the Berlin conference to raise the age at which children should be employed in factories.

Mr. Burt reproached the Government for being behind Germany and Switzerland in the matter.

Mr. Mundella complained that the measure did not abolish the sweating system and said all welcomed the bill as being improvable in committee.

Mr. Stuart Worthley said he was willing to discuss the question of the employment of children in committee, but care must be taken not to overburden the industry of the country in competition with other nations.

The bill passed the second reading and was referred to the Committee on Trades.

**TORONTO SINGLE TAX ASSOCIATION.**

At the meeting of the Single Tax Association of Toronto held recently an address was delivered by Mr. Arnot Hephurn on "Monopolies of Public Services," in which he advocated public ownership of all public enterprises that are in their nature monopolies, such as railroads, telegraphs, telephones, water and gas works, street railways, ferries, etc. He pointed out that owing to the system of private ownership of public services of this sort, corporations had accumulated vast wealth by overcharging the people for the service rendered. Such enterprises should be conducted not as a means of profit but to secure the public the best service at cost price. There was no reason why any public franchise should be handed over to monopolists as a source of profit. Public control, moreover, would secure fairer treatment for the employees, whose interests were not regarded by private corporations. He urged the members of the association to use their influence in favor of the city retaining the management of the street railroad instead of leasing the franchise to any corporation.

**Willing to Learn.**

Mrs. Prohibition—Johnny, didn't you sign the pledge the other day?  
Johnny—Yes, ma'am.  
Mrs. P.—And isn't that hard cider your drinking?  
Johnny—Yes, ma'am.  
Mrs. P.—Well, isn't that intoxicating?  
Johnny—That's just what I'm trying to find out.

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- 1,500 doz. WHITE LINEN COLLARS, only 5c, worth 15c.
- 200 doz. COLORED SHIRTS, only 45c, worth 75c.
- 200 doz. WHITE SHIRTS, only 35c, worth 60c.
- 100 doz. SHIRTS AND DRAWERS, only 45c a suit, worth 75c.
- 50 doz. WOOL GLOVES, only 15c, worth 25c.

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