

LABOR ADVOCATE

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M. J. Howell is the 10th of 12 children of the late A. J. Howell, a well-known business man in this city. He is a member of the K. of C. and is a very capable and successful business man. He is now residing in Hamilton, Ontario.

Unless subscribers on removing notify us of their change of address, we cannot be responsible for failure in the delivery of the paper.

TORONTO, CANADA, OCTOBER 2, 1901

THE LABOR ADVOCATE

CEASIS

This is the last issue of the LABOR ADVOCATE. After giving the matter full consideration from every point of view, we have determined to discontinue its publication for the simple reason that it does not pay expenses and there is no prospect that it could be continued. It is likely to do so.

When the publication of the paper was undertaken last winter as a commercial venture, it was at the earnest wish of the representative labor leaders. The family name, the distinct Donald Cameron is an arrear of honor. It is a pity the mortgage was not paid. It was pushed through a paper the keepers were interested and would see such an undertaking a liberal support. These promises, we regret to say, have not been kept. Every article has been made on our part to meet the views of the class more especially concerned. We have had to be repeated right before their eyes.

Nothing has been left undone to popularize the paper, and urge its claims upon the working people. But the result has been a lamentable failure, so far as getting a paying constituency among them was concerned. The more active and progressive men of the labor movement have been to their support and used their best endeavors to increase our subscription list, but the great mass of organized workmen have been utterly apathetic and indifferent. Our subscribers are only numbered by hundreds, where judging from the assurance given us at the outset, we had a right to expect thousands, and of these, probably fifty per cent. have been no real friends of the ranks of organized labor. Many not true-hearted working men, but interested in the social problem, have given us a hearty support; but this class, though a growing one, is not so small in Canada as to furnish by itself a constituency for a newspaper. Under these circumstances the discontinuance of the LABOR ADVOCATE is the only course open to us.

It is worth to be regretted that the work others are so stupidly blind to their own interests, they cannot see the only way of our, a live and spoken journal, to get their cause during the past few years, the rights of labor, have been a real degree of satisfaction personally unknown. Our own terms to the influence of labor journalism, we must be objective and unprejudiced in being directly on the condition of the wage-earners have been carried. In case matters especially have been so and real tangible advantages out of our proposition to the very right measure of support which they could not see, who have compromised their rights. So no one has any right to expect gratitude from any more than from any other class. It is an ungrateful answer. But it is disingenuous to see the rank and file so utterly devoid of an intelligent conception of their own interest as not to

realize that promoting a labor paper to do for what it support, will out of humanity business upon themselves in the near future, than the smart money necessary to have it paid in on a permanent basis. Such an evidence of lack of spirit and cohesion, will not be laid upon the politicians and the capitalists, nor yet upon the daily press. Workmen cannot expect that other people will show themselves sections to serve their interests when they are so cold about them themselves. All that has been gained during the past few years in the recognition of labor's right to fair wages, and to have it done by governing bodies which have added many thousands of dollars to the wages of thousands of laborers in danger of being lost. And it was a great victory to have it done by them.

The cause of this cold indifference on the part of workmen to the efforts of labor to secure a change to be found in the fact that the labor question still lies in a transition stage. The old union and trade-related trade union pay of strikes and petty restrictions is a public labor. It changes of success have been called by a minority, the influx of men from the country, and the organization of capital. It will be many more successful strikes on a large scale. Large numbers of the workmen know and feel that in a long way, and while they continue to belong to their unions from pressure or force of habit expect but little from them. The old unionism, the method of which was to fight the employer, is on it last legs. The more intelligent and progressive workmen recognize this, and so that every change for the better must come from organization for radical political reforms and public action against monopoly. But the masses are yet blind to this truth. Stung, prejudiced and selfish, they cling to their feticheries of partyism, sectarianism and loyalty, and resent any attempt to prevent broader views. They are so limited to some petty advantages of pay in their own particular trade. They do not know, and do not know anything of the underlying causes which depress labor.

Before there will be a field for the re-energetic publication of a labor paper the old unionism must give place to the new, and the labor question with its suggestion of narrowness and class feeling must broaden into the social question. This will require many years—years probably of much hardship and privation to the wage workers, and harsh teaching in the latter school of experience. If the LABOR ADVOCATE has done something to prepare the more progressive minds among its readers for this inevitable change, and to show that in Socialism alone can be found the solution of the problem, our existence will not have been wholly in vain.

To those few faithful and energetic members of the labor organizations who have endeavored to carry out their pledges by promoting our circulation, and to the voluntary contributors regular and occasional, whose work is purely a labor of love—live, add to their interest and variety to our columns, and lightened the labor of the editor, we return our ever-ready thanks. We mention more especially in the connection, Mrs. E. W. McPherson, Miss M. G. A. Howell, Miss L. G. Smith, Johnnie and Mrs. J. O. D. Jones, and Mr. Sam Jones.

The subscribers who have been a degree of satisfaction personally unknown. Our own terms to the influence of labor journalism, we must be objective and unprejudiced in being directly on the condition of the wage-earners have been carried. In case matters especially have been so and real tangible advantages out of our proposition to the very right measure of support which they could not see, who have compromised their rights. So no one has any right to expect gratitude from any more than from any other class. It is an ungrateful answer. But it is disingenuous to see the rank and file so utterly devoid of an intelligent conception of their own interest as not to

justice to our present political methods and the urgent need of sweeping away the old and giving to each the new. The work point in the book is that the author argues too much from primitive conditions and does not see that in a highly civilized and artificial state of society like ours, something more is necessary than access to external opportunities. Even if supplied by public control of railways, and they means of communication. To make use and a company the only title to land would not matter very little, as it would be very easy for any land monopolist to take his land back by grazing cattle or planting potatoes on the land he held for a raise in value. As we suppose this idea to be one, who is going to do it? Between the host of would-be users who would rush to take possession of the most eligible land as soon as vacant land was proclaimed free? Mr. Sullivan looks for free land and free competition as the remedy, but free land simply means the acknowledgment of the right of the strongest and most cunning, and competition always in the end leads to a combination of the surviving interests, over the weak have been crushed out or absorbed.

There is no way in which the laborer can get the value of his work, under individualism, because that value depends on, and to a great extent is created by, the community. The book raises many other interesting points, which we should like to enlarge upon and space permit.

WISER THAN BOODLING

Among the oceans of twaddle and blarney to which the exposures of Ottawa corruption have given rise is an article of five columns in the London Times, an extract from which is quoted by the Mail of Tuesday. The Times lays the blame on the class of professional politicians, "men solely dependent for political success or party subsistence for the means of living" and holds Canada up as an awful example of English politicians who are to be despised. It should think twice before attempting to get rid of a class of legislators who do not look to politics for a living and fill their places with unscrupulous men who are ready to govern the state of their country for the momentary gain of a modest wage of a pound a day with breakfasts.

GETTING RID OF MONEY.
It is an opinion of Nations who were asked which was the most thoroughly unscrupulous and mercenary of Edward Bellamy's ideas set forth in Looking Backwards, he would probably prefer the proposal to abolish money and substitute the national credit. Yet we find it is precisely the idea that is finding more rapidly progress than other features of the program, apparently much more feasible and popular. The great world of finance is making a valiantly great advance in the direction of dispensing with money, as is shown in the lengthy article we give elsewhere from the Philadelphia Telegraph on the part which has recently appeared in Paris. In all the important commercial transactions of a day money is dispensed with and is acquired by adding up checks and drafts on different banks against each other. The amount of money of any kind used is infinitesimal in amount compared with the volume of business transacted. Practically, cash is now only used in such retail operations, and the big business is all done on credit represented by checks and bills of exchange. These documents, nominally in present money, but really they do not, for the money is not there, and nobody wants it. What they actually stand for is the credit furnished by the bankers. This of course has to be paid for, and it is by this means that bankers become wealthy; not by furnishing money to carry on business and production, but by supplying credit.

The problem of getting rid of money, which is the great stumbling block, to many readers of Bellamy, is thus being worked out. Bankers' credit is superseding currency, and when the system is further perfected, and becomes generally understood, people will soon see that it is folly to go on paying money for the privilege of doing business on the capital created by the bankers, when they could just as easily substitute national credit for which no duty need be paid.

THE CITY ENGINEERS' RESIGNATION.

In the interests of honest civic government it is to be regretted that the self-seeking, wire-pulling element of the City Council should have been able to force the resignation of City Engineer Jennings, by the passage of a by-law depriving him of the power of fixing the salaries of his subordinates. While recognizing the fact that there is room for doubt as to whether, under previously existing legislation, the City Engineer had full control of his department in the matter of salaries, and that, therefore, there was some justification on purely technical grounds for the by-law, the minus of those who promoted it in the hope of crippling the authority of the engineer, in none the less, commendable. Whether the City Engineers legally had or had not the power to fix salaries, it is clear that to carry out the principle of holding the heads of departments to full responsibility for all done by their subordinates, they ought to have not merely the power to appoint and dismiss, but the fixing of the salaries. Otherwise the Council might very easily nullify their action by refusing to pay adequate salaries. The passage of the by-law is a retrograde step in the struggle which has for long, been going on between the old principle of administrative interference with every detail of administrative work and the new method of giving the engineer large powers and holding him to strict responsibility. The gang of ward-grabbers and schemers who have always displayed their hostility to Mr. Jennings because he was honest and independent enough to refuse to lend himself to their schemes has at last succeeded in getting rid of him. It is a public misfortune that this has happened, as a capable and efficient official, not resigning, and, temporarily at least, restoring the old system of administrative interference and favoritism.

We have no liking for the professional politician who takes to public life as a trade, and as a natural consequence, regards every question from the standpoint of personal interest. But he is infinitely less of a public pest and viceroy in crime than his stealing, than the type of legislators the London Times accuses. The class of English legislators who do not look to politics for a living, that is those who are wealthy, would seem the natural class of boodling to fill their own pockets; but they have filled the statute book with the most villainous, unjust laws, legislation for the great, and maintenance of special privileges. It is owing to the ascendancy of men who do not look to politics for a living because they can't, that our ancestors have plundered the people for centuries, that needless blood has been shed, that wars are continually waged for the profit and glory of the upper classes, and that a standing army, a gross state church and a host of legal shams and sinecures are maintained to make positions for the nobility and gentry. The high-minded, patriotic men, English landholders, or capitalist M.P.'s, do not go into the parliament for a living as compared with our Senators or Members, is a vulgar and unscrupulous. The only difference is that the conventional English legislators boodle and plunder for his class, while the latter steal for himself and a violation of law, but the moral and material injury inflicted on the community by class legislation is far greater than the like evils result to our boodling. Not only are the robbers vastly larger in amount, but the moral sense of the people is destroyed by having wrong and villainous set up as right and good and patriotic and the worst of all, the people are in high positions and are posing as men of honor and principle.

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from which they should never have been allowed to emerge, and better men put in their places.

A TRUTHFUL OBITUARY.

We are pleased to see a new style of obituary notices coming into fashion with the labor and socialist press. The Montreal *Canadian* has, for instance, this obituary of the departed of a well-known capitalist robber to its own place: "Congressman Wm. L. Scott, of Pennsylvania, the wretch who inflicted such untold misery upon the coal miners at Spring Vale, Illinois, is dead. He was one of the wealthiest, wealthiest, and most heartless villains in America. Good! It has hitherto been according to conventional newspaper rules for every sort of advanced views to smooth over and pathos the misdeeds of villains of this stamp in writing of their deaths, though they might have done them with all the energy at their command the day or week before. It is a mistake to whitewash such rascals and desperadoes simply because they are dead. Such misportraits as Scott are a good reminder, and it is abundantly reasonable on the part of those who hated them while alive to indulge in the kind of mealy-mouthed, namby pamby sentiment which the capitalist press has so plentifully on tap, when such oppressors cease to curse the world with their presence. To do so places the writer in a false position, and leaves room for the conclusion that the charges made against the man in his lifetime were unfounded. Moreover, it tends to demoralize public sentiment, when men who are known to have acquired their means unjustly, and used them despotically as an instrument of oppression, are spoken of in terms befitting those who have never injured their fellows. If a man is sufficiently prominent for an obituary notice it ought to be a truthful one."

THE height of Canadian mobbery and (condemned) has been reached in the prosecution of R. N. O'Brien, the Montreal press correspondent, for circulating the story that the Duke of Wales got into a row with some toughs while doing the alms of that city. The story, whether true or false, did not reflect any particular discredit on George, but rather the reverse. He has never given evidence of having any such pluck as O'Brien credited him with in his report of the supposed encounter. It would be well if all the escapades of the Royal family in Canada had been as comparatively innocent as that reported by O'Brien, which, at all events, did not involve the dishonor of any of the female members of his host's family. A truthful report of the doings of royal princes in Canada would be a vastly more sensational matter than O'Brien's yarn.

THE City Council which last spring refused a grant for Technological Schools, on Wednesday last voted \$5,000 of the people's money to enable a lot of conceited popinjays to swagger round in the streets in the fantastic garb of medical cattle-stealers. The vote is perfectly in keeping with the infamous record of the Howitts, Leslies, Jullitts, and that gang. Nothing better can be expected of such. But how can Mayor Clarke, and Aldermen Macdougall and Hallam, whom we look to for better things, justify their action, especially in view of the city's present financial position, and the difficulty of getting funds for necessary and useful institutions?

A Socialist of Dauter, Germany, has been arrested for asserting the obvious truth that King Otto, of Bavaria, is the most useful monarch of Europe because he spends his time in making mistakes. It is a very easy matter to find out of proposition this Socialist, but it would be extremely difficult to satisfy every owner his assertion; and the privileged classes are prudent in shutting his mouth by brute force instead of attempting to disprove his contention.

We have been unable to approve of any of the votes of Aid. E. V. Evers, but he certainly deserves credit for his

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