LABOR'S LEGISLATURE.

SEVENTH WEEK'S MEETING OF THE TORONTO TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL.

Thirteen Cent per Hour Scale and Clothing Contracts. Compulsory Education — The School of Art and Design.

Toronto Trades and Labor Council held its regular meeting on the evening of the 1st inst., President Nicholls occupying the chair.

Messrs. James Cummings and Robert Williams were invited to seats as duly accredited representatives of the Hod Carriers' Union, No. 27.

Mr. Armstrong read the following:

SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

To the President and Members of the Trades and Labor Council:

Your Committee beg leave to submit the following report:

In advance of motion of Ald. Bell, at a special meeting of the City Council, to exempt the taxes from machinery and plant in all factories and workshops, pending the approval of your Committee, it appeared the desire is not borne by the working classes in a more direct way, viz., the imposition of higher rents. An agitation in this direction might produce beneficial results. And, if such a result does obtain, it is to be hoped that landlords employed in these factories will share thereby relieved from taxable improvements as at present, will receive a corresponding benefit in the shortening of the hours of labor.

There is no necessity of Ald. Farquhar's introducing the Trades Council credentials of "a high character" from the Teamsters' Union in Detroit. He may have acted as such the teamsters in that city as their representative, and their Union may be a pronounced excellence, its influence and usefulness widespread, and appreciated in the City of the Straits in the direction of labor organization. Considering all this, the sudden somersault which their petitioner has taken in an opposite direction, in his capacity as alderman in this city, is to be hoped will not retard their progress as a Union, or suppress their ardor in doing good among their fellows. Within two months of Mr. Farquhar's political career, he has on several occasions, both in committee and in council, and by his letters in the public press, strongly opposed the day-labor system on corporation work, and stated over his own signature that there was a lot of useless men on the city's roll that could not be spared. This statement your Committee have questioned in a previous report, and do so now. The Engineer and Inspectors are always at liberty to pick and choose men. No labor body has ever dictated to the corporation [illegible] Neither a character as an alderman of this city will be estimated by your Committee whenever deemed necessary, as has been the case with the action of his confreres around the Council board.

The Council will do well to withhold the letting out of certain streets to any new street railway company, until such time as the present incumbents of the street railway are settled with.

It is to be hoped that there will be no delay in pressing forward works authorized by the Council, so that willing toilers may obtain employment at as soon as possible. A more extended system of day labor was promised this in-coming session, and to accomplish this thoroughly, a couple of large yards should be convenient located in the city, for the purpose of storing material, and this material should be obtained at times when good bargains can be made. The good results of the day labor system, which experience has proved in the past, should not be lost sight of. But advantage taken of it, so that the grabbing, scamping contract system will be wiped away at the earliest possible moment.

Your Committee would draw the attention of the City Council to a matter that has been sadly neglected heretofore, viz. the giving out to tender of the police and firemen's clothing. The firms to secure this work do not pay the [illegible] prices laid down by the Tailors' Union. Women are mostly engaged, and [illegible] ing that the work is owned by the corporation, they should at least receive [illegible] labor.

There is danger in selecting a sufficient medical health officer. He should be a first class man with a large quantity of independence and decision of character, for [illegible] the whole system of looking after the health of the city should be remodelled and placed under one responsible officer should be no "horsing" of officers from one department to another at present. Loss of time and [illegible] clerical work is the natural result of having two men doing one work. Efficiency, expeditiousness, [illegible] department for all, should be the leading features guiding aldermen in their keeping the health of the city.

Reply to a question, Delegate Sim. Roberts' Union, said it was under [illegible] that the Tailors' Union fixed wages determined as a minimum. The City Council did not apply to the firm making the clothing referred to in the report. He said the present [illegible] did not run a "sham" shop, employed girls and women and paid very low wages, the "Flags of all nations" firm were the present contractors. He hoped that the Trades Council would keep itself in the matter of the interest of firms paying fair wages and employing square men and women. The remarks of those who followed [illegible] that his appointment would not be in [illegible] interest was adopted.

Delegate Fox presented the

EDUCATION COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Your Educational Committee beg leave to report as follows:

It is a matter of surprise and regret to your Committee to know that, after repeatedly in our reports several times during the past year the principle of compulsory education from the ages of six years to fourteen years, and such reports having been endorsed by your body and sent on to the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, that the Executive Committee of that Congress have, in spite of the instruction of their body, allowed themselves to endorse a variation from the above-mentioned ages (namely, six to fourteen years, and consented to the alteration found in from seven to thirteen years, and we much regret that a member of the Executive of that body should make the statement that a child's education is practically completed at the age of thirteen years, in view of the well known fact that during the last years of a child's attendance at school they gain knowledge much faster, owing to their brain development, such knowledge is retained more fully and they are better able to apply it to their benefit in the practical duties of life than what is gained in earlier years, and while the knowledge gained in another years is necessary as a foundation to build upon, the following figures will, in the opinion of your Committee, prove that their recommendations as adopted by the Council are in the right direction:

Class.	1889	1890
Senior Fifth ..	253	171
Junior " ..	279	297
Senior Fourth ..	902	962
Junior " ..	1,519	1,574
Senior Third ..	1,811	1,850
Junior " ..	2,417	2,271
Senior Second	2,429	2,401
Junior "	2,903	2,649
Senior First	2,916	3,233
Junior "	5,464	5,545

Showing conclusively that as pupils advance in their studies and of course increase in age, the numbers attending school diminish rapidly, in view of which fact your Committee believe we should do all in our power to increase the age limit for compulsory education rather than its contraction, for the benefit of the working classes at the present time as well as coming generations.

Your Committee are pleased to notice that the Grand Jury, in their presentment at the last Assize in Toronto, recommended that no child under the age of fourteen be sent to prison, but rather to a reformatory, which we consider a move in the right direction, as association with hardened offenders in the gaols has a tendency to confirm them in wrong-doing, thus fatally defeating what should be the object of all certain fining and punishing institutions, namely, to make the individual a better man or woman and a better citizen, and we take the opportunity to add that if all children were under a compulsory law regarding school attendance up to the age of fourteen years, the beneficial influence of education and the restraint and discipline imposed would go far to form a character that would be a powerful factor in redeeming crime during childhood and also in after years.

Your Committee, accompanied by our President and Mr. R. Glocking, had an interview with a deputation from the Central Ontario School of Art and Design. The object of this school was to solicit the assistance of your body in endeavoring to gain financial assistance from the city, and further, to make known the objects they aim at among the apprentices and artisans of the city.

The chairman of the deputation pointed out the difference between the technical schools at present advocated in this city and the objects aimed at by the School of Art and Design, which is to give practical instruction in the different kinds of drawing and Art work that would be of the greatest use to the artisan in following his calling, thereby making his services, on account of his skill, more valuable to his employer and more remunerative to himself, and further, that by developing in mankind a more refined appreciation of the beauties in Art from all standpoints, create a greater demand in coming time for all articles of use to be beautiful, thus opening up new avenues of employment for skilled and artistic workmen where machinery cannot well follow. All of which your Committee beg leave to submit.

P. C. CASSIDY, *Chairman.* H. W. FOX, *Secretary.*

It being moved and seconded that the report be adopted, Delegate Dower objected to the first paragraph as being incorrect and unjust. He concluded he was the member of the Executive of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress referred to therein, and as such he promptly disclaimed any such language attributed to him. He pointed out also that the Committee of the Congress had not as yet reported to that body as to the interview with the Ontario Government, and asked upon what authority the Education Committee referred to the subject.

Delegate Fox and the Committee dealt with the subject upon a report published in the *World*.

Delegate R. Glocking, as another member of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, corroborated the statements of Delegate Dower, and character ized the statement of the *World* as being untruthful. The paper mentioned had no reporter present at the meeting at which Delegate Dower was represented as having uttered the words attributed to him, and consequently must have had its information from a third party. The Committee of the Congress had, in its interview with the Ontario Government, simply performed its duty on the lines of their instructions from the Congress and nothing more.

Delegate Fox said the circumstances the Education Committee desired to withdraw the paragraph, and, with the consent of the Council, this was done.

Delegate O'Donoghue regretted that the report contained no recommendation as to the advisability or otherwise of countenancing the efforts of the Central Ontario School of Art and Design. He felt that, in justice to that body, which had sent representatives to the last meeting of the Trades Council to urge such action, something definite should be done. Not being quite clear in his mind, however, as to whether or not such action just now may prejudice the scheme before the City Council for establishing technical schools, he would move that the clauses in the report respecting technical schools be referred back for further consideration.

Delegate Hanton held that while there was a necessity for the existence of the Central Ontario School of Art and Design, yet the Trades Council should press for the schools indicated in the scheme before the City Council last year. He pointed out how such schools were appreciated in England. For instance, under the Act of 1889, Manchester had received the sum of £4,000 in aid of technical instruction; Sheffield, £4,534 in grants to various institutions; Nottingham has resolved to grant £9,000 to the University College of that town in aid of the cost of building schools; Blackburn has voted the whole proceeds of a penny rate in aid of a technical school now being erected; Bolton has accepted the transfer to the Corporation of a technical school in that town, formerly maintained by the town; Birmingham has taken over the industrial department of the Birmingham and Midland Institute; Salford will erect a technical school; Northampton, Burnley, Wakefield, and other places have levied rates under the Act; Rotherham, Wrexham, York, New Mills, Rochdale, Stockport, Darwen, Burnlehead, Blaenau Festiniog and other places have voted various sums in aid of technical instruction.

Now a few of the County and County-Borough Councils have gone further, and turned their attention to the question of the best method of utilizing their respective shares of the local taxation. Croydon, for example, has already, it is reported, resolved to appropriate its share of the capital expenditure in providing technical instruction; Cardiff has given one half of its share to technical instruction, and the other half to intermediate education; the Salop, Somerset and Devon County Councils have devoted the whole of the money from this source to educational purposes, and the County Councils of Westmoreland, Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire, Essex, North Riding of Yorkshire, and Staffordshire, have voted various sums of money—in some cases amounting to one-half of the total amount received—in aid of education.

After some explanations on behalf of the Committee the motion to refer back was also concurred in, and the report, as amended, adopted.

Delegate Hanton gave the following notice of motion: "That this Council is in entire sympathy with the eight-hour movement which is now commanding so much attention in this and the Old Country, and is of opinion that in order to place such a system on a satisfactory and enduring basis, legislative enactment is desirable and necessary, and should be sought in conjunction with similar lines, to the same movement in other countries."

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION.

Medical literature of this country, as well as that of England, France and Germany, relates many instances of the spontaneous combustion of the human body, the victim always being a person addicted to the use of spirituous liquors either as a beverage or in the form of a bath. About a year ago a drunkard on the Pacific Coast attempted to light a cigar at a gas jet. His breath caught fire, the flames utterly burning the interior of the chest to a crisp, of course resulting in the death of the unlucky individual. The following, taken from the memoirs of Blanchett, in covering the remarkable case of combustion of the body of the Countess Bandi of the city of Cesena, Italy. One evening the Countess felt an unusual drowsiness and retired early, her maid remaining with her until she had fallen asleep. Next morning when the girl called to awaken her mistress she found nothing but the charred remains of the Countess lying in a heap in the middle of the floor; the unconsumed portions, feet, legs, hands and fingers still glowing with a clear, white heat. In the centre of the heap lay the head, the brain and chin having been consumed, the posterior portion of the cranium, with the parts above mentioned, being all that was left of the body except a small heap of ashes. Two tallow candles that had been blown out and left on the table were found to be melted, the wicks remaining, which clearly proved the fire had occurred consumed in the regular way. Nothing in the apartment had been injured in the least by the remarkable case of combustion, that had taken place within its walls, but everything—furniture, tapestry, and clothes, etc.—was literally covered with a peculiar damp, soot like substance which had even penetrated the drawers of bureaus and soiled the linens. Articles in a dining room adjoining were also covered with the slimy soot, a piece of lard in a cupboard being turned a jet black on account of it. This was given to a stray dog, but was refused as if it had been poison. While the Countess was not addicted to the use of strong drink, she had for years daily bathed her body in camphorated spirits of wine.—*St. Louis Republic.*

THE Government medical authorities at Washington have, after many experiments, announced the discovery of a lymph which gives immunity from diphtheria and they hope to make it a certain cure for that disease.

THE FOUR IMPRISONED MINERS

No more thrilling tale has been told recently than that of the four men rescued from the coal mine at Jeanesville, Pa.

Away down 600 feet below the surface of the earth, three quarters of a mile from the entrance shaft, miners were delving at the coal seams as usual one day suddenly, without a moment's warning, a deluge of water broke through from a shaft of an abandoned mine. What started it will never be known probably. In five minutes it was 200 feet deep in the lower portions of the mine, though miners nearest the shaft escaped. When the roll came to be call' l eighteen were missing. Such of them as were not drowned by the flood would naturally seek refuge in the higher passageways leading off from the level. The mine was honeycombed with these, for it had been worked nearly fifty years.

The water had filled the main shaft to a third of its depth. But there was something it could not do. When it rushed in a mighty torrent into the mine it drove the air before it up the narrow passageways and packed it into the ends of these. The water could not go through the air. It could drive it over it, it could and did compress it, but the more the air was compressed the more it resisted the water, till at last the air kept the water out of the further end of the passageways as effectually as if it had been a wall of brick and mortar. That saved the lives of the four who were rescued. It gave them air of a pressure of four atmospheres to breathe, but it saved them.

Great engines, pumping 2,000 gallons a minute, were put to work, and the pumps throbbed day and night. The mine must be cleared and the bodies of those who had been drowned brought out and buried. Had a month been lost in the pumps only then could to throb. The water was low enough to search for the bodies. Several were found. In one spot it was plain that a fire had been kindled, and that had caused the death of four men who had clustered around it. The flames had consumed the oxygen in the confined air of the "pocket" in which they were imprisoned, and the men were slowly asphyxiated to their death.

The search went on until the bodies of all but four had been found. Ten rescuers themselves braved death a hundred times a day from suffocation in the close air, but the work did not stop a moment.

The full dangers and difficulties of that dread search cannot be fully told. A line of pickets over the whole three-quarters of a mile to the entrance of the mine was kept constantly on the alert. Once a minute, day and night, the signal passed from man to man, "All right?" They will hear it in their dreams for months to come, those brave fellows.

The nineteenth day came. At eight o'clock that morning the workers stood in front of "breast No. 5." Suddenly the face of one of them blanched and his eyes blazed. He spoke, and this is what he said, "I heard something!"

Then through a passageway [illegible] feet high, they crawled, over jagged coal and slate, their clothes torn, their hands bleeding, and brought the four living men out of the "pocket."

In the first days of their imprisonment the four men had found a little food in their dinner pails. Then the strongest one of them killed rats, with which the mine was infested, and ate them. Of these rats, as epicures eat frogs' legs, and that kept the life in them. But at the same time it required all the feeble strength that was in them to keep the rats from eating them. Only one hope was left them, and they lived on that till rescue came. Tenderly as new born infants the four saved men were conveyed to a landing in the upward shaft. They were too exhausted to be taken farther.

At two o'clock in the morning the rescuing party ascended to the surface, blackened, begrimed and bleeding, themselves exhausted almost to the point of fainting. Their thoughts turned then to where all men's thoughts do at times alike of great fear or great joy, to the dread unfathomable source of all that is, was or shall be. They stopped before the home of the senior member of the group, and there, in the darkness, with all their souls in their voices, sang "Praise God From Whom all Blessings Flow."

THE RING AND THE TRUST

Combination is found to be a mighty principle, in the economy of gain, than competition. As well oppose handicrafts to machinery as the scattered efforts of individuals, with their limited resources and consequent lack of staying power, to the trust, which knows how to control every avenue of transportation, to under sell its rivals and to hinder them from receiving supplies, and from loading or unloading the goods they may have in hand. I make the statement, based on facts, that the middle ages prices and qualities were fixed, in a rude way doubtless, by the whole community acting through its rulers. When the "ring and the trust" have spread their network over the country, as in regard to some commodities they have done already—prices and qualities will be determined, not by the people, who can but wait with mental submission, as does till the lion lets go his prey, but by syndicates representing shareholders. A small oligarchy of wealth, at the summit of which are enthroned the great railway kings and their satellites, will have thus put the free American democracy under its feet. Free? Why certainly, free to vote for the candidates sent to Congress by the omnipotent "trusters," whose commercial mandates will there be converted into law. *Rev. H. m. Barry in the Week Forum.*

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