Current Comment

The Sheet Metal Workers will have a crowd to Buffalo with them on Saturday next, June 11th. Are you going along?

◆ ◆

The brewery workmen won the strike. The Employers' Association's assistance was not sufficient to bust the union. The men received all they asked for with the exception of wages. They received an advance in wages and consented to arbitrate the difference. The minimum wage scale was granted for the first time. The victory was taken very quietly by the men and the good work done by Secretary Preshetle and I. H. Sanderson was recognized by presenting them each with a gold chain and locket suitably engraved. It will be some time before the brewers antagonize their customers again and precipitate a fight which must always end in defeat. This fight has proven quite conclusively that the workingmen will refuse to buy beer when the buying of it means the enslavement of a number of their brothers. The Brewery Workers were splendidly supported by the great bulk of the organized workers and many outside the movement. The fight was very costly to not a few hotels, some of which when they could not get fair beer refused to sell any. It was also the means of showing where some others were at and this fact will, no doubt, be remembered against them in the future.

THIS LABEL

Appears on all bottles of Union Beer.

DEMAND IT

J. JOHNSON

Custom Tailor

The favor of a call and inspector of our stock requested.

STYLE, FIT AND PRICE

Will give you satisfaction.

167 Spadina Avenue

(Near Queen St.)

Learn Telegraphy

A great money earning employment with splendid prospects of advancement. We teach it rapidly and thoroughly and aid our students to positions. You can't afford to miss the opportunity.

Our booklet is mailed free. It tells how you can make a good start in life. Get it now.

DOMINION BUSINESS COLLEGE
Cor. Yonge & Richmond Sts.
TORONTO.

BROOM MAKERS

This Label appears on all Union made brooms, and guarantees that it was not made by convicts in a prison factory. See that the Label is placed under the wire and not pasted on.

Health and Vigor depend upon the quality and quantity of the blood."—HUMANITARIAN

The Liver is the great secreting organ of the body, and when it fails to perform its office, bile accumulates and the blood becomes poisoned, causing many unpleasant symptoms, such as: dull, heavy, languid feeling, indisposition to attend to duties, pain in back or shoulders, sour stomach, constipation, dryness of the skin, restlessness at night, etc.

If these symptoms are not dealt with immediately, they become aggravated so as to induce severe illness. To relieve at once and cure permanently

Dr. Carson's Tonic

Stomach and Constipation Bitters

Have long been recognized as the sovereign treatment. These are made from the formula of an eminent Canadian physician, who has used the prescription in his practice for many years with most satisfactory results.

A Purely Vegetable Tonic and Blood Purifier. Price 50 cents per Bottle.

Usually you can obtain the preparation of your local druggist, but if you are not able to obtain it in your neighborhood, we shall be pleased to send to any address one or more bottles upon receipt of price (50c per bottle) CARRIAGE PREPAID.

Pamphlet sent FREE on application

The Carson Medicine Co'y
TORONTO

DR. EASTON'S

Blood and Nerve Builder

Strengthens and Tones up the Nervous System

25 and 50 Cents

PREPARED BY

J. R. LEE
Corner Queen and Seaton
and 697 King St. East

There are 632,821 women employed in the English cotton factories, and 147,246 men.

◆ ◆

Children engaged in labor in the United States reach the enormous figures of 1,850,000.

◆ ◆

The Machinists hold their annual excursion and games to Niagara Falls on the 16th of July.

◆ ◆

Honesty is the best policy, but he who is governed by that maxim is not an honest man.—Whately.

◆ ◆

The Boot and Shoe Workers go to Niagara Falls on their annual excursion on Saturday, July 18th.

◆ ◆

We will have the social revolution just as soon as the wheels in the heads of the workers begin to revolve.—Iowa Socialist.

◆ ◆

The women of Japan are now largely employed in telephone and post offices, and they are said to be excellent bookkeepers.

◆ ◆

During the year 1903 Japanese laborers employed in the Hawaiian Islands sent nearly $3,000,000 in money to their relatives and banks in Japan.

◆ ◆

Last year was a prosperous one for Chicago labor unions. Over 60,000 workers had their hours of labor reduced from ten to nine, and the gain in wages will amount to over $9,000,000 a year.

◆ ◆

Wm. Ward of Piano Makers' Union, No. 34, will leave next week for New York to attend the convention of the Woodworkers' International. He will be accompanied by A. Lane of the Picture Frame Makers' Union.

◆ ◆

Attention is called to the fact that the Belle Ewart Ice Company GUARANTEE their ice to be ABSOLUTELY PURE and taken from the purest part of Lake Simcoe. Daily supply from $1.75 per month up. Office, 3 Melinda street.

◆ ◆

International Typographical Union Organizer John E. McLoughlin reports that Local No. 424 has enrolled every journeyman printer within its jurisdiction—the Oranges, Montclair and Bloomfield, N.J.—making what he terms "a 100 per cent. union."

◆ ◆

The Trades Union Conference, held at Christchurch, New Zealand, resolved that the government be urged to establish tailoring, boot and saddlery factories, ironworks and shipbuilding yards, and to nail-works and shipbuilding yards, and to nationalize the marine, coastal and international services.

◆ ◆

The Legislature of Colorado, influenced by corporation bribes, refused to pass an eight-hour law endorsed by a majority of the citizens of Colorado. Now Governor Peabody and his hired thugs are protecting the act. This is the way the majority doesn't rule in Colorado.—Appeal to Reason.

◆ ◆

Labor Commissioner McCormack, of Indiana, has issued a report which deals with strikes and their causes. He says: "Ninety per cent. of the strikes are due to the fact that the employer has not been fair, or has utterly refused to treat with his men. It is not usually a question of wages, but of humanity."

◆ ◆

There was added to the Jewelry Workers' Union on Saturday, June 4th, a new member. "The wife of James H. Tomlin, Jr., of a son," was the way you would read it in the papers. The happy father is rejoicing in his first son, and is figuring out his education already, so that he may be "brought up" a good union man.

◆ ◆

According to Victoria, Australia, factories' returns, a comparison among the six best paid trades elicited the fact that, through sickness, loss of time, etc., the workers only averaged £1 16s. 8d. all the year round. All these workers are under the Factories Act. What must have been their wages when there was no act?—Tocsin.

◆ ◆

Capital is the most terrible scourge of humanity; it fattens on the misery of the poor, the degradation of the worker, and the brutalizing toil of his wife and children; just as capital grows, so grows also pauperism, that millstone round the neck of civilization, the revolting cruelties of our factory system, the squalor of great cities, and the presence of deep poverty seated hard by the gate of enormous wealth.—Karl Marx.

◆ ◆

The child labor law passed in Mississippi provides that no child under twelve years of age shall be employed in any factory; that no child under fourteen years shall be employed to do night work, and that no minor can be employed without an affidavit as to his age and the written consent of his parents. The mill manager who violates this law is liable to a fine of $500 and imprisonment in the county jail for six months, or both.

◆ ◆

In England there were fewer strikes in 1903 and not so many disputes threatening strikes. In the year there were 360 disputes, affecting 113,873 employes and losing 2,316,792 working days. Questions of remuneration were the cause of 214 disputes. Refusals to work with non-unionists and other questions affecting trade unions were responsible for 25, directly involving 17,602 persons, while 54 disputes, involving 13,471 work people, arose out of working arrangements.

◆ ◆

A man with an income of a million a year eats the whole fruit of 6,000 men's labor through a whole year, for you can get a stout spadesman to work and maintain himself for a sum of $200. Thus we have private individuals whose wages are equal to the wages of 7,000 or 8,000 other individuals. What do these highly paid individuals do for society for their wages? Kill partridges. Can this last. No, by the soul of man, it cannot and will not and shall not.—Thomas Carlyle.

◆ ◆

Secretary-Treasurer Simpson reports the receipt of over $5,000 cash towards the purchase price of the Labor Temple and an additional $5,000 guaranteed. A full report of shareholders who have paid for stock will be published in next week's Toiler and the secretary wishes to notify all those who have taken shares that their money will be received at The Toiler office at any hour of the day from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and by mail at 42 Albany avenue. It is important that all money due the Labor Temple Company, Limited, should be paid within the next week at the latest. The secretary is not expected to call for moneys payable, and all obligations must be met at once.

New Zealand has postal savings banks, and the total deposits in all sorts of banks amount to $140 for each inhabitant. The United States has no postal savings banks, and the total bank deposits amount to only $110 per inhabitant.

◆ ◆

New Jersey has passed a child labor law against the violent opposition of the glass trust. The limit was fixed at 14 years of age. There are now 24,000 children employed in the state. The passage of the law will reduce the number one-half.

◆ ◆

The Clerks' Union of Melbourne, Australia, has asked the secretary of state to have legislation introduced fixing the hours of employment and establishing a minimum wage for clerks. The spokesman of the union said that Australia was the worst country in the world for retail clerks, that wages did not exceed from $4 to $6 a week, and many of the girl clerks worked for as little as $1.25 a week.

◆ ◆

TORONTO DISTRICT LABOR COUNCIL.

Week by week recent events have proven that any attempt to revert back to fortnightly meetings would receive but scant recognition.

The trouble of the Brewery Workers, along with other questions dealt with by the Council, have evidently proven to the delegates attending that by the Council keeping in touch with locals in trouble and in receiving reports from responsible officers thereby checking misrepresentations supplied to the general press by our enemies, that the Council is wielding that power for which it was created.

Brother Preasbtle, International Secretary for the Brewery Workers, was granted a seat and the privileges of the Council. Brother Preshtle presented the latest phases that had arisen in connection with the Brewery Workers' strike.

The bakers requested the delegates to watch the proceedings in the Police Court against those who had violated the law by baking bread, etc., on the Sabbath in bake shops governed by the Ontario Bake Shops Act.

Special committee report re local option was referred to the executive to report at the next meeting of the Council.

Notice of motion, That it is in the best interests of labor that the constitution of the D. L. C. be amended as to permit the executive of the municipal labor party to be a part of this Council.

Nine new delegates were seated.

Communication from a secretary of a local garment workers' organization was referred back.

Communication from the Labor Educational Association of Ontario was ordered filed.

PRESS COMMITTEE.

RENTS AND LANDLORDS.

Owing to the present excessive rents there is abroad in the public mind the idea that in some way the landlords are to blame. Nothing can be farther from the truth than this mistake.

Men in all vocations, productive or parasitical, desire to get the most for the least labor. Landlords are no exception to this rule. The need of the people for housing is their opportunity, and, Shylock like, they demand "The pound of flesh." As a class landlords are no worse or better than other individuals; they are men with like ambitions, passions and desires, good and bad.

Even in this crisis we should face the situation with unprejudiced minds, endeavor to put the blame where it belongs, explain the situation for ourselves and apply the remedy. If we wish to account for existing conditions we will have to remember they are the effects due to previous causes.

For years past we, the people, have been discouraging labor by raising approximately half the expense of our government machinery by taxation on buildings and labor products. We have at the same time made profitable the holding of lands unused by exempting such lands from taxation. The direct result of this course of action has been that no buildings were erected unless there appeared to be fair prospects of their being occupied. No progressive citizen wished to erect buildings to stand vacant, taxed from year to year, a continuous fine, a more effective bar to the upbuilding of our city with good buildings than has been the penalties imposed on crime in our courts.

The population of Toronto has grown and been further increased by immigration and the influx from the country districts of those who refuse to sell themselves, their heirs and executors forever to the mortgage companies.

The progress made in agriculture in recent years has raised the value of wild land suitable for farming. The young generation know from experience on the old homestead what fighting the mortgage means. They have risen in the cold, grey morning, toiled incessantly through the sweltering summer hours till the moon shone out or the light failed, from week to week, month in and out. At the end of each season they have seen the produce go to market and the cheque remitted to the mortgage company. The interest on the mortgage worked nights, holidays and Sundays, and the Lord's Day Alliance never whimpered. Don't forget mortgages are title deeds to land and mortgage companies our largest landlords.

This is a brief but accurate picture of country life. The toil of the settlers, the improvements to their farms have raised the value of adjoining wild lands. The young generation see this and rather than fight a still greater mortgage they have fled to the city.

Thus it is that the growth of population, immigration and influx from the country have filled our cities with homeless thousands, tenants at will. The more they come the greater competition for jobs and the higher the rents. Are the landlords to blame? Most emphatically no. If there is any censure we, the people, must take it. We have discouraged labor and encouraged land gambling. Natural law will not be violated or overridden by man made statutes. We, the people, are reaping what we have sown, and it serves us right.

Without crying over spilt milk or bemoaning past mistakes, the question now is, "What shall we do to be saved" from landlordism and the accompanying slavery, due to the separation of the worker from the soil, the source of all wealth and basis of all employment? When we have learned our lesson we will, without any hysteria or the sending of fat commissioners on a holiday trip to Europe to investigate the housing problem, simply study the question each for himself or herself. When we study we will conclude that the beneficiaries of government expenditure should pay the support of government.

Now, governments do not produce wealth. We, the people, pay all taxation necessary to carry on the workings of our Municipal, Provincial and Federal governments. The trouble is, our contributions are not in proportion to value received. For example: The spending by the city of a large sum in paving, laying sidewalks, etc., on any street will not increase the value of buildings. After the improvements are made a building can be replaced on such street as cheaply as on any other; each building never being worth more than the cost of its reconstruction. Why, then, do the rents rise? The spending of public money has raised the value of land in that vicinity, the vacant lots benefiting as much as those built upon. Therefore, as land values only benefit by public expenditure, when we have learned our lesson we will tax land values only.

The land value tax will leave buildings, occupied or vacant, free from the annual penalty in taxation and encourage industry as long as there is profit in building homes. At the same time the land value tax would make land worthless for any one square rod sandand Saguenay gas.

The will lands of the country would be placed within the reach of those desiring to live near the old homestead, reducing competition among manufacturing workers, and giving them consumers for their product (i.e., machinery, carriages, furniture, etc.) instead of competitors in the workshops.

Moral: While standing by the union of your trade, examine the single tax for yourself and learn the road to economic freedom, if you do not wish to leave the children you love an inheritance of degrading, hopeless slavery.

G. C.

SUNDAY PARADES.

War and its attendant horrors is only a matter of minor detail in our glorious civilization. When Sunday parades interfere with the business of religion, no condemnation is too strong for militarism. Please, Mr. Ross, give us a law granting the Ministerial Association a monopoly of Sunday labor and the use of the police to drive the crowd to church, and your petitioners will humbly pray.

G. C.

THE WORKERS DAY COMING.

Editor Toiler:

Dear Sir,—It is an old saying that "every dog has his day." Last year the building trades were in the miseries of the strike epidemic. I can hardly say we were cured, but I think if you were to ask the builders' laborers, the painters and the carpenters they would say that we got well pickled. This year other trades are in the soup and the building trades seem quiet. It is a new thing that the horses got their share of pickling as well as we did and the general public have nothing to laugh at for the rent payers have been in the pickle ever since. Yet I don't see that this is any consolation. Under present business methods the boss is simply the medium through whom we toilers draw our weekly pay. The boss builds the house for his customer, and out of the price he gets for it he pays for labor and materials and the balance is his share of the transaction. Of course the boss may want too big a share, but so 90 per cent. of those who start business go bankrupt it is just possible that the unions are fighting the bosses and the bosses are fighting the unions and acting like a pair of fools, and the "sooner or later" capitalists are splitting their sides laughing at us. I see by to-day's paper that the brickmakers have surrendered and gone back to work. Surrendered is the wrong word. They have wisely declined a suicidal policy, and will now study more deeply the true inwardness of the labor problem, how an just and righteous principles and in a statesmanlike way, the drones who for centuries have governed the workers, shall be removed from power, and the people who produce the wealth of the nation, who furnish the armies who protect the nation, who also put up the taxes for the maintenance of the nation, shall enjoy a larger share in the government and wealth of the nation. This time last year we carpenters were in a eleven weeks' strike. As we gathered in Victoria Hall morning after morning to hear reports and cheer each other up, we sometimes chewed over the bitter fact that Canada's trades unionism is strong enough to paralyze trade, strong enough to change a weekly wage of $14 into a weekly strike pay of $3.75, but not strong enough or intelligent enough to do as New Zealand trades unionism has done, dethrone the drones and make trades unions co-workers with the government, for the enfranchisement of the toilers, with a larger share of the wealth and legislative power of the nation than this world has ever seen before. As we were talking over these things some of us thought it would be a good thing if we could write to New Zealand and get information direct from the unions there as to their opinion of the New Zealand labor laws. Our union, the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners has branches all over the world, so from our annual report I obtained the names and addresses of two branch secretaries in New Zealand, and writing to them I obtained the following answer. Under the present striking circumstances I hope it will carry its own lesson, for the sooner we get up alongside of the New Zealand trades union the better for all parties concerned.

Christchurch, N.Z., Branch No. 826.
March 30, 1904.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter as to the working of the labor laws in New Zealand and whether we think we are better off under it than we were before. As far as I am aware we are a long way better off under these laws than we were before, and I think I am quite right when I say that we would not go back to the old order of things for a good bit. Taken all through the employers comply with the different awards as far as they possibly can. Of course there are individual cases where some cantankerous employer tries to do all he can to relect it, but without avail, and I think if you took a vote right throughout New Zealand, both with the homes and the hands I am sure you would receive an overwhelming majority in favor of the present laws. I am sending you a copy of the labor laws and you will be able to go through them at your leisure. Under these laws unionism has gone ahead wonderfully and have increased, both in numbers and financially. We respect to my own branch, in the last twelve months we have sent £200 (two hundred pounds) home to the Executive Council, and after paying all expenditures for the year it leaves us with a balance of only £3 less than we started the year with, and I am sure we could not do that under the old order of things, and the other branches are in the same state. I might say that our neighbors, the Australian States, have seen the benefits to be derived from our laws and are fast following in our footsteps. Trust this will help you I remain yours in unity.

F. J. NOTT,
Branch Secretary.

P.S.—I have forwarded your letter on to Brother Tyson who, if he replies, will be able to explain better than I can, as he has had a lot more experience in the working.

To this I may add, Mr. Editor, a quotation from the Encyclopedia Britannica, "Capitalistic Conservatism ruled New Zealand prior to 1890. When the Progressives, under John Ballance, defeated Sir Harry Atkinson, what a striking change came over public life. The change was emphasized by the active intervention in politics by the trades unions. These bodies, impelled by a socialistic movement, fell throughout Australasia, decided in 1889 to exert their influence in returning workingmen to Parliament, or where this was impossible to secure pledges from the middle-class candidates to the labor platform. This plan was first put into execution at the general election of 1890, which was held during the great Australasian maritime strike, and is therefore usually but wrongly attributed to that great conflict between capital and labor, but it had been fully arranged before that. The number of labor members elected was small, never more than six, but the M. P.'s under the control and influence of the labor party numbered 25. Woman franchise was carried in 1893, Government loans to farmers at 5 per cent. in 1894, also the Conciliation and Arbitration Act, since which there have been no strikes in New Zealand. In 1898 the Old Age Pension Act was carried, and in 1902 twelve thousand old folk received a pension of seven shillings a week."

Rub the hayseeds out of your hair, brother unionists and catch on, there are better ways of killing a dog than choking him with butter and we have a good deal better weapons than strikes at our disposal.—J. H. R.

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Carter's Teething Powders are always reliable in all disorders of the stomach and bowels, flatulency, wind, colic and griping; in fevers, fits and inflammation of the gums, they cool and soothe, induce natural sleep, give strength and vigor to the most delicate child; are a preventive and a cure of convulsions; they check vomiting, dysentry and diarrhœa; are free from all dangerous drugs, and can be administered to the most delicate babies with perfect safety.

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T. H. DUNN

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The Circulation Committee of the District Labor Council submitted to the Directors of the THE TOILER PUBLISHING CO., the following proposition: "That a trophy valued at $50 be presented to the Section of the District Labor Council sending in the most subscriptions by the first of September, 1904. Not less than 300 Subscriptions will be necessary to win the trophy."

F. J. WILSON, President. WM. BOLAND, Secretary.

The Directors have accepted the proposition and will offer the following prizes to be competed for between the **1st day of May, 1904,** and the **1st day of September, 1904,** inclusive:

To the Section returning most Subscriptions

$50.00 TROPHY

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To the Individual who sends in the largest number

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