

The Tribune

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FEDERATED COUNCIL
 OF
THE BUILDING TRADES
 REGULAR MEETING, MONDAY, JAN. 8th

The first regular meeting of the Council for this year was held Monday, Jan. 8th, with President F. Moses in the chair. The meeting was largely attended, and was fully representative.

Mr. W. J. Spencer, General Secretary-Treasurer of the Structural Building Trades Alliance of America, was present, and gave an interesting address on the aims and objects of the alliance, also the benefits to be derived through international organization. The universal working card for the allied building trades has been adopted, and a strong effort will be made towards its proper enforcement. Our fellow-unionists in other trades can assist us in our fight for better conditions by demanding the union working card when having any dealings with any of the trades interested in the erection or alteration of buildings. We are told, when buying tobacco or cigars, to demand the blue union label; when buying bread, demand the label, or when being served in a barber shop or at the bar, demand the union shop card or union button, and so on down the line. Now, why not, when the plumber comes to fix the leaky or frozen pipes, demand the union working card, or when the tinsmith comes to fix the furnace, or the painter to do decorating or paperhanging, or the carpenter or plasterer to do any repairing or other work, demand the working card, and so on through all the various building trades. The working card is our label, and means as much to us as the union label or shop card to the various trades using them, so why not assist us in our fight by demanding the card when possible?

There was considerable discussion on the subject of workmen's dwellings, and representations will be made to the new City Council towards having some of the restrictions removed from certain sections of the city, so as to enable the workman to build a home for himself.

The following delegates were nominated as officers for the ensuing six months, the election to take place next meeting night, when a full attendance of delegates is requested, as matters of vital importance are to be considered:

President—F. Moses, J. Taylor, Jos. Harris, J. A. McIntyre, W. J. Storey, W. J. Bolton, F. Winne, and H. B. Woodrow. Delegates Harris, Storey and Bolton withdrew.

Vice-President—J. Marshall, J. Harris, A. Dearlove, W. J. Bolton, W. Mercer, J. T. Gilbert. Delegates Dearlove and Mercer withdrew.

Recording and Corresponding Secretary—F. C. Weese.

Financial Secretary—H. B. Woodrow, J. A. McIntyre, W. J. Storey, W. M. Shank, E. Williamson, A. Dearlove. Delegates Woodrow, Storey and Williamson withdrew.

Treasurer—Sam. Garland.

Tyler—W. J. Bolton.

Trustees (three to be elected)—W. M. Shank, J. T. Gilbert, A. Dearlove, Woods, W. Mitchell, E. Jackson, W. Mercer, J. Loughheed, F. Winne. Delegates Woods, Loughheed, Mercer and Winne withdrew their names.

The Executive Committee will also be appointed, consisting of one delegate from each trade affiliated.

"Be Satisfied With Your Wages."

(By Rev. Charles Stelzle.)
 It was a great preacher that said it originally. There probably never was a greater than he, with the exception of Jesus Christ. At any rate, Jesus said of him a few days after he preached that sermon, "Among those that are born of women, there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist."

But what did he mean? Did he imply that there should never be a strike or a demand for better conditions? Some unfair or ignorant agitators have insisted that the Bible and the Church teach that doctrine, and they have flung into our faces with scorn the text of John the Baptist, declaring that it is vicious and degrading. Some employers in history have also quoted this Scripture passage in order to point out that the Bible teaches absolute subservience on the part of the employe to his employer.

I am reminded in this connection of the smart young man who insisted that the Bible itself says "there is no God." But when he was compelled to look up the reference, he discovered that what the Bible really said was, "The fool hath said in his heart, 'there is no God.'"

Something like this Aleck are the men who twist the Scriptures so as to produce all sorts of economic absurdities, warping out of their true meaning the greatest and most beneficent teachings of Christianity.

But let us look for a moment at the circumstances under which the words were spoken and the persons to whom they were addressed. The story is found in the third chapter of the Gospel by Luke. The fearless preacher—who afterward was beheaded because he dared denounce the reigning monarch for his sin—was speaking to a great multitude that had come out to hear him. The burden of his message was summed up in the single word, "Repentance." And it was noted that this repentance had particular reference to sins committed against men. As the preacher proceeded the people began to ask, "What shall we do, then?"

He answered, "He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise." Will you note, by the way, that he said "two" coats, not "six"? Then came the publicans—the government grafters of the day—and said to him, "Master, what shall we do?" The preacher answered, "Exact no more than the law demands." Finally came the soldiers—often the brutal representatives, the policemen, of a foreign government; men who were following the examples of their superiors by robbing the working people. It was a case of graft which was very much worse than anything unearthed in our day. "And what shall we do?" they asked. And John the Baptist answered, "Do violence to no man; neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages." The emphasis was upon the word "wages."

It was not intended to teach that workmen in every generation should be content with their wages. It was intended to teach that these brutal, conscienceless soldiers should not demand from the masses of the people, upon pain of bodily injury, that which did not rightfully belong to them, in order that they might add this money to the wages received from the government. The words, "be content with your wages," must be viewed in the light of the spirit of the entire address. No one—not even the most radical agitator—can successfully deny that the preacher was making a fight for the poor and the oppressed.

And so, instead of degrading the toiler, this injunction is actually a plea for fair treatment for the man who was powerless to resist oppression.

WOMEN IN UNIONS
 Need of Organization Among the Shirtmakers

BY SOPHIE YUDELSOHN
 Member of Laundry Committee, Womens Trade Union League.

During the last half century the shirtmaker's trade has been specialized into two almost distinct branches; first, men's shirts and boys' waists, and, second, collars and cuffs. But the conditions affecting the life of the shirtmaker as an individual have not been improved.

Home work is said to be "No Man's Land in the Industrial World," as it is peopled with "casuals, dreary phantoms who come and go whence and whether no man can tell." Upon a closer analysis however, the home workers in any trade may be classified into three distinct groups.

First, women whose husbands are either irregularly employed, poorly paid, ill, run-away, drunk, or dead. These women are bound to the home either by a flock of little children, old age (most often premature), or by lack of skill. They may be found in the villages and small towns, in the tenement and yard-houses of the slums of a large city. Here all the horrors of poverty, hunger, ignorance, and dirt are found. In the dingy little cells called homes, these women work from gray dawn until long after midnight by the flickering light of a smoking kerosene lamp.

Second, farmers' wives, not the eighteenth century women, who might be and were proud of their big rolls of homespun clothes and chests full of linen fashioned by their hands. The twentieth century farmer women do home work generally because they must contribute their mite towards paying the interest at least on the mortgages that so often are a crushing weight upon the uncertain yearly income of a small farm.

Third, the wives and daughters of the "shabby genteel," small salaried clerks and the like. These women do not wish to shock the social conscience by going to the factory as ordinary womenfolk do. Out they go, then, singly, book in hand, round about and into the factory, where, without the least bargaining as to prices, they ask in a whisper for a bundle of work to be delivered at the home.

Collar and cuff making is indigenous to the women of the town of Troy on the Mohawk. They seem to have it "bred in the bone" in the saying, and many of them have been trained for years to perfect some of its little details. The first separate collar for sale was made by the wife of a Troy blacksmith about seventy-five years ago. Since that time the number of families dependent upon this industry steadily increased until, at the present day, nearly every one within a radius of twenty-five or thirty miles is vitally interested in the manufacture. Almost all of it is in the hands of women at home or in the factory.

The wages of factory women there are \$2.50 to \$4 per week for young recruits, \$6 to \$12 for those of mature experience, with perhaps a bonus for experts. The working hours are from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and a half-holiday on Saturday. Net wages are generally less than what they are popularly estimated to be. During two to three months in the year there is little work.



A VIEW IN MUSKOKA

DR. McGLYNN ON CHILD LABOR.

Dr. Edward McGlynn on one occasion, after quoting Mrs. Browning's "Do you hear the children weeping, oh, my brothers!" delivered the following remarkable passage:

"Let them weep—yes, let them weep—since it is their only solace, and it were cruel of us to deprive them even of the comfort of their tears; but just because the children are weeping, and while they are weeping, let their hearts scald our hearts, let their inarticulate groans and wails stir up within us all that is manly and womanly and all that is Christlike, to do what we can to dry their tears, to stop the inarticulate sobbings of their breaking hearts. Let us, just because they are weeping, feel all the more impelled to heed the voice to believe the words, to accept the call of the Master, stimulated by His example to do what we can to take away the cause of their tears. Let us, attracted by His powerful benedictions, encouraged by His promises, and awed by His menaces, do what we can to right the wrong and to cause the blessed day of justice to dawn. And the dawn of the day of justice will be the beginning of the doing on earth of the will of the Father as it is done in heaven. It will be the begin-

ning of the reign of the Prince of Peace."

Some of the critics of John Burns, M. P., in England are wondering how he will reconcile his previous words that no man is worth more than £500 (\$2,500) a year, with the fact that he is now receiving a government allowance of £2,000 (\$10,000).

STORMS ON MARS TERRIFIC.

Weather wise prophets are issuing bulletins of the rain and shine in Mars. The most tumultuous tempests that the elements offer the earth dweller are holidays compared with the storms of two weeks and again of forty-one days in length which Prof. Pickering of Harvard has found raging around Martians. The clouds of Mars are always light yellow. The desert regions are a darker shade of yellow. Long duration of storms and long clear intervals between are characteristics of Martian weather. One possible reason for the great meteorological changes is the greater tenuity of atmosphere there. Mars presents vast and conspicuous changes in appearance, whereas a Martian astronomer, looking towards earth, would find the annual changes which he could perceive over the surface of our planet present considerable sameness and lack of variety.

A MANNISH WOMAN.

Discussing the topic, "Would It Be Wise to Give Women the Ballot?" at the Baptist Church of the Epiphany of Cincinnati, O., Rev. Madison C. Peters said: "It is not a question of simple right as her equal with man, but whether it would be wise. I do not deny the labors of woman to smoke cigarettes or to use rough language of men, but most of us are inclined to believe that women who do these things are, as some one has put it, 'no gentlemen,' and if the sexes are to be equalized, I would rather it were done by refining the men than by the vulgarizing of women. Would a woman's vote alter things? Yes. If only good women vote. Few good women would avail themselves of the privilege, but all the bad women would. The responsibilities which would logically follow this advance of woman mean that henceforth she would not be represented by any man, and her exercising the full functions of citizenship would make such a change as would make her more a man than a woman. A female man, an affected, drivelling little codle, a weak sister dressed up in men's clothing, is enough to fill you with disgust, but of a mannish woman, good Lord, deliver me from expressing my opinion, lest I should say something not in the prayer book!"

THE BRITISH PRINTERS IMPORTED TO WINNIPEG TO BREAK THE STRIKE HAVE JOINED THE UNION AND STRUCK FOR EIGHT HOURS A DAY

"Went to the wrong country for 'rats.'" This is the conviction that is settling down on Winnipeg printerdom, for on Tuesday last the contract-managed British printers, who were imported in October last to break the printers' eight-hour strike, went out on strike themselves for an eight-hour day, and went out as members of Winnipeg Typographical Union.

It was a great coup. The eight-hour fight is still on, surely.

MECHANICS' LIEN ACTION.

More actions against A. J. Small of the Majestic Theatre and Grand Opera House; this time in Hamilton.

The mechanics' lien action brought against A. J. Small, Toronto, by William Hancock in connection with the rebuilding of the Grand Opera House, has been settled. There are other similar actions, however, and M. Brennan & Sons, who have a claim for \$150, are moving to be made plaintiffs in place of Mr. Hancock. The matter will come up before Judge Monck next week, if not settled in the meantime.

FAILURES THIS WEEK.

Failures in Canada number 32, against 27 last week, 33 the preceding week and 25 last year.