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POLITICAL ACTION

Trades Congress Recommend Locals to Take a More Active Part in Municipal Politics and Perfect Organization.

Canadian labor's greatest spokesman and advocate—the Trades and Labor Congress—has closed its annual session.

It was the most successful, and kept pace with the growth of the movement in Canada.

Legislatively, the Congress speaks for organized labor, and the delegates attending will compare favorably with any legislative body in this country in debating ability and intelligence.

Go forward is the watchword, and the proceedings will show that the labor movement is going forward with a steady grip of problems as they present themselves for solution.

The temperance sentiment is growing rapidly, as was evidenced by the discussion of it upon the floor of the Congress.

The independent political action movement is broadening out and getting stronger every day. The cause of this growth is not hard to seek. The long list of reverses and broken promises from the governments made some of the delegates open their eyes and look for the remedy.

The Montreal boys were almost too hospitable, and among the best things of their hospitality was the trip by trolley to Lachine and down the rapids by boat. The weather being none too warm, after the rapids were passed the delegates proceeded to exercise themselves by elevating the conspicuous individuals on the boat. They were no respecter of persons, because from the chairman of Montreal's Reception Committee and Fraternal Delegate Richards on down the list all those who had a word to say got their "bumps."

Besides this trip, the delegates were treated to a splendid theatre party, at which several presentations were made, in the shape of a gold-headed cane to "Infernal" Delegate Richards and a "piney" to Mr. John F. Tobin, general president of the Boot and Shoe Workers' International Union.

Fraternal Delegate Richards made himself quite solid with the boys, and out of the generosity of their hearts they actually tore him away from the Montreal girls, otherwise he would likely have settled down peacefully with the "widow," and the United States would have known him no more.

A thoroughly good time was given the delegates when not in session, and toward the end of the week complaints were heard of that tired feeling.

The Reception Committee of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council were certainly assiduous in their attentions to the wants of the delegates, while a number of others took it upon themselves to pilot little parties about the "vital spots" and "lonesome places," like the mountain and cemetery.

Some of the principal resolutions introduced at the Congress were:

One asking that saloons close on Labor Day in Quebec.

Asking the Quebec Government to pay the same rate of wages to laborers as paid in Montreal.

Asking for a law to compel the taking off of old and dirty before putting new paper on the walls.

Favoring the placing of labor candidates in every constituency.

The following one, styled the Socialist resolution: "Whereas the working class are underpaid as producers, and overcharged as consumers, be it resolved that this Congress place itself on record as being of the opinion that the only way for the working class to obtain the full benefit of their labor is the substitution of the co-operative for the competitive system of industry by the common ownership by the people of the means of production and distribution," which was voted down by 61 to 17 votes.

Resolutions were passed favoring the common ownership of the means of distribution and communication.

The Congress raised the per capita tax 20 per cent.

The Manufacturers expressed a willingness, in a letter, to meet with a committee from the Congress, but, whether intentionally or not, failed to appoint a committee to carry out their expressed intentions. Upon the Congress Committee asking for a date to meet them they received a reply that Mr. Younge, the secretary, would meet them at any place, Toronto preferred.

The President's address was commended by the committee to which it was referred, and they at the same time brought in a recommendation that Congress strongly condemn the man elected on the labor ticket who joins hands with either of the parties in the house.

The same committee refused to concur in the British Columbia Executive's report, which practically recommended joining hands or fusing when it was impossible to elect a straight labor man.

The election of officers resulted, after a keen contest, as follows:

Alphonse Verville, Montreal, president; J. Simpson, Toronto, vice-president; P. M. Draper, Ottawa, re-elected, secretary-treasurer.

The following were chosen as a board of executive of provinces:

Ontario—Samuel J. Landers, Hamilton, vice-president, and E. W. A. Odell, Hamilton, J. Wilson, Toronto, and Mr. Lambert, Stratford.

Manitoba—Harry Albert, Winnipeg, vice-president, and A. W. Puttee, M.P., R. Western and J. Bye, all of Winnipeg.

New Brunswick—E. J. Neeve, St. John, vice-president, and H. Goldsworthy, M. J. Kelly and Charles McChristall, all of St. John.

Quebec—G. Levesque, of Quebec, vice-president, A. Mitchell, T. Fisher, E. Berthiaume, all of Montreal.

Fraternal Delegate to the American Federation of Labor, John A. Flett, of Hamilton. The officers for Nova Scotia, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories will be appointed by the incoming Executive Committee.

The yeas and nays were recorded upon the celebrated caucus resolution, which will be recorded in the proceedings, and possibly call forth numerous explanations to the constituents of the delegates.

The Congress decided against sending a man to England, upon the score of not sufficient funds and that one would be of very little value in covering the field.

Guelph, Windsor, St. John and Toronto competed for the next Congress, which went to Toronto very easily.

"Auld Lang Syne" wound up one of the most successful Congresses.

◆ ◆

NOTES.

The debate over Secretary's trip to Boston was spirited, and found the "king-pin" quite capable of taking care of himself.

◆ ◆

The secretary was wrong in principle but right in results, which will always cover a multitude of sins in the eyes of most men.

◆ ◆

The fight would have been much more furious had President Flett been there.

◆ ◆

"Dickey's" widow is no doubt lonesome without the usual daily visits from the boys.

◆ ◆

Fraternal Delegate Richards stopped over a day in Toronto to see the sights, and assured the boys he would be over again next year. He also paid a visit to Hamilton, and was entertained by the Hamilton delegates for a day.

◆ ◆

Richards is a Stars and Stripes boy and a Roosevelt man. So strong is he on the President that he marred an otherwise good address by commending him.

◆ ◆

After being aristocrats for a week the boys have all settled down to business once more.

◆ ◆

Montreal is altogether too lax in the enforcement of its laws. Freedom is a grand thing, but "license" is what they have in that city.

◆ ◆

The boys were not enamored of the narrow streets and sidewalks, and still think Toronto has considerably the best of it as a place for the workingman to live.

◆ ◆

Slot machines abound in Montreal and there are saloons without number.

◆ ◆

Montreal's street cars need the experienced hand of the painter to operate on them.

The dental students should have the strongest pull when it comes to making the 'Varsity crew.

◆ ◆

A wise man doesn't argue with a woman because he expects it to do any good, but because it affords her pleasure.

◆ ◆

The man who is satisfied with himself doesn't want much.

◆ ◆

She—Who rocks the cradle rules the world—remember that.

He—Then—ah—you came in and rule the world. I'm tired.

◆ ◆

A shoemaker had this card in his window: "Any respectable man, woman or child can have a fit in this shop."

POST CONFESSES LOSS OF MONEY

Maker of Post Mortem Cereal and Grave Nuts Writes a Plaintive Letter to the Papers

Comes this wail across the State from the city whose feet are washed by the raging Battle Creek and to whom the same mad stream has given its blood name. It is the wail of Orlando Bombastes Furioso Post, famed in the columns of the press, at so much per inch as the man who bamboozled the gullible public out of millions of dollars by selling them Post Mortum Cereal and Grape Nuts.

"We have lost some money," he shrieks. To a man who loves money so much that his infatuation makes him down those not in the money-owning class, and one whose reason is already unsettled by his frenzied hatred of all who refuse to submit themselves to the absolute mastery of the possessors of wealth, the loss must be a terrible blow and at once the listener who catches his doleful plaint looks out beyond Battle Creek, a few miles to the westward, and sees looming up with grim significance the Michigan Asylum for the Insane at Kalamazoo.

Furioso Post's tale of woe is found in a letter which he has sent to every daily newspaper in the United States in the hope that they would sympathize with him because he had burned his fingers badly by waging war on labor organizations.

Not long ago he sent to all the dailies a much longer letter, in which he gave expression to the vilest charges against unions. He had been such a good advertiser that he thought they would publish his screed free of charge. He was badly fooled. One and all telegraphed him that they would run the letter at the usual advertising contract rates. Most of them would have run it without asking a cent, but they knew they could pull Post's leg, and every one of them gave it a good hard yank. This accounts in some measure for the money loss that is making him grieve so much at present.

The latest letter is sent in such a way that "there's nothing in it" for the daily papers, consequently not one of them has printed a line of it. As long as Post continues to be a "mark" he will have to pay for what he gets.

The letter in full is as follows:

Battle Creek, Mich., Sept. 3, 1904.

"Gentlemen,—When the day comes that you cannot live up to all the complicated rules and demands of some labor union, and the union notifies advertisers, under penalty of boycott, to withdraw their patronage and assist in your ruin, it will present an opportunity to consider the value of patrons that have backbone and principle enough, in the time of need, to stand by the publisher.

"During the past three years we have positively and flatly refused to desert certain newspapers that served us faithfully, notwithstanding the demand of labor unions that we help 'put them out of business.'

"Then came the boycott and all sorts of abuse, not from our employes, but from anarchists calling themselves 'union men,' seeking to force us to help carry out their cowardly and unlawful plans.

"We have lost some money.

"It is easier for some people to give up money than the principle of right, so probably we are not entitled to any particular credit.

"There's a big question here that may be pushed in the face of any publisher, for his own solution on a moment's notice.

"The interest of publishers, their patrons and all common people seems to demand continual editorial treatment to educate the public on 'boycotting.'

"You are at liberty to quote us or not, your pleasure.

"Yours truly,

"POST (MORT)UM CEREAL CO., Ltd."

Apparently, according to his own dolorous testimony, the public has already been pretty well educated on boycotting.

NOTES AND NOTELETS.

The papers report, there is great distress in Britain. The story is old one, and the public need a great awakening before anything like adequate remedies will be adopted. The distress is not among those who are perpetually idle, but it is among those who do the hardest of hard work when they get a chance. No, the men who do nothing to add to the wealth are still overwhelmed with excessive affluence, and those who do everything to produce the wealth find a small share for themselves.

Under the name of civilization and Christianity, we have still a tremendous amount of refined barbarity. From a list published some years ago we call a few names with their incomes. The Duke of Beaufort, K.G., P.C., Lord Lieut. Monmouth, etc., etc., acres 51,082, rental $280,000. Then comes the Duke of Cleveland with sundry other titles and offices. His estate was made enormously valuable by the railroads. It has an acreage of 104,194, about one-fifth of the size of the County of York, and brings him a rental of nearly half a million dollars yearly. The Duke of Devonshire manages to get along with an estate of nearly 200,000 acres with a rental close on to a million dollars yearly. Thus the list could be extended, showing a condition in which a few men have such despotic control of that country that no matter how much the people may produce, no matter how much they may increase the productive power of their machinery, these favored ones can take the whole of the wealth for themselves, except the few potatoes and salt necessary to keep together the body and the soul of the laborer.

These men are refined; in many cases they are good and sympathetic, who wish well for their countrymen; but their eyes have been blinded by their condition of injustice. Their education at the most renowned universities has done nothing to give them correct ideas of justice, nor does the whole of the preaching which they have listened to all their lives give them the slightest assistance in this respect. They despoil their fellows without so much as a question as to its injustice, and the emoluments which they receive for their gifts to the various church enterprises only confirms them in their ignorance. If at college they were guilty of a false quantity, if they put two p's in the word ship, if they could not speak some of the foreign languages fluently, then they would be regarded as ignorant; but they can take millions of acres from the common people, they can subject their fellows to exacting tribute, and not give the first thought as to the iniquity of this course. A great deal that is called education is nothing but a refined ignorance, and in many cases it may be worse than ignorance, when men are trained to believe that the false is the true. If the light that is in this be darkness, how great is that darkness!

It is very gratifying to see the cordiality with which the Manufacturers' Association received the letter from the Trades and Labor Council and at once arranged for a conference between delegates from both organizations. It is to be hoped that great good will come from this method of comparing the wants and claims of each party. It is, however, too much to expect that the manufacturers will be ready to make any concessions of the favors and privileges which they enjoy at the present time. The employers are great sticklers for freedom for themselves. They insist in their right to employ labor wherever they can get it to suit themselves, but they have done their utmost for many years to prevent the workers enjoying the same degree of freedom in the purchase of their goods wherever they can get them at the cheapest rate. It is marvellous how the employers can be so blind or so unjust as to insist that the law shall give them the utmost freedom to buy their labor wherever they can get it the cheapest; but for the workmen to enjoy the same right they regard as out of the question. The employers insist in protection for themselves, and competition for the workers.

Many of the leading papers in the States are trying to boom the good times which they predict will continue for many years to come. They have the queerest idea of what consitutes good times. So long as the banks do not break, so long as Wall Street is all right, so long as the various wealthy combinations can pay big dividends, so long as the rich man fares sumptuously every day and is clothed in fine linen, just so long do they preach good times. They are blind as bodkins as to the poverty of Lazarus at the gate. To any city they can find hardship in the so-called best of times, but to this perpetual calamity of poverty, the slum, the sweat shop, the hovels of the toilers, the existence of the tramp, all these count for nothing in their judgment. When thousands are seeking charity to save their children from starvation, these writers can see the costly banquet, with its overwhelming luxuries, and, of course, here is no sign of anything but prosperity. We can always find prosperity if we seek for it; but the man of truth will not ignore the horrors of that life which begins in the bitter fight for a bite to eat, and never escapes from the struggle till it ends in the grave.

What are the signs whereby these parties insure a continuance of prosperity? The vast increase in the internal trade of the country, the extension of the railroads, the vast increase in the clearing house returns. According to these oracles, these are the outward and visible signs of our growing prosperity. Now, you fellow of the hod and the pick, just read these figures running up into the hundreds of millions, and cease your growling. Don't you see the prosperity? Are not these figures big enough, or shall we make them greater? Haven't you seen the locomotives grow and grow till moguls can draw ten fold what the little engines used to draw? Why don't you rejoice at the vast increase in the goods exchanged?

These hearsts of prosperity forget only one thing. They are silent as oysters as to the growing obligation of industry to idleness. As fast as industry, aided with inventive genius, can increase the output of the factory or the farm, just so fast can the landowner increase his charge for the occupation of the land or for access to the other natural bounties. As production has increased with leaps and bounds, so much more has been claimed by the owners of the lands, the forests and the mines, that labor is always kept close to poverty. Where a man could at one time procure an acre of land with a week's work in New York, to-day he would have to give the labor of twenty thousand years to purchase the same acre. So rapid and to such an extent has the power of the landowner grown. Prosperity has come as a flood, and inventive genius is increasing that prosperity every day; but so long as one part of humanity can say to the rest, "This earth is ours, and you must pay us for the occupation thereof," so long is that prosperity but the agony of Tantalus. This mythical hero had water to the lips, but whenever he tried to drink, the water receded, so that he was famishing in the midst of plenty.

The man who insists on calling a spade a spade is not usually the subject of his own conversation.

◆ ◆

Many a man has gone to the bad through his efforts to become a good fellow.

◆ ◆

Mr. Quarles—Well, I see old Goldman is dead, and leaves upward of three millions. Wouldn't you like to be his widow?

◆ ◆

Mrs. Quarrels (sweetly)—No, dear; nothing could possibly delight me more than just to be yours.

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K. J. DUNSTAN,
Local Manager.
Toronto, Sept. 15th, 1904.

A man is sometimes his own worst enemy, but he is more likely to be his own best friend.

◆ ◆

The Doctor—You have a bad cold, Mr. Jiggs. I'll give you some pills for it.

Jiggs—Oh, never mind, doctor. You can have it for nothing.