

In The World Of Labor

A Budget of News
For Those Inter-
ested in Labor

By G. A. M.

Gleaned From the
Exchanges and
Other Sources

For Free School Books

London Trades and Labor Council Is
Back of the Project.

Will Be An Issue in the Approaching
Municipal Elections.

The London Trades and Labor Council deserves credit for the manner in which it is advocating the policy of free school books in that city for the scholars in the Public and Separate schools of the city. This is no new innovation of that local central-labor body, which was advocating the same policy thirty years ago, and apparently has been the only local institution that has taken systematic steps to push it to the front.

It seems strange that in an educational centre of the importance of London and Brantford, the School Board has been content to remain indifferent to so manifestly important a system as prevails at the present time in the Public and Separate schools.

Free text books have long been supplied to the scholars in most of the advanced educational centres in America, and the number in line is increasing steadily. Wherever the innovation has been tried it has proved to be a success, and once in operation it has invariably become a fixture, and after a fair trial the results have been such as to convert its former avowed opponents into warm supporters.

The London Trades and Labor Council feels assured it has a large measure of public sentiment behind it, and union men will be urged in particular to find out how the aspirants for places on the Board of Education stand on the question. This same piece of advice should be followed up by the Brantford Trades and Labor Council, and now that we are going to have an entirely new Board of Education in control of our school affairs, it would not be out of the way to find out how those who aspire to a place thereon, feel in regard to this matter. Some of the present school trustees favor the proposition of free school books, while there are known to be obstinately opposed to any departure from the old and threadbare policy of simply standing still and marking time.

There is no question whatever that

free school books for the scholars is a sound proposition, and one that should be adopted by a progressive Board of Education. Brantford should get up to date and in line with other progressive centres that have adopted up-to-date methods in their educational institutions.

The trouble, as far as Brantford is concerned in the past, has been that the question has not been given the measure of publicity that its importance warrants. The public has not had the case presented as fully as it should have been. Given due publicity there is scarcely any doubt but what it would be overwhelmingly carried if submitted to a vote of the people. The central labor body should continue its good work along these lines and, if possible, also elect two or more candidates of the working class to represent them on this new Board of Education, which is to be voted on in January next. There is no earthly reason why this cannot be done, also there is no reason why working men of good ability and address cannot be found who will properly represent the laboring classes in our city.

Cities Should Set A Good Example

Speaking in Philadelphia, Pa., last week, at a meeting of American Mayors, called for the discussion of municipal problems, Mayor Harrison of Chicago, threw out a few ideas that some of those low-wage brigade in the City Council might study up with advantage to themselves, as it might conduce to give them a fairer and broader conception of the workers from a municipal viewpoint. The chief magistrate of the Windy City apparently is a little in advance of the few cheap ones who throw out their chests in the municipal building and try to hit the minimum wage of 25 cents per hour paid to civic workers, who cannot rent a decent house to live in for less than \$25 per month. Mayor Harrison in addressing his colleagues, averred that "There is no terror for me in the idea that the wages of the American working men are slowly but surely going up; that his hours of labor and working con-

ditions are steadily improving. That would be the ideal country in which there were no multi-millionaire but many well-to-do in which every working man of industry and sobriety received a wage upon which he could live in comfort, educate his children, give his family some of the luxuries of life, and lay by provision for old age, and for the rainy day that seems sure to come in every life. Let the public set the good example of paying the laborer and mechanic an honest wage."—Industrial Banner.

The Battle Line

There lies before us a war picture showing a battle line. Does that reader, call to your mind uniformed men ready for slaughter? If so, then dismiss that picture. For there is more than one kind of battle line. This one we are looking at shows a long line of women. Some are old, some young, many carry babies in their arms, all look serious and struggling. They are the wives of Belgian soldiers, now fighting at the front, and they are lined up waiting to get their weekly allowance. This, according to report, is 65 centimes, or 73 cents.

A number of children are sitting on the curb with their feet in the gutter, waiting, waiting, along with their mothers.

It is the battle line of brave, stricken women, patiently conserving life, while grief and poverty gnaw at their vitals.—EX.

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Small Boy: Why can't I have a ride on a donkey, mother?
Mother (to father): Oh, for goodness' sake, George give him a ride on your back to keep him quiet.

THEY SCORE OCCASIONALLY.
The story runs that a militant suffragist, while speaking in Yorkshire last summer, was interrupted by a farmer, who said: "If thee wor in the proper place, lass, thee'd be up in the field, yonder, helpin' ta mak' hay instead o' bletherin' there."

"Thank you, sir," retorted the fair speaker. "And if you were in your proper place you'd be eating it."

FREELY GIVE
What more dost thou want when thou hast done a man a service? Art thou not content that thou hast done something for the benefit of thy nature, and dost thou seek to be paid for it, just as if the eye demanded a recompense for seeing, or the feet for walking?—Marcus Aurelius.

There can be no liberty which does not accord equality to all mankind. Liberty is the opposite to charity, and justice has nothing to do with philanthropy. Charity justifies. Liberty develops.—The Mediator.

Trades Industrial Toy Association

A Variety of Articles Are Now Being
Turned Out and Are Meeting
With a Ready Sale.

The committee of management of the Trades Industrial Toy Association, Toronto, Ont., expect to commence operations in the new workshop on Monday next. During the past week several woodworking machines have been installed and the staff now at work in St. Andrew's Market Hall will be gradually removed to the new quarters.

The metal toys that have been hitherto produced, have been meeting with a ready sale. The management has been handicapped by the fact that the men have had to work in the cold, the spacious hall, which has not been heated, has been far from comfortable or favorable for the conducting of operations.

This will now be remedied, as the workshop at 1015 Eastern Ave., was specially designed and built as a machine shop, and now that the new motor and machines have been installed, all that is necessary is to turn on the electric current. The shop is also well lighted and can be easily and economically heated.

During the coming week the management will turn out its new game board, upon which fourteen popular

games can be played, and it is expected to at once win its way into popular favor and be a fast seller.

Other novelties will also be turned out during the coming week, of which fuller particulars will be given in the next issue of The Banner.

Union men when buying their Christmas toys should certainly bestow at least a portion of their patronage on the factory that is seeking to create work for the unemployed.

MEMBERSHIP OF
HALF A MILLION.

The recent convention of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, held in Indianapolis, showed that the organization was next to the United Mine Workers, the largest International trades union in America. The Brotherhood has had steady and continuous growth from the date of its first inception, and now every effort is to be put forth to bring the membership up to the half-million mark, when the next convention meets in Fort Worth, Tex., in 1918. President Kirby states that is the objective at which they aim, and there is no reason to doubt but what it will be attained. This is deducted from the fact that during the past year, and despite the industrial depression, the Brotherhood has gone rapidly ahead. With a return of good times an immense impetus would be given to the work of systematic organization.

The Fields Afar

NEGLECTED HOME PRODUCT

We note by a news item in the Mail and Empire of recent date that over fifty applications from London, Ont. and other districts, have already been received for destitute Belgian children, and it is said that fully one hundred of the orphans could be placed in good homes in this vicinity without the slightest difficulty. Apparently these good people are like the late Josh Billings, who, during the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, averred: "I believe in Freedom's cause as far away as Paris is." Looks to us as though there is hardly any necessity for these philanthropic people to have to go all the way to Belgium to secure a little homeless, desolate child. They would have found no trouble in being supplied right here in the province of Ontario, and get a little kiddie that was learning to lip English. While it is a laudable purpose to open one's heart to the little sufferer from across the sea, there are little Canadians among us who might have been administered to long before the present war broke out, or Belgium became desolate, and what is more, a destitute little one in Canada is just as pitiful as in any other country in the world.

The good people who desire to do good need go to no distant fields while the opportunity exists at home. What of Ontario's little ones? While on earth, the Master said: "The poor ye have with you always." Likewise it might be added: "The fatherless little ones." Why should the Canadian product be ignored by Canadians who are so anxious to open their doors to the homeless. Is it a fact that charity should commence some four thousand miles away from the family residence.

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