

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by the Boarders.

"The most gratifying thing in connection with the labor movement," said Brown, "is the determination of organized labor to sever all connection with existing political parties. Workingmen are beginning to realize that whatever reforms are necessary to advance the interests of labor will never be initiated by men who owe their position and power to the influence of capital or else who are capitalists themselves. One by one the States of the Union are falling into line by organizing the People's Party; last month it was the new State of Washington, this month it is Ohio. If the great success of the Farmers' Alliance and industrial organizations in the last election was regarded by professional politicians as a cyclone which raised the roof of the political wigwam, the next election, to judge from the great activity of the People's Party, will prove an earthquake which will destroy it from its foundation stone. The people of the United States are determined to rid themselves of the curse of capitalism, and as the old parties have refused to assist, they have taken the matter in hand themselves."

"And they won't rest," said Gaskill, "until their object is accomplished. Organized labor has gained by the experience of the last few years; formerly it was a common thing to find Unions and Assemblies arrayed against each other in different political camps, but that time is past. No greater proof of this can be had than the following extract from the last number of the Journal of the Knights of Labor. Commenting upon the ticket placed in the field by the People's Party, the Journal says: 'Mr. Frank Rist, of Cincinnati, the choice for Governor, is a printer, an active member of the Typographical Union, and an ardent trades unionist. If in his zeal for what he thought the interests of unionism he has in the past at times been something less than just to the Knights of Labor in Ohio, the latter have now an opportunity to nobly revenge themselves by demonstrating with their ballots that they at any rate can sink all differences and forget old feuds when fighting in the common cause.' Let the name of Frank Rist be upon every ballot cast in Ohio by a Knight of Labor.' This is the right kind of talk and right kind of policy to ensure success to the labor movement. When Socialists, Nationalists, Land and Currency Reformers, Trades Unionists and Knights of Labor, Alliances and Wheel-men stand shoulder to shoulder they will form a combination before which capital and its champions will go down in the dust, never to rise again."

"With every country advancing and every country organizing," said Phil, "the apathy of organized labor in Canada is inexplicable. As far as 'hoeing our own row' is concerned, we are no further ahead now than we were years ago. Instead of organizing and taking what we want by due process of law we content ourselves with petitioning this or that honorable set of thieves without ever getting anything. Instead of electing honest men who would give us just laws we send a lot of shysters to our legislatures and then invoke the aid of our civic courts and spend a lot of hard-earned money in seeking redress from legislative wrongs. We in Canada are most certainly a lot of arrant fools to put up with this kind of humbug. If the leaders of the labor movement in this country are so weak-kneed or have so little confidence in themselves and their cause as to make them afraid to walk alone; if they lack the courage or ability to adopt a radical and independent line of action, it becomes the duty of the rank and file to replace them by better men. The time for apologies and subterfuges is past; this is the time for action. If

plain talk and hard blows are required to stir our leaders to activity, they must and will be given; we cannot afford to drift any longer. The Dominion Trades and Labor Congress convenes in Quebec next month; it numbers among its members some of the ablest reformers of the Dominion; upon their action depends not only the success but the very existence of organized labor in this country. Organized men have become keen observers of the actions of politicians. They have studied the great question of the hour until the labor problem is understood as it never was before. They correctly estimate the character and value of the old political parties; they know that it is in vain to look for justice to either of them; they have been taught this by the experience gained with them through their organizations. They know that if they remain true to principle that they can neither vote for one or the other; they are practically disfranchised, but cling to their organizations in the hope that their leaders by organizing a new party will in the near future give them an opportunity to cast their votes for principles dear to them and in harmony with their convictions. The Congress has twice fought shy of the demand for a new party; surely it cannot be in ignorance of the feeling of the great majority of its constituents. Hundreds of the ablest men in labor's army, believing that under existing conditions their efforts are wasted, have retired from the field and more will surely follow unless a bold and decisive step is taken, and that soon. Just as organized labor of every kind and social reformers of every school rally around the People's Party in every State of the Union, so would the formation of a Labor Party in Canada draw closer the bond of friendship and receive the support of all branches of organized labor. Such a course will again induce your best men to put forth their best energies and cheerfully throw themselves in the thick of the fight knowing that every effort made and every blow struck is for the cause of Labor, pure and unadulterated. Let the Congress rise to the requirements of the times and issue a call for a national convention of labor during the coming winter for the purpose of organizing an Independent Labor Party."

BILL BLADES.

THE PRINTERS' PICNIC.

The Festive Typo Has a Good Time at Otterburn Park.

The printers' picnic on Saturday last under the auspices of Typographical Union No. 176 at Otterburn Park was in every respect an unqualified success. In the forenoon the members of the Union, numbering nearly one hundred, paraded through the principal streets, headed by McKee's brass band, and were the cynosure of admiring crowds of spectators who lined the streets and cheered the typos as they passed. And they certainly deserved all the cheers for they looked well in their "Sunday clothes" and light colored plug hats. Favored with a beautiful day, which just got neatly sandwiched in amongst several days of continuous rain, the time at Otterburn was pleasantly spent. A good programme of games was gone through, all being well contested. In addition to the published programme the committee were enabled, through the kindness of Mr. Harvey, of the Trade Review, to set apart a handsome prize for a boat race. With the exception of a contingent of enthusiastic boating men who missed the return train the whole of the party arrived safely home about eight o'clock well satisfied with their outing. Those who got left reached home in time for church the following morning, one of the party looking as if he had been hurriedly measured for a second-hand suit, but the story of their hair breadth escapes and thrilling adventures may well be left for another occasion.

The following were the winners of the events:—

Putting 16 lb. shot, members in good standing—1, J. Hutchinson; 2, W. J. Murphy; 3, J. Kavanagh.

Putting 16 lb. shot, open—1, J. Storey; 2, A. L. Whitty.

Apprentices' race, under three years at business.—1 E. Smith; 2, R. Taylor; 3, J. Murphy.

440 yards, members in good standing—

1, J. Reddy; 2, J. Hutchinson; 3, J. Murphy.

440 yards, open—1, J. Scott; 2, A. Hinton; 3, J. Turnbull.

50 yards, members' daughters under 12—1, Lily Bradley; 2, Jennie Taylor; 3, Ina Read.

880 yards, members in good standing of any other labor organization—1, R. Anderson; 2, J. Storey; 3, R. Keys.

50 yards, young ladies' race—1, E. McEvoy; 2, M. McEvoy; 3, K. Markum.

100 yards, members in good standing—1, J. McIntyre; 2, J. McGovern; 3, J. Taylor.

440 yards, (members of pressman's union in good standing)—1, J. Cunningham; 2, G. Owens; 3, J. Gourley.

880 yards, open—1, R. H. Chapman; 2, C. Mignault; 3, E. Mignault.

50 yards, (wives of members in good standing of No. 176)—1, Mrs. Fred Jackson; 2, Mrs. James Drury; 3, Mrs. Glennon.

100 yards, (members' sons under 16)—1, —; 2, E. Smith; 3, W. Alty.

440 yards, (apprentices over three years at the business)—1, A. Read; 2, H. Arthur; 3, J. Donovan.

440 yards, (open to members of competing lacrosse teams)—1, A. Hinton; 1, N. C. Jenkins; 3, C. O'Neill.

880 yards, (members in good standing)—1, —; 2, J. Reddy; 3, J. Taylor.

220 yards, (open to morning printers in good standing)—1, J. Donovan; 2, T. J. Finn, jr.; 3, J. Gallagher.

Committee race, (100 yards)—1, J. McIntyre; 2, J. McGovern; 3, J. Wilson.

Boat race—1, A. Eccles; 2, Isaac Glennon.

CARD OF THANKS.

The Committee beg to return thanks to the following for contributions towards the prize list:—

Hugh Graham, Esq., John Lovell & Son, Gazette Printing Co., The Shareholder, The Inland Printer Co., Chicago, McQueen & Corneil, D. English & Co., Bentley & Co., H. A. Madley & Co., W. H. Eaton, Beckett Bros., Geo. Bishop & Son, Sabbiston Litho. Co., Southam & Carey, City Printing Co., The True Witness, Henry Owen, Compositors Star Office, Gazette Newsroom Chapel, Dominion Type Founding Co., Baylis Manufacturing Co., Pigeon & Bureau, A. Buntin & Co., Canada Paper Co., Edward Rawlings, Esq., Henry Hogan, Esq., C. J. Doherty, Esq., Q.C., Col. Hughes, Chief of Police; Brinson & Skinner, Craig street; E. A. Gerth, J. Palmer & Son, W. Rourke, M. Scanlon, J. Meek, C. Houghton, W. Richmond, Mr. Lahaize, W. Coleman, W. Hunt, Mr. Bode, H. Gilchen, Lorge & Co., M. Drouin, Workman Bros., John Allan, B. D. Johnson & Son, A. Brazeau, S. Davis & Sons, G. B. Duncan, R. D. McGibbon, Esq., Q. C., Benning & Barsalou, Major D. Seath, Col. T. P. Butler, Jos. Riendeau, La Presse, Le Monde, H. Harvey (Trade Review); Walter M. Kearns, A. Carmel, Col. Heushaw, John Wilson, J. D. Rolland & fils, M. Kenny, The Keystone Restaurant, Joe Pont, E. A. Gerth, etc.

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