

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by the Boarders.

"Who the devil is the Citizens' Committee, anyway?" said Phil. "Can the religious Witness or that other capitalistic rag, the Montreal Daily Star, inform us who these tremendous persons are who presume to dictate to the people of Montreal just how the city shall be run and whom they will allow to run it? The reason for which I mention these two papers is that both of them have consistently supported this gang, whoever they may be, in everything they have yet undertaken, and it is but natural to suppose that they know who they are. Considering that hereafter they propose to run not only the city but also the Legislature, it is but right that we also should know who they are. In reporting the proceedings of the Private Bills Committee on the amendments to the city charter, the capitalistic press was careful not to mention the names of those who were there to oppose the bill and who are responsible for the medieval amendments which have been tacked onto it. This was done, no doubt, to shield them from the consequences which might follow their dastardly attempt to practically disfranchise every tenant in Montreal. We want to know the names of these men; we must know who it is that wishes to create a caste in Canada, so that we may reason with them after our own fashion and convince them that such a thing is impossible. To have two kinds of representatives in the City Council, in the election of which capital shall have two votes for both classes, while labor shall only be allowed to cast one vote for the second class, is a proposition so outrageous and so little in keeping with British fair play and democratic institutions that the desire of the capitalist press to withhold the names of the men responsible for this outrage is easily understood. I have seen men tarred and feathered and made to ride a fence rail for a great deal less than that."

"This is but another attempt on the part of capital to gain complete control of the administration of public affairs," said Brown. "For years we have demanded the abolition of the property qualification for mayor and aldermen, and the demand has been favorably received by all classes of the community. Among the present members of the City Council there are quite a lot who pledged themselves to this reform before their election; as a matter of fact some of them would never have been elected only that they did so. Had these people been true to their promise and dealt with this question in the City Council as they were pledged to do, the Private Bills Committee would never have dared to insert this unjust and pernicious clause, creating class representatives, into the city charter. They, however, proved false in this respect, as they have in everything else, and the consequence is that capital, becoming alarmed at the growth of public opinion in favor of the abolition of property qualification, has boldly taken the bull by the horns and now demands that the qualification be increased. It is a clever move, but it will never succeed. Even if the average man takes but little or no interest in municipal elections he will never submit to have his rights as a citizen abrogated. This is really what the clause governing representation means, if it means anything at all; for if the tenant is allowed to vote for but one out of two aldermen, while the capitalist is free to vote for both, then the tenant has only half a vote, and to this extent he loses his right as a citizen. Now, I don't believe that he will submit to it; to even expect that he would is an insult to his manhood and to his intelligence which he will promptly resent."

"Now is the time to definitely settle this question of property qualification for all time to come," said Gaskil. "Let the tenants of Montreal, irrespective of nationality or occupation, irrespective of politics or religion, be unanimous and firm in their demand for the total abolition of property qualification for municipal office, and neither the City Council or yet the Provincial Government will dare to refuse their request. This latest attempt of the landlords of Montreal to gag and bind their tenants ought surely to be sufficient to rouse the most apathetic amongst them; if there is any fight in them now is the time to show it. And while they are about it let them demand that the whole Council be elected annually. It is a notorious fact that the affairs of the city have been wretchedly mismanaged; that they have been conducted more with a view of benefitting favorite contractors or aldermanic friends than of benefitting the people, and I hold that the long term to which our aldermen are elected offers them the one thing needful to carry on their questionable game with almost absolute security. Shorten their term of office to one year and compel them to come back to their constituents while the misdeeds they may have committed are fresh in the memory of the people, and you will secure an honest and efficient administration. And right here another question arises: Why should the great and wealthiest city in the Dominion go to a two-penny ha'penny provincial legislature every time it becomes necessary to change one or more of its by-laws? Surely the city of Montreal is quite competent to take care of itself, and if it is not, the legislative body which, by the mismanagement of public affairs during the last ten years has brought the province to the verge of bankruptcy, is hardly the place to which we would go for guidance. In point of honesty and ability the members of the City Council—bad and all as they are—will at least compare favorably with any who sit in the Legislative Assembly at Quebec. It is time that this city asserted its right to have its business conducted by the men whom the people elected for that purpose, whether they be good or bad, and not by a legislative body which is not responsible to the citizens of Montreal for its actions. Let the legislature mind its own legitimate business and Montreal will mind hers."

BILL BLADES.

THE TRADES COUNCIL.

Lively Meeting Over Labor Day Celebration, Amendments to the City Charter, etc.

A special meeting of the Central Trades and Labor Council, called by the President, was held on Tuesday evening last, at which there was a full attendance of delegates and at times the proceedings were very lively, especially when the proposed amendments to the City charter were under discussion.

After the call of the meeting had been endorsed, credentials were read and accepted from the following: E. Beauchamp, representing Hope Assembly; A. P. Fraser, A. Goulet, A. Deguire, Painters' Union No. 74; A. Friedlander, Geo. Weir and J. McGrath, Cigar-makers' Union No. 226; E. Emard, Montcalm Assembly; J. A. Yates, B. P. Luckey and B. J. Jeter, Railway Porters' Union; M. A. Breton, Co-operative Assembly.

On a question of privilege the consideration of amendments to the City charter was made the first order of business.

A long discussion followed participated in by Messrs. Rodier, Lafontaine, Darlington, R. Keys, J. Brennan and others, and, as might be expected, the whole of the speakers vigorously denounced the proposal to deprive the tenants of this city of their votes for aldermen. Resolutions offered by Messrs. Rodier and Lafontaine were carried over an amendment proposed by Mr. W. Darlington to the effect that the Council offer no objection to the proposed amendments provided that the property qualification be abolished for aldermen elected by tenants and proprietors jointly. The following are the resolutions:—

It is not without surprise that this council has learned that in the amendments to the

charter of the city of Montreal one clause is included which proposes to deprive a part of their electoral rights the tenants of this city; notwithstanding that it is a recognized fact that not only have the tenants never attempted to do anything against the interest of the landlords, but on the contrary, inasmuch as the workmen tenants are concerned, they have done all that was in their power to enlighten public opinion with regard to the financial irregularities perpetrated by our aldermen.

That in 1886 the Central Trades and Labor Council, represented at Quebec by their legal adviser, Mr. F. Barnard, Q. C., prevented the illegal loan of \$500,000, power to negotiate which was asked of the Legislature by the City Council.

That in 1887 Mr. E. Barnard, under instruction from this council, had inserted at Quebec in the amendments to the charter a clause, which assured the legal employment of the same loan, a clause which has never been respected by the Finance Committee.

That in the same year, 1887, the Central Trades and Labor Council instituted an action against the aldermen to prevent the expenditure of \$92,000 in excess of the legal appropriations made by the council.

That all these battles against the encroachments of the City Council and to protect the general interests of the city have been fought by the workmen at their own cost and without any aid from the proprietors whatever.

That the Central Trades and Labor Council—far from combatting the proprietors and their interests—have, on several occasions, addressed to several institutions composed of proprietors and employers letters offering their utmost aid to procure a change of the composition of the City Council; that proof to that effect may be found in the archives of the Board of Trade and other bodies.

That in consequence the Real Estate Owners' association, representing a class of proprietors who never tried to protect themselves or spend a cent to protect the general interests of the city, are out of place in demanding changes of the charter which would have the effect of encroaching on the rights of tenants, the only people, inasmuch as the workmen are concerned, who have proved their disinterestedness in civic affairs by making sacrifices of their time and money to put an end to the disastrous regime of the administration of aldermen belonging to that class of proprietors.

Therefore, be it resolved that this council, being conscious of having done its duty to protect the interest of all classes of citizens of Montreal, protest energetically in the name of all labor associations against the attempt made to restrict the tenants' franchise by a body of citizens who have never done anything for the public good of the city.

And that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the government at Quebec and to the newspapers of Montreal.

The next question under discussion was the report of the Labor Day Committee, which contained the terms offered by the Exposition Company to have the celebration take place during exhibition week. Another long discussion took place, various motions and amendments being offered. Ultimately, by a majority of two to one the meeting declared in favor of holding the celebration on the day set apart by labor throughout the Continent of America—the first Monday in September.

The Organization Committee reported recommending that arrangements be made for holding a convention of all the trades in regard to shortening the hours of labor.

An amendment to this proposed by P. J. Ryan, seconded by A. Friedlander, "That the Organization Committee be instructed to immediately commence the special work of strengthening organizations already in existence, and organizing unskilled labor, the whole with a view to shortening the hours of labor."

The amendment was carried, after which the meeting adjourned.

COMING EVENTS.

The Picnic Committee of Montreal Typographical Union took the hint given them in last week's issue, and held a meeting Saturday evening, at which Mr. W. O. Kydd was elected chairman and Mr. J. S. McGovern, secretary. The Printers' picnic has become a regular thing, and is always looked forward to by the types and their friends with pleasure. This picnic is sure to be as enjoyable as the last, and that is saying a good deal. It will be held on the 23rd July. So make your dates accordingly.

Don't forget the Brassworkers' Excursion to Cushing's grove to-day. There are two boats, at 8.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. The trip is a delightful one, and you are sure to get more than the worth of your money at the games.

The Labor Day Committee will meet at 127½ St. Lawrence street, Tuesday evening, the 21st inst., at 8 o'clock.

In connection with a proposal to form a Domestic Servants' Union at West Hartlepool, a novel demonstration took place recently in that town. A large number of young women attired in neat servants' costumes walked in procession through the streets carrying clothes-props, flat-irons, slop-pails, dust-pans, scrubbing-brushes, etc. The procession created much amusement, and was accompanied by large crowds of people. The demands of the young women are for shorter hours and a weekly half-holiday.

The Queen of Portugal was a saleswoman at a bazaar held in Lisbon, in aid of the unemployed, which realized £5,000.

JOHN MURPHY & CO.'S ADVERTISEMENT.

The Heavens on Fire

Hot! Rather! One might almost believe that the ancient Greek myth had been realized in these modern days—that Apollo the sun-god had again entrusted the reins of his sun-wheels to the reckless hands of his son Phaeton, and that the youth had, as aforesaid, set the heavens on fire. But, alas! these be prosaic times, and instead of a sun-god we have now a weather clerk and meteorology! Matter of fact and materialism have superseded fancy and imagination! Olympus has given place to the factory, and the Vale of Tempe to the Dry Goods store. Well, the latter is common-place enough, in all conscience, but it certainly offers alleviations to poor weltering, perspiring humanity cheaper and far more effectual than anything afforded under the ægis of the old gods and goddesses. We commend some of the undernoted lines to the attention of ladies who have suffered from the oppressive effects of the late "scorchers."

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NOTICE TO QUARRYMEN.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Building Stone," will be received until Thursday, the 30th June, next, for Quarrying and Delivering Rubble and Dimension Stone from the Penitentiary Quarry, St. Vincent de Paul, for the term of one year.

Specification, form of tender, and all necessary information can be obtained at this Department on and after Monday, 6th June.

Persons tendering are notified that tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed forms supplied, and signed with their actual signatures.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted bank cheque, made payable to the order of the Honorable the Minister of Public Works, equal to five per cent. of the amount of the tender, which will be forfeited if the party declines to enter into a contract when called on to do so, or if he fails to complete the work contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned.

The Department will not be bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,
E. F. E. ROY,
Secretary.

Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, 31st May, 1892.



SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Supplying Coal for the Public Buildings, Ottawa," will be received at this office until Thursday, 30th of June, at noon.

Specifications can be seen, and forms of Tender obtained, on and after Friday, 3rd June, at this office, where all necessary information can be had on application; also at the offices of James Nelson, Architect, Montreal, and Denison & King, Architects, Toronto.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted bank cheque for the sum of \$500, made payable to the order of the Honorable the Minister of Public Works, which will be forfeited if the party declines to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or if he fails to complete the work contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned.

The Department will not be bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,
E. F. E. ROY,
Secretary.

Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, 31st May, 1892.

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