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MEETINGS.

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Meets in the Ville-Marie Hall, 1623 Notre Dame street, the first and third Thursdays of the month. Communications to be addressed to O. FONTAINE, Corresponding Secretary, 391 Amherst street.

RIVER FRONT ASSEMBLY,

No. 7628.
Rooms K. of L. Hall, Chabolliez square. Next meeting Sunday, March 5, at 2.30. Address all correspondence to J. WARREN, Rec. Sec., 29 Basia Street.

DOMINION ASSEMBLY,

No. 2436 K. of L.
Meets every FRIDAY evening at Eight o'clock in the K. of L. Hall, Chabolliez square. Address all communications to H. J. BRINDLE, R.S., No. 11 St. Monique street.

PROGRESS ASSEMBLY,

No. 3852, K. of L.
Meets every First and Third Tuesday at Lomas' Hall, Point St. Charles.

BLACK DIAMOND ASSEMBLY

1711, K. of L.
Meets next Sunday, in the K. of L. Hall, Chabolliez square, at 2 o'clock.
Address all communications to WM. ROBERTSON, 7 Archambault street.

LEGAL CARDS.

Hon. J. A. Chapleau, Q.C., M.P.P., Armand D. Nicolls.
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TORONTO NOTES.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

TORONTO, March 2nd, 1892.

The 24th annual report of the Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities upon the common gaols, prisons and reformatories in the Province of Ontario for the year ending 30th September, 1891, has been recently placed before the Provincial Legislature now in session. Through the courtesy of Hon. C. F. Fraser, Commissioner of Public Works, I am in possession of a copy. For self-evident reasons, the following data extracted from it will be of interest and sometimes of much service to the interested in the many phases of the labor movement in Canada. Dr. F. F. Chamberlain, Inspector, in his letter of transmission to the Lieut.-Governor, while speaking of gaols, takes occasion to say that the vagrant and tramp class, when physically able, are compelled to break stones during the term of their imprisonment, and a very salutary effect has been produced in reducing the number who, during the winter months of previous years, were wont to seek the seclusion that our common gaols afford. They are finding by experience that the same amount of labor outside the gaol walls will give not only freedom but a much better dietary.

"I am pleased to be able to report that during the past year there has been a large decrease in crime throughout the Province, the number of commitments having been 1,387 less than the previous year, or a decrease of 11.75 per cent. In no year since 1883 have the commitments been so low.

"The number of adult males committed during the past year was 1,153 less than 1890, and the number of adult females 166 less. The number of boys under 16 years was 40 less. The number of girls under 16 years of age was 18 less. The total number of commitments for 1891 was 10,423, as compared with 11,810 in 1890. The commitments of adult males in 1891 were 8,469, as compared with 9,622 in 1890. The commitments of adult females for 1891 were 2,501, as compared with 1,677 in 1890. The commitments of boys under 16 years of age for 1891 were 421, as compared with 461 in 1890. The commitments of girls under 16 years of age for 1891 were 32, as compared with 50 in 1890."

"The decrease has not been peculiar to any section, but has been generally distributed over the whole Province. The most noticeable decrease is in Toronto, the number of commitments during the year being 3,371, as against 3,984 in 1890, or 613 less.

"The marked reduction in the number of commitments for drunkenness during the past year of 959 is no doubt due in a great measure to the very stringent statutory regulations in reference to the sale of intoxicating liquors, the efficient supervision of the license inspectors and the growing conviction on the part of the people of the Province that an excessive use of stimulants is both physically and mentally injurious.

"The greatest difficulty, and one which interferes with the proper management of our gaols so far as their legitimate use is concerned (which is the safe-keeping of prisoners committed for trial and their proper classification before and after), is the growing disposition to convert them into poor-houses and receptacles for a class of demoralized individuals whose friends or protectors wish to be no longer disturbed by their presence in their homes.

"It is a disgrace to the people of this Province to allow their aged poor, who have committed no crime against the laws of the land, to be incarcerated within prison walls, clothed in the distinguishing prison garb of criminals. In most cases these people have lived honest and respectable lives, and, perhaps, have reared and educated large families, but from circumstances over which they had no control, have lost children, property and health. It is inhuman, unchristian and unpatriotic, and should be prevented by the most stringent legislation, if not immediately remedied by the authorities of the various counties.

"The Government has made liberal provision by legislation for aiding every county in the Province in establishing a poor-house or industrial home, where the unfortunate class above referred to may find the ease and comfort they need and such employment as they are able to undertake. It under such favorable conditions suitable homes are not provided, I think such compulsory legislation should be enacted as will meet the exigencies of the case.

"With the removal of this class from our gaols, arrangements could then be made at little expense for the carrying out of the most important factor in the prevention of crime, a proper classification of prisoners.

"I may add that there are a few industrial homes in the western part of our Province which are in very efficient working order. I have visited them all during the past year and have been told by the managers, who are generally members of the county councils, that since the establishment of these institutions there has been a feeling of greater satisfaction amongst the municipalities of the respective counties from the knowledge that their old and poor people are being kept respectably and comfortably at no greater cost than under the old system of caring for them."

The total number of commitments in 1891 was 10,423, accounted for as follows: Born in Canada, 5,516; in England, 1,662; in Ireland, 1,796; in Scotland, 504; in the United States, 653, and in other countries, 292. These 10,423 inmates of the gaols cost the Province in 1891, for rations, clothing, fuel, etc., \$58,110.73; for salaries and wages of gaol officials, \$79,741.59, and for repairs, \$2,183.02, or a total of \$150,035.34.

In referring to the Central Prison (Provincial) the Inspector takes occasion to say that "the expenditure for industrial work has been \$60,833.94 and the revenue has been \$64,633.86, which, with the stock on hand at the end of the year shows a balance in favor of Industrial account of \$12,894.78." He also says that "the brick yard industry has not been profitable during the past year. The large staff of officers necessary to carry on this work, owing to the number of prisoners employed outside the prison walls, and the cost of hiring free labor during the season of brick making, together with the low price of brick and the difficulty of making sales, is the explanation of the unsatisfactory result. I would strongly recommend the abandonment of this industry and would advise that the plant and clay be disposed of to the best advantage. By so doing, the very large expenditure in that direction can be made available for some other industry. The expenditure in connection with the brick yard during the year has been \$5,998.60, and the sales have amounted to \$4,732."

Of the total number in custody during the year, 341 were over from the last year, while 674 were committed during 1891, total 1,015 or an average of 345 for the year. The manufacturing expenditure of the institution for the year was \$60,833.91, and the maintenance expenditure, \$65,055.63; while the revenue from the various industries was \$67,274.77. Of the 674 committed during the year 384 were Canadian, 74 Irish, 108 English, 54 United States, 19 Scotch, and 35 of other countries and unknown. I will give your readers some items of interest next week culled from the Annual Report on Public Charities for Ontario.

I forgot to observe in last week's letter that a few days before its date Messrs. G. T. Beales, Chas. March and Geo. W. Dower of the Executive of the Dominion T. & L. Congress, had a lengthy interview with Hon. Attorney-General Mowat and Hon. Messrs. Hardy, Gibson, Ross and Harcourt, in reference to such matters of a Provincial character as were dealt with at the Congress at Quebec and upon which legislation is sought on behalf of workmen. They were very courteously received and their views listened to with marked attention as well as being discussed with freedom. As to the ultimate result time alone will tell. The deputation was accompanied by Mr. David Hastings (late of Toronto but now residing in the city of Hamilton) representing the T. & L. Council of that city whose special mission on this occasion was to ask the Government to enact a law prohibiting municipalities granting bonuses to any firms or lines of business as an inducement to carry on work within their limits.

The Bookbinders' Assembly (5743) K. of L. of this city celebrated their sixth anniversary on the evening of Friday last, by holding a banquet at the Avondale hotel. Some seventy-five gentlemen sat around the amply provided board and after justice had been done "the material man" speeches, songs and recitations were the order of the evening. Mr. R. Glockling, a member of the Assembly (and Secretary of D. A. 125) filled the chair. He was supported on the right by Mr. D. A. Carey, D. M. W., D. A. 125 K. of L., while Mr. T. W. Banton, President of Toronto T. & L. Council, occupied the left flank. This arrangement was but one more evidence of the cordial and harmonious feeling existing between all sections of the labor movement in this city. After the usual preliminary toasts that of "Our Craft" brought Messrs. V. Shaw and R. Snowdon, two of the oldest bookbinders in our city and members of the Assembly to their feet in speeches. The next was "the Toronto T. & L. Council," and it is needless to add that the popular and genial president of that body responded in a well-timed address and during which, while dilating upon the good work being done by that body, he exhorted the bookbinders to persist, as in the past, in assisting that body in its never-flagging efforts in the interest of the working people not alone of Toronto but of the whole Dominion. The toast of "District Assembly 125" called forth an eloquent response by Mr. D. Carey,

D. M. W. The speeches were interspersed with songs and recitations by Bros. J. Whitten, W. Glockling, G. T. Beales, E. Glockling, W. Brooks, Ray Parks, A. Glockling, F. Doaney and others. The toast of "the Chairman" enabled Mr. R. Glockling, in his usual clear and incisive way, to review the history of the bookbinders' organization during the last twenty-three years which had led up to the present very satisfactory condition. In concluding he earnestly exhorted the young men to join their elder fellow-craftsmen in still further improving their trade and pointing out that perfect organization was the surest and only true means to that end. Altogether the company had a most pleasant and enjoyable time—a fact due mainly to the untiring efforts of the committee, composed of Messrs. J. Whitten, F. Doaney, G. Brown, W. Allen and J. Giles.

Messrs. D. A. Carey, A. F. Jury and D. J. O'Donoghue have been duly authorized by District Assembly 125, K. of L., "to watch legislation and speak on its behalf on any occasion during the present session of the Provincial Legislature of Ontario as well as at any and all places where they deem the interests of wage-earners are concerned."

(CONTINUED ON FIFTH PAGE.)

QUEBEC NOTES.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

QUEBEC, March 2nd, 1892.

Nomination day for the Provincial elections is over and no Labor candidate nominated in this city. We were going to have two, but man proposes, and, in this instance, party interest disposes. In the candidature of Quebec West, Ed. Reynolds was the nominee of the Labor party, and he likewise sought the support of the Liberal party, which was, I believe, if current rumor be true, promised him. On the other hand, in the Sauveur Division, D. Marsan would not at first accept the candidature, but at length, after repeated promises from some of the rich and generous-minded Conservatives of the division, he entered the fight. A good deal of work was done, including the opening of committee rooms, canvassing, elaborating electoral lists, speech-making, etc., in fact, all that goes to make up the usual election. He was dubbed by the Conservative press as the Ministerial candidate. His deposit and other necessary legal expenses were to be given him on Monday, the eve of nomination day. And on Monday, when it was too late to obtain the deposit from the Labor bodies or otherwise, he was presented by the above-mentioned generous friends with a document to sign something in this form:

"I, the undersigned, do hereby solemnly promise on my honor to withdraw from the electoral contest in St. Sauveur, and not allow myself to be put in nomination by my friends in that division on Tuesday, March 1st, 1892, for election to the Provincial Legislature of Quebec."

He did not sign this celebrated cheque, but under the circumstances he was forced to retire. He did so, but at the same time informed his opponent, Mr. Parent, the Liberal candidate, of the fact. It would appear from the explanations given by the politicians, if they can be believed (for myself, I don't like to be guilty of believing any foolishness of that kind), that it was deemed expedient to have no election in the West or in St. Sauveur, so that an arrangement had been made whereby for the withdrawal of Marsan by the Conservatives in St. Sauveur, Carbray, the Conservative candidate in Quebec West, would be returned by acclamation by the withdrawal of Ed. Reynolds by the Liberals. Now, it must be borne in mind that Marsan, never having been put forward by the Conservatives, could not be withdrawn by them; but the entire deal shows only too plainly that rather than accept a genuine bona fide Labor candidate, such as both Reynolds and Marsan were, the political parties would unite to deprive Labor of a representative.

There is still going to be some fun over the elections, as both divisions are at the present time contested, and both candidates accuse the other party of having acted in bad faith with the labor population of this city. It is the old cry of the kettle calling the pot black. Now, as knowledge can only be gained by experience, this celebrated deal will, I hope, be treasured up in the memory of our workers as an expose of the feelings of the party politicians towards the toiling masses. It has created enough feeling to make a last-

ing impression, and, as Lincoln once put it "You can't fool the whole people all the time." They have been fooled before and they are being fooled at present again to the top of their bent. Let us hope, for the sake of humanity, that this shall be the last time.

The diphtheria scourge is rampant in the city, and has been semi-epidemic for over a year. We have a Provincial Health Board as well as a municipal one. Both of the Boards combined, if press reports are true are doing their utmost to stamp out the disease. I said it true; now for a sample of their methods of stamping out. A recent case in Scott street, the child of a green-grocer who had contracted the disease. The house was placarded, inside the inner window, close to the corner, where the placard would escape observation unless attention was drawn direct to it. The shutters were kept open, and children went in and out buying sugarsticks, &c. The owner, however, had prudently removed his other child—quite a philanthropic minded man. What he did not want himself he had hesitation in allowing others to share. The attention of the Health Board had to be drawn to the case more than once before the house was placarded on the outside.

Another source of annoyance, carefully attended to by the myrmidons of the board, is the fumigation of houses which have been infected; they call it the disinfecting process. It consists in burning sulphur in the lower portion of said houses, the material is supplied by contract, and the more used the higher the bill the owner will have to pay, materials are not spared the inevitable result is that every one is sick from the fumes of sulphur and the clothing small probably like what Each Mimos or Khamadanties would if a snif were obtained. It has probably never entered the minds of the Health Board that the disease is preventable if due precautions are taken. There can be no doubt that a large number of the cases (if not all) have occurred all over the city are directly attributable to defective drainage and plumbing work. This is a sweeping assertion to make. Still there are very few plumbers in Quebec, although quite a large number who call themselves plumbers. It is not at all uncommon to read on a sign the following: Tinsmith, Roofer, Plum, Steam and Gasfitter. Bellhanging is sometimes thrown in, and in these shops it will probably be employed one journey and one or two apprentices. The journey man's trade is a matter of doubt, so we dub him as a Knight of the soldering. I don't want your readers to imagine there is an opening in the city of Quebec for some good plumbers, practically and reticently masters of their trade. Not a few of us have a few of them, very few, they are being gradually starved by competition from the other side.

What is required is a thorough competent practical plumber, who shall be named by the city as Plumbing Inspector whose duty should be to inspect all plum and drainage in every building, both public and private, and who should do this duty without fear or favor. This is done, diphtheria will be stamped out before. So long as we continue to render the germ of this disease by all sewer gas to roam at pleasure through houses, just so long will we have to expect placarding, fumigation and all their attendant discomforts, irrespective of the health of those nearest and dearest to us. Of course, our aristocratic and exclusive neighbors, whose domiciles are fitted up to the hilt, will have to stand their ground as the disease is contagious, and although may not be contracted by them through defective plumbing, it may be by a much more expeditious manner. I do not to be unnecessary severe upon our rulers, for I am quite willing to admit any project that calls for the appointment of an inspector is received with suspicion more so since the adoption of the Facts of 1885, seven years ago, and since that time there has not been one single prosecution under this act in the city of Quebec. It may be, and no doubt are, a very law-abiding people, yet there can be no doubt that during the period mentioned, from until '92, we have had the explosion of boilers in the worst factory and another where a factory owner walked in unprotected well of an elevator, resulting in injuries that nearly proved fatal. I repudiate any desire to attach to the inspectors. The boilers of the affected factory had no business to be there if they had done their duty as they would not have done so, even although were unable to bear the pressure to they were subjected. Equally so other case of the man alluded to only had had his eyes open he would have fallen down the trap. So too Health Boards, people have no business to catch diphtheria and thereby incur death-rate, besides giving the city a name.

There is a good joke going the rounds here now at the expense of one of the wholesale fish merchants, who is called upon the care of one of our churches regarding the fasting, a lack thereof, during Lent this year. Hearing that the decree was about to be issued, the merchant declared the fish business was a very good business, if he were to have issued a manifesto of that nature, more especially as the wholesale merchant had their stores full of fish which now is a dead loss.