

all to whom slavery is abhorrent, whether the tyranny be exercised by a slave owner, or a union, regard the proceedings of the leaders of the miners' strike with indignation and look on their mendacious misrepresentations with disgust.

The men on strike have been allowed less per week by the Union than one-half the amount of their ordinary wages; which shows what Mr. Mitchell and the other strike leaders consider to be sufficient for the maintenance of a miner and his family. Such allowance completely answers those who regard the wages of these men to have been down to the verge of starvation. The economic life of the labouring classes is a mystery to all who have not observed it studiously at close range.

In so wide a labour market as the United States, with its boasted illimitable demand and wide openings for industrial energy, it is not credible that 150,000 strong, able-bodied men should continue to work at an occupation that yields only "starvation wages." If it is true that the miners in the States are, what some represent, "chronically on the borders of starvation," the United States Government continues to make representations in Europe to attract immigrants, which are absolutely and cruelly false. If, too, the miners are such abjects as to submit to the tyrannous rule of unions that bind them down until their personal independence is utterly destroyed, then the United States still maintains a form of industrial slavery.

PROMINENT TOPICS.

Montreal though too supine to "achieve greatness" by an annual Exhibition commensurate with its metropolitan rank is having "greatness thrust upon it" by the distinction conferred on this city as the favourite resort of conferences of public bodies. This week we have as guests the eminent representatives of the Medical Association, also of the Dentists' Association, delegates of the American Association of Passenger Agents, and last, but not least, a large number of mayors, aldermen and councillors from the chief cities and towns of Canada.

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The latter have been in conference as members of the Union of Canadian Municipalities which was represented by delegates from Toronto, Hamilton, Owen Sound, Winnipeg, Halifax, Vancouver, Victoria, St. John, N.B., Ottawa, Peterborough, London, Richmond, Cornwall, Preston, Galt, St. Jerome, Sherbrooke, Brantford, Longueuil, Petrolia, Westmount and many other places, the organization having supporters in 93 cities and towns in Canada.

The first business entered upon after the delegates were formally welcomed by acting mayor Lamarche was the question of municipalities "combining with the assistance of suitable legislation, to borrow on united credit, for the purpose of borrowing favourably; and the executive is hereby instructive and empowered to prepare a suitable scheme for presentation to the various provincial Legislatures, with a view to the provision of provincial machinery for examining debentures and certifying the same; and looking ultimately, if found practicable, to a Dominion guarantee of the whole." This was approved by a resolution which authorizes the Executive to prepare a Bill to give effect to this idea for submission to the Legislatures. Several topics were introduced and relegated to a committee. Alderman Lapointe read a paper on "City Embellishments," in which he suggested the removal of telegraph poles, wires, signs and other street disfigurements. The delegates endorsed this proposal, urged the adoption of boulevards and other improvements.

A resolution was passed calling upon the several Provincial Legislatures "to abolish bonuses to manufacturers by municipalities." This called out objections on the ground that it was "a stroke at the home rule doctrine" that had been approved by the Union. A rider to this resolution was, therefore, added which reads:

"This convention being fully convinced that the right of municipalities, within reasonable limits, to manage their own affairs, is one of their most sacred privileges, and being aware of the fact that hitherto this right has been not infrequently infringed upon by legislation at the instance and for the benefit of private parties, hereby affirms the necessity for complete recognition of the sphere of municipal action, and voices the determination to unitedly resist all encroachments by parliament, or any legislature upon local rights."

A resolution was also passed authorizing the executives to press for legislation in order that:

"The municipalities of the Dominion may obtain, and retain their rightful control of their streets in connection with the telephone business; full facilities if desired, for control of local franchises; government control of all long-distance connections; effective control of rates and class of instruments and service and all other protection to municipal bodies and citizens they may find it possible to secure."

A motion asking for increased borrowing powers without a by-law was referred to a committee. The delegates authorized the establishment of a "Bureau of information" relating to municipal affairs, after which they discussed a variety of subjects, such as, opening streets, level crossings, expropriating outside property, registration of voters, guarding the rights of municipalities in streets from monopolistic grants by legislatures.