

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by the Boarders.

"Five thousand dollars for one lecture isn't a bad beginning at all," said Brown; and if Stanley can keep that up for the next six months it will not be necessary for him to organize a second filibustering expedition to retire on a competence; but when the history of the nineteenth century will be written this butchering expedition among a happy and contented people will not be one of the smallest crimes charged to the civilization of our times.

"Stanley didn't go to Africa to enlarge the power of capitalism," said Sinnett warmly; "but he went there for the purpose of relieving Emin Bey, whose position had become critical, and whose very life, at times, was despaired of; he went to put a stop to the slave trade and to christianize the heathen, and to enable them to share in the benefits of civilization; that's what he went for, and it is right and proper he should be both honored and rewarded for what he has done."

"You say he went there to relieve Emin," said Gaskill, "but what business did Emin have in Africa? Why didn't he stop at home? The fact is that Emin went there in the pay and with the assistance of the Egyptian Government to steal a country, and thereby open up new avenues of trade for those who control the Government of Egypt—the English and French capitalists. Whether it is that he found the barbarians of Africa morally and materially better off than their civilized European brethren, and therefore decided not to hand them over to Christian commercialism and its gilded slavery, or whether he found the inherent love of freedom too strong in the people to do so with safety, he and his mission was considered a failure. Stanley and his marauders were sent to spy out the country for his masters, and if possible, to take and hold what Emin had gained, and to report back upon the feasibility of accomplishing their object. It is significant that the ivory supposed to have been accumulated by Emin was regarded as part of the profits of the raid. That Stanley, with utter disregard of the rights of the people whose country he was invading, was actuated solely by the desire to serve his masters, the thousands of bleaching skeletons which mark his march bear silent testimony to, but that the butchering of the natives and the burning of their villages for no other cause than that of defending their country is laudatory and honorable, no one but sycophantic tools of capitalism will admit."

"The history of the rear column," said Sharkey, "is a continuous record of such beastly brutality and selfishness that, in comparison to it, the atrocities of the Spaniards who conquered Mexico sink into nothing. To satisfy the morbid curiosity and depraved taste of one of its officers a little, innocent girl is coolly butchered and eaten by cannibals, and while the horrid drama is enacted the fiendish instigator of it takes sketches of the different acts of the performance with which, at some future time no doubt, to pander to the taste of just such audiences as welcomed H. M. Stanley to New York the other night. We are told that it was a 'dress suit' audience led by Chauncey Depew, the slave driver of the New York Central. This plutocrat, who has impoverished his employes, and now seeks to enslave them by denying them the right to organize as free men, was the man suited above all others to introduce the tool of his class, who would substitute wage slavery for chattel slavery, to a New York audience."

"There is one thing in connection with all this furore about Stanley," said Brown, "which is most gratifying, and that is that no labor editor or labor reformer has approved of the expedition or yet supported the motives that led to it; this particular kind of hero-worship is left to 'dress suit' audiences and a sycophantic free press, and they are perfectly welcome to make the most of it. Sober, disinterested men who believe in the inalienable right of even a native of Africa to life, liberty, and the soil that gave him birth, regard this achievement of Stanley as the darkest blot on our civilization, which not even the antics of such jumping jack capitalists as Chauncey Depew can efface. They prate about civilizing Africa; they would take the man who never knew a master and place him under the protection of such men as Chauncey or henchman Webb, and then hire some orthodox minister to make it clear to him that by sacrificing everything here, he will gain everything hereafter. They would civilize his daughter by placing her behind some dry goods counter where she would be expected to lie, and cheat and misrepresent things generally during sixteen hours out of

twenty-four for the magnificent sum of fifty cents a day; or she might work in our mills and workshops for wages so low, that if she would live at all she would have to sell her body to purchase bread, the same as our civilized Christian community compels thousands of girls to do to-day. They would like to abolish the slave trade because, fortunately for Africa, they don't happen to control it. They wish to abolish chattel slavery, not because they care a rap about the slave, but because it is too expensive to feed, and clothe, and house him, and to supply him with doctor and medicine when sick. They know that the wage slave is eager to work, that he actually begs leave to do so, and that he will work faster and better than the chattel slave in order to keep his position; they know that competition in free labor will enable them to buy it cheap without regard as to whether the price paid is enough to keep it alive, for if a wage slave dies the master loses nothing; besides the insecurity of the work on which he depends for a living makes the wage slave more submissive than ever the chattel slave was. That they should seek to hide all this under a religious cloak is but natural, seeing that the church and oppression has gone hand in hand from time immemorial. But the game is about up, and this H. M. Stanley and his 'dress suit' audiences will find out if they live but a few years longer."

BILL BLADES.

CENTRAL TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL.

The regular meeting of the Council was held Thursday evening.

The President and Vice-President being absent, Mr. Louis Z. Boudreau was appointed chairman for the evening.

After the roll call of officers, credentials were read and accepted from Ed. Earle, of the Marble Workers' Assembly, Joseph Lepage of D. A. 19, and Mr. Vezina of Union No. 311, Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

The report of the Ways and Means Committee on the Water Tax question was then read as follows:

To the Officers and Members of the Central Trades and Labor Council:

GENTLEMEN,—Your Committee on Ways and Means beg leave to report the following business done, and to make the suggestions hereafter contained in this report.

L. Guyon, Geo. S. Warren and W. Darlington interviewed Mr. Barnard in reference to the progress made on the Water Tax question with the following result:—Point one, to prevent the cutting off of water on the 15th of September, having been won, the city has been compelled to delay the enforcement of the collection of water tax two months longer than usual, as you are all aware.

The next question to be decided is, even supposing the by-law is not set aside, the tax imposed under the by-law should be

declared null because the assessment roll has not been and is no more regular now than on the 15th September; again can the tax of this year be collected this year before the taxpayers have had a chance to object or correct.

Further, whether the by law is unjust and unequal, and whether the city make a profit out of the water, and whether the whole system; in all its features, is illegal. And if, as Mr. Barnard supposes, we are successful before the 1st of December in having the tax declared illegal, Mr. Barnard believes he will have no difficulty in establishing our right to the franchise before the next municipal election.

The question now to be decided by you is shall we continue the cases now pending in court. The opinion of your committee is that if we allow the case to now drop we shall hereafter receive very scant respect from either the City Council or the public, therefore we advise that we continue the case to the bitter end, but if we do, the next question for you to decide is as to the funds, and our previous recommendations to this Council in reference to appealing to the public we still adhere to, but to do so effectively requires a large staff of helpers, so that the whole city can be properly canvassed for funds; we would therefore require the assistance of two members from each organization attached to this Council to assist your Committee. Funds would also have to be furnished at once to your committee for advertising purposes, and we ask you to seriously consider all these questions this evening so that there may be no delay in our getting to work.

We would also recommend this Council to publicly advise all workmen in this city to pay their water taxes this year, even though they do it under protest. We do not deem it necessary to say more, but ask you to take action at once on our report. Hoping it is satisfactory to you, we remain,

Yours fraternally,
W. DARLINGTON,
GEORGE S. WARREN,
P. A. DUFFEY.

The report was taken up clause by clause, and after a long discussion that portion of the report asking for authority to carry the case to the bitter end was amended, and the committee was given authority to push the matter as far as the Superior Court.

The Committee was also instructed to visit all the labor organizations to solicit subscriptions to pay the expenses of the case. Permission was likewise given to solicit subscriptions from the public.

The other clauses of the report were adopted as read.

The difficulty between the Bricklayers' Union and the Builders' Laborers' Union was then taken up, when a motion was passed authorizing the Corresponding Secretary to notify the Bricklayers that this matter would be dealt with at the next meeting of the Council.

Several notices of motion were handed in.

A committee of five was appointed to secure space in the two labor papers of this city, The Echo and Trait d'Union for the purpose of publishing a series of articles on the land question, the eight hour question and other matters of labor reform, and for the printing and publishing of pamphlets.

After other routine and financial business the meeting adjourned.

The Caledonian Society held their opening social for the winter season in St. Andrew's Home last evening, which was largely attended, and the entertainment provided was greatly appreciated by the large audience present.

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