

The Tribune

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SATURDAY, DEC. 30, 1905

THREE CENTS

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE Toronto District Labor Council

REGULAR MEETING, THURSDAY, DEC. 21ST

The meeting was called to order at 8.15 by President Hungerford. A roll call showed all officers present and a full attendance of delegates.

The credential committee was appointed, as follows: Delegates Elliott, Fox and Newman, who prevented Delegates Hill, of the Commercial Telegraphers; Jos. Harris, John Tweed, W. J. Bolton, W. E. Montpere, George Burdy, J. S. Simeral and S. Richardson, from the Brotherhood of Carpenters, Local 27; and E. Swales, from the Amalgamated Engineers, No. 602, all of whom were duly accepted and obligated.

The minutes of the last regular, also the special, meeting were read and confirmed.

At this point Mr. W. A. Douglas, of the Single Tax Association, was permitted to address the meeting for five minutes on his candidature for aerman in Ward 2. In answer to a question from Delegate Henderson, asking why certain dodgers that had been printed for distribution on election day of last year by the Single Tax Association and then were recalled or suppressed at the last minute, he replied that they were not recalled in the interest of any political party, as the delegate was trying to infer.

The executive committee presented their report, as follows: The secretary was instructed to put in notice of motion, amending the Constitution re method of electing officers or other representatives of the Council, the amendment to read: "All officers and committees, or other representatives of this Council, shall be elected by a majority of all delegates present and voting."

A communication from James Simpson, vice president of the Dominion Trades Congress, as follows: My attention has been called to the fact that several contracts for work on the Grand Trunk Pacific have been let, and that it is highly probable that no 'fair wage' clause has been inserted in the contracts.

"It is important that organized labor should see to it that such a clause is inserted and the District Labor Council instruct its secretary to write to the Hon. Minister of Railways if the fair wage clause has been and will be inserted in all contracts. This railway is being assisted by the government, and we have a right to demand that the 'fair wage' clause be inserted."

A motion that the request be complied with, Mr. Simpson thanked, and the secretary of the Dominion Trades Congress be notified, was carried unanimously.

A report from the label committee was received, read and adopted after discussion. The report read: "The delegates were instructed to purchase none of the brands of tobacco now in the market not bearing the union label."

"That the election cards being distributed by S. A. Jones are bearing a bogus label."

Discussion on this clause showed a committee had pointed out the mistake to Mr. Jones, who told them (the committee) to mind their own business.

That the Butterick Pattern makers are on the unfair list. These goods are handled by the T. Eaton Co., S. Walker, Spadina avenue, and Menays, on Queen street."

They also called attention to the fact that the various labels were not well enough known and asked permission to give concerts assisted by lantern slides, also that a delegate to be eligible to the label committee must have three labels on his clothes.

A report from the Legislative Committee was as follows:

Your legislative committee in this, their final report for the half year, is compelled to reintroduce a very vexed question into the Council, viz: Prison Labor. For years your legislative committees in the past, with the assistance of the Ontario committee of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, fought for the abolition of the manufacture of prison-made brooms; or at least that the product of all prison labor be stamped as such, so that the public at large would be in a position to choose between prison-made articles and those made under fair conditions. Within one year after we were elated at the announcement that henceforth the manufacture of prison brooms would cease. We find that we were no better off, for in the place of brooms the Central Prison immediately commenced the manufacture of woodenware, affecting honest labor to an alarming degree, one firm alone in this city discharging fully one-half of its employees through purchasing from the Central Prison instead of manufacturing, as heretofore. Therefore your committee is compelled to recommend that the fight fought by this Council and the On-

tario executive of the Congress in behalf of the broom-makers be recommenced on behalf of the woodworking interests of this Council for the total abolition of the manufacture of all articles by prison labor that enters into competition with free labor.

And your committee would also draw the Council's notice to an appeal of the Salvation Army for assistance in the support of two thousand starving poor. We want to know who are these poor—are they the Salvationists lately brought out, or are they Canadians displaced through the immigration policy of the Salvation Army. Your committee suggests that a snapshot at their appeal for funds be taken and sent to the Old Country.

The striking bakers' jobs have been taken by some of this army's imports, but while the striking bakers are not starving, nor no likelihood of them ever reaching that stage, your committee believes that the line of policy adopted by the Salvation Army is a menace to the maintaining of the standard of living that the Canadians have reached.

Your committee were successful in getting the legislative committee of the city council to enter in its annual appeal for legislation to the Ontario Legislature, the abolition of the two-acre privileges by assessment.

Respectfully submitted,
John Gardner, Secretary.

Mr. Thompson, Chairman.

Delegate Durdin, of the Cap Makers, reported the Cooper Cap Co., of this town, was using a bogus label, which was pasted in the cap. The genuine label is sewn as well as pasted.

Delegate Callow of the Bakers contradicted the report that negotiations were on to settle the strike.

Delegate Duffy of the Garment Workers reported that they had made a material advance in their late strike.

Delegate Ralph of the Brewery Workers, asking for information re organization of brewery workers in Hamilton.

Delegate Shipman, Leather Workers, complained of poor patronage of their label.

Delegate Todd, Cigarmakers, drew attention to the fact that union cigars can be had for the asking.

The meeting adjourned to first meeting in January, when nominations will take place.



JOHN TWEED
Labors' Candidate for the Board of Education.

To the Editor of The Tribune:

Sir,—As you have permitted Mr. Simpson to publish an error in your columns, allow me to point it out and correct it. Mr. Simpson, in his reference to prohibition in New Zealand, says each time this question is submitted the working classes pile up a bigger vote in favor of the license reduction and prohibition. WHILE THE FACT IS the people of New Zealand are about SICK OF THE PROHIBITION QUESTION, as shown in the last elections as published in the columns of The Tribune, which I beg to repeat: SEDDON SWEEPS NEW ZEALAND. Election an Overwhelming Victory—Prohibitionists Beaten.

London, Dec. 6.—A Wellington, New Zealand, despatch states that Premier Seddon's Government has swept the New Zealand polls, only thirteen members of the Opposition being returned against fifty-nine for the Government.

Several prominent prohibitionists were defeated, indicating a serious set-back to the prohibitionist movement.

Again, Mr. John Burns, of England, is not the great labor leader as he (Mr. Simpson) would have us believe. Mr. Burns is considered as a "has been" in Britain amongst organized labor. Thanking you for your valuable space, yours truly,
W. D. G.

A Few Reasons For Voting Against The License Reduction By-Law

The proposed reduction will create a greater monopoly than already exists, contrary to the interests of the public.

If reduction of licenses takes place drinking will be more concentrated and likely many riotous scenes take place—too many friends are likely to meet. Those hotelkeepers that are cut off, in all probability, are not going to starve with a large property on their hands. They have got to protect themselves by some means. The so-called temperance reformers offer no compensation in any shape. They count to simply wring the necks of these poor chaps.

That Toronto hotel accommodation is much below the needs of the population. Our City Council evidently thought so when they EXEMPTED the KING EDWARD HOTEL from TAXATION.

Our population is always increasing. Outsiders are always coming in and MORE HOTEL ACCOMMODATION is necessary each year and SHOULD be INCREASED.

The larger the population the more work will go on, the more trade will be done and everyone should benefit as long as conditions are kept up. Slums would easily be avoided in a practically new city.

A movement has been started to increase our population to the 500,000 mark. If this is to be encouraged there will be a poor outlook for hotel accommodation should the hotels be reduced. THEY SHOULD rather be INCREASED.

The city is spending thousands of dollars yearly to bring tourists and visitors. Hotels at times are taxed beyond their capacity—reduce the hotel licenses and a GREAT PART of this REVENUE WILL BE CUT OFF.

At the fair time our hotels cannot accommodate the visitors as it is, and to cut off 25 per cent. and where would we be at!

We must have hotels of all classes, high and low. The poor man has to live and be properly housed as well as the rich man. LET the COMMISSIONERS KEEP THEIR WORD and MAKE

THEM ALL KEEP HOTEL AND KEEP IT PROPERLY. Let more attention be paid to the big chaps—the small ones are not the transgressors.

Hotel reduction would mean many of our fellow-workers thrown out of a livelihood. Are we not banded together to uphold each other no matter what the craft or cult.

The wealthy man has his club, his refreshments at his home; these are things the poor man cannot get. Therefore it is DISCRIMINATING AGAINST THE POOR MAN to reduce the licenses, as they are bound to be the ones that will suffer. The by-law would close the poor man's club and leave the rich man's wide open.

Toronto needs more factories, more work, more public improvements, long-talked-of improvements brought to a head and accomplished people to mind their own business and not try to legislate to curtail the sacred rights of others.

Toronto is paying out too much money for these temperance faddists who are airing their views for self-aggrandizement and selfish motives.

The working man of Toronto is not generally a drunkard; he is a self-reliant and energetic person, well able to take care of himself and resent the act of any of these self-made, would-be guardians. Shall we by our votes slander Toronto by declaring to the contrary.

The workingman wants a sober city and a morally clean city. If he needs refreshments he wants it straight and above board. HE WILL HAVE IT and declines to be driven to back doors, up back alleys and into dives, as would certainly be the case if these so-called temperance reformers had their way. Vote against the reduction and let us keep clean.

Think of the lying, deceit and hypocrisy the reduction of licenses would cause. Are we to be forced to this by a few faddists!

Be sure and mark your ballot on January 1st against the reduction of licenses by placing a cross (X) opposite the word "NO" in each case.

DO NOT GO TOO QUICK

Advice of Goldwin Smith—Talks of Reduction of Licenses and Difficulty of Extirpating Taste Co-eval With Human Race

"It is to be presumed that those who advocate this sudden cutting off of thirty hotel and ten shoplicenses have considered the practical consequences of their measure," says Mr. Goldwin Smith to a representative of The Evening Telegram. "The licenses which are left will greatly rise in value, and we may have a powerful ring. Drinking will be more concentrated, and perhaps not on that account less riotous. A sudden reduction in Mayor William Howland's time was said to have been followed by a riotous Christmas. Those whose licenses are cut off will hardly be content to starve. They will probably ply a contraband trade. Stamp a trade as criminal, put it out of the pale of common justice, and unless you can actually extinguish it, the natural consequences will ensue. Some earnest reformers in England used to prefer free license with strict regulations.

"Are we not rather the victims of a panic on this question? Is Toronto intemperate? It struck me when I came here as much the reverse. You seldom see a drunken man in our streets, and if you do he is a foreigner, and a late immigrant. We have no real late of immigrants from drinking countries.

DEATHS FROM ALCOHOL LOW.

"If I read the statistics of the Registrar General aright, the yearly number of alcoholic deaths in this city is denoted by a single figure. Good times may account for a recent increase, if there has been one, in the purchase of liquor. It does not follow—at least I hope it does not—that all who purchase liquor of any kind are intemperate. Opinion seems to be quite sound. Social penalties of drunkenness are thoroughly effective. In addition to the ordinary influences of reform, education,

religion, medical science, general improvement of character, we have now, especially in the summer, a great extension of innocent pleasures, and such as are shared by the family. Let us have strict regulations, by all means, and let them be rigorously carried into effect.

A SERIOUS EVIL.

"This organized agitation is a serious evil. It fills the community with bitterness; it leads good citizens to drown all public duties and considerations in the one object of killing the liquor dealer; it breeds a good deal of hypocrisy, practised for the sake of getting votes. The perpetual dicker with political parties and public men does much harm to public life. Suppose we had a good inebriate asylum, with a man at the head of it who could impartially and rationally advise us from time to time as to the extent of the evil and the remedies required.

CONSIDER THE REACTION.

"These rigid measures are apt to be far from just. A traveller is forbidden to have a glass of ale or wine at his hotel. The tables in the tables in Toronto are an element in the question which reformers should consider.

"Earl Grey seemed to incline to the Gothenburg system or something of that kind; not abolishing the sale of liquor, but confining it to municipal agents who would have no personal interest in the sale. He is an earnest, as well as eminent, reformer. I suppose he feels that it would be hopeless to attempt to extirpate at once by legislative action a taste which, whether healthy or not, cannot, without aspersing the highest names, be called criminal, and which is co-eval and co-extensive with the human race."

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