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MEETINGS.

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TORONTO NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Toronto, February 25th, 1892.

The regular fortnightly meeting of the Trades and Labor Council was held on last Friday evening, President Banton being in the chair. After the minutes of last meeting had been read and approved, the consideration of the report of the Legislative Committee laid over from the previous meeting was the first order of business. The chairman of that Committee made an effort to get the report considered clause by clause, but failed, as on motion of Delegate Glockling it was relegated to the order of New Business. When that order was reached, at a late hour, the council adjourned without any reference to the deferred report. Apart from this, the Legislative Committee had no report for the evening. The Municipal Committee presented a lengthy and able report as to Sunday matters of a local character, and after due consideration was adopted without debate. The Education Committee—the best the Council has ever had—presented a well digested report on many subjects of vital importance to the general community. For instance, as to "playgrounds" in connection with our schools the committee says: "We think it wise that provision should be made in all new schools to be erected hereafter that ample room should be set apart for play grounds. . . . Some of the existing schools are very deficient in this vital particular." And as to the habit of drilling in schools, the Committee feel called on to say: "This practice, we venture to say, is becoming more pronounced, and we are of the opinion that more should be devoted to practical instruction and less to military matters. . . . as it is not by drilling that they (the pupils) are to get the necessities of life, but by patient plodding to fit themselves for their respective fields of labor in the future." The report concluded with the following clause: "The clause referred back in our first report re Separate Schools is still under our most serious consideration." The report was adopted as read, amidst applause.

The auditors reported that they had carefully audited the half-yearly accounts of Fin. Sec. Ed. Glockling and Treasurer Colbozh and found them correct on every detail. The receipts and cash in hand for the half-year were \$380.56, and the expenditure for the same period \$230.60. The resolution of which Delegate O'Donoghue gave notice at a previous meeting and which he moved at the last meeting, to the effect that the Council did not approve—in fact, condemned—any member of the Council, while being on any committee, seeking or securing office or employment of a municipal or other character while in such committee or without the knowledge of the council, caused a warm discussion. Ultimately the resolution was concurred in on a vote of 23 to 4. The four were Delegates John Armstrong, Robt. Lamb, R. Simpson and W. H. Watson. The News of last Saturday, in referring to this subject, takes occasion to say that "the action of the Trades and Labor Council in denouncing the principle of individual members using their positions in the Council to secure offices of emolument for themselves was most commendable. It will do more to elevate this representative labor body in public estimation, and to increase its value as a critic of civic and public affairs generally than anything that has occurred in a long time."

On motion, the president and secretary were authorized to sign, seal and forward all the petitions prepared by the Executive of the T. & L. Congress except those relating to the currency and to immigration. Last evening there was a large meeting of bricklayers held in Labor Hall for the purpose of forming a union. They were addressed at length by Mr. A. F. Jury on the advantages of organization by Messrs. H. Benson and T. Webb of the Builders' Laborers Union, and to whose efforts the meeting was mainly due. At the conclusion of the speeches a union was formed and it was badly wanted in this branch of industry in Toronto.

Typo. Union 91 held its annual "At Home" on last Monday evening. Being "a print" ourselves and withal modest, we will let the Globe of last Tuesday speak of the occasion. That paper said the "members of Toronto Typographical Union, No. 91, were at home to their friends last night,

and between 90 and 100 couples enjoyed to the full the delightful evening's entertainment. It was the typos' annual concert, supper and ball, and elaborate preparations had been made for an unqualified success, which was fully realized. The early part of the evening was devoted to music and literature, and the programme was participated in by the following: Miss F. Brown, Mr. J. H. Winters, Mr. Geo. McBech, Messrs. Putland, Booz, Oliver, Stephens, Wright, Smedley, Soole, Davies and Miss Houston, Miss A. M. Harford, Miss Bessie Bonsall and Miss Florence Brown, accompanist. Dancing to music by Ball's string orchestra was commenced about 11 o'clock. The ball room was prettily decorated and as each lady entered she was presented with a handsome bouquet by Mr. F. R. Fox. Supper was served between midnight and 1 o'clock, after which dancing was continued until nearly 4. All the city newspapers were well represented and the committeemen were as follows: Geo. W. Dower, chairman; Geo. C. Devlin, secretary; Sol. Cassidy, Amos Pudsey, W. H. Parr, T. H. Fitzpatrick, Harry Stephens, John H. Winters, Charles Booz, Wm. Hambley, W. A. Kyle, Robert Kerr, W. J. O'Loughlin, Geo. R. Clarke and A. E. Gault."

The weather has been very soft during the past few days and as a consequence the snow is nearly all gone. But there is no building in progress, nor is the spring prospects encouraging. To help the poor nearly 1000 men are engaged, two day's each, by the corporation in clearing ice and snow off the more public thoroughfares so as to keep these poor people from starving.

QUEBEC NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

QUEBEC, 25th Feb., 1892.

Since writing my last another shuffle occurred in the political game and McGreevy withdrew. The ministerial candidate, Jno. Hearn, is not going to be allowed to represent the division of Quebec West without a contest. A. H. Murphy has been chosen as the Liberal standard-bearer, and the contest is now in full swing. In the division there is about 2,600 votes of whom at least 1,800 are wage-earners, either as laborers or mechanics. It would never do to run a labor candidate in that division as there are too many labor votes for sale cheap.

Now a word as to the campaign. I believe a few extracts from some of the official organs or party papers will do as a sample. In an editorial of the Morning Chronicle this passage occurred "Mr. Hearn is one of our most prominent business men and his name is well and favorably known throughout the division. The merchants and tradesmen of Quebec West to a man will vote for him because they wish to be represented in Parliament by one of themselves." This is rich when you know that Mr. Hearn is a real estate owner and his business is the renting of houses and tenements; in fact, he is the largest property owner in the city of Quebec, and his trade of course the collection of rents.

In another portion of the same paper there is a letter signed by "A True Quebecer." Here are some extracts. Speaking of Mr. Hearn the writer says: "His determined defence in the Legislative Council of vested interests and rights when attacked," etc., "has gained for him the special thanks of the banks and other interested parties. He has nipped many doubtful schemes in the bud, and has fairly earned the title in the Corporation of 'Watch dog of the city's finances.'" The writer likewise expresses his curiosity at what would be the financial standing of the Quebec City Corporation had John Hearn not been there.

Now, that the writer may be gratified, I would just like to point out a few facts. The municipal indebtedness of Quebec City is close upon five millions, and the revenue of the city is, with taxation as high as can be borne, scarcely able to meet the absolute requirements of the city and pay the interest on the debt, in fact, there is a yearly deficit. As Mr. Hearn was a member of the Council and earned the reputation of being the "watch dog" of the municipal finances, it very naturally follows that the watch dog must be blind, very blind. The other portion is his determined defence of vested rights, &c. Now, Mr. Echo, I appeal to your intelligent readers to know if there is one so-called vested right in existence,

that if called by its proper name would not be dubbed a legalised wrong. Of course the hawks and those interested, and who thanked him for his efforts, will subscribe liberally for election expenses, with the inevitable result of further degrading the elections. Now, on the other hand, we have as the opponent to Mr. Hearn, Mr. A. H. Murphy, a Montreal merchant. Alas! poor Quebec is not able to supply a man fit to represent its interests before the Dominion Parliament, and having went aside why choose a man who has already been tried and found wanting. His opponents make all the capital they can out of this.

In the contest for the Provincial Legislature, the labor candidate for the electoral division of St. Lawrence is working with might and main to succeed. A large and enthusiastic meeting was held at his Central Committee in 21 Valiere street. Addresses were delivered by the candidate, D. Marsan, and by P. J. Jobin, T. Desjardins and J. B. St. Laurent. The work of organization is progressing favorably.

In the West Division there seems to be a certain amount of apathy displayed so far, not because that division is more interested in the federal than in the provincial elections, but rather the true cause. So far the names of the different aspiring candidates might be coupled with the old phrase, "poor, but honest"—two qualifications, by the way, not required in that division.

Work has been commenced upon the new hotel in Quebec. It is to be built by the C. P. R. magistrates, who, by the way, have secured the finest site in the city, or probably in the Dominion, for the modest sum of \$25,000, and in the course of another year a modern hotel will be raised upon the site once occupied by the Chateau St. Louis. I see by some of the Western papers that a much better feeling exists at present between the G. T. R. and that road, and I have likewise heard it advanced that there is a probability of the amalgamation of these two great highways. If this deal is consummated, would it not be advisable to hand over to the C. P. R. magistrates the Dominion en bloc; they could then put a fence around it. This would simplify matters greatly, as they seem to have only a mortgage upon it now, and are acquiring the undisputed title piecemeal. This suggestion is worthy of serious consideration, for in the event of its adoption a large number of our surplus population might be employed to put up the fence above alluded to.

I see in your last edition that "Urim" accuses poor P. J. J. of being your Quebec correspondent. Quebecers don't believe it, they know that he (P. J. J.) has too much to attend to at home, and could not possibly afford the time.

ATLAS.

GENERAL POLITICAL NOTES.

The rumor is quite prevalent here that Hon. Mr. Laurier will retire from the leadership of the Liberal party.

Hon. Jon Hearn has been elected in Quebec West by a majority of 380.

The result of the polling in London, Ont., is still in doubt, both sides claiming a majority.

In the House of Commons, yesterday Mr. Devlin presented a petition from Le Canadienne Assembly No. 2676, Hull, asking legislation for the placing of all railway lines under the control of the Federal Government, prohibiting the importation of workmen into Canada under contract, the appointment of a Dominion Board of Arbitration to arbitrate differences between employers and employees, the abolition of the contract system in the construction of public works, against the importation of Chinese labor, and for the issue of paper money at a nominal rate of interest to municipalities to defray the cost of public works. A similar petition was also presented by Mr. McKay from the Knights of Labor of Hamilton.

Messrs. H. Madley & Co., the well-known printers of William street, are about to issue a new magazine in connection with the Congregational body of Canada. Professor Barbour and other gentlemen prominently connected with the Congregationalists have promised their assistance. We trust that the new venture may meet with every success.

It is understood that the Herald plant has been purchased by a syndicate of Liberals. The paper has a new imprint this morning.

OUR AUSTRALIAN LETTER.

Budget of Interesting News from the Antipodes.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, Jan. 23, 1892.

Things out here are in a deplorable state, thousands of able-bodied, willing men looking for work and can not get it. People are huddled together, three and four families in a house, where one family used to live. To give you an idea how things are, there are in Melbourne and suburbs 16,000 empty houses, and still rents don't go down. If this is not proof positive that private property in land is unjust, wrong and totally at war with the interests of everybody except the land owners then I don't know what is.

The policy pursued by the present government, headed by James Munro, a large land owner and having large interests in a great many financial institutions both in Australia and England, has been the cause of keeping thousands of honest men out of work by not going on with the contracts that parliament passed. His predecessor was as much of a state spendthrift as he is a state miser. He has nicely feathered his nest by getting himself elected by his own ministry "after a great deal of pressing" (?) to the position of Agent General for Victoria at a yearly salary of £3,500. He also tried (?) to pass a bill in the House to do away with dual voting, but through some political dodge between him and his colleagues in the Upper House, the bill has died an unnatural death. However, at the next election that comes, and that is not very far off, we hope to be able to elect a few of his kind to stop at home.

Over in New South Wales there has been a split in the labor party which has practically stopped any progressive legislation. Sir Henry Parks, that old political humbug and free-trader has given up the reins of government to Geo. R. Dibbs, a rabid protectionist and humbug as well. There is some talk of the split in the ranks of the labor party being closed up.

Sir Samuel Griffiths, Premier of Queensland, is down here trying to get the various parliaments to pass the draft bill or federation but I don't think the people will be fools enough to have it, unless they put it on a more democratic basis.

Over in New Zealand things are assuming a brighter aspect. At a recent by-election in Wellington they succeeded in putting in another Knight of Labor, a Mr. Wm. McLean, against the determined opposition of the Conservative party, who were well organized and really put up a political giant.

The death of the Duke of Clarence did not create much stir here save among the Upper (?) classes. The Governor of Victoria had enough sense to appoint the day of mourning for a Sunday; if it had been otherwise very little notice would have been taken of it and I fancy he knew it. One amusing incident in connection with the occurrence was that some person or persons unknown wrote on the sidewalk, in line of the entrance to the Trades hall:—

GLORIOUS NEWS
ANOTHER PAUPER DEAD.
£15,000 saved to the State

Another one comes to my mind, and I think I will let you know it. A motion of sympathy to the Queen was moved in the New South Wales House and Mr. Arthur Rae called for a division. He was the only one that voted against the motion. Mr. Rae is an ardent republican and reformer, and the smallest man in the House. These two instances will just let you see that out here we are moving; anyway they show the signs of the times.

In conclusion I must say that it is a shame and disgrace to our civilization that such a state of things exists in a country that is favored with a climate which allows a man to sleep out in the open air all the year round, where vegetables grow all the year round, where you can get almost any kind of fruit at any time in the year. Only to-day I was through one of the principal fruit and vegetable markets here and saw good bananas at 2c and 4c a dozen, pine apples at 4c and 6c each, oranges 10c and 12c for one dozen a half, and other fruit in proportion, but the time is not far distant when all hands and the cook will see the cat. Wishing my friends in Montreal the compliments of the season, I am,

WM. W. LYONS.