

## OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by  
the Boarders.

"The Socialists may as well learn a once that no government will succeed that abrogates individual rights," is what a friend of mine told me the other day, said Sinnett, "and I agree with him. No government could exist for any length of time which would interfere with the right to the functions of a man's body and mind; the privilege of working where and when he pleases; and the absolute right to the entire and full product of his labor." "That is true," said Phil, "but your supposition that socialism or nationalism would so interfere proves to me that both you and your friend are in ignorance of what nationalism really is. Moreover, you seem to be wandering through this world with your eyes shut, otherwise you would see that these rights which you fear will be abrogated by nationalism are not only being violated every day, but that at present they practically cannot exist. The idea that under present conditions you enjoy the right to work where and when you please is simply ridiculous. The real facts of the case are that you will have to accept whatever kind of work is offered or not work at all. There are everywhere men, and lots of them, working at occupations and callings which they detest and abhor, and which, if they were free agents, they would never think of following. The want of opportunity to apply themselves to work for which they are fitted, and the necessity to work in order to have the wherewith to live, has forced these men into occupations totally unsuited to them. The government certainly does not force them to do so by statute, but the system which it upholds and maintains creates a condition of things which forces them to it all the same. And to talk about receiving the full product of your labor under the competitive system is, if possible, more ridiculous still. What you do receive for your labor is either what your employer can afford to give or else what he chooses to give, but in no case do you receive the full product of your labor. Cannot you understand that the great advances made in labor-saving machinery have placed labor bound hand and foot in the power of those who own or control the machines. To-day, no matter how well you have learned your trade, unless at the same time you possess capital enough to buy the most modern tools necessary to carry it on, you are compelled to accept as wages whatever the possessor of your tools chooses to give you. At the same time the man who owns the tools may not understand the first thing about the trade, yet he invariably gets the lion's share of the product of your labor. The only freedom you have in the matter is either to accept the pittance offered you and continue to vegetate, or else to refuse—or starve. The competitive system places the two great factors of production, labor and capital into opposite camps. It compels the capitalistic manufacturer, no matter how conscientious he may be, to reduce wages in order that he may successfully compete with his rivals; and it forces the workman, no matter how peacefully inclined, to resist what he calls the aggressiveness of capital; hence you have a continual warfare between the two. Both bend their energies to fight each other instead of uniting to abolish a system which compels men, and good men, to act in such an unnatural manner. We nationalists realize that the possession of the tools of production means slavery to those who unfortunately do not possess any, yet are compelled to use them to make a living; we realize that this gives the owners of the tools a power of life and death over his fellowmen and that competition compels them to exercise this power to its fullest extent; we hold that this

abrogates, as I have shown, the very rights which you claim, and which we recognize inherent in every man: the right to live; the right to labor, and the right to all your labor produces. We know that factory acts, mechanics' lien acts, employers' liability acts, masters' and servants' acts and arbitration will never cure the evil, though it may alleviate the pain, and therefore we demand, as a radical and effective cure, that not only natural opportunities but also all tools of production be nationalized and worked for the benefit of the whole people. Then and not till then would all the people benefit by the use of labor saving machinery, either by having their hours of labor shortened or by the acquisition of a larger share of the products of these machines. Then and not till then would you enjoy the right to work where and when you please, and the absolute right to the full product of your labor. As for government interference with individual rights can anything be more outrageous than the actions of existing governments which can and do actually take and use your body to stop another man's bullet. No socialistic government would dare to exercise a power as great as this. It would regulate industry, it would have to do so, just as it now regulates the carrying and distribution of the mails, but I have yet to learn that this action of the government in regard to the mails is considered as interfering with individual rights, or is detrimental to the best interests of the people. Men, as a rule, do not object to work for the government now; the people would not object to all the work of the nation being conducted by the government, the only ones that would kick are the so-called 'captains of industry,' who now live on the labor of other people without doing any work themselves."

BILL BLADES.

## SCRAPS FOR CIGARMAKERS

The question asked, Why does not "Scraps" show up the manner in which cigarmakers are treated by the employers in many cases instead of attacking members of the union who contribute to the support and maintenance of such a body.

In replying to the above question I may state that in writing up "Scraps" I have always endeavored to show up in an impartial light the actions of both employers and members who act in an unfair manner, not for the sake of showing my ability, as has been stated by certain parties, but in the interest of unionism. An unjust act committed by an employer toward his employee is as unjust when committed by a member of the union towards his confrere, and deserves to be punished in the same manner. To-day, if we are being treated without regard to feeling, it is due to the fact that cigarmakers in many cases are responsible, and more especially the way in which the union is being conducted, without regard for principle or constitution. I would like to ask these members if it is not an outrage on the members in general to have a half a dozen of committees appointed to do a certain work assigned to each, and to find, after a lapse of two, three or more months, that nothing has been done to carry out the work that they so willingly accepted. Is it, then, to be wondered at if we are not holding our own, much less making any progress? And still we find members willing to defend those who, by their acts in accepting such offices and failing to perform their duty, are playing right into the hands of unscrupulous employers, who are ever willing to take advantage of the weak, and all through the fact that the members are not carrying out their obligation. Why, then, make an exception of them because they are members of the union? Has not the result of their acts to be borne by the members in general, and if through failure to carry out their obligations some obnoxious laws are introduced and men forced to comply with them through necessity, should they not be held responsible for their actions and treated in the same manner as an employer who imposes on his help? The fact that we are not the only union that is doing the same gives us no right to continue in violating the principles for which we are organized to protect ourselves. It is high time to cry "halt!"—if not through the union through the press.

The fact that there has been no reply to the article on Amalgamation, which appeared in The Echo, is proof that the arguments in favor of the present system are not of any consequence, and an admission that the two union plan is a detriment to the trade in general.

The failure of the corresponding secretaries to perform their duty ought to be brought before their respective executive committees on Saturday for investigation, when their duties as such should be explained to them, with instructions to carry out the desires of their respective unions.

"SCRAPS."

4TH ANNUAL  
**Picnic**  
— AND —  
**Games**  
— AT —  
OTTERBURN PARK,  
(ST. HILAIRE.)  
**SATURDAY,**  
**Aug. 22,**  
— OF —  
Montreal Typo. Union  
No. 176.

BOATING, FISHING,  
GOOD GAMES,Grand Lacrosse Match,  
BEAVERS vs. VICTORIAS,

Blasi's Orchestra for Dancing,

## THE PARADE

will leave Union Hall, 223 McGill street, at  
12.00 sharp.Trains leave Bonaventure Depot at 8.30  
a.m. and 12.30 p.m., stopping at St. Cune  
gonde, St. Henri and the Point.

Tickets, Adults, 60c.

CHILDREN HALF-PRICE.

## ATTENTION!

Every Workingman

SHOULD READ

## THE ECHO

A BRIGHT, NEWSY,

ENTERTAINING WEEKLY.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

ONLY \$1.00 A YEAR.

## Job \* Printing!

— FOR —

SOCIETIES,

LODGES,

ASSEMBLIES

— AT —

REASONABLE PRICES.

## No More Misrepresentation!

ALL OUR GOODS SOLD ON THEIR MERITS.

Select your Furniture from the Largest Stock in Canada.

FEE &amp; MARTIN,

Palace Furniture Store,

357 to 367 ST. JAMES STREET, MONTREAL.

# CLENDINNENG'S LEADER STOVES.

Workingmen's Wives, look at our line of Stoves, Ranges, Heaters; made here. Best to Bake, Cook and Heat. Cost the least to repair.

SAMPLES AND SALESROOMS:

524 Craig Street,  
319 St. James Street,  
2495 Notre Dame Street,  
141-7 St. Catherine Street,Cor. Inspector and William Streets,  
Haymarket Square.

## W. Clendinneng &amp; Son.

GREAT REDUCTIONS

Furniture, Bedding

Baby Carriages!

NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY!

All goods stored and insured FREE until wanted.

H. A. WILDER &amp; CO.,

232 to 238 McGill Street.