

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by
the Boarders.

"I'm kind of curious to know," said Brown, "how the workingmen of Canada will vote at the coming elections. Some years ago they were hard and fast Protectionists, but since then they must have found out that the N. P. is not all that it was cracked up to be. Manufacturers, of course, are in favor of it, because it enables them to rob the consumer to exactly the amount of what the duty on the manufactured article amounts to, and they of course will try to coerce their men to vote the Conservative ticket, but I am much mistaken if they'll succeed."

"I don't think they will," said Phil, "and I'll tell you why. In the first place, the laborer knows that his class furnishes the largest number of consumers; he knows that a protective tariff reduces the purchasing power of his dollar in so far that it compels him to pay not only the price of the article but also the duty on it, because the Canadian manufacturer, no matter how low the cost of production, will always charge as much as the tariff will allow him to do. In the second place, the laborer knows that protection has not increased his wages; they are governed by the law of supply and demand, and so that the supply may always exceed the demand and employers be enabled to secure their labor cheap, the present Government has done all it could to induce laborers to come here, actually taking them out of old country poorhouses and throwing them upon our labor market. The laborer knows this, and neither the threats of his employer or yet the buncombe of the oily-tongued politician will induce him to longer support a policy which robs him both as a producer and consumer."

"Well, I can't see why manufacturers should support Sir John and his restrictive policy which gives them only a small patch of a market," said Brown, "in preference to Laurier and unrestricted reciprocity which gives us the finest market of the world. They must know that the days of large profits are past; this is the day of small profits and quick sales. To successfully compete with the outside world, even with our present high tariff, the Canadian manufacturer finds that he must produce in large quantities, and for this purpose his market is much too small. It does not warrant him in making use of expensive machinery which would reduce the cost of production to that point where he could successfully compete with any country in the world, because, thanks to our insane policy, what is not absorbed by our home market is left on his hands, whereas if you would but give him room he could prove that Canada could produce as cheap and cheaper than her Yankee cousin."

"Our manufacturers to save themselves from destruction will be compelled to adopt unrestricted reciprocity," said Phil. "It is because of our protective policy that Canada is at present the slaughter market of the United States. As Brown correctly stated, the cost of production is greatly reduced by manufacturing large quantities. The American manufacturer produces in large quantities and therefore produces cheaper than the Canadian. He sells in his own market for a higher figure than that which our manufacturer gets here, but what he cannot dispose of he sends to Canada to be sold at actual cost price. Our manufacturers cannot compete with him, because manufacturing in smaller quantities, the cost of production is greater than the difference of cost, with duty added, on the American article. But had we but unrestricted reciprocity the American could not sell at such ridiculous low prices in Canada, because we could take their goods into their own market and undersell them

there, unless, indeed, they were prepared to sell to everybody at actual cost price. But the American wants to make money the same as the rest, and will not sell much without making a profit. If he found Canadians taking his own goods to St. Louis or Chicago he could not afford to sell cheaper in Canada than he does at home, and if he be forced to adopt one price list for the whole continent then we need not fear him. Between the McKinley bill and our own precious tariff we are being ground to dust. Our only salvation rests in free trade."

"Our manufacturers don't think so," said Sinnett. "They are frantically trying to reduce the cost of production by employing women and children, instead of securing a larger market and producing larger quantities. They forget that if Americans adopted the same means they could, in a commercial way, wipe us off the face of the globe inside of twelve months. They know very well that at present they cannot compete with the Yankees; they understand the reasons well enough, but they would like our Government to build a wall around Canada as high as McKinley's so that the people of Canada would be completely at their mercy. I don't doubt but what Sir John and the rest of the gang would be willing enough to do that only that they are afraid that such action of theirs would create a political cyclone such as swept the States a few months ago; it would hurl them from power."

BILL BLADES.

ABOUT WOMEN.

Miss Emily Howland is a director of the First National Bank of Auburn, N. Y., and when a man has a reputation for ill-treating his wife or refusing to buy her neat bonnets he knows that he has no chance of getting his paper discounted at that establishment.

One of the graduates at the Westminster Cooking School, an Irish lady, Mrs. Jeanette Miller, a woman of good family and social position, has adopted the profession of cookery, and goes to private houses to prepare company breakfasts, luncheons and dinners.

Mlle. Bonheur's love for and loving study of animals have given her strange control over them. It is now some years since she gave to the Jardin des Plantes a beautiful lion and lioness, which to this day recognize her if she approaches their cage and thrust their heads through the bars for the touch of her sympathetic hand.

The Woman's Medical College of Georgia was organized last year at Atlanta. It was the only medical college exclusively for women, south of Baltimore, and it has met with strong support and patronage, many of the students coming from States quite distant. At the opening of the second term recently, about 25 students were enrolled, who came from every part of Georgia and the South. The wives and daughters of clergymen and old soldiers are admitted on payment of half the regular tuition. A training school for nurses is connected with the college, and furnishes additional opportunities to women.

The number of women in America employed in remunerative occupations is 300,900, or nearly 30 per cent. of the total female population. In the previous decade the percentage was only 21.33 per cent. of the whole. Out of the eleven classes of occupations women have increased comparatively in nine, viz., government service, professional and domestic service, trade, agriculture, fisheries, manufactures, and as apprentices, while they have decreased comparatively as laborers and in personal service. In 1875 there were nineteen branches of industry in which women were not employed; in 1885 the number was reduced to five.

Cost of Wars of the United States.

The revolutionary war cost the United States \$135,193,713. The colonies furnished, from 1775 to 1783, 395,064 troops.

The war of 1812 cost the United States \$107,159,003. The number of troops engaged is estimated at 471,622.

The Mexican war cost the United States \$100,000,000. The number of troops engaged was 101,282.

The rebellion cost the United States \$6,189,929,900. The number of Federal troops was 2,859,132.

Disgusted With the Mormons.

A party of fifteen who became converts to Mormonism, and went out to Utah from Pennsylvania last spring, reached their native State a few days ago, penniless, hungry and ragged. They declared themselves to be disgusted with Mormonism and all the customs that go with it.

EIGHT HOURS FOR MINERS.

The mine operators of the country are to have nearly three months' time in which to discuss and take action on the question whether or not they will accede to the demand of the organized miners for a reduction of the working hours to eight per day. They cannot at least make the assertion as an excuse for refusal of the demand that they were taken unfairly and not given sufficient time to adjust their business to the proposed system, nor can they very consistently plead that their margin of profits is so small that they cannot afford to run on the eight hour system, for the eight hour plan has been successfully tried by many operators here as well as in England, and besides such a claim would hardly be consistent with the well-known fact that a committee of the leading corporations have been time and again empowered to order a general suspension of mining for weeks at a time, and an increase in the price of coal, to suit the convenience of the corporations. It can hardly be denied that if the operators endeavor as earnestly to consult the interests of the miners as they have been accustomed to foster their own there would be little difficulty in coming to an amicable agreement long before the 1st of May, the date to be fixed for the demand to go into effect.

A national convention of the United Mine-workers' Organization is to be held in Columbus, Ohio, on the 10th of next month to take action on this demand and to make preparations for its enforcement. Present indications point to a widespread suspension of work as the result of the demand being made, notwithstanding the fact that the executive officers of the Miners' Union and of the Federation of Labor, by which organization they are being sustained, are opposed to strikes except as a last resort. The operators in the Southern mines have manifested a determined opposition to the labor organizations, and are not very likely to consent to a general reduction of hours unless considerable pressure is brought to bear upon them and they are brought to feel that it would be useless and unprofitable for them to resist the demand. The question for the men in the Columbus convention to consider well before committing themselves finally to a peremptory ultimatum of "eight hours or strike" is, whether they are sufficiently well organized and financially prepared to face such a conflict. There will be no question as to the sympathies of all organized labor and of the masses of people everywhere being with the miners, but the carpenter and building trades will be deeply involved in carrying out their programme begun last year, and other trades will have special calls upon their members, and the contributions necessary for such a test of strength where possibly 100,000 men may be on strike together cannot be successfully raised by any mere appeal to public sympathy. No pains should be spared by the well-informed and responsible executive officers and trusted leaders in the Columbus convention in impressing the cold facts of the situation upon the impulsive rank and file, for experience has repeatedly shown that those who are most impulsive and reckless in ordering a strike are often amongst the first to weaken in presence of a low treasury and a doubtful victory. The question is a serious one for both sides, and it is earnestly hoped that an amicable settlement may be effected before the time announced for the new arrangement to go into effect.—Irish World.

Slaves of the Bureau.

Some time ago a leading manufacturing firm advertised for two young women to take temporary places in their rebate department. A down-town employment bureau, managed by elderly women, agreed to furnish the girls. The salary determined upon for each was \$10 a week. Every Saturday the employment bureau sent a messenger for the girls' wages. At last one of the firm became suspicious, and questioned the girls as to their relations with the bureau. For a time they gave evasive answers, and seemed so much intimidated that they couldn't be induced to say a word against the women. It was only upon the closest questioning that the girls burst into tears and admitted that they were the veriest slaves of the two women who controlled the bureau. They said out of \$20 a week each of them received only \$3 for herself.

The following week the firm paid each girl her \$10, and refused to recognize the messenger. This prompt and effectual action brought several angry communications from the women of the employment bureau, and when these failed of their result, a letter came from a lawyer threatening to sue the firm for the money. It never amounted to more than threats, and the girls continued to receive their salary in full as long as the work lasted.—New York letter.

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