

The Echo

PUBLISHED BY
The Echo Printing and Publishing Co

DAVID TAYLOR, MANAGER.

Subscription: - One Dollar Per Year.

PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

Single Copies - 3 Cents.

THE ECHO has received the endorsement of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress and the Central Trades and Labor Council of Montreal.

THE ECHO is published every Saturday morning at the office, 329 St. James street, and delivered in any part of the city or mailed to any address in Canada or the United States at \$1.00 per annum.

ADVERTISING RATES:

For 12 lines (one inch) or less, first insertion, 10 cents per line; subsequent insertions, without change of type, 5 cents.

Display or contract advertisements are taken at special rates, which will be made known upon application.

Business notices published in local columns charged at the rate of 10 cents per line.

All advertisements measured by a scale of solid nonpareil.

Advertisers entitled to change of matter should send in their copy not later than Wednesday morning to ensure insertion same week.

MONTREAL, October 11, 1890.

DAY VS. CONTRACT LABOR.

The members of the City Council, or a majority of them at least, had another opportunity on Monday last of proving to their fellow-citizens that their sole ambition was to serve the best interests of the city, and failed to take advantage of it. The opportunity arose on an offer of Messrs. Basien & Valiquette to pave St. Vincent street with wood on the same terms as Craig street, which, in spite of the opposition of Ald. Stephens and others, was ultimately accepted. The firm above quoted appears to have a remarkably strong pull with some members of the Corporation, whose sole desire appears to be to keep their hands full of work. Why this particular firm should be singled out for special favors is hard to understand, especially when we consider that the gentleman who has the supervision of the work has declared again and again that it can be done quicker, better and cheaper by day labor under control of the officials of the Corporation. The question is an important one for workingmen. They are directly concerned in its solution, and should take a note of those who voted against their interests. The opposition to contract labor in Corporation work is well founded. There are not the same inducements to rush it through in the slipshod way it is often done, and it means steadier work and a reliable paymaster for the workman, with probably a better rate of pay, as the profits made by the contractor would fall to be apportioned among the workmen. Besides, with day labor there would be no long string of "extras" to foot after the completion of the work, which very often doubles the amount of the original contract price.

KICKING AGAINST FEMALE LABOR.

In almost every profession and occupation in life—from the doctor to the barber—women are forcing themselves forward in competition against the sterner sex, with the result that in almost every instance when first introduced, the innovation has been met with murmurings, remonstrances, mutiny and open resistance. Yet still they press forward with steady persistency, and day after day are opening up for themselves new paths in life's occupations. In a great many trades male help has had to give way almost entirely to female, and the question of female labor in competition with male is daily assuming a graver aspect and exciting the earnest attention of social reformers and political economists. Considerable opposition was, at one time, manifested towards "lady compositors" by that branch of the "Art Preservative," but the opposition gradually grew less bitter, till now printers have agreed to swallow their dislike and accept the inevitable. The object of the printer—the Union printer at all events—now is to have

his female co-laborer receive, ability being equal, the same remuneration as himself, that together from the same platform they may fight, side by side, to maintain the standard of their art. The latest case of resistance to the introduction of female labor has just come under our notice, the occasion being the appointment of a lady to the position of official stenographer in the courts. The legal profession is practically one of the strongest trade-unions in the country, and, unlike others, well protected by its laws. To prevent overcrowding numerous obstacles can be placed in the way of poor, however clever, aspirants to practice the profession; the lawyer's table of fees is a generous and very expansive one, and should an unfortunate client dispute the bill of costs there is a sympathetic brother lawyer on the bench to see that his brother on the floor gets all that he claims. Rules which have the force of law, are made for the benefit of the Union, or the Bar, as it is called, and penalties can be enforced against offending members. Now, this Union, or a portion of it, is becoming jealous. It sees the cloven foot in the employment for the first time in history of a clever lady in the courts, although only in a subordinate position, and it is well known that once a foothold is secured there are more to follow who will not remain content subordinate. They must be on top of the heap, and it is only a matter of time when they will be knocking at the door of the Union for admission, by which ladder they hope to mount to the bench. The arguments advanced in opposition to the appointment of the lady in question are too flimsy to be seriously noticed. She won her position, in open field, by her superior cleverness, and now no opposition to her employment ought to be of avail.

STATE RAILWAYS.

A meeting lately took place in London, England, which may prove to be the beginning of an important movement, as from small beginnings many great events transpire. The meeting was very small, but made up of "hustlers"—to use an Americanism—in the cause of social and political reform, and they met under the title of "The Railway Reform Association." The association is formed for the purpose of promoting the State purchase of railways, and why not State railways after State telegraphs? The British Parliament has already given recognition to the principle of the purchase of railways by the State, and the meeting affirmed by resolution that "the time had now arrived" when this should be done. Of course this in a sense is premature, but all reform movements must begin by affirming a principle not already recognized, and most thoughtful and earnest observers of politics will concede that the State purchase of railways is pretty certain to be one day accomplished. The root principle is that all railways being State granted monopolies, and rendered possible only by special state action, the nation at large ought to have the profit of their working. It may take some time to reduce that principle to practice, but it must occur to many that a beginning may be made long before general action is possible. The State has to guarantee the lines in any case, then why should not the State have the advantage of working them on liberal principles, not making dividends the consideration at the outset, but standing to secure the profit that would be pretty sure to accrue in time to a liberal and energetic management? The State purchase of the railways in the British Isles would only be an extension of the activities already flourishing under their control.

BEAUTIFUL LITTLE DRESSES for children now selling for \$1.20 at S. Carley's. Busy! Busy! in the flannel department at S. Carley's.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

From the annual returns of the British army, just issued, we gather that Tommy Atkins is deteriorating—physically we mean—that he is growing smaller by degrees and beautifully less every year. Whether this will affect his dauntless courage we cannot say, we dare not even hint that it would, else we would have a whole brigade of hiliuputians down upon us. But the fact remains that in height and in chest measurement the men recruited for the British army have since, even so late as 1873, greatly decreased. The proportion per 1,000 under five feet five inches has increased from 69 in 1873 to 115 in 1890. Those over six feet could be numbered by 22 per 1,000 15 years ago. Now they are down to 17 and 18. There were 412 under five feet seven inches in 1873, now the number is 485. The same decline is seen with regard to chest measurement. In 1875 there were 608 men out of every 1,000 under 37 inches round the chest, and 392 at or over that measurement; now the former have increased to 657, and the latter decreased to 343. As recruits are presumably drawn from the same class of the population as they were 15 years ago, it would seem that the race is deteriorating. The standard of height and chest measurement required for the army has been reduced more than once, until men are now accepted who stand five feet three inches, with a chest measurement of 38 inches.

"Which is a Woman's Happiest Hour?" is a question just now puzzling the heads of American ladies, if we may judge from a correspondence that is going on in the columns of an American paper. Some curious opinions are expressed by the feminine writers, but none of them have given, so far as we have noticed, a definition of what they mean by happiness, a preliminary point of some importance. One lady, and a great many will no doubt agree with her, thinks that love is at the root of feminine happiness. "I honestly think that real happiness comes to a woman only hand in hand with love." A pessimist suggests that the happiest hour of a woman's life is her last—the hour when she knows that her toil and her troubles are over. This woman's stomach must be out of order, and she evidently requires a purgative. Another thinks that a woman's happiest hour in life is when, having brought the man of her heart to the point of proposing, she "makes him wait a minute or two for her answer." She must be speaking from experience and probably hard practice. Yet another says that her idea of happiness is plenty of congenial work, "and an attempt to realize in life Emerson's motto, 'Help Somebody.'" A sensible woman that!

Recruiting for the army in the United Kingdom, just now, appears to be almost at a standstill, there being great difficulty in obtaining a sufficient number of recruits. In some branches of the service, indeed, recruits are hardly to be obtained. This state of things is accounted for, in a great measure, by the prosperous condition of trade throughout Great Britain and the higher prices obtainable in the labor market. With a healthy condition of trade and steady employment at good wages for the working population, there is no desire to enlist. It is only when driven to despair through being "out of work" that the skilled artisan seeks refuge in the army from his troubles.

Is charity a luxury to the rich? That is the question which is being asked in Aberdeen, Scotland, just now apropos of the handing over of £300—the proceeds of a fancy dress ball—towards the erection of a convalescent home for ailing poor children. The

moral analysts of the Granite City are peening indignant diatribes anent the acceptance of polluted lucre, collected by the means of a frivolous entertainment, and denounce the profession of sympathy for ailing children and the indulgence in delirious ball room mirth as a hideous incongruity. A subtle question this, with a concrete and direct bearing on the broader problem—does the end justify the means? Can men and women really be charitably disposed who give their help only in consideration of being entertained by the extravagant foolery of a fancy dress ball? No, say the punists. The method of raising the money is immaterial, retort the dancers.

In our last issue we drew attention to the case of a Scotch firm having been fined for working girls over time, and a correspondent writes us giving an instance in this city where a lithographic firm compelled young girls in their employment to work two or three hours over-time every night, and that without paying anything extra. As the correspondent does not give his name or address, we cannot make use of his communication; but we would advise him to place his facts, if facts they are, before the Factory Inspector, and rest the responsibility of action upon his shoulders.

The Central Trades and Labor Council has scored its first victory against the Corporation on the Water Tax question. The case arose out of the refusal of the Water Department to turn on water in a new house unless a deposit of \$5 was first made. The Assistant City Attorney admitted the illegality of the refusal by ordering the water turned on after proceedings had been taken, and orders have since been given the Department not to cut off or refuse to put water in new houses until the question is settled one way or the other. If the Trades Council is correct in their interpretation of the law, and the admissions of the City Attorney would seem to bear this out, the City Council are taking a cheeky stand in fighting against the rights of the citizens with their own money.

THE ECHO is mailed to subscribers at a distance every Friday evening, and delivered in the city early on Saturday. Parties not receiving their paper regularly should communicate with the office.

PASTE THIS IN YOUR HAT.

At last Monday's meeting of the City Council the following voted against day work on Corporation work and in the interest of contractors:

ALD. GAUTHIER, LAMARCHE, J. M. DUFRESNE, TANSEY, GERMAIN, P. DUBUC, GRENIER, CUNNINGHAM, SAVIGNAC, P. KENNEDY, BRUNET, W. KENNEDY, WILSON, HURTEAU, J. B. DUFRESNE, A. DUBUC, CONROY, MALONE and PREFONTAINE.

And the following placed themselves on record in favor of day's work and the interest of the people:

ALD. SHOREY, MCBRIDE, FARRELL, GRIFFIN, VILLENEUVE, HAMELIN, STEPHENS, THOMPSON, ROLLAND and STEVENSON.

Remember this on election day!

The following are the aldermen who retire on 1st February next:

Perrault, East Ward; Rainville, Centre; Stevenson, West; Conroy, St. Ann's; Clemondine, St. Antoine; Griffin, St. Lawrence; Dubuc, St. Louis; Hurteau, St. James; Robert, St. Mary's; Prefontaine, Hochelaga; Germain, St. Jean Baptiste; Thompson, St. Gabriel.



DOMINION
Custom Made
PANTS!

\$3

TO ORDER
Inspection invited.

The Dominion Pants Co.,
362 & 364 St. James St., Montreal.

JOHN MURPHY & CO'S ADVERTISEMENT.

OUR GREAT PLUSH SALE.

Our Great Sale of Colored Silk Plushes is proving a grand success.

LADIES, REMEMBER,

all our plushes are

24 INCHES WIDE.

Not 20 or 22 inches, but all 24 inches wide, and all of the LATEST SHADES. Not a few old and dark colors that nobody wants, but all the latest shades and new goods. Everybody should call and see this Great Bargain.

JOHN MURPHY & CO'S.

Samples of our Great Bargain in Silk Plushes sent on application.

ALL-WOOL HENRIETTAS.

Ladies wanting a Bargain should come and see our stock of NEW ALL-WOOL HENRIETTAS; the finest goods ever shown in the city. Over 200 shades to select from all 46 inches wide.

All-wool Henriettas, 50c per yard.

All-wool Henriettas, 60c per yard.

All-wool Henriettas, 75c per yard.

All-wool Henriettas, \$1.00 per yard.

The only house to buy Henriettas at is

JOHN MURPHY & CO'S.

Samples of our All-wool Henriettas sent on application.

NEW PARIS DRESS PATTERNS.

We have the most beautiful assortment of the LATEST PARIS DRESS PATTERNS ever shown in Montreal. Novelties that can be seen in no other store. Ladies should call and see them. Prices from \$5.00 to \$27.00 each.

JOHN MURPHY & CO.

All Mail Orders have our prompt attention.

NEW COSTUME CLOTHS.

New Costume Cloths in Black and Colors now in stock. The best value to be found in the city. Note the prices: New Costume Tweeds, from 13c to \$1.00 per yard.

JOHN MURPHY & CO.

Samples of New Dress Goods sent on application.

BARGAINS IN ALL KINDS OF DRY GOODS.

The public will be sure of getting the best possible value in all kinds of Dry Goods coming direct to

JOHN MURPHY & CO.

1781, 1783

Notre Dame street, cor. St. Peter.

DRINK ALWAYS THE BEST

MILLAR'S

Ginger Beer, Ginger Ale, Cream Soda, Cider, &c.

To be had at all First-class Hotels and Restaurants.

69 ST. ANTOINE ST.

CONFESSEDLY WITHOUT A RIVAL.

THE TROY STEAM LAUNDRY

ANOTHER FACTOR IN THE consolidation of social life, another agent in the realization of that which every thinking man and woman desires—

"THE Home Made Beautiful" the production by the

TROY STEAM LAUNDRY

Linen whose

WHITENESS PUTS the Shame to shame, whose

GLOSS OUTVIES the Polish Marble, whose

SWEETNESS ON THE TABLE or in the presses, or on the person, is like sweetness and freshness and delicate primroses, or violets or sweet lavender

BEAUTIFUL LINEN, when you wear it, or merely look at it, produces one certain result—

A FEELING OF CONTENT and refreshment!

IF YOU NEVER have beautiful linen but when you BUY it,

RING UP 666, AND TELL

TROY STEAM LAUNDRY people to take charge of your washing, you will have it all the time as perfect as your most fastidious taste could desire.

CORNER CRAIG & ST. PETER STREETS.