BOR'S LEGISLATURE.

T WEEK'S MEETING OF THE TORONTO TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL.

islative and Municipal Committees' Reports A Lively Discussion Over "Sunday Labor Lectures

e regular semi-monthly meeting of above organization was held in the ral Labor Hall on the evening of Fri 5th inst, President R Glockling g in the chair There was a fair age attendance of delegates, and srs. G Randolph, T Izzard, C yer and C Staunton were admitted delegates from Bricklayers' Union No hile H W Fox was introduced as a esentative L A 5792 K of L

ecretary D J O'Donoghue read the rt of the Legislative Committee, which as follows

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT

ers and Members of Toronto Trades and Labor Council

ENTLEMEN,- Your Legislative Com ee in their first report for December 0 beg leave to submit.

hat it is with no ordinary pleasure they ounce to your body the receipt of the first ber of THE LABOR ADVOCATE from the e of the Grip Printing and Publishing pany, 26 and 28 Front Street West, onto, with Mr Phillips Thompson as or This latter fact of itself should fail in commending THE LABOR ADVOCATE to the confidence and financial ort of all who work for wages, whether belong to labor organizations or not Committee are quite satisfied that Mr Thompson at the helm as its THE LABOR ADVOCATE will ever be nd doing its utmost to give full effect he motto under its heading, and which to is as follows "We demand all the orm that Justice can ask for, and all Justice that reform can give" Independently of its first-class original as ll as selected matter the paper is well inted from clear faced type, and its gen al make up is of the best mechanical der

Your Committee, bearing in mind the cumstances under which the paper has en published, and the consequent responsibility resting upon the shoulders of our body as parties thereto recommend at every member of the Council constitute himself an active agent in securing ubscribers for THE LABOR ADVOCATE, not lone in the city of Toronto, but also herever friends may be throughout the Province and the Dominion In this way nly can its continued existence be secured eyond any doubt, for it must not be forotten, as we are told in its leading article f introduction to-day, that "the venture has been undertaken by the proprietors purely as a business enterprise."

Your Committee have had their attention directed to press despatches of recent dates drawing attention to the assertion that large numbers of Chinese are daily finding their way into British Columbia contrary to law Without asserting that he law is being purposely ignored by the Government officials, yet it is recommend d that the matter be officially brought nder the notice of the Executive of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress with he design of having proper enquiries in tituted as to the truthfulness of these reports, and in that event bringing the subect under the notice of the Federal Government so that a remedy may be aplied promptly

Your Committee, in support of the corectness of its anticipations indicated in e report of November 7th ultimo, submit he following extracts for the considera ion and information of your body In ing so your special attention is directed the very serious assertion in respect of Farm Values that "the aggregate val ation is less than last year's by $17,273, 9, each item, except buildings, showing decrease," and that "the value of farm d is less than last year by $9,453,453, d less than in 1888 by $17,884,801" ese extracts are from Bulletin 35 of the tario Bureau of Industries, dated Nov 1890, and are as follows

FARM VALUES — The following table sents the values of farm property in province for the year 1888, 1889 and 0, under the classification of land, ldings, implements and live stock

Farm Property	1890.	1889.	1888.
d	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ildings	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
plements	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
e stock	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
tal	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

These values are based upon the returns de by farmers under date of July 1 e aggregate valuation is less than last r's by $11,273,089 each item, except ildings, showing a decrease The value farm land is less than last year by ,453,453, and less than in 1888 by $17, ,801 The increase in values of build s, implements and live stock, however, es the aggregate valuation of farm perty this year only $10,430,430 less n in 1888

Your Committee in adding the follow desire to remark that it is well to bear mind that the data upon which the res and statements are based has been nished by employers and, that as a nsequence the figures are, doubtless, ewhat above what actually prevailed oughout the whole Province, and for vious reasons the Bulletin referred to m, in speaking of "Labor and Wages," at "the situation as regards farm wages but little changed from that of last year e supply of labor has been on the whole equate, except at the height of harvest g. Domestic servants are still rather rce, urban life with its better wages d its attractive surroundings enticing e more ambitious girls from the farm.

While a few correspondents express the opinion that wages are likely to fall, the bulk of the reports are to the effect that no great change need be looked for, except where influenced by local causes such as a revival of the lumbering interest, rail way building and other public improvements Many farmers speak despondently of the situation The following table gives the wages of farm laborers and domestic servants for 1890, 1889 and the average of the nine years 1882 90.

Farm Wages	1890	1889	1882 90
Laborers			
Per year with board	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Per year without board	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Per month with board	[illegible]	17 00	[illegible]
Per month without board	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
			1887 90
Domestics			
Per month with board	[illegible]	6 41	[illegible]

The rate of wages for laborers per month is for the working season There is not much change to note in the figures for this and last year, except in the relative rates for laborers with and without board, which apparently is due to a difference in the systems of making reports in the two years Previous to 1887 the returns of wages of domestic servants were given for the week instead of the month, and the average rate for the six years 1882 6 was $1 52

Your Committee also note the coincident report in the public press, under date of "Ottawa, Nov 23, ult., that the pile in the Government Savings Banks is steadily falling, and that during the month of October, the withdrawals amounted to $549,391, while the deposits were but $225,834 – a reduction of $323,557 in one month alone When it is borne in mind that the great majority of depositors are assumed to be of the wage earning classes, these figures are very suggestive of the fact, disagreeable and disheartening as it is, that earnings are not all equal to necessary expenditure on the part of these classes.

Your Committee credit the Quebec *Chronicle* of Nov 27th, ult, that on the previous day Hon Mr Mercier, Premier of Quebec, introduced two Bills in the Legislature of that Province, now in session, purporting to be of much advantage to the working classes of that division of the Dominion The first is an Act for the protection of persons employed in factories by removing some of the difficulties complained of by the Inspectors, as experienced in trying to enforce the existing law respecting proper sanitation of factories, fire escapes, etc. It also deals with the employment of children in factories, night work, etc The other is a Bill to amend the Franchise Act so as to extend the provisions of the Franchise Act to working men in certain cases, and also to assimilate the law in Quebec to that of the Dominion and Ontario It provides, further, that there shall be a half holiday on election days. If the details of these measures are of a character to give full effect to the apparent intention that [illegible] law will be a great boon

Your Committee, while in nowise surprised themselves, desire to draw the particular attention of certain good people to the following judgment of an English Lord Chief Justice on the character of Dr Barnardo The Nottingham (England) *Guardian* of a recent date says —

"In the Queen's Bench Division yesterday the Lord Chief Justice read the judgment of the Divisional Court, consisting of the Lord Chief Justice and Mr Justice Mathew, in the case of the Queen vs Barnardo, in which Mrs. McHugh, the mother of an illegitimate boy, aged eleven years, sought a writ of habeas corpus to compel Dr. Barnardo to give her son up. * * Dr Barnardo refused, alleging that the woman was of drunken, dissolute habits, and had used the boy cruelly His Lordship observed that in support of Dr Barnardo's case many witnesses were examined—*detectives he called them*—who resorted to a system of "shadowing" the unhappy woman, peeping through keyholes and listening at chinks of doors, with the result that the charges against the woman completely broke down The boy had also been interviewed in private by their lordships, and he absolutely denied that his mother served him cruelly It was clear that he was well cared for and willing to remain under Dr Barnardo's care, but after the scandalous attack which Dr Barnardo had made on the mother it was evident that he was not fit to have the custody of the boy The rule would therefore be declared absolute with costs"

Your Committee desire to congratulate the Trades and Labor Council of the City of Ottawa in its success in securing the adoption of the nine hour day for corporation employees by resolution of the City Council of the capital of the Dominion It is to be hoped that the same organization will be equally successful when it seeks to make fifteen cents per hour the minimum rate of the daily wages in all municipal work, whether performed under contract, or by the city itself

Your Committee, in concluding, desire to thank Dr Pyne, city health officer, and Mr J Blevins, Secretary Local Board of Health, for their courtesy in forwarding certain information required for the use of your Committee

All respectfully submitted,

Dec. 4, 1890 W H PARR, *Chairman*.

Delegate Bradley, in a motion to adopt, held that if the figures quoted were correct, and he was not prepared to contradict them, then "the country was going to the dogs" In view of all the surroundings it was the bounden duty of all working men and farmers in Canada to take steps similar to those being taken by the labor organizations and Farmer's Alliances in the South and South-west of the neighbouring Republic To his mind the working classes gained but little, if anything, through the tinkering of a high tariff

Delegate McCormick doubted the correctness of the deductions indicated by the figures quoted, and questioned the manner the method under which these figures were secured He felt that the farmers did not fully understand what they were doing when filling up the schedules

Delegate J Armstrong was understood to indicate like opinions on the subject

Delegate O'Donoghue, strongly entered into details showing the inconsistencies of the premises and assertions of Delegate McCormick and upheld the general intelligence of the Ontario farmer after which the motion to adopt was carried.

Delegate Armstrong read the following report of the Municipal Committee

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE REPORT

To the Officers and Members of the Toronto Trades and Labour Council

Your Committee beg leave to present the following report

It has been stated by the Property Committee, on more than one occasion and approved by the City Council that all leases of Island property expiring shall not be renewed by the city The intention of this understanding is, that in time the Island shall become one large park for *the citizens to breathe the fresh air of the* lake during the summer months It is a well known fact that the nuisance arising from the privies is anything but agreeable, and these are increasing yearly in number Drainage on the island for sanitary purposes is impossible. Hence the wisdom of not renewing Island leases becomes apparent Within the past few days it has come to the knowledge of your committee that the Heber lease expires on January 1st. This property contains five acres, and is situated at the Point, south of Hanlan's Hotel. The plot is well suited for a park, and as it is the intention of the property committee to erect a public wharf in the locality of this property, great convenience to the public would result from such an necessary act Your committee intend notifying the Mayor of the approaching term of this lease, so that the city may take it over and change it into a park for the benefit of the people An open park and a free wharf on that part of the Island will go far to check the monopoly, and lessen the incivility which the people are compelled to endure when entering the sweat boxes on the private wharves before reaching the steamers

At the last meeting of the Markets and License Committee, over which Chairman Frankland presided, quite a little wire-pulling took place to railroad through Mr Mann's tender for cremating the garbage of the city It seems that no one tender can be opened legally Chairman Frankland stated that he was not aware that only one tender was before the committee when it was opened In contradiction of this the secretary said that he plainly announced the fact of one proper tender having been received Ald Geo. Verral and Lindsay, contended that the tender should be accepted because it was opened, and the chairman strongly sympathized with that contention. Now, your committee believe that the tender was [illegible] full knowledge that it was the only one recognized before the committee Ald Geo Verral and Lindsay took a partial stand in the matter, it is to be regretted. Their statements and actions on behalf of accepting the Mann tender was not in the interests of the city Chairman Frankland's course in this case, as in many others during his aldermanic career, was anything but fair and impartial Ald Hosea, Bell and Allen strongly opposed the acceptance of Mr Mann's tender under the circumstances, and carried their point in passing the question on to council, for the purpose of calling for new tenders. While your committee are unanimous in the opinion that the crematories should be erected by the city, and the work done under the supervision of the City Commissioner, but if by contract, then Toronto men should have a fair opportunity of tendering for the work with outsiders The city should undertake to do the entire work, as then the filling of holes in back alleys and lanes, would be accomplished, which would not be the case under the contract system

In compliance with a motion entertained at the last meeting of your body that your committee ascertain whether or not Magistrate Denison received back salary which he claims, your committee are under the belief that he has not received it, as the gentleman has issued a writ on the city solicitor for the same.

The *Mail* of the 24th ult. contained a paragraph to the effect that undue extension of the system of doing work by day labor had its evils, inasmuch as aldermen use the system to secure their election. Your committee believe that if aldermen advocate day labor, and make themselves popular by doing so, organized labor should not object. But it is the city engineer who selects the work to be done by day labor, and that gentleman does not allow the aldermen to dictate to him how he shall conduct his department It has been demonstrated beyond doubt that corporation work done by day labor is far superior, cheaper and more satisfactory to the employees, than the contract system The Engineer the other day has made an additional new departure in this direction. He advocates that all private drains in the future be done by day labor under the control of his department It would seem that day labor is gradually making itself felt, and justly too, and the time is not far distant when all work of a corporation nature will be accomplished under that system In speaking again of day labor the *Mail* of yesterday says that if it is honestly carried out it has many advantages. By employing only union men good work would be ensured But when work is given to the rag tag and bob-tail crowd on the eve of any election, and passing over good union men a protest should be entered If all the union newspapers in the city would impress upon the wage earners the benefits derived from connection with labor bodies, it would be a step in the right direction and highly appreciated

Another accident through defective scaffolding happened about a week ago on Gladstone avenue, whereby four working men received serious injuries, one of whom had his leg broken Delegate Webb of the Builders Laborers Union noticed that the scaffold was not safe, and notified the City commissioner's department to that effect four or five days before the accident occurred. The time, in the opinion of your committee, was past due for the City Hall authorities to take action in the matter, but it seems they did not. The Legislative Committee of the City Council will please place this matter in the top of the list of the things which they are going to the Legislature in quest of a new city charter

It would seem by the press that the firemen desire an increase of salary Your committee do not object to the firemen receiving a fair remuneration for their services But there is one branch of the service which is sadly neglected in the salary line, viz the drivers It would seem that no one ever speaks in their behalf What is the cause? Perhaps they have no influence and no votes. The fact that drivers only receive about 70 *cents per day*, out of which they must clothe and feed themselves, pay their own doctor's bills, and provide substitutes when ill or absent, is anything but a fair deal to them They run as much risk on a reel or truck as a fireman, and they should be renumerated accordingly The fact of the city not employing them is no valid reason why they should not receive better pay than they do But the city should employ them, and also own all the horses No portion of the fire brigade should be supplied by contract

All societies and bodies should be treated alike by the City Council when granting them the use of our public halls There should be no discrimination The Young Men's Prohibition Club should be charged for the use of any of our halls, as well as labor bodies or any other society Any aldermen who advocates the free use of a public hall to one body and keeps his mouth closed or slides quietly into a side room when a similar request is asked by another body, is simply truckling for votes

All of which is respectfully submitted

J W MAYERHOFFER, *Chairman*.

Delegate Bradley, while adverting to the terms of the report, said that instead of letting by contract the city should erect and operate crematories on its own account He pointed out that while the man who had tendered for the contract wanted $75,000 a year for removing and cremating night soil and garbage, the city commissioner could have the work performed at much less cost

Delegate Morrison, as a practical working plumber, corroborated at length the position taken by the previous speaker

Delegate Parr pointed out that if this work was let by contract, there was no provision for the regular cleaning and periodical levelling of lanes and alleyways, so that besides the immense sum expended for the removal and cremation of night soil and garbage, a still further large allowance would be required for the performance of the work first referred to, so that from every standpoint it was of the first importance that this whole work should be done under the direct superintendence of Mr Coatsworth and his department.

Delegate March desired to emphasize the views of the Council, that this work should be done by the city itself, and cited strong reasons why it should be

Delegates Harris and O'Donoghue held that as the city firemen must of necessity run extreme risks of limb and life, they were fairly entitled to an increase in their present salaries - more especially as the increase asked for is a very moderate one Mr Harris also pointed out that the policemen were on duty only eight hours at a time, on the average, the firemen were practically on duty every hour of the twenty four Although the drivers were employed by the contractors supplying horses for the use of the fire department, yet it was a crying shame that the wages of these men did not average more than seventy cents per day, and it was about time the city owned and controlled the whole department.

Delegate J. Armstrong, speaking for the Municipal Committee, said they had every reason to hope that after the first of January next, the whole department would be placed under the sole and absolute control of the city, and this statement appeared to give general satisfaction The report was then concurred in.

Delegate Watson of the Education Committee, reported verbally as to a satisfactory interview with the Hon. G W Ross, Minister of Education, as to certain matters of an educational character, and other matters. As the subjects referred to were of an important character it was determined to await a detailed report in writing, and which was promised for the next meeting of the Council.

Delegate O'Donoghue, in reply to a question, said that while the Joint Committee on the Street Railway matter were keeping a sharp eye on all subjects relating thereto, it was not thought advisable to report at that meeting, but that such a document would be brought down at the next meeting

Secretary Watson then read the following communication —

135 AGNES STREET, TORONTO, ONT., Dec. 5, 1890.

To the Officers and Members of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council

GENTLEMEN, —For some time past the District Assembly of the Knights of Labor have had under their consideration the advisability of inaugurating a series of Sunday night meetings for the discussion and dissemination of the principles of labor reform. In order that these meetings may be successful, it is deemed advisable that they have the co-operation of the Trades and Labor Council With this end in view I am instructed to write your Council requesting that you unite with them in the same, if it meets your approval. We desire that *you will appoint a committee to meet a* committee of the District Assembly, to consider the whole [illegible] and arrange details [illegible] with the [illegible] [illegible] we feel that the [illegible] to hold such meetings [illegible] interest in these matters [illegible] to the welfare of the [illegible] earnestly [illegible] have the effect [illegible] an [illegible] Trusting that your body may see the importance of the matter referred to and that you will appoint such committee to meet with us on Wednesday evening next at our hall 173 Simcoe Street,

I am, gentlemen,

Fraternally yours,

WM. GIBBARENS, *Sec*

It being moved and seconded that the communication be received and the prayer thereof complied with,

Delegate G Harris moved in amendment that the letter be laid on the table In doing so he held that as Sunday labor was always opposed by labor advocates, he would strongly oppose any such attempt as contemplated in the letter in question He felt that while there were *six days already on which to discuss matters* affecting the interests of wage-earners, there existed no good or sound reason why workingmen should encroach on the Sabbath for such a purpose

Delegate O'Donoghue held that no matter what the majority view might be as to the subject matter of the letter itself, the passage of the amendment would hardly be courteous to a sister and friendly organization He believed that it would be much better to name a committee to confer on the subject.

Delegate Todd, while admitting that the remarks of the last speaker had some force as to a want of courtesy if the amendment was carried, denounced in strong terms any attempt to hold labor meetings on *Sunday*, *and trusted* the Council would set itself against any such an innovation, as he felt it would be an entering wedge towards making Sunday a general working day

A division being taken and the amendment negatived

Delegate Todd then moved "that the communication be answered and the District Assembly informed that a committee would be sent to confer with them on any day except Sunday

Delegate Bradley warmly refuted the arguments against the justice and propriety of meetings to talk "Labor's Gospel" on Sunday, and held to the assertion that these arguments were mere cant He pointed out that at the meetings held on Sundays in *Tecumseh Hall last winter, clergymen* including Rev T W Jeffery, as well as W H Howland and men like him, had no scruples in addressing those present Speaking for himself, he knew of no gospel more important to workingmen than the gospel of present bread and butter

Delegate Harris excitedly objected to the language of Delegate Bradley in the application of the term "cant" to the honestly expressed views of those who opposed Sunday meetings in respect of labor matters.

Delegate Hanton, having the floor, said he was so astonished at the narrow bigotry which was shown in the discussion, he must *declare himself* as strongly in favor of these Sunday meetings.

Delegate Heales also approved of Sunday afternoon meetings, and said he saw no difference between holding temperance and other meetings in our public parks and holding labor meeting in a public hall on Sunday afternoons or evenings He furthermore challenged the correctness of the assertion of Delegate Harris that the Trades Council had placed itself at any time on record as against the holding of such meetings.

Delegate J Armstrong took the ground that some of the greatest battles of the Lord had been fought on Sunday, but pointed out that there was a great difference between transacting necessary business on the Sabbath and indulging in unnecessary intellectual dissertations

Delegate O'Donoghue said that no matter whether he personally took part in these meetings or not, he was not going to be so narrow as to stamp them as being wrong But he did not wish to be misunderstood, and consequently declared he would, if allowed, hold up both hands in support of those who desired to have assemblages on that day He asked those who, as strict Sabbatarians, objected to even holding voluntary meetings, how they justified themselves in obliging a man who was practically idle the six ordinary working days of the week to earn his salary by preaching, and that was his work for a living, on a Sunday, and a failure or neglect of which on his part would result in his dismissal He thought they ought to be at least consistent If a given number may meet in the house of one of their number on a Sunday and discuss any given subject without being charged with desecrating the Sabbath, how could it be wrong for a like number to meet and do likewise in a hall

President Glockling from the chair declared that the Council had never put itself upon record as being opposed to Sunday meetings.

On being put to a vote the amendment of Delegate Todd was declared lost and the main motion carried on the same division The President appointed Delegates Webb, Weston Jas Armstrong, Nicholls and *Morrison to confer with those of* D A 125 on the subject

A letter was read from R. T Jenkins, real estate agent, drawing attention to the provisions of "a By law for regulating the erection of buildings and the storing of inflammable material, which had been passed by the present City Council last January On motion the letter was referred to the Municipal Committee for report

A communication from the local branch of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen asking for certain information as to representation at the Council was read On motion the Secretary was instructed to acknowledge receipt and furnish the required information, after which the *meeting adjourned*