

AN IMPORTANT MOVEMENT OF THE IRON MOULDERS' UNION.

At a meeting held in the Labor Temple in this city the Ironmoulders' Union, in order to meet the objections of the employers to International officers being called to settle any differences that may arise in the future, an Ontario Conference Board was formed. In future when any trouble arises the newly formed Conference Board will deal with the employers, and only in case of failure will the International officers be called on.

This new step will be watched with the keenest interest by organized labor in Canada, to see the results.

Among those present at the meeting were: George Kirkpatrick, of Carleton Place; C. Giles, Oshawa; V. H. Annabel, Ottawa; R. Wilkinson, Toronto; A. Hicks, Dundas; P. Haffey, Brantford; R. Stockdale, Peterboro; Jno. Wilson, Galt; D. Stewart, St. Thomas; F. O. Burgess, Ottawa; W. L. Lucas, Hamilton; J. Jacobs, London; J. Janson, Preston.

THE LABOR DAY COMPTITION.

Trophy awarded to the Plumbers.

This trophy was awarded for individual appearance, marching order, general display and appearance of the men in line.

The Labor Day Committee trophy was awarded the Plumbers with 75 17.79 points, the Bakers' Union a close second, being only 1-16 of a point behind; the Brass Molders third with 72 points in their favor, and the Iron Moulders fourth with 60 points.

The trophy awarded by the Musical Protective Association for best general appearance, most appropriate float, and percentage of men in line, was awarded the Brickworkers, who secured 92 points out of a possible hundred; the Bakers' Union second, with 78, and the Machinists third, with 63 points. This trophy was held by the Cigarmakers last year.

We are disappointed at the failure of the P.O. authorities sending out our first number late through no fault of ours. We applied to Ottawa for the newspaper rates being granted for this journal. They did not see the point for our first issue, and in order to keep faith with our many patrons we put on full postage, but still they were held over. We trust this will not occur again, and that an explanation will be given.

Order from the news dealers. They have them on sale every week.

Boom the new paper, The Tribune.

Lethbridge, Alberta.—Local Union No. 354, recently organized, scored the first victory, inasmuch as contracts of said local have been signed by the local breweries, which no doubt are satisfactory to all the members, as the hours and wage scale is in accord with the most progressive ones entered into in that vicinity.

FAILURES THIS WEEK.

Dunn's Review.

Failures in Canada number 23 against 19 last week, 27 the preceding week, and 16 last year.

CHILD LABOR.

The reports of the Ontario factory inspectors are just out. On the question of child labor Mr. A. W. Holmes reports:

"There are some employers of labor who think they have the right to employ children under fourteen during the school vacation, and there are also some parents who think likewise. That has been the excuse I have been met with a few times. Such is not the case, however. I have experienced two cases where the children have been sent home, when the widowed mother waited on me, asking that her boy be allowed to continue work. The inspectors have no discretionary powers along that line, which I think is wise, as it might only lead to abuse.

"During my short term of inspection I have found some twenty children employed under the age of fourteen years. I have made no prosecutions, but have given warning that if any other cases were found in the same factories they would be dealt with through the courts. I find it very difficult at times to procure a proper birth certificate, but when they are native born, it is possible to get some information through the Registrar-General's department or from the school registrar. I have asked that where children are employed that the parents or guardians furnish certificates as to birth before being allowed to work. To strengthen this, I would recommend that as the School Act requires the attendance of children at school until they are fourteen years of age, they should not be allowed in factories unless they have received from their teacher certificates of their ages and attendance at school."

On the same subject Mrs. Anne Brown further reports:

"I have found very few children under the age required by the Factories Act. The chief difficulty being the inability to verify the ages, and the parents giving false certificates. It is cause for regret that child labor should be in demand to aid in production, while adults are idle. Notwithstanding the increased productive power of labor, aided by improved machinery, it would appear that there is no hope for the emancipation of child labor under the present conditions. In cases where widows are left to bring up a family, or where wives and families are deserted by husbands, or the husbands sentenced to imprisonment for crimes or misdemeanors, and the families deprived of their support thereby, or through ill-health and accidents, common justice demands that the innocent should not be allowed to suffer for the lack of sustenance, more especially when there is always a surplus of so-called free labor and prison labor as well."

T. W. B.

Subscribe to the Tribune.

MORE UNIONS.

This is an age of unions. The independent telephone companies of the province met at the hall this week and organized a Canadian Independent Telephone Association. United under one standard they believe that they will be better able to fight the common foe, the Bell Telephone Company.

THE MUNICIPAL ARENA

Views Pertinent and Impertinent

Toronto is promised natural gas at not more than 45c per thousand feet. Aldermen have already agreed to supply the same thing for \$300, and Controllers for \$2,500 a year.

Ald. Jones has started his campaign for a Controllership at the approaching municipal elections. When last heard from he was doing the lodges, and hadn't time to kiss the babies.

Denver, Colorado, has a reservoir that holds 30,000,000 gallons, enough to supply the city for three years. Toronto's reservoir would bust with chest expansion if it passed through a winter without supplying the daily papers with scare headlines about a water famine.

Brandon, Man., is endeavoring to have the G. T. P. Railway run through the town, and the Toronto City Council has had a whole heap of trouble since the Toronto Railway Company got a franchise to run through this city.

Toronto, at the suggestion of City Engineer Rust, has abolished the clause which only allowed tenders from Canadian firms. This will hit some notoriously unfair firms in Canada which imagine they can play the bunco game.

Ald. John Noble boasts of his friendship for the wage-workers of the city, but he will have to have his ear to the ground a long time before he will get their consent to sell out the city cattle market and hand the cattle trade over to a private corporation. The average workman gets none too much beef-steak now, and if Doctor John had his way a porterhouse steak would be as far removed as a thirty-second cousin.

Hamilton, Ont., celebrated its 59th birthday as a city on the 10th of June, and the news has just reached Toronto. If Toronto keeps on growing at the present pace, Hamilton will be proposing annexation to us.

Hamilton, Ont., is to have another turbine steamer for the Toronto service. This means more business for Toronto departmental stores, and more cries of "Hogtown" from Hamilton merchants.

With the Exhibition over and the City Council again down to business, we may expect to hear something about municipal ownership and other subjects that interest the wage-workers.

Under Street Commissioner Jones the city effected a great saving by making its own scavenger wagons, street sweepers, watering carts, etc., but there is a rumor afloat that Dr. Sheard, the new head of the department, may hand the work over to private contractors, who were never known to work for their health when manufacturing anything for the city. It would be just as well if the municipal ownership men in the Council would keep a close watch on the wealthy doctor's movements.

Building Superintendent C. H. Bishop, of the Board of Education, makes all the ink used in the Public and High Schools of the city, and saves \$800 a year by his little effort. Oh, no, municipal production would never pay.

When City Engineer Rust constructs concrete sidewalks for the city the work is done by day labor, and last year a saving of about \$8,000 was effected. Ald. Noble and some of his colleagues in the Council prefer the contract system because it pays (1) better.

Guelph, Ont., is refusing a five-year franchise to the Bell Telephone Company. The success of municipal ownership in that thriving town has soured the citizens on corporation graft.

The Board of Directors of the Exhibition believe that greater satisfaction could be obtained if the new Exhibition buildings were built by day labor. The contract system has given them considerable annoyance, and every year they have to fight with the contractors. Dr. Orr, the manager, states that he can get the work done in time for the opening when he has his own men at work.

Winnipeg has now a population of 79,975, an increase of 13,000 over last year, and an assessment of \$53,714,430, an increase of \$12,607,560. Toronto has a population of about 240,000, as compared with 226,365 last year, and an assessment in the neighborhood of \$160,000,000.

Mr. H. C. Hocken, an ex-member of Typographical Union No. 91, is mentioned as a probable aldermanic candidate in Ward Five at the next municipal elections.

Ex-Controller Oliver, who was endorsed by the Municipal Labor Party in 1904, may be an aldermanic candidate in Ward Two next January.

Albert Chamberlain, ex-President of the Bricklayers' Union, is mentioned as a probable aldermanic candidate in Ward Two next January.

For advocating the selling out of the municipal cattle market to the Union Stock Yards Company in 1903, ex-Ald. Stephen Burns was left at home by the electors of Ward Four, and was rejected a second time last January. The same fate may meet Ald. John Noble if he continues to champion the same policy. A wise man will profit by others' mistakes.

A real strong Mayor and Board of Control could make things much livelier for the Toronto Railway Company than the present executive board of the city, but can it be that R. J. Fleming's infatuated smile and warm handshake has palsied their fighting organs. A good percentage from the gross earnings of the company was never intended as "hush" money. F-I-G-H-T, Mr. Mayor and Controllers.

Ottawa passed the \$200,000 by-law for buying out the Consumers' Electric Company by a majority of over 450. Municipal ownership is in the air.

The dream of cheap electric light and power as a result of the franchise given the Niagara Power Company, looks like a nightmare at present. This corporation is out for the stuff, and like every other private corporation, has no love for the people. The Shylock's pound of flesh will have to be offered. Just why a natural water-fall should be used by capitalists to exploit the people, nobody seems able to explain.

The Toronto Railway Company contributed \$347,609 to the city treasury last year, while the Montreal Street Railway Company contributed only \$207,292 to the treasury of that city. The shareholders of the Toronto Company received \$334,009 in dividends, and the Montrealers got \$642,520. The traffic in the two cities was about the same.

Vancouver has been refused an injunction against the British Columbia Telephone Company, to prevent tearing up the streets. The Bell Telephone Company can erect their poles anywhere they like in Toronto without asking anybody for a permit. The courts and corporations seem to be very friendly.

The Town of Chatham, N.B., has decided to build a new municipal lighting plant, and the contract for the municipal electric light plant for Valleyfield, Que., has been awarded, and the plant is to be completed by the first of November next.