

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by the Boarders.

"If there is one thing more than any other of which Quebec workmen have a right to be proud, it is the Ship Laborers' Benevolent Society," said Brown. "Of all callings and occupations of laboring men in Canada none is so well organized, disciplined and powerful as the Ship Laborers of Quebec, not even excepting the Builders' Laborers Union of Toronto, and that's saying a great deal. It is because these men are so well organized that they have the power to say for whom they will work, how long they will work, for what they will work and under what conditions that work shall be performed. They are in a position which unorganized they could never hope to attain: to compel their employers to give them what they consider a fair return for their labor. They present an objection to the workmen of Canada of the power of organization. They have enemies, powerful ones at that, but to the credit of that organization, be it said, they have well deserved their enemy. Whenever and wherever labor has striven for independence and better conditions it has called down upon itself the enmity and opposition of capital, and the most conclusive proof that these men have been true to themselves and their cause is found in the fact that the whole power of capital in this province stands to-day arrayed against them."

"And because capital without distinction of interests has combined to crush these men," said Phil, "all organized labor without distinction should support them. Allow the Government to revoke the charter of this organization at the demands of capital and organized labor is doomed. Or, do you really believe that, having disbanded the Ship Laborers' Society, capital will rest satisfied? Don't make any mistake; this is a blow aimed at all branches of organized labor, and labor organizations should act promptly and effectively. No time should be lost."

"But I thought," said Gaskill, "that this question had been settled and that the Government had refused to grant the demands of the Quebec Board of Trade."

"So did I," replied Phil, "but the matter has merely been postponed, and in the meantime the Quebec Board of Trade is trying to influence public opinion in its favor. Its last move has been the issuing of a pamphlet entitled the 'Quebec Labor Question.' It contains the correspondence between the Society and the Council of the Board of Trade, such of the evidence given before the Royal Labor Commission as suits its purpose and part of the by-laws of the Society. The correspondence, in so far as the Board of Trade is concerned, is of the usual impudent and arrogant kind used by such wealthy corporations in their dealings with the 'lower orders.' Here is a sample, listen:—

OFFICE OF THE QUEBEC BOARD OF TRADE, October 13th, 1887.

Sir,—I am instructed by the Council of the Quebec Board of Trade to inform you that a special committee of members of the Board has been named to form a delegation to meet the president and officers of the Quebec Ship Laborers' Benevolent Society, for the purpose of considering the rules and regulations of that society, with a view of proposing certain changes, which, in the opinion of the Board, would be in the interest of the port of Quebec. I beg to ask you to make a day when this special conference could be held as early as convenient to you, Executive. I am requested to add that the Council expects a reply to this letter on or before the 25th inst.

I have the honor to be, etc., F. H. ANDREWS, Secretary.

This was addressed to Leahey, who at that time was president and who very properly treated it with the contempt it deserved; he didn't answer it. But for a piece of unqualified cheek it certainly takes the cake. What would the members of this Board of Trade have said to a similar demand emanating from the Ship Laborers' Society to alter its by-laws in the interest of the port of Quebec? Why they would have told the men to go to the devil; they would have told them that the Board of Trade was quite competent to look after its own interest and that of the port and that they would tolerate no interference with their right to manage their affairs, from anybody, and least of all from the Ship Laborers of Quebec."

"Evidently," said Brown, "the Society does not exceed the powers conferred upon it by its charter, otherwise it would have found itself in the courts long ago; on the other hand, it may reasonably be supposed that when the Government granted the Society its charter it did not confer upon it special privileges not enjoyed by other similar societies or conflicting with existing laws. The Society was not organized for the benefit of the Board of Trade, nor yet of the merchants of Quebec. It was organized for the protection of its members, and it fulfils its mission. This high-handed and pompous demand of the merchants on the Society to alter its by-laws to suit the Board of Trade is something more than

cheek; it is an interference with the constitutional right of citizens to do as they like within the law. As well might the Trades and Labor Council of this city interfere with the by-laws of any company or corporation carrying on business in the port of Montreal. If the Ship Laborers' Society has acted in an unlawful manner, the Courts and not the Legislature should interfere. If, on the other hand, the Society is a lawful one and continues law-abiding, not even the Government can interfere, and certainly not at the request of people whose encroachments on the rights of labor necessitate the organizing of it."

"It amounts to this," said Sharkey, "if it is illegal for workmen to combine for mutual protection, then it is also illegal for capital to do so; if the charter of the Quebec Ship Laborers' Society is revoked because its by-laws protect the interest of its members, then the letters patent of every company and corporation doing business in this province must also be revoked for the self-same reason. The people will not allow any Government to make 'fish of one and flesh of the other.' In the meantime, organized labor should place itself on record as being opposed to any legislative act in any way abridging the right of labor not only to organize for mutual protection, but also to conduct the business of their several associations with the same freedom and privilege accorded to capital."

"It is asserted," said Phil, "that the action of the Society has diverted the trade of Quebec to Montreal. The deepening of the channel of course had nothing to do with that. Shipowners would be glad to discharge their Central and Western freight in Quebec instead of taking it up to Montreal. They would sooner pay the freight to the railway companies than put it in their own pocket, of course; they are large hearted, they are liberal, even with their own money, and above all they would like to build up the trade of Quebec, but those perverse Ship Laborers won't let them—what a pity—to be sure."

BILL BLADES

Men's Wool lined Rubbers at S. H. Parker's for 60 cents.

Silk and Cashmere Mittens reduced to half-price at ALBERT DEMERS, 338 St. James st.

The Mystic Language of Love. There are men who "pop the question" without knowing it and who never find out that they have done so. There was old Major A., who lived and died a bachelor and probably never suspected that he had tampered with the sacred affections of any lone widow, and yet the case, as related by the lady herself, stood as follows: Major A., he says to me, Mrs. Dinsmore, do you like coffee? Yes, Major, I says to him, I am very fond of it.

So an I, Mrs. Dinsmore, says the Major. Sometimes, Major, I says to him, I am almost afraid I shall have to give up drinking coffee.

Oh! no, Mrs. Dinsmore, says the Major to me, don't give up drinking coffee—you musn't give it up.

Now, the good woman was wont to add triumphantly, if that wasn't a proposal, I don't know what you would call it!

1,000 Dozen Silk Ties reduced to 10c each, or 3 for 25c; regular prices 25 to 60c. Albert Demers, 338 St. James street.

KANSAS PHILOSOPHY.

The Lord is jealous, and man was made in His image.

Friends, like dollars, are easier to get than they are to keep.

The countenance lies quite as readily and forcibly as the tongue.

A man does not love as many as a woman, but he loves them more.

When trouble is too deep to talk about, it writes itself out on the face.

A man can always please a woman if he will; a woman will always please a man if she can.

Stranger than fiction is life, and it keeps men busy day by day to translate it into acceptable truth.

Public sympathy is the name given to the feeling for the dog on top; the private sympathy is for the under dog.

We don't believe we ever saw a man who could work with children hanging around him, or a woman who could not do it.

When a wise man said, "Discretion is the better part of valor," every coward in the world found a motto for his cap.

Better pass a favorable opinion of one who is unobscuring than an unfavorable judgment upon one who deserves good will.

As long as there are more men in the world than there are flies the devil will reap an abundant harvest at election time.

It very often happens that if the money put in a monument had been put in a rest for the man under it, the building of the monument would have been delayed several years.—Atchison Globe.

Parker, the East End Shoe Man is selling VELVET SLIPPERS suitable for Xmas Presents very cheap at 1351 St. Catherine street. Call and buy a Pair at 75c or \$1, or a Pair at \$1.25, worth \$1.75.

In his long life of eighty years P. T. Barnum has had a most versatile career. Before becoming a travelling showman he had been successively the proprietor of an oyster saloon, an editor, a bartender, a negro minstrel, a boarding house keeper, dramatic critic, preacher, bank president, author and partner in a clock factory. He finally found his true vocation. Let other versatile Americans make a note of this.

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FEE & MARTIN,

Palace Furniture Store,

357 to 367 ST. JAMES STREET, MONTREAL.

CLENDINNENG'S LEADER.

BEST COOK STOVE MADE.

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524 CRAIG STREET, 39 ST. JAMES STREET, 1417 ST. CATHERINE STREET, 2495 NOTRE DAME, Cor ST. MARTIN ST Cor. WILLIAM & INSPECTOR STREETS.

Wm. Clendinneng & Son, MONTREAL.

A GREAT CLEARANCE CLOTHING SALE!

AT LAST. Our New Sidewalk is Finished, and the

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is again crowded from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. with customers attending the Great Cheap Sale of OVERCOATS, Etc. Owing to delay in laying the New Sidewalk, which has prevented Cases upon Cases from entering our Stores, with Thousands of OVERCOATS for

MEN, YOUTHS, BOYS AND CHILDREN.

These OVERCOATS must be sacrificed to make room for our Large Stock of WINTER SUITS, which we cannot half unpack until at least two-thirds of these OVERCOATS are sold.

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is acknowledged to be, although the youngest, the LEADING and CHEAPEST Clothing Firm in Montreal, our Mottoes being: "SMALL PROFITS AND QUICK RETURNS," "NO CREDIT HERE," "TERMS STRICTLY CASH." All Our Goods Marked in Plain Figures.

Note the following prices:

Men's Worsted Overcoats, Raised Diagonals, \$5.00, Worth \$10.50
Cut 5.25, " 11.50
Canadian Frieze Overcoats, Pure Wool Superfine 5.25, " 10.50
All Wool Guaranteed 3.90, " 8.00

Our Children's Plush Overcoats, in Divers Colors, from \$2.00 to \$5.00 are marvels and would be good value as charged elsewhere for \$9.00 and \$10.00. Men's, Youths' and Boys' Suits at correspondingly low prices. Eaton Suit \$4.90, nothing in the West to beat it. A Large Assortment of Pure Woollen Underclothing marked 2 1/2 per cent above Mills' quotations. 1,000 dozen Seamless All-wool Aberdeen Socks at 15 Cents, commonly sold at 30 Cents, for this Great Sale only. Call Early and Quickly, to get a Good Choice, as this Great Sale—if the crowds still continue to come—will soon be over at the

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