

**TORONTO NOTES.**

[As THE ECHO of last week was printed one day ahead of time, the following correspondence did not arrive until after we had gone to press, and as the letter contains very interesting matter we willingly give it a place this week.]—Ed. THE ECHO.

**Municipal Politics—Stagnation in the Labor Market—The Technical School—Synopsis of Report of Special Committee—The Proposed Curriculum—The Trades and Labor Council—Lady Candidates for Public School Trustees—A Little Fun—D. T. and L. Congress.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

TORONTO, Dec. 23, 1891.

Just now and until election day little more than municipal politics will receive much attention. As time flies it becomes more and more evident that the fight for the mayor's chair will be between ex-Ald. Flemming and Mr. E. B. Osler. Mr. Osler is the nominee of the Board of Trade, and is largely interested in all that pertains to the welfare of the C. P. R. This latter fact accounts for the fact that the Empire—the organ of the Hon. Abbott's Government at Ottawa—supports that gentleman, although such an old-time and tried Conservative as Mr. James Beaty (the Boy) is in the field; also Mr. Mayor Clark, M.P.P., is still "on the fence" as to whether he will run for a fifth term or not. Had he announced himself as a candidate at the opening of the campaign he would have been hard to defeat. Should he determine to run now he will find that he is too late for success; but as he is a thorough-going first, last and all the time Conservative party man he may run to divide Flemming's democratic vote, and thus contribute to Osler's election. Mr. Abbott being Premier, such a course might best subserve the future interests of the present incumbent of the mayor's chair. Despite this, however, I firmly believe Mr. Flemming—young, firm, experienced and honest—will head the polls on election day.

At the last regular meeting of D. A. 125, K. of L., of this city, Mr. A. W. Wright, delegate to the last meeting of the General Assembly (he being also a member of the General Executive Board) presented his report of the work done at the last meeting of the General Assembly in Toledo. Stagnation is hardly the name in recording the condition of Toronto's labor market at the present time—there is nothing doing. During last summer the Dominion Government gave out the contract for the excavation necessary in the construction of the Drill Shed. Davis Bros., of Ottawa, had had the contract and executed the work properly. Recently the contract for building the edifice was awarded to Major John Stewart, of the same city. He is a strong supporter of the Federal Government, and so it was found necessary to excavate some more. Besides building the Drill Shed, he has to take out (as an "extra," very likely) some 8,000 yards of earth in addition to what had already been taken out. He is taking his time, too. He has some fifteen or twenty men and three or four teams at work. The Drill Shed will be finished some time, no doubt.

The Free Library as a public institution in Toronto owed its inception, and ultimate establishment as well, to the persistent efforts of Ald. Hallam, who is also one of the City Council's representatives on the Technical School Board, and as to which I had something to say last week. I make or offer no apology for referring to it again this week. In this I have an object. Montreal, as a great manufacturing and mercantile centre, is sadly in need of and should have its Technical School—aye, schools. It is simply a matter of time until organized labor in your city will take hold of the subject and press for the successful establishment of such a very necessary means of still further improving the experience, knowledge and opportunities of the apprentice and mechanic of to-day. When the subject of technical schools in Toronto was first brought up in the City Council, some years ago, a sum of \$2,000 or \$2,500 was voted for the purpose of a commencement, and the Public Library Board were authorized to consider the whole scheme, and, if found practicable, to proceed with the establishment of such a school or schools. The Library Board did not desire the task, but still it appointed and sent a sub-committee to visit the cities of the United States where such schools were already in existence to examine and report upon them. The trip was taken all right enough, and on returning a report was made that the cost of the establishment and maintenance of such schools in Toronto would be so enormous that the scheme was termed impracticable, and, as was to be expected, the Free Library Board would not have anything to do with it. In fact, the men who composed that Board, as a whole, either did

not possess the executive ability or were too lazy to undertake the task. Perhaps both reasons existed. They themselves knew best what they were best fitted for. That Board has recently determined on establishing a museum in connection with the Free Library system. This museum will never be complete until the "fossils" that brought it into existence are among those on exhibition on its shelves.

The City Council had its own views upon the practicability of the scheme, and to-day the school is an assured fact. The special committee having the subject in charge made its report to the City Council on the 6th ult. From that report, which was adopted in Council, I quote the main features, viz.:

"Your committee appointed to consider the question of establishing Technical Schools in this city, beg to report that, after holding several conferences with representatives from the School of Practical Science, Trades and Labor Council and the Association of Stationary Engineers, the following conclusions have been arrived at, and, with out again making any special references to the great good that will undoubtedly ensue from the establishment of schools of the nature proposed, it is strongly recommended that the same be adopted:

"It is recommended that one school well equipped and managed be established at present, the number to be increased when occasion arises, and that the said school be located in St. Lawrence Hall and the ante-rooms connected therewith. By adopting this recommendation a considerable saving in expense for rent and caretaking will be gained, as the said hall is very seldom used except for drill purposes, which is allowed free, and as the caretaker's services have to be retained to look after the cleanliness, etc., of the building generally.

"It is recommended that the direct control of the working of the schools be placed under the supervision of a Board to be appointed by the City Council by by-law, at its first meeting in each year, and that the said Board be known as 'The Toronto Technical School Board.'

"It is recommended that the first school be put into operation as soon as practicable after the passing of the by-law establishing the Board, etc.

"It is recommended that the subjects to be taught and the number of teachers for each school be as follows: Mechanics, one teacher; mathematics, one teacher; drawing and descriptive geometry, two teachers; chemistry and physics, one teacher.

"It is recommended that the fixing of the hours of attendance be left in the hands of the Board, it being understood that the classes shall only be held in the evening.

"It is recommended that the subjects be taught according to the following timetable, subject to such change as the Board, herein referred to, may deem advisable in the interest of the school, viz.:

Monday—Arithmetic (mathematics) mechanics.

Tuesday—Algebra (mathematics) chemistry and physics.

Wednesday—Euclid (geometry) — mechanics.

Thursday—Algebra (mathematics) chemistry and physics.

Friday—Euclid (geometry)—mechanics.

And that drawing be taught every night for two hours.

"In addition to the various subjects, it is recommended that the Board be requested to arrange for the delivery of rudimentary lectures at the nominal admission fee of five cents each lecture, which may be attended by any person.

"It is recommended that the Executive Committee be requested to appropriate the sum of \$6,000 for the purpose aforesaid, this amount being based on the following estimated expenditure, viz.:

Furniture, plant and apparatus.....	\$1,500 00
Teachers and lecturers (5).....	2,500 00
Salary of Secretary.....	500 00
Heat and light.....	1,000 00
Printing, advertising and sundries.....	500 00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$6,000 00</b>

"It might be here mentioned that the foregoing expenditure, it is thought, will be sufficient to maintain a school of 150."

In accordance with the recommendations just quoted, the City Council, at its regular meeting on the 7th inst., passed a by-law:

"To establish a school for the training of artisans, mechanics and workmen in such subjects as may promote a knowledge of mechanical and manufacturing arts."

And the last clause of which provides that:

"The said Board shall have full power to determine the subjects to be taught in such school, and the number of teachers to be engaged, and may appoint such teachers and fix their respective salaries; and may also fix the times of holding such school, the time when each such subject shall be taught therein, the fees to be paid by persons attending the school, and such other matters as may be necessary."

The regular fortnightly meetings of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council have been held regularly and without a break ever since its reorganization in June, 1881. While the attendance of delegates is always a good average of the whole number entitled to seats, there is usually a good sprinkling of "on-lookers and listeners" also in attendance on the back seats, who evince a lively interest in all that is going on, while the reporters' table is always surrounded by representatives of the several city morning and evening daily papers, except the Evening Telegram, which, since its inception, has been a bitterly non-union sheet. Its standing committees—Legislative, Municipal, Education and Organization—nearly consider as well as introduce most subjects dealt with by the Council. The reports of these committees are always varied as to matters dealt with, as well as important not only to members of labor bodies, but to the

general public as well. At the meeting of the Council last week the Legislative, among other matters, referred in commendatory terms to the fact that several ladies would be among the candidates for election as Public School Trustees at the ensuing municipal elections, and their warm support by organized labor. The discussion, in this particular, was both interesting and instructive. All were in favor of the abstract principle involved, but one or two of the speakers said they were not blind to the fact that, as a general rule, women were not very warm supporters of the aims of organized labor, and were prone to following the lead and advice of "nice people"—that sentiment and emotion, rather than stern principle, usually swayed their judgment. This was warmly and ably combated by many speakers who held that, when public prejudice and lack of opportunities were considered, women have shown themselves more determined, more reliable and more enthusiastic than the average workingman in seeking redress of evils and disabilities common to all who work for wages, the names of Mrs. Barry, Mrs. Rogers, Miss Mary O'Rielly and other women well known in the labor ranks being cited as examples. It might have been truly added, too, that Mrs. Doctor A. Stowe-Gullen, Mrs. Macdonald and the other women candidates in Toronto are not too highly flattered when it is remarked that their advent on the school board would be a very decided improvement on several of the "sterner sex" who now hold seats in that body.

"A little fun now and then is relished by the wisest men." Since writing you last week it has leaked out that the able and painstaking secretary of one of our labor organizations was surprised by a few of his admirers—and his friends are many—and with much ceremony presented with an illuminated (with a candle on each side while being read) address and a huge pewter pot, triple plated and profusely ornamented with emblems of his handicraft, well bound in an encircling vine. The address was grandiloquent in language, while the tankard was costly—so it is said.

The Ontario section of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress Executive recently held a meeting in Toronto, and determined on the several questions which are to be pressed upon the attention of the Provincial Legislature at its next session. The work is in energetic hands, and no doubt they will be able to speak for themselves in no uncertain language when the Congress meets in Toronto next fall.

On behalf of organized labor in Ontario, permit me to wish the brothers in the sister Province of Quebec—aye, in all the Provinces of the Dominion—all the compliments of the seasons of Christmas and New Year.

URIM.

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