

# The Tribune

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## Toronto District Labor Council

HELD AT

Summoned Meeting in the Labor Temple, Saturday Night, December 16th, 1905, to Discuss the

### License Reduction Question

And the ENDORSATION of CANDIDATES for Coming MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

An able Debate on Strictly Parliamentary Lines—A Fair and Open Field for all—Many able Speakers took part in the Debate.

The Temperance Party principally held the floor, and decided after a lengthy debate that the Reduction of Licenses would be of no use, as it was not in the best interest of True Temperance, and certainly not the wisest way to teach the law of temperance. That the clubbing of men to show them how was useless; but that a manly and moral training was the only true solution of this great question.

The meeting was called to order at 8:15, by President Hungerford.

Roll call of officers: President Hungerford, Secretary D. W. Kennedy, Financial Secretary John Gardiner, Treasurer L. H. Sanderson, Trustee Robert Glockling.

The credentials committee, Messrs. Tooner, Todd and Robinson, presented their report, which was read and confirmed, and Messrs. Frank Walkem, J. F. Cosgrove, D. Cleary and W. H. Miles were admitted and seated.

After some discussion, it was decided that the question of license reduction should be the first order of business proceeded with.

The following resolution was moved by Delegate Todd, seconded by Delegate Henderson:

"Whereas, the municipal voters of the City of Toronto will be asked to vote next January on a by-law to reduce the number of liquor licenses, and

"Whereas, such a reduction we believe to be in the worst interests of this city as a whole, tending to create a greater monopoly than now exists,

"Therefore, be it resolved that this District Labor Council go on record as opposed to any reduction of liquor licenses."

Carried by a majority of 71 against 15.

Delegate Stewart was opposed to the reduction. In the first place, it was ridiculous and impossible, and that all that true advocates of temperance could do was to educate the people to build up strong moral characters; that there is no moral violation of any law in any man drinking intoxicants, and that at no place in history could any town or city be shown where prohibition was a success.

Delegate Simpson said the liquor license was a great evil, which could be controlled, and which the temperance party is aspiring to improve; that the men thrown out of employment by the reduction would only mean a change of industry, and directly hurt no one, and would not be any fault as regarding prohibition. That the bars of this city were not the workmen's club, and that the Trades and Labor Council would not send a clarion note forth and insult intelligent workmen by claiming that hotels were the workmen's clubs, and that they must get above vital personal interests in this question; and in this way, and in this alone, would the workmen be able to have homes of their own.

Delegate Taylor, who interrupted Mr. Simpson, was requested by the president to leave the room.

Delegate Miles claimed that aldermen and others who voted for reduction could go to banquets, etc., where they drink on every occasion. Several names were quoted.

Delegate Gardiner said that the reduction tended to create a monopoly, and encourage dives of the lowest order, and in such dives the worst of liquor and cigars would be the order, and that the capitalist knew that if the workman had no place to enjoy himself less wages would do for the workman. The church people also claim they would get more change; they try and legislate for us and try to keep us down. Where else could a poor man go for a club? The rich man has his, which is barred to the poor man. The bar is as good, and can be made better than some of these clubs, and that "I believe in equal legislation for us all."

Delegate Hill wanted to know how Delegate Simpson would transfer these men who would be sacrificed to other trades. For an instance against reduction of licenses, Switzerland has more licenses and less drunkenness than any other country in the world. This was legislation in favor of the larger hotels. This is a wage class movement, and we should stand shoulder to shoulder; that we were wretchedly trying to kill the effect without the cause.

Delegate Kennedy said this was a question being worked on sympathy lines, but that it should be on economic lines, and that we should stand by our brothers

who are facing the destruction of their livelihood. That 150 hotels was not too many for a city of nearly 300,000 inhabitants. If these hotels do not keep up to the law, then they should be made to, or the licenses given others that would do so. That these men put out no criers in order to sell their goods, the same as many stores; that the business was legitimate and lawful. That some time since Controller Spence himself had eulogized the hotel keepers of Toronto and said Toronto was the cleanest city on this question on the continent, and now he wants to cut off 25 per cent of the industry, thus hurting this and kindred trades; that most all trades would be affected.

Delegate Bancroft believed in reduction but not in prohibition as that was coercive; but anything that would tend to stop drunkenness would be the right thing to do.

Delegate Cosgrove expected the support of the council against the proposed reduction as many of the members would be thrown out of work as well as kindred trades.

Delegate Newman, one of the strongest temperance men in the meeting, desired to place himself on record as against the reduction, as it would be a detriment to temperance, as the social system would be increased tenfold. He had been all over the continent, and found wherever prohibition was in force it was abortive.

Delegate Body said that the cause of temperance would not be benefited by the reduction of licenses, and trusted that broadmindedness would prevail. Rights are being threatened, and in all fairness we should cut off all or none; that the only real way to stop the traffic was to stop the manufacture.

Delegate Montgomery urged that reduction of the licenses was the best course to bring the drinking habit to a minimum.

An extension of the time limit was voted on and carried.

Delegate McIntyre was against reduction as a means to temperance. The evil would only increase.

Delegate Sanderson said it was not a question of imms or economics, but how far would any of these arguments go in feeding those we propose to throw out of work; that he believed in example, as carried out by his own living, and that would tell in the long run.

Delegate Glockling is not in favor of legislative enactment for controlling the ethics of the class, while in thorough accord with the temperance question. No benefit could come of reduction, but the reverse, as it would cause many meetings that are now avoided, and many would go home with empty pockets to their families, whereas now the families get the most of the cash.

Delegate Rawlinsong, in his experience, had not seen or heard of any prohibition place that has reduced the drinking habit. In Ohio, where any one with the cash could get a license, less drunkenness prevailed than any state he had been in; that the reduction would only concentrate the evil and certainly not lessen it.

The resolution was then voted on, and carried by a majority of 71 against 15 for reduction.

The municipal committee next presented their report, and recommended their candidates for the coming election. After a lengthy discussion pro and con it was decided that only the labor candidates for aldermen and school trustees would be endorsed, with the exception of Controller Ward, and that all opposition be given those candidates for re-election who disobeyed the mandate of the people on the \$700 exemption, who should be reelected.

The committee showed the great unfairness of the present school board in the matter of the printing contract towards organized labor. Moore Bros., a fair firm, who had done the work satisfactorily in the past two years, lost the job because it was offered for \$50 less by a Mr. Johnson, who is not fair to organized labor. It was given to Johnson by

a vote of 5 to 3. Those who voted for the fair firm of Moore Bros were Trustees J. Simpson, H. Simpson and Levee. Those voting for the unfair firm were Trustees Martin, Shaw, Kent, Dineen and Rawlinsong. It is recommended that organized labor do its utmost to defeat those candidates for the school board who voted to give the contract to an unfair firm and against honest conditions whenever the opportunity presented itself.

The question of endorsement was then proceeded with, and after an exhaustive discussion it was decided to leave out all candidates but the actual labor candidates with the exception of Controller Ward, and by the vote of the council the following gentlemen were endorsed by the council for the support of organized labor at the coming municipal elections:

For Controller: J. J. Ward.  
 For Aldermen: Ward 1, James Wilson; Ward 2, no endorsement; Ward 3, Frank Moses; Ward 4, no endorsement; Ward 5, Frank Woods; Ward 6, J. J. Stewart (unanimous).

For School Trustees: John Tweed (unanimous).

The letter from Mr. John Galbraith asking for endorsement was sent back. The meeting then adjourned.

### WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THE PRINTING TRADE?

The employing printers, and the typothetæ in particular, level their great guns at the employes in the printing trade and blame them for the condition the trade is reduced to. "The exactions of unionism," the lack of faithful workmen, etc., etc., are given as reasons for loss of profit. But here is a little catechism from The Drop of Ink, a monthly sheet published in Chicago, that throws the brilliant light of truth on the conditions created by employing printers:

Q.—What ails the printing business?  
 A.—Low prices.  
 Q.—Who makes low prices?  
 A.—The printer.  
 Q.—What would make the printing business better?  
 A.—Higher prices.  
 Q.—Who should make higher prices?  
 A.—The printer.  
 Q.—Well, if higher prices would make the printing business better, why don't the printer ask for better prices?  
 A.—He is afraid to.  
 Q.—What makes him afraid to?  
 A.—He is afraid to ask better prices for fear he wouldn't get the job.  
 Q.—Well, if it had to be printed and he lost a job because of higher prices, who would print it?  
 A.—Some other printer.  
 Q.—Why don't the other printer raise his prices?  
 A.—Because he is afraid the other printer won't raise his prices.  
 Q.—What's the matter with printers, are they afraid of each other?  
 A.—Yes, that's it; they pretend to be friendly with one another, but just as soon as an opportunity occurs they go after each other's customers.  
 Q.—Will they ever get wise and remedy this condition of affairs?  
 A.—O, yes—after they get tired of losing money.  
 If the typothetæ and the employing printers would do their plain duty in regulating competition, instead of sitting up nights studying how to force their workmen to work longer hours and for less money than conditions and prices would warrant, they would be in better business and in better financial shape.—Typo. Journal.

### BAKERS' STRIKE.

We have been asked to start a co-operative bakery, but as twenty-seven firms have signed Local No. 204's agreement, and who are acting in good faith, the time is not yet.

Should the Bakers be driven to the necessity of starting a co-operative bakery in the city of Toronto, there would be such havoc made in the business of the other shops that would make them wonder at their short-sightedness in not complying with the request by signing an agreement identical to the one in vogue for the last three years.

The financial side of internationalism has been the backbone and salvation of the Toronto striking bakers throughout the present trouble. The support we have been receiving is more than surprising the one or two smart Alecks who judged trades unionism from their past experiences in the movement.

The present trouble is not in any way going to debar the bakery workers from holding their annual affair. They are going to hold a dance and entertainment in the St. George's Hall on Saturday, January the 13th, and invite all friends of labor to be present. Tickets, single, 25 cents.

### HEAR, YE PRINTERS!

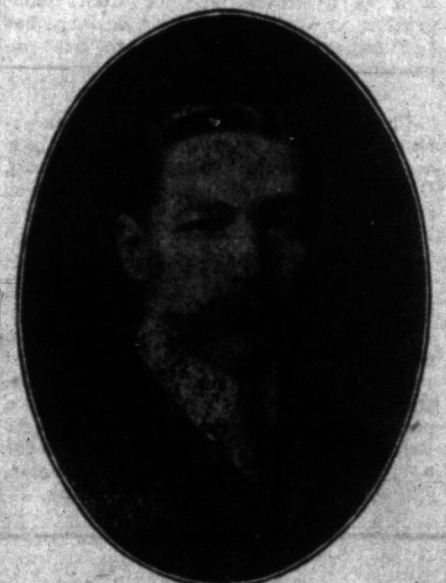
The open shop, long hours and small wages are the only things that are good for you, and the Typothetæ will see that you are blessed with them abundantly. Here is a gem from the organ of the American Manufacturers' Association. You might think that it was from some European sweeter of a half century ago, but it is up to date, new and crisp:

"ONLY THE OPEN SHOP WILL STAND.

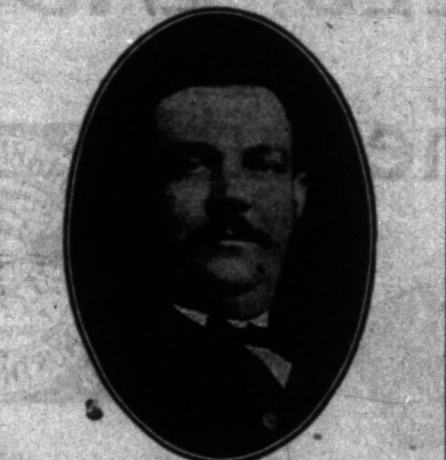
"A shorter work day to 90 per cent. of the members of the International Typographical Union means more hours in the saloon, greater dissipation, more money expended for intoxicating beverages, and less attention to home and less of the necessaries and comforts for wife and children; hence a shorter work day will do harm. This holds good in almost all classes of wage earners, but the experience of the writer with the printers gives him the estimate above made."

This argument is beneath the notice of any sane man or woman, but it is very characteristic of the Employers' or Manufacturers' Association. However, it is just as fundamental as the argument put forward against every effort of labor men to uplift or improve the conditions of their fellow men. Do they base their argument upon the statements of some members of the Typographical Union regarding hotel reductions in Toronto.

Many a big head contains a narrow mind.



**J. E. STEWART**  
 Labors' Candidate for Alderman in Ward Six



**FRANK MOSES**  
 Labors' Candidate for Alderman in Ward Three



**JOHN TWEED**  
 Labors' Candidate for the Board of Education.

### A PRAYER.

Gracious Father, again we lift our hearts to Thee. Every day we need fresh supplies of grace and strength, and Thy store is inexhaustible. Breathe upon our souls to-day and woo us by Thy love to nobler things. Thou who dost know what is human toil, renew our tired minds and bodies, so that we may rejoice in the blessing of life. Watch over our homes, and may they be filled with true gladness. May affection bind heart to heart, kindness be shown one to another, peace reign among all. Give faith and courage for the future, and a trust in Providence that cannot be shaken.