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MEETINGS.

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Meets in the Ville-Marie Hall, 1623 Notre Dame street, the first and third Thursdays of the month. Communications to be addressed to P. C. CHATEL, Corresponding Secretary 127½ St. Lawrence street.

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TORONTO NOTES.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

TORONTO, September 8, 1892.

The last regular meeting on Friday evening was a thoroughly business assemblage, with President T. W. Banton in his place, as he always is. After usual preliminary routine business had been attended to in an expeditious and business-like manner.

Delegate O'Donoghue read the report of the Legislative Committee, a very interesting document, the publication of which, however, must unfortunately be delayed until next week.

On a motion to adopt the report Delegate Francis approved and agreed with the report except in so far as it reflected on the Chinese. He charged that the Committee were prejudiced against the Mongolian, and held that the Committee had not the courage to recommend any remedy for the evil they complained of. Mr. Francis stands alone in his views on this subject.

Delegate Parr, Chairman of the Committee, tersely upheld the report, while Delegate Chas. March wondered at Delegate Francis' lack of memory or knowledge of how the Committee had often a remedy, and which was every time approved by the Council—that remedy was total prohibition of Chinese immigration into Canada.

After a number of delegates had delivered themselves in the strongest language of their opinions as to the untruthfulness of the statements of Sir Chas. Tupper, the report was adopted.

The Municipal Committee having announced that that Committee had no report to present.

Delegate G. Bradley expressed regret that the Committee had taken no action or had not done something towards strengthening the hands of the Engineer in his fight with the Street railway.

Chairman R. Glockling banteringly replied that the Committee had taken no action in the direction referred to merely because they had no definite or authentic information upon which to act; and he thought that if Delegate Bradley was in possession of any such information it was his duty to confide it to the Committee.

Delegate W. H. Parr, from a special committee on the establishment and advantages of state free employment offices read a progress report, and as it also contains matter of very great interest we propose to publish it in full next week.

This progress report was warmly greeted, and was unanimously adopted.

Secretary Cribben announced, on behalf of the Demonstration Committee, that a reception to the members of the Dominion Congress would be held in Central Labor Hall, and that the Metropole hotel had been engaged as headquarters for the Congress.

On motion of Delegate O'Donoghue, seconded by Delegate Emmett, it was resolved unanimously, "That, whereas the city of Toronto has contributed largely towards providing for the erection of a drill shed in this city, and whereas the contract for the erection of said drill shed has been awarded many months ago, and that despite this fact, and although there have been and are at the present time large numbers of mechanics and laborers suitable for the work idle in the city of Toronto; and whereas, further, practically no progress is being made by the contractors in the erection of said drill shed, there being only some fifteen or twenty men mechanics and laborers employed on the grounds; be it an instruction to the Municipal Committee to interview the city members of the House of Commons, and ask them to prevail upon the Federal Government to press the contractors to proceed more rapidly with the work."

Delegate Francis moved "That the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress be recommended to adopt the system of prison labor as reported to the Toronto Council at the last meeting as a permanent solution of the difficulty."

Delegate O'Donoghue strongly objected to the use of the words "permanent solution" and

Delegate March, having agreed with Delegate R. Glockling as to the words moved in amendment that the words "permanent solution" be stricken out, and the words "the best solution to our knowledge" be substituted. The resolution as amended was adopted.

Delegate Bradley moved, seconded by Delegate Francis, "that it be an instruction to the representatives of the Toronto Trades

Council at the Dominion Trades Congress to attempt to secure the recinding of the act respecting the law of Landlord and Tenant by the Ontario Parliament."

On motion of Delegate Dower, seconded by Delegate Parr, the representatives of the Council to the Congress be instructed to move that the Provincial Government be requested to establish a Printing and Binding Bureau, and the Council adjourned.

At the last meeting of Hamilton Trades and Labor Council the Legislative Committee recommended the establishment of a Provincial Printing and Binding Bureau; and also recommended that the delegates to the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress be instructed, when the undertaking of the Ontario Government to manufacture binder twine in the Central Prison was dissonsed, to support such action as will tend to minimize the evil resulting from the product of prison labor coming into contact with that of free labor. It is probable that the Council will bring forward a candidate in each ward at the next municipal elections.

The Mail of last Tuesday says that on the previous day notice was served on the city that Contractor Neelon would apply for an injunction restraining the city from taking steps to remove him from the new Court house and restraining Architect Lennox from acting for the city. It is also sought to have the question of the supply of stone decided and a new architect appointed. Owing to the existing dispute only a few men are at work on the building, and it is altogether likely no more work will be done this season.

URIM.

OUR AUSTRALIAN LETTER.

CHIRROP SWAMP, August 1, 1892.

The distress is worse in Melbourne than when I last wrote, thousands still out of employment and in a state of semi-starvation. It has got so bad that farmers go out in batches ever week shooting rabbits and hares; these they send down to Melbourne, the government carrying them free on their own railroads and are handed over to committees appointed by the different metropolitan municipalities who in their turn dole them out with the addition of a few potatoes to those seeking relief. Are the people devils or gods? if not the latter, circumstances will soon make them the former. Where will it all end?

At Broken Hill there is a big strike on among the silver miners and as the place is isolated the men stand a good show of winning. From what I can see of it the mine owners are trying to get the men to go in for a general reduction in wages all round, but when the fact stares us in the face, that there has been for some time past more than twice the amount paid away in big fat dividends to shareholders than there has been received in wages by the miners it looks as though the men had justice and right on their side. Contributions, despite the number of unemployed, are pouring in on them from all quarters. Pickets are posted all round the mines; co-operative stores are started and instead of strike pay the men are receiving stores. It appears some of the mines are caving in (not the owners) and the surface of the earth is cracking and unless this is speedily looked to, it will cost the owners a large sum for repairs.

The Parliament of Victoria has before it at present a village settlement scheme to settle the people on the land in small blocks. This if passed I trust will do a great amount of good, as it will place people who are willing to work in a position to earn their own living, and under conditions if the bill is properly framed, that will by dint of energy and perseverance, place them in a position of comparative comfort. At any rate the worst it can do is to take a lot out of our over-crowded cities and make it better for those who stop in.

At the present time in Melbourne, strong, able-bodied men are offering themselves for 12s. (\$3.00) a week and keep themselves. Just imagine a man offering himself for about the same money that he would get very poor board for in Montreal, and living out here is no cheaper than with you and not near so good, for the Australians as a rule are not good cooks as either Canadians or Americans. And just here let me say that I must say of all the places and countries I have been in there is no place that I know of where the women are such good cooks as in America. I have been in board-

ing houses out here and paid at the rate of \$4.50 a week and that is about the average, and had to be content with plum pudding that would presist in sticking to the roof of my mouth and potatoes boiled with a bone in them and afraid to move to fresh fields and pastures new for fear that the potatoes would be all bone.

The Knights of Labor and the Single Tax movements out here are having a steady, ever increasing growth, and lately the former is exciting a good deal of interest which in due time will bring a good harvest of new locals. Of course we meet with opposition from the conservative trade unionists, but now some of them are joining us and finding out the error of their way.

The agricultural districts are just commencing to look nice and green and from all appearances a good harvest will be the result. Plowing and sowing are just over and now the work that is going on is clearing new land. The trees are pulled down now and let lie all summer and in a measure they become dry, a strip all round the part cleared is then plowed to prevent the fire from spreading and in harvest a fire stick is put any place among it and it will burn off in a couple of days. Should the fire escape beyond the plowed land most disastrous would be the result, it might burn the grass for miles around and the cattle would then have nothing to eat. In case of fire, every able-bodied person turns out and gets hold of either a wet bag or a green bough of a tree and tries to confine the fire to as small a space as possible, if a wind is blowing they stand a small show, then terrible is the result, farmers in a whole district lose everything. Fires are often started by some person carelessly throwing down a match and other times by the action of the sun's rays through a piece of broken bottle lying on the grass on an excessively hot day, for you must remember we don't have any milk and water summers out here. Sometimes it becomes so hot that men can't work even in the shade, but these days are few and far between.

Those of our readers who remember Gilbert Allan, who used to work in the C.P.R. shops, will be pleased to know that he is doing well and his two boys are quite men, he holds the position of treasurer in one of our locals of the K. of L.

WM. W. LYCHT.

DOMINION CONGRESS.

EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

TORONTO, Sept. 8, 1892.

Organized labor in Toronto is delighted at the great success of the Labor Demonstrations in Montreal and Ottawa. We expect a big demonstration here also on Saturday, all the organizations vying with each other in that direction.

The Dominion T. & L. Congress received a most hearty welcome from His Worship Mayor Fleming and the City Council in the City Council chamber at 10 o'clock this morning.

The aldermen's chairs were filled by the members of the congress and the aldermen. A large number of prominent local labor men occupied places outside the charmed circle. The President, Mr. Banton, made the introductory speech. Addresses of welcome were delivered by Mayor Fleming, Rev. Father Rooney and Rev. Stuart Acheson. Mr. Lafontaine returned thanks on behalf of the congress.

The Congress afterwards met in the chamber of the Legislature, kindly granted by Hon. Sir O. Mowat, Attorney-General, at 8 p. m. The credentials of 75 delegates were presented and reported favorably upon.

The President, Mr. U. Lafontaine, read his annual address, which was as follows:—
To the Delegates of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress:
FELLOW WORKERS,—

I feel specially honored in being permitted to preside over your deliberations, and to welcome you to this eighth annual session of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress in this city of Toronto, so well known for her devotion to the labor cause and her constant readiness to defend and protect the interests of labor.

FELLOW DELEGATES,—

With perhaps the exception of the Province of Ontario, where certain useful measures have been adopted, as stated in the Legislative Committee's report, the result of the past twelve months' work, in what relates to labor

legislation, has not been very satisfactory. Our legislators, as a rule, are ill-disposed towards the measures we propose. Our friends are few and our foes many. But we must not allow ourselves to be discouraged. It is our duty to pursue our course with renewed energy and activity until our efforts are crowned with success.

The necessity of having some one to attend the sessions of Provincial Legislatures, as well as those of the House of Commons, presents itself to your consideration. Men of experience should be selected to watch the legislation of these different bodies. Such action would be of undoubted benefit to labor.

Your President should be empowered to visit the different places where his presence would be useful, either in securing needed legislation or in promoting our welfare.

The time has arrived for this Congress to enlarge its field of operations, and to take an active part in all matters pertaining to the rights of labor.

All Labor Organizations of Canada, without exception, should rally around our Congress and give it all the aid and support necessary to attain its aims and objects.

Several important measures will be submitted to you for consideration. Among these the Chinese immigration question should receive your special attention, and a strong resolution should be passed condemning the importation of such an undesirable class of immigrants into Canada. We should concentrate our efforts to try and relieve our fellow workers of British Columbia from this plague.

I call the attention of our legislators to the brutal usurpation of the police as well as the military powers by private detective agencies. Late events have given bloody examples of the work of these agencies in a neighboring country, and steps should be taken to prevent such illegal interference in this land. The law provides, and is strong enough, for the protection of all citizens, without the State turning over its powers into the hands of irresponsible persons.

I suggest the appointment of a committee to draw up rules and regulations for the establishment of a Board of Arbitration and Conciliation. Existing laws on the subject have failed to give satisfaction; they should be reconstructed, so as to meet the views of the Congress, and be more effective. Such Boards are of great benefit to commerce and industry in England and other countries, and they could be made so in Canada as well. The Committee should report during the present session if possible.

The reports of the different Legislative Boards, as well as of the Executive board, will be submitted to you for approval.

The Committee appointed for the revision of the constitution is ready to report its work. Great attention should be paid to its adoption for it embodies the fundamental principles which are the basis of this great institution. Have the constitution as perfect as possible before adopting it.

You have also before you the Secretary-Treasurer's report, with all the necessary items. In point of number we keep our ground pretty well, but we should make an effort to give this body more power, both financially and numerically.

I call the attention of the Ways and Means Committee to the fact that the revenues are altogether inadequate to the expenses, and means should be taken to raise the funds necessary to allow this body to extend its sphere of action and usefulness.

I return my most sincere thanks to the officers of Congress for the help rendered me, and more especially to the Secretary-Treasurer for the efficient and able manner in which he has performed the duties pertaining to his office.

I now declare the Eighth Annual Session of this Congress open for the transaction of business and the adoption of such laws as will be beneficial to labor and mankind in general. May harmony reign in your midst, your deliberations be conducted with moderation, and your decisions be wise, just and conscientious.

The reading of the address was frequently interrupted by applause, and it was referred to a special committee, as were the reports of the Executive Committee and the Secretary-Treasurer. To enable several standing and special committees to proceed to the duties assigned to them, the Congress adjourned at 5.20 until 9 a. m. to-morrow.

Sir John Abbot, it is announced, will leave for England in a few days on important public business.