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CANADA LIFE BUILDING, TORONTO

Vol. III. No. 10

# THE TORONTO LABORER

Official Organ of the Toronto District Labor Council. Published Weekly in the Interests of the Working Masses.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 13, 1903

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**'TIS FIGHT TO A FINISH**

**Aldermen Stand Against the Rights of Citizenship.**

**LABOR WILL STILL FIGHT**

**Against the Proposition that Firemen Sell Themselves Body and Soul to the City.**

The first round has gone to the union leaders in the person of the Board of Trade and the manufacturers. They were used to accomplish a purpose for other individuals, we think they are not aware, but the fact remains that the political tricksters who have used the Fire Brigade for years past in their own little borough in the accomplishment of designs that have never been in the interests of the citizens and never will be, have succeeded in blocking one of the rights which we citizens have. Chief Thompson and the aldermen from Ward 2 have successfully captured enough aldermen from other wards, upon one plea or another, into supporting him in still having the Wilton avenue and Berkeley street halls for his own private preserves in the accomplishment of designs such as the exhibition this city had when he and John Shaw were the factors in treating an old and respected employee to a dose of "political tricksterism."

Significantly, in this controversy, all the newspapers and the opponents in the Council have joined hands to lie and misrepresent the condition of things with regard to unionism generally, and the Firemen's Union in particular.

Ald. Ramsden is one of the new aldermen who has shown himself a trickster. Before the matter came up in the City Council he expressed himself as favoring the exhibition in a letter thinking him for his services in their behalf.

**UNLUCKY THIRTEEN**

The men who voted against Organization and the Rights of Citizenship. We will carry them in this frame until next January if the stain is not wiped out before that time.

**Aids. Oliver, Lynd, Foster, Ramsden, Harrison, Hubbard, Graham, Spence, Starr, Noble, Chisholm, Sheppard.**

It came to the test he was found upon the other side. We do like the man who manfully stands up for what he considers wrong, but the miserable crawling thing that puts a fair face to each opposing side is not worthy of the name of man. He deliberately lied when he said in the Council that "It is not essentially a fireman's movement, it is a movement from the Trades and Labor Council." It may as well be said now that the firemen came to the Council to be organized. The Trades Council did not take any action until they were requested by the firemen. And this is not the first time that the firemen have had the desire to organize.

Ald. Harrison, another new man, has started to spoil what promised to be a good career.

Ald. Chisholm, a new one from over the Don, is trying his hand at trotting from the head of the poll to the bottom and out. Ald. Fleming, from this ward, was the shirker. He voted against the union in the Fire and Light Committee, and failed to show up at the meeting of the Council.

Ald. Lynd made a statement at the Council on Monday in reference to what Mr. Huddleston said before the Fire and Light Committee. He stated that Huddleston said that the Firemen's Union would be under the control of the Trades Council, whereas what he said was that the Firemen's Union would have absolute control of their own affairs. This is a sample of the living statements indulged in by the opponents of the union.

Ald. Kent got a dose of labor once before, but it does not seem to have had the lasting effect it should have had. Ald. Graham, from the same ward, has helped to his own destruction by allying himself with those who have tried to accomplish the destruction of a movement for civil reform.

Ald. Starr, in Ward 5, does not appreciate success, and has decided that he does not want the support of labor. We did not expect anything else from the bunch in Ward 5. There were too much under the influence of the bad influences in that ward, which was too much for them to stand up against. The main thing our stand taken by the aldermen but shows that the influence we have spoken of does cut somewhat of a figure in this contest.

All honor to the men who have stood up for citizenship rights. The Mayor simply fulfilled the expectations of those who have helped to his election, and while there were others in the Council who have done nobly, yet His Worship handled the case against Ald. Spence in an able and

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The Granite Cutters were organized last Saturday night in Richmond Hall by the Organization Committee of the Trades Council.

Russel Sage says that "great fortunes are misfortunes." Golly, what a lot of misfortune some of us would like to get at this rate.

Mr. Elliot may be trying to break into Baer's class, but it is doubtful if Baer will introduce the president of Harvard to his partner.

Mr. Samuel Martin, of the Winnipeg Stereotypers' Union, is in the city this week upon the unenviable mission of burying his mother. His many friends in Toronto will sympathize with him in his bereavement.

President Elliot says that one argument against the labor unions is that they restrict the output. Of course a trust that shuts down a mine, a factory or a mill or two, do it strictly in the cause of economy and not at all through any desire to restrict the output.

The trade union and other agencies of the labor movement, such as the labor press, assist the laborer to find the best market for his commodity, and as the best market usually means the most productive market, considered from a political-economic standpoint, this is of benefit to society as a whole.—Prof. Richard T. Ely.

The evidence showed that several of the children employed were not yet twelve, and had worked in the factory on their feet, for over twelve hours a day, exclusive of the time given them to eat their dinner and supper. One little girl, eleven years old, told the court that she had to leave home before 6 o'clock in the morning, and reached home again at a little after 9 in the evening. It is sufficient to say the trust is opposed to the Cigarmakers' International Union.

There is more or less objection on the part of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners in America to affiliate with the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. The brotherhood, by far the stronger organization, and affiliation should be sought by the "Amals" as a matter of policy, the same as the Amalgamated Society is now endeavoring to bring about in England. There is an effort now being put forth to unite the three existing organizations of carpenters, the Amalgamated, the Associated and the Operative Carpenters and Joiners. It is about time that the labor unions took an example from the trusts and combines and followed it a little more effectively.

**LABOR WORLD**

News and Views of the Ever Advancing Army of Workers

BY LEMMONIST

At the last meeting of the union of Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen thirty-five new members were initiated, and there will be an equal number initiated at the next meeting.

Maple Leaf Assembly, K. of L., held an open meeting on Feb. 7th, at which they obtained quite a number of propositions for membership, which will be put through at their next meeting. They wish it distinctly understood that they are still in business.

After all, Andy Carnegie may have to be disgraced. Albany, N. Y., has refused his offer of \$150,000 for a library. Still there is some hope for the gentleman, for if he ever gets offering dollars like that to the rail-roads of the country he won't last very long.

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John Coleman, the next fraternal delegate to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada from the American Federation of Labor, has been elected sergeant-at-arms of the Buffalo United Trades and Labor Council.

The first conference of trades union delegates in England was convened by the Warrington Trades Association in London, March, 1852. Delegates were present from 65 London societies, 12 provincial trade councils and 23 provincial trade societies, and this conference was the forerunner of the present trades union congress now such a prominent annual public event.

The fight is on "for fair play" between the Canadian Locomotive Company at Kingston and the Machinists' Union, O'Connell Attorney J. L. Whiting, of Kingston, is sent letters to some of the Kingston machinists, threatening to take proceedings against them if they do not refrain from doing certain things that were a detriment to the interests of the Canadian Locomotive Company. The letter is signed, J. L. Whiting, solicitor for the company. Mr. Whiting is also a shareholder in the works.

In the United States a district attorney receives a salary and is in the employ of the state, develops the entire functions of his office, and while holding that position does not personally accept private clients who may have cases against the state. That is both law and justice in Canada, a district attorney. A Crown attorney has often been engaged as solicitor for the defence when justice would have been best served by the prosecuting attorney. To the first place the real function of a public defender is to see that justice is properly meted out, but too often they take the place of prosecutors.

The persistent efforts of the International Association of Machinists in the city of Chicago, as far as unionism is concerned, has transformed that city from a desert to a garden, and as yet the men were afraid to acknowledge their membership with the Machinists' Union, and to use the printer's term, it was "tra" all throughout. Today in Chicago 108 machine shops are working on a straight nine-hour basis, employing about 3,000 machinists and apprentices. Other shops, comparatively few in number, are working on the fifty-five-hour week system, which means ten hours a day five days in the week, with a half holiday Saturday. The average pay is from 20 to 22 cents an hour, and a man without a card might just as well stay away from the Windy City.

A victory is claimed for organized labor in the resignation of H. M. Murray, Canadian consular agent at Glasgow, Scotland. Some of the Scotch machinists brought out by the Kingston Locomotive Works and moulders brought out by the Gurney Foundry Co. of Toronto, at the instigation of the Toronto District Trades and Labor Council, made affidavits before Commissioner Tee, of Toronto, to the effect that they were sent out by Mr. Murray with letters of introduction to the management of these firms. Organized labor lodged the complaint that Mr. Murray was furnishing "strike breakers" for Canada. The Immigration Department appointed an investigation, and organized labor hinted that its friend, E. B. Clarke, would ask for a return of all the papers before the House that passed between Mr. Murray and the firms in question, which to behold! The following appeared in the telegraphic despatches during the week: "J. Bruce Walker, of the Bradford Examiner, has been appointed consular agent at Glasgow, Scotland, in the place of Mr. Murray, who has resigned."

Out of sympathy for the poor non-unionists of E. M. Carrol, of Albany, N.Y., has started a "National League of Independent Workers of America." Funds are being solicited from employers of labor, of course! The league is an investigation, and organized labor hinted that its friend, E. B. Clarke, would ask for a return of all the papers before the House that passed between Mr. Murray and the firms in question, which to behold! The following appeared in the telegraphic despatches during the week: "J. Bruce Walker, of the Bradford Examiner, has been appointed consular agent at Glasgow, Scotland, in the place of Mr. Murray, who has resigned."

California State Federation voted to start a Labor party outside of the labor organizations. But there are various differences arising between the radicals and conservatives regarding the declaration that should be made, and the conservatives are evenly divided among themselves as to whether they should "capture the old parties," as of yore, and the rest desire to go it alone.

"Keep up the high tariff and keep out of the country the manufactures of foreign countries, where labor and the cost of production is cheap. Their inflow would mean the detriment of Canadian manufacturing interests." This is the declaration of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, to which the Kingston Locomotive Company and the Gurney Foundry Company, of Toronto, belong, yet these two companies send agents to these self-same foreign countries and import for sale foreign labor, indifferent as to the detriment of Canadian labor interests.

Central Labor Union of Louisville, Ky., is threatened with a split. Last fall the C.L.U. formed a Union Labor party and displaced the politicians, who began to work through their wiles to create troubles. The citizens were so frightened by the politicians who were expelled to get their hands on godly sums of the money sent the word down the line that the Union Laborites in control had to be dumped in the central body. The last three sessions were "rough houses," and the Laborites insist that they won out in the election by the narrow margin of six votes. Both sides agree that a split is inevitable.

In an address on labor problems before the New England Society, of Stratford, Pa., Rev. Dr. W. A. Straker, president of Hamilton College, said: "As to compulsory arbitration, who wants it? It is a contradiction in terms. The essence of arbitration is voluntary consent to take advice. If its obiter dicta are unacceptably, it is a new court, and we started. Agreement and arbitration are two opposite ways. If arbitration could be compulsory, it would be superfluous. But, and moreover, not only must corporations give the freedom they take, not treating equity as a thing to be settled by an ex parte dictum; they must also admit and rectify their errors."

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The strike among the electrical workers of local 41, of Buffalo, in the employ of the Robertson Construction Company, has been submitted to arbitration, and the men have returned to work pending a decision. The arbitrator's role to consist of one member of the union, one of the Electrical Contractors' Association, the two to select a third.

In the platform of the Metal Trades Association (employers) clause 4 says: "Piecemeal shall be introduced as far as possible, and where a skilled machinist accomplishes a job in less time the allotted time, the balance of the time is divided up as follows: One-third to the watchman, one-third to the machine (1) and one-third to the employer." This is the reward a man gets for his skillfulness; the manufacturer takes the meat and the man gets the bone. The giving a third to the machine is a clever manipulation; the iron, brass and steel is considered of as much real value as the bone, sinew, muscle, brain and soul; such is the competitive system.

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