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JOURNAL FOR THE PROGRESSIVE WORKMAN, AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

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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 O. FONTAINE, Corresponding Secretary, 391 Amherst street.

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TORONTO NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

TORONTO, February 2nd, 1892.

The second meeting of Toronto's new City Council, now reduced to twenty-four members, was held last evening. If Mayor Fleming thinks he will have no trouble in putting into effect his views as to municipal retrenchment, the proceedings at last night's Council meeting will disabuse his mind of such a thought. Last year we had separate heads and separate staffs for street cleaning and for the cleaning of lanes. Last night a resolution to amalgamate the two branches, and thereby effect quite a saving in salaries, office expenses, etc., was defeated on a division of 14 to 7. The Council did one good thing, however, for it decided to apply for legislation authorizing the keeping open of the polls from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. for municipal elections. As a matter of justice as well as of convenience these hours should be those prevailing in Provincial and Dominion elections as well, for then a larger number of workmen, who for many reasons are now debarred from voting, could exercise their right of franchise.

The regular annual convention of the Builders' Laborers International Union convened to-day in Williamsport, Pa., and will continue in session for eight or ten days. Several cities and towns in Ontario are represented. Although Mr. W. D. Davidge, of Toronto Builders' Laborers Union, is present by virtue of his office as secretary of the superior body, yet the Toronto organization is also represented by Delegates G. T. Beales, A. E. Roberts, H. Poffley, H. Forsyth and Thos. Webb. The retiring president of the International body is Mr. John Fitzgerald, of Denver, Col.

Last week the union iron moulders of Toronto were honored in a visit to this city by Second Vice President Thomas Wisdom, of Pittsburg, Pa. As an officer of the International body Mr. Wisdom is making a tour of Canada in the interest of that organization and at the same time with the design of awakening fresh interest in the matter of organization. With Messrs. Metcalf, Dence, Kelly, Black, and a host of other "square" moulders to coach him, Mr. Wisdom saw all there was worth "taking in" in Ontario's chief city. After "looking in" at Peterboro, Oshawa, Brockville, Ottawa and other places in Eastern Ontario Mr. Wisdom will visit Montreal and other places in the Province of Quebec.

At the regular meeting of D. A. 125 K. of L. held last week Mr. D. A. Carey was re-elected D. M. W. for a second term, while Messrs. Chas. March, Geo. T. Beales and John W. Davey were elected as organizers for the D. A. The first named two have been organizers for years, but this is the first term for Mr. Davey.

I have no knowledge of the case myself but this evening's News says: The employees of the Ontario Rolling Mills out at the Humber are on strike against a reduction of wages.

The mills have been shut down since December 13, the management at that time giving as a reason for closing that they had no orders. The men have been used to that, the total working time for the year 1891, having been six months and three days, counting six days to the week. They had made good big wages while at work but as they only worked half the year the total proceeds would not be fabulous.

On Saturday last they were notified by the managers to return to work, at the same time being told that wages would be reduced in the following percentage:

Shinglers	27.22 per cent
Rollers	15.25 per cent
Scrap heaters	16.48 per cent
Wash heaters	08.93 per cent

The men asked for time to consider the offer and yesterday came to the decision that the nature of the reduction was such as to show it had not come from necessity, but was aimed rather to cut down the earnings of skilled workmen who made big money while they worked. Hence the men decided not to accept the reduction, and notified the managers to that effect, saying they are perfectly willing to return at the scale paid in the mills at Hamilton, which is owned by the same company.

The men say the Toronto mills are the more successful owing to the greater facilities for turning out work, and cannot see the justice of having their wages cut down.

"They want to cut down the earnings of men who make good pay and put it in their own pockets," said one of the men to-day. "But these men who make good pay are killing themselves to do it. The work is terribly wearing and men break down early in life. It Pittsburg iron sells as low as \$1.60 per hundredweight and scrap as high as \$21 a ton, while iron was never so low and scrap never so high in Toronto, yet wages here are 20 per cent. lower than in the

United States. Wages are 20 per cent. lower here than in Montreal even."

P. J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, is always welcome to the workmen of Toronto. A "dodger" announces that he will lecture in this city on the evening of Tuesday next in Richmond Hall. The subject of his discourse will be "The Burdens of Labor, and how to relieve them." The lecture will be under the auspices of Local Union No. 27, U. B. of C. & J. and Prof. Ashley will preside as chairman. On his merits alone Mr. McGuire should be honored with an overcrowded house, even though there should be no other than carpenters present.

There is trouble looming up anent the construction of the Drill shed in this city. Contractor Stewart, of Ottawa, who secured the job, has sub-let the stone-cutting to some parties in the Province of Quebec and from whose quarries the stone is to be furnished. As a consequence the cutting will be done at the quarries and then forwarded to Toronto, thus depriving Toronto's stonecutters of work to which they hold they are justly entitled, and to which they will not submit without an effort. What the ultimate result will be remains to be seen.

I offer no apology for introducing in my letter some extracts from a letter, dated Jan. 19th ult., to me from a man prominent in labor matters in the city of Vancouver, B. C. The value of these extracts will be evident on perusal. For instance, my friend says:

"The municipal election is over in Vancouver, and a hot one it was. This is the first time our Trades and Labor Council figured in such a contest. There were two tickets in the field—"The Citizen's" ticket and "The People's" ticket. The T. and L. Council decided not to endorse either, but nominated Mr. Franklin (its treasurer) for the position of alderman of one of the wards. Besides this, he was endorsed by both the "tickets" referred to, and as a result he was elected in the hardest ward in the city. He is now on the Board of Works Committee, and is Chairman of the Fire, Water and Light Committee. He has worked hard for the T. and L. Council almost since its inception, and in him we believe we have secured a good man. He is a member of the Carpenters' Union. . . . At present business is dull. Workingmen coming here with say, \$500 can get on, but otherwise they will have a hard row to hoe. To those so intending I would earnestly say write to your union here first, or you will have cause to regret your neglect. The C. P. R. has a fearful monopoly in British Columbia, and endeavors at every possible opportunity to cut down white men's wages and the unions cannot effectively resist these endeavors either. If the situation keeps on getting worse I am afraid Chinamen and Japanese will shortly and ultimately be the only working class in this country."

Of the T. and L. Council's successful candidate in Ward 4, the Vancouver Telegram of the 18th January, says:

"Mr. J. L. Franklin, colleague for Ward Four, of Mr. Odium, and the representative in the council of the Labor organizations, is a man eminently fitted to take part in civic affairs. He was born at Bishops, Stratford, Hartfordshire, England, in 1846. He was educated in the public schools, and resided in England, where he worked at his trade until three years ago, when he came to Vancouver. Mr. Franklin is a clear-sighted business man, and a forcible speaker, saying what he wants to say briefly, but strongly. He is an intense believer in the future of Vancouver, and in the council will support a policy of progressiveness. As a man having a practical knowledge of affairs he will be of great benefit to the city."

In the same issue, the Telegram takes occasion, editorially, to say that

The members of the Trades and Labor Council and through them the organized workmen of Vancouver have reason to congratulate themselves on the part which they took in the recent municipal elections, and the success which attended the efforts they put forth to have a representative on the Aldermanic Board. Except in the case of Mr. Franklin, who was elected as the Labor Candidate in Ward Four, the individual members of the unions were at liberty to support any candidate they chose, and they exercised this privilege to the fullest extent. This impartial conduct on the part of the labor organizations reflects the highest credit on the workmen of Vancouver and gives an assurance that in future contests of this nature the question of principle is the only one that will sway them or induce them, as a body to discriminate for or against a candidate. In the case of Mr. Franklin it was right and just that he should be elected. Such a large and important section of the citizens should not be without a spokesman in the Council, and

the ratepayers at large recognized and endorsed this view by their votes. Vancouver had reason before to be proud of the intelligent interest the labor unions took in civic affairs. They have more reason since their action in this election to cherish this sentiment of pride. Now that the time is approaching when the Provincial Legislature will re-open the labor unions should centre their attention on a number of matters which should, in their interests, be brought before the House. At a future time we will resume this subject and point out some of the questions which we think worthy of their attention.

Agitation on the part of organized labor in Canada secured a certain amount of restriction on Chinese immigration to the Dominion, and this agitation should be continued until their landing is prohibited entirely. But another danger of equal magnitude is now looming up, and one which should at once receive prompt attention throughout Canada. At the present time there is an agent in Japan encouraging "Japs" to come to this country under a certain form of contract, and the details of which are published in Japanese newspapers. The law on Chinese immigrants will not apply to these people, and as Canada has no law against the importation of laborers or mechanics under contract, hosts of Japs will soon be found landing in British Columbia. Speaking on this same subject, the Vancouver World of January 18th ultimo, says:

"Another evil is beginning to accumulate in British Columbia. There recently arrived at Victoria 100 Japs to work in the Union Mines at Comox, and a similar number of whites and Chinamen have been discharged. Two hundred Japs are expected by the steamer Zambesi on her next trip. This importation of Japs is in anticipation of the probable anti-Chinese legislation at the next session of the Provincial Assembly, for which there was a vigorous contention last year. Great indignation is felt among the white miners, who propose strong action, feeling that this is but the entering wedge of an element inimical to white labor."

URIM.

OPINIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

THE LABOR CANDIDATE ENDORSED BY AN EMPLOYER.

To the Editor of THE ECHO.

SIR,—Knowing, as I have done, Mr. Boudreau from boyhood, I consider the electors of the Centre Division will consult their own interests in electing him their representative in our Provincial Legislature. The Division is an essentially workingman's strong-hold, and, in my opinion, not only the working classes, but also the employers of labor, will only be doing their duty in sending as their representative one who has, through his industry and integrity, raised himself to the position of one of the latter.

Yours truly,
H. A. MADLEY.

35 William street.

MR. DOWER'S ANSWER.

To the Editor of THE ECHO.

SIR,—I must apologize for my letter of a few weeks ago on the ground that I did not think it would bring out such an elaborate reply from "Urim" as that which appears in your issue of January 30th, and which took up so much of your valuable space that could be used to better advantage to your general readers. In my communication I simply tried to defend myself, and I believe I succeeded in doing so, and consequently I have nothing to take back. As I am not seeking newspaper notoriety this will be my last on this subject, no matter what your Toronto correspondent has to say. I can assure "Urim" that I regret the loss of his friendship, but I suppose I will have to get on in this world without it for the future.

Yours truly,
Geo. W. DOWER.

Toronto, Feb. 1, 1892.

Collecting the Water Tax.

Mr. Gosselin, the Assistant City Clerk, is to-day paying those whose houses were used for election purposes, and where the water taxes were not paid these were deducted, much to the chagrin of the people who expected to be eight dollars in. One lady was very indignant and protested that she was poor and unable to pay her water, but she was told that she would not get paid. Then she consented, but said: "Never come to me for my house again, nor my vote either, for you will not get it."

The Road Department's pay list for this week for 1,000 men amounts to \$7,600, not including the carters engaged.

QUEBEC NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

QUEBEC, Feb. 4th, 1892.

Having seen in your paper notes from the City of Toronto by a correspondent who signs himself "Urim," the thought has just occurred to me that possibly your readers might be interested in an occasional correspondence from the Ancient Capital, whose residents, being so often accused of sleepy-headedness, might be thought of by some as being actually asleep. To these I would say, treat this correspondence as a dream.

Now to begin with, we are at present in the midst of a political party struggle, the object of which is to ascertain which set of men will rule the Province of Quebec for the next four years. Public speeches are being made by all the big and little political lights, the burden of them all being the same. Both sides accuse the other of dishonesty, and the general public believe them. Now, the situation has its comical side, as whichever side obtains a majority, we will have chosen corrupt, venal and dishonest men to govern the province, and to make matters appear still more ludicrous, both parties are, of course, the bosom friend of "les ouvriers." I am not as a rule very religious, but I can't forget the prayer, "God save us from our friends."

Organized labor, to its shame and disgrace be it said, have not a single labor candidate in the field, petty jealousy and internal dissension being the cause. Twenty different labor bodies affiliated, its membership is over sixty, and the membership of the affiliated bodies exceed 3,000; besides which, several unions, large in numbers, do not belong by affiliation to the council, still their support might be relied upon as well as that of a large number of independent citizens—but hoodlers are preferred.

We are likewise involved in a municipal campaign which excites but little interest, as the City Council, as at present constituted, is about the best we have ever had, at least from an organized labor standpoint. Their kind feelings towards our working population may be inferred from the following facts. A deputation of unemployed called upon the mayor and asked for employment so as to relieve the distress actually existing among a large number. The City Council consented, and a large number of men were put to work, the remuneration being at the rate of eighty cents per day. Each man employed was compelled to pay for his pick and shovel. Now, such being the case, I will leave it to your readers to imagine what our previous councils must have been. There is a nominee of the Trades and Labor Council in the municipal contest, the present president, George Gale, a member of the Provincial Ex-Board of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress. His chances for election are good, although in our municipal laws the franchise is limited so much, so that if defeated it certainly will be no discredit either to the council or its candidate, labor having but very little voice in the division in which he runs, or in any other division in this city.

One more item and I am done. A judgment has just been rendered in our law courts condemning a manufacturer named Polley to pay costs and damages in the case of four poor lasters. This is turning the tables with a vengeance. These lasters are men who, having quit work during the strike, returned to work when the strike was declared off. After working a day or two, they were summarily dismissed, and could not obtain employment elsewhere (call it a boycott by the Shoe Manufacturers' Association or a black list, call it what you like). The manufacturer who started it pays pretty roundly for it. I doubt if a combination of bosses in future in this city will be in a hurry to draw up a set of cast iron regulations, and demand of their employees to sign the same, not forgetting the clause that they do not belong to any labor organization, nor will they, etc. The form is so old that it need not be repeated; it was that particular clause that knocked out the above-mentioned manufacturer.

ATLAS.

The Utah Legislature has passed a memorial to Congress urging the passage of the Home Rule Bill introduced by Senator Faulkner and Mr. Cain last month. The memorial says that the conditions in the territory have changed, that polygamy has been abolished and that some measure of self-government should be granted.