

## OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by the Boarders.

"If the boodle investigation at Ottawa proves anything at all," said Gaskill, "it is that the people of Canada are being systematically robbed by a set of officials who, for barefaced corruption and fraud, equal anything inside of our penitentiaries. From the evidence given so far it appears that not only were the members of the Government aware of this wholesale robbery but that some of them at least actually shared in it. I do not believe that the people of this country are sunk so low, or are such abject slaves to party rule as to condone such criminal practices even in their party leaders, and honest and fair-minded men of every political stripe should unite and hurl from power a clique which has become a gangrene on our body politic and a positive danger to the commonwealth, nor yet should their labors cease until every man of them from the highest to the lowest is landed in the penitentiary. This investigation at Ottawa is a travesty of justice calculated to shield the offenders from the arm of the law; what the people should insist on is that legal proceedings be instituted against every one of the gang in our criminal courts and that their trial be as short and their punishment as severe as is meted out to every other criminal. That, and nothing less than that, would be justice."

"If some insignificant clerk with a half-starved family attempts to defraud his employer," said Brown, "the machinery of the law is at once set in motion and everything done to secure his conviction; no matter how severe the sentence which the court may pass upon him employers generally, and his employer in particular, still regard it as not being severe enough and few, if any, find fault with them; the people have no sympathy for a criminal. I contend that it is just as criminal to defraud the public as it is to defraud the individual, and I say furthermore, that you and I and every other citizen in our collective capacity are the employers who have been defrauded in this case, and in justice to our employees, to ourselves and to the State, we should proceed against these people in the same way in which we as individuals would proceed against anyone who attempted to defraud us. To send one criminal to jail and simply dismiss the other one who has committed as great a crime as the first, the only difference being that he defrauded me and others in our collective capacity, is unjust, unfair, and detrimental to society in breeding contempt of the law and degrading public positions until no really honest man will be found willing to fill them. To let these boodlers off by simply dismissing them is a crime perpetrated by parliament against the nation and will in years to come bring down upon us just retribution. The incumbents of all public offices from the position of a two-penny-half-penny market clerk to that of a Minister of Public Works are already being looked upon by the great mass of the people as thieves in a greater or lesser degree, according to their opportunity of getting their hands into the public money chest, and whether this assumption on the part of the people is right or wrong, no man will say that the lenient action of the Government towards the boodlers will tend to secure an honest class of men."

"To talk of honesty in connection with a Government which is as corrupt as ours has been proved to be," said Phil, "is all rôt. Our Government don't want honest men; it has positively no use for them—it will never employ an honest man knowingly—until rogues, and bribetakers and bribegivers are scarce as hen's teeth. In all our public departments from top to bottom, from janitor to head of department, all are on the grab; everyone

has his price, varying from a glass of beer to a five thousand dollar check, and you know it. Why, therefore, talk of honesty in the administration of public affairs. There is no such a thing; there can be no such a thing with the highest offices of the country filled by men who have acquired their position by wholesale debauchery and corruption and who maintain themselves in power by practices which would land anybody else in penitentiary. There is only one way out of the difficulty, and that is for all honest men, regardless of party, to resolve to purify politics by combining to 'turn the rascals out' and filling their places with men of integrity and honor. Few such, if any, are to be found in either of the old political parties, and a new party would have to be organized from which all Liberal or Conservative office seekers and office holders would have to be excluded. This bribe must be politically killed before you can hope to kill corruption. The Liberal camp is as full of thieves and boodlers as the Conservative one, and to merely turn one out in order to instal the other would be useless. What this country needs is an honest party of honest men whose ambition is to serve their country faithfully and who will not prostitute their position to enrich themselves or their friends."

BILL BLADES.

## SCRAPS FOR CIGARMAKERS

The success of the Cigarmakers Unions of this city will only be attained by unity of action, and while two unions exist and are carried on in the manner that they have been since the formation of the second union that harmony and good feeling which should exist will never be realized. The members of both unions ought to give this matter their serious consideration, and bring about a consolidation of both unions. There are many reasons why two unions in the one trade and city should not exist.

1st. In questions that affect local matters two unions look at the same question from different standpoints and very often, instead of helping, buck against each other.

2nd. In time of trouble I find totally different methods of treatment, but no unity, and the result is that we assist in defeating our own aims by being divided.

3rd. Progress ceases when there are too many divisions. Instead of working for the cause which we are organized for we find men who will sacrifice the organization to benefit themselves, and all through the fact that there were too many divisions, which gave them an opportunity to use the organization for a time and then sacrifice their principles when it suited them.

4th. Again, it costs double the amount of money to conduct the union and in no way increases the revenue.

5th. It requires two sets of officers to conduct the business of the union, which is an unnecessary drain on the funds and causes much dissension where, on the other hand, by having only one union the extra set of officers could devote their time in trying to devise some means to better the condition of the general body, which would be productive of more good.

Past experience ought to be our guide, and if the members will only consider this matter in an unbiased light they will find that previous to the existence of the new charter the meetings were better attended on the whole and more interest taken in union matters than at present, and instead of continually bucking against one another to their detriment, they will combine and be more successful in their endeavors to overcome the schemes of those tyrannical and unscrupulous employers who stop at nothing in their desire to accumulate wealth. I do not think that my views on consolidation will meet with the approval of all the members of both unions, for there are many minor affairs that could be brought against such amalgamation, but those objections are of little or no importance when we consider the great benefit of knowing that when we intend or decide on a certain plan of action that it will be carried out in a much more satisfactory manner than under the present system. I would be pleased to hear from some of the members on this subject, and though I fail to see any great benefit that has been or will be derived by having two separate charters in this city, nevertheless I am open for conviction, if it can be shown where the benefits and necessity exists for two unions among such a small number of members as in this city.

The appeal referred to in last week's issue of THE ECHO was received by the union on Saturday last, much to the discomfort of the appellant, who denied having appealed against Union 226, but admitted having

done so when shown a copy of his letter from headquarters. On the whole it is not a very creditable piece of business and will be one of the causes that he can attribute his defeat to as delegate to the convention. The appeal was a masterpiece of "ifs," "ands" and suppositions, and on the whole was as clear as mud.

Why does not the union insist that the members of the Advertising Committee attend to their business and take the same active interest in devising means to place our label before the public as they do in the election of a delegate? The Advertising Committee ought to carry out their work and show that they are willing to do what is in their power, by holding meetings and reporting to their respective unions, or else give way to men who are willing to advance the interests of the union. The unions should make it a special point at meetings to see that the committee report or know the reason why.

The many friends of Ben, the telegraph aeronaut, will be pleased to hear of his return after a two months' sojourn in the country, which has greatly improved his health.

The change in the management of one of the large factories, it is to be hoped, will be an improvement all round.

It is to be hoped that a special meeting of both unions will be held for the purpose of instructing the delegates to the convention, and that there will be united action on the part of the delegates in all matters of importance and not as occurred at the last convention, where each delegate, acting on different instructions, often came into contact with his brother-delegate from the same city which was the cause, to a certain extent, of matters equally affecting both unions being thrown out by the Committee on Resolutions.

Don't talk of what you want, intend or would like to do. Do it.

SCRAPS.

J. B. Prive, a former employee of the Canadian Bridge Co., has taken an action against them for \$3,000 damages on account of injuries received while in their service in July, 1890. Plaintiff alleges that being called upon by the foreman of the works to help in removing an iron pillar, the men who held the other end of the pillar let go their hold, the consequence being that the heavy piece of iron fell on the other pillars near by that were not properly placed, and one of them rolling, broke his leg. He has been unable to work ever since and states that he will be crippled for the rest of his life. For all those reasons he claims the amount of damages mentioned.

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