

THE ECHO.

A JOURNAL FOR THE PROGRESSIVE WORKMAN, AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

Vol. 1.—No. 41.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1891.

SINGLE COPIES—THREE CENTS
ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR.

MEETINGS.

CENTRAL TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL OF MONTREAL.

LOUIS Z. BOUDREAU, - PRESIDENT
J. B. DUBOIS, - VICE-PRESIDENT
P. J. RYAN, - ENGLISH REC. SECRETARY
A. LAFRANCE, - FRENCH REC. SECRETARY
E. PELLETIER, - FINANCIAL SECRETARY
JOS. RENAUD, - COR. SECRETARY
JOS. CORBELL, - TREASURER
JOS. PAQUETTE, - SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Meets in the Ville-Marie Hall, 1623 Notre Dame street, the first and third Thursdays of the month. Communications to be addressed to Jos. Renaud, Corresponding Secretary, P. O. Box 414

RIVER FRONT ASSEMBLY,

No. 7628.
Rooms K. of L. Hall, Chaboulez square. Next meeting Sunday, July 12, at 2.30. Address all correspondence to J. WARREN, Rec. Sec., P. O. Box 1458.

DOMINION ASSEMBLY,

No. 2436 K. of L.
Meets every FRIDAY evening at Eight o'clock in the K. of L. Hall, Chaboulez square. Address all communications to JOHN WILKINS, R.S., No. 222 St. Antoine street.

PROGRESS ASSEMBLY,

No. 3862, K. of L.
Meets every First and Third Tuesday at Lomas' Hall, Point St. Charles.

BUILDERS' LABORERS' UNION.

Meets in Ville Marie Hall, 1623 Notre Dame street, every TUESDAY at 8 P. M. Address all communications to WM. JARVIS, Secretary, 111 St. Dominique street.

BLACK DIAMOND ASSEMBLY

1711, K. of L.
Meets next Sunday, in the K. of L. Hall, Chaboulez square, at 7 o'clock.
Address all communications to J. CARROLL, Rec. Sec., 135 Iberville street.

LEGAL CARDS.

Hon. J. A. Chapleau, Q.C., M.P. John S. Hall, Jr., Q.C., M.P.P.
Armine D. Nicolls, Albert J. Brown.

Chapleau, Hall, Nicolls & Brown,
ADVOCATES,
Barristers, Commissioners, &c.,
TEMPLE BUILDING,
No. 185 St. James Street, Montreal.
Bell Telephone No. 42. P. O. Box 296.

Hon. H. Mercier, M.P.P. C. Beausoleil, M.P.
F. X. Choquet, B.C.L. P. G. Martineau, B.C.L.

MERCIER, BEAUSOLEIL, CHOQUET
& MARTINEAU,
ADVOCATES,
No. 76 ST. JAMES STREET,
MONTREAL.

DOHERTY & DOHERTY,

ADVOCATES,
BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, &c.,
Savings Bank Chambers,
180 ST. JAMES ST., MONTREAL.
T. J. DOHERTY. CHAS. J. DOHERTY, Q.C.

CARTER & GOLDSTEIN,

ADVOCATES,
Barristers, Commissioners, &c.,
115 St. Francois Xavier St.,
MONTREAL.
CHRISTOPHER B. CARTER, MAX WELLS GOLDSTEIN,
Q.C., B.C.L. B.C.L.

BUSINESS CARDS.

B. E. MCGALE,
Pharmaceutical and Dispensing
Chemist,
2123 NOTRE DAME STREET,
MONTREAL.
Sunday Attendance—From 1 to 2 p.m.
to 6 p.m., 8.30 to 9.30 p.m.

LAVIOLETTE & NELSON,

DISPENSING CHEMISTS,
Corner of Notre Dame and St.
Gabriel Streets,
MONTREAL.

A MONSTER INDUSTRY

IMPORTANCE OF COKE MAKING IN THE UNITED STATES.

During the past fifteen years the coke interest of the United States has assumed an importance in the industrial world unequalled in the history of any other branch of mining or manufacturing. This progress and development is all the more remarkable from the fact that the amount of capital invested, the labor equipment and the scope of actual operations are out of all proportion to those employed in kindred industries, where the returns are insignificant by comparison under like conditions. Closely allied to the iron industry, controlling the services of men dependent and permanently located, coke production affects with its prosperity or depression the commercial, financial, agricultural and industrial interests of a section vitally and of the country at large to quite an important degree. It practically sways the iron manufacturers, it defeats investment calculations by cutting down running expenses during a lockout, and when such occurs a sufficiently large amount of money is withdrawn from calculation to seriously affect the regular routine of trade.

There are eighteen states and territories in which the manufacture of coke is made a feature, but the Connellsville district in Pennsylvania outrivals all others in the quantity and quality of its supply. Here the industry has its centre, and sufficient capital is massed, natural advantages found and the business conducted on a broad enough basis to admit of the utilization of the best mechanical means and fine skilled labor where occasionally required to claim pre-eminence as the banner coke district of the world. Here alone 13,511 ovens are located, employing some 17,000 men at a daily pay roll average of \$25,000. The district is one possessed of rare sanitary and climatic advantages, the scenery being of the most picturesque character. It is situated in the heart of a fine agricultural section, while a network of railroads renders it accessible in every way, and bring it in a measure the better influences of civilization.

The history of the coke interest itself in the Connellsville region begins practically with 1879. At that time there were only 3,650 ovens in blast, which were principally manned by natives, Germans and Irish, the two former acting as miners and the latter as coke workers. Previous to that date for several years a great depression had existed in the industry on account of slack times in the iron trade and consequent limited demand for the product. In 1879 the business took a decided 'boom,' however, the oven capacity was doubled and workmen were in great demand. The contiguous counties were unable to supply laborers, and the Pittsburgh employment agencies were resorted to by the mine owners. This led to the introduction of large numbers of Hungarians and Poles. The prosperity of the plants naturally extended to the men and led to a centralization of principles. Affairs proceeded smoothly until 1881, when the Knights of Labor advocated and aided the first general strike of the coke workers for higher wages. The strike was unsuccessful, and after six weeks of idleness, work was resumed. Capital and labor seemed to agree on equitable terms during the succeeding five years. The depression of 1884, however, had a demoralizing effect on the men. Over half the ovens were idle, and those in blast put in only three-quarters time. It is claimed that abuses chargeable to capital began to appear; that the men were imposed upon, and the result was a second strike. This time success crowned the efforts of the workmen. Its effect was bad, however, for the tables turned, and the upper hand gained by the majority, the operators seemed to be marked as victims for retaliation. Trifling affairs were magnified into important issues, the workmen demanded the discharge of this and that obnoxious foreman, they quibbled over numerous technical points, and day after day strikes were inaugurated until three advances in wages were secured.

In 1887 the dissatisfaction of the men culminated in a general demand for a 20 per cent advance. This was positively refused by the operators, who offered 5 per cent instead. The workmen declined to treat on this basis and the matter was referred to arbitration. An authorized committee took the affair in hand. The mine owners

claimed that they had already allowed advances in wages aggregating 56 per cent, and the arbitrators decided in their favor. The men appealed, arbitration was discarded as a valueless expedient for the remedy of existing difficulties and a lockout ensued. The struggle that followed was a bitter one, replete with hard feeling, suffering and loss of time and money for both capital and labor. Finally the mine owners pretty generally conceded the demands of their employes. A sliding scale was arranged, whereby the men were to receive pay according to the ruling price of the coke. Some of the operators, however, proceeded on an independent basis, refusing to have any dealings with labor organizations or with union men.

Petty difficulties led to serious troubles. The workmen were resolute in new demands and complaints, the owners firm. Successive strikes and finally a general lockout occurred, and all the elements of disorder were brought into play. Outside laborers were imported, the local police and even the military were called in, culminating in the terrible scenes of bloodshed and suffering with which every reader of the daily prints is familiar. The men cavilled at their employers; the latter held them responsible for the lockout that had jeopardized the best interests of the country, and for months the once peaceful Connellsville district struggled in the grasp of mob rule, while disorder, hardship and terror existed on every side.

The discussion of the right and wrong of the affair from either aspect of the question attracted the attention of the civilized world. The men claimed that they would sign a sliding scale schedule in good faith, and that later the mine owners would manipulate the coke market so as to have the price of the product rule high or low, according as they desired to pay the men. The owners offset this claim by averring that the fluctuations in the value of the coke were controlled by the legitimate outside demand—that it would rule at \$2.25 per ton for a time and then sink to the remarkably low price of \$1 per ton, preventing them almost from even making expenses. They furthermore charged the prevailing trouble to professional labor agitators, and claimed that the workmen lived better and earned more than at other mines; but although the Connellsville coal is easily mined and the men work at their leisure and have the wagons to fill at their hand, they accomplish much more than in mines in less favored localities.

It was estimated previous to the last great strike that the Connellsville workmen received for unskilled labor 25 per cent more wages than was paid elsewhere for the same character of work, and that too for simply handling the shovel and pickax. Hungarians, Poles and Italians earned from \$2 to \$3 a day for seven to nine hours' labor in dry, well-ventilated mines, where soft nine-foot veins existed. The usual seventy-six men equipment of mine and oven certainly averaged \$750 per man per annum, and during a strike the thrift of the men was evidenced by the fact that thirty-six men drew \$14,000 from the local banks.

The homes from which the miners were evicted were places of comfort and convenience. The mine owners leased them to the workers at prices varying from \$5 to \$8 per month. These houses usually had four rooms, and hydrant water and coal were provided free of charge. Often there would be a pretty garden spot, the works were accessible and the scenery delightful, with excellent schools and fine churches near at hand.

Some idea of the magnitude of the coke enterprises may be gained from the fact that one company had \$50,000,000 invested, controlled 35,000 acres of coal lands, constituting forty-two separate plants, with 10,460 ovens in blast. Three water plants with a capacity of 5,000,000 gallons were operated, and the mines had 35 miles of railroad tracks, 1,200 cars, 23 locomotives, 72 pairs of stationary engines, 172 steam boilers and 816 horses and mules.

The profit on the coke is said to be enormous, one firm purchasing sufficient of the product to insure a clear gain of \$200 a day. A new feature of the industry is the breaking of the coke into sizes to correspond to anthracite coal by means of three large machines having a capacity of fifty carloads daily, which is sold for use in forges and in the manufacture of agricultural implements.

There is but little doubt that the troubles between laborer and employer that have temporarily crippled the great coke making

industry will justify themselves in time. The interest is too important and its ramifications are too numerous and closely allied to the best welfare of the country to be allowed to lie inert and unproductive. All great enterprises have a period of struggle and uncertainty, and the coke industry will only reach a peaceful basis of progress when a permanent settlement of existing difficulties is made that will prove equitable alike to the rights of capital and labor.

A GREAT NERVE.

HOW HE SAVED THE BANK.

'We've got a bank clerk up in our neck of the woods who will some day give Jay Gould cards and spades in the game of financing and beat him to a standstill,' said Mort Curren of Cheyenne to a newspaper man recently. 'He's only nineteen years old, but is a hummer. Two or three months ago, while the president of the bank was away, the cashier was taken sick and in a few hours was in a delirious state. The young Napoleon was left in sole charge of the bank. Some evil-disposed person started the story one afternoon that the institution was in a bad way, and intimated that the president had skipped the country and that the cashier's illness was only a 'bluff.'

'Before night it was evident there would be a run on the institution the next morning. The young clerk knew there was scarcely money enough to last an hour. He had no one to advise him, but he acted promptly. He called on the leading hardware merchant and held a brief conference. Then this young Napoleon went home, where he found a committee from the depositors awaiting him. He did not wait for them to speak, but made this bluff: 'I refuse to discuss business with you. There will be \$50,000 in gold here in the morning, and there is a like amount in the safe. You may draw out every dollar you have deposited, and we'll be glad to get rid of your small accounts.' Then he turned on his heel and left the committee.

'Bright and early there assembled at the bank the creditors. Just before time for opening the doors an express wagon was driven up, in which were seated two heavily armed men, one of them the watchman of the bank. A pathway through the crowd was made, and the watchman began carrying into the bank canvas bags containing gold coin, as indicated by the prominent marks. Some of the bags were marked '\$5,000,' and one or two '10,000.' The people saw these bags, heard the clink of the metal and, believing the bank was O. K., were about to move away.

'Just as the last bag of gold was handed into the door the young financier threw the bank open. The crowd did not make any effort to reach the paying teller's window. 'Come on now, every one of you!' shouted the clerk. No one responding he made another bluff. 'You must come and get your money. We don't want your d—d accounts any more. Here, Jim Bartley, take this and sign the receipt in full. Here, Bill Wyman, come and get your dust.' He insisted on their taking the money. At this juncture the committee came in and begged the clerk to 'stop, for God's sake.' They almost got down on their knees to ask the bank to keep their money. The young Napoleon finally consented, but declared if there was 'any more d—d nonsense he would throw every depositor's money into the street.' The crowd departed happy and confident that the bank was one of the strongest institutions of its kind in America.

'Their confidence might have been shaken had they known the canvas bags marked 'gold,' etc., and bedaubed with red sealing wax, contained nothing more nor less than iron washers, which the young clerk had purchased from the hardware man, who had otherwise assisted in the deception, he being convinced of the soundness of the bank. The two men the young Napoleon insisted on paying the bank had long wished to get rid of.'

THE WORLD'S FAIR.

Organized Labor Wins the Eight-Hour Day.

The following order, adopted by the grounds and buildings committee, was addressed to D. H. Burnham, Chief of Construction, the other day:

It is the desire of the management that eight hours shall be recognized as constituting a day's work, and that the rule be adhered to in the closest, practicable manner. Where mechanics or labourers, employed by the day or hour, work more than eight hours a day, in

exigencies absolutely requiring it, they to be paid the current rates of overtime, in excess of eight hours.

Overtime is to be limited, so far as possible, the intention being to furnish employment, on the eight hours basis, to as many men as are needed to carry on the work.

The exigencies herein before referred to are such, for instance, as may require overtime on the part of a portion of the men on some specific work upon which may depend the continuation, without delay, of other larger and more important work, or the completion of certain work in face of an impending storm, and similar cases which good judgment and fair dealing will readily concede to be essential in the conduct of great works; but such overtime should not be a continuous thing from day to day for any certain gang or gangs of men, the desire being that in lieu thereof shifts of eight hours be resorted to, different men being employed for each shift.

An adherence by you and your subordinate to the foregoing will render effective both the letter and the spirit of the board resolutions, and will be in harmony with the views expressed to the special committee, and, in some instances, to the board itself, by the representatives of the labor organizations.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter, and see that the contractors understand these instructions.

E. T. JEFFERY,
Chairman Committee on Grounds and Buildings.

It was evidently the policy of the directors, in accord with the employers of Chicago, to resist the demands of the unions and thus attract there all the unemployed and seab labor available in the country. But the unions stood firm and at last it became apparent that the directory had undertaken a job of far greater magnitude than the World's Fair itself. It is probable that all their building operations would have been blocked by the refusal of quarrymen, iron workers, and other organized producers of materials throughout the country, to make or handle anything intended for the buildings, and that other workers might have even refused also to make or handle anything intended for exhibition. At any rate, the matter is now settled, and a great victory has been won by Organized Labor.

ABOUT WOMEN.

There are now nearly 700 lady clerks employed at the general postoffice in receipt of salaries ranging from £65 to £150 or £170 per annum. Of course by far the larger proportion is to be found in the second class, where there are over 650 at a salary beginning at £65 and raising by annual increments of £3 to £80. In the first class division there are about eighty-seven clerks, the maximum salary being £110, while principal clerks, of whom they are about twenty, can rise to £170 a year.—London Tit-Bits.

More than half a million of enthusiastic women are united in philanthropic, intellectual and co-operate work for the advancement of the interests and privileges of womanhood in the great national associations incorporated under the names of the National Woman's Christian association, National Suffrage association, National Centenary Association of the Universalist church, the Wimodaughis, the King's Daughters and the Association of Working Girls' societies.

Mrs. General Custer is one of the few semi-professional women in New York who can hold the interest of a school full of boys. In her talks on frontier life to these restless audiences, who must be interested before they will consent to be instructed, she begins with some true Indian stories, bristling with tomahawks, feathers and scalps, and presently has the listeners spellbound.

Mrs. James T. Field, of Boston, the widow of the publisher, is said to possess one of the largest private literary collections in the world. In the library are quantities of valuable original MSS. and autograph letters, and in the garden at the rear of the house grow trees that were planted by many famous authors and public men.

Some women by hard labor in the fruit season sell canned fruit enough to supply most of their needs for the remainder of the year. Any person supplying a good article of food is sure of success. There are fewer fluctuations than in embroideries and paintings.

The Archduchess Maria Theresa, of Austria is a clever goldsmith, and her intimate and favored friends and members of her family are the happy recipients of gold brooches designed and executed by the noble lady.