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MEETINGS.

CENTRAL TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL OF MONTREAL.

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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 127 1/2 St. Lawrence street.

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TORONTO NOTES.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

TORONTO, August 25, 1892.

The session of the Trades and Labor Council was through by ten o'clock on the evening of last Friday. Yet the business passed upon was of a most important character nevertheless. Rarely indeed do the respective standing committees cover the views of the whole council on the multifarious matters dealt with in their respective reports, as was done in the several reports presented at the last meeting.

President Banton was in the chair as usual. After the credentials of several new delegates had been reported on favorably, the minutes of the previous meeting read and approved, and the roll of officers and members called.

Delegate O'Donoghue read the report of the Legislative Committee as follows and it was adopted, viz:—

That it is pleasing to be informed through the press that the approach of the smallpox scourge, through Chinese, by way of the C. P. R. from British Columbia has been stopped through prompt medical action and proper isolation at Calgary. Yet your committee believe that ultimately these undesirable immigrants will reach the East and with them will come the diseases incidental to their unclean habits of living, if nothing more practical than mere talk is used in the direction of their prohibition of entry into Canada.

Monsignor Lafleche, one of the Roman Catholic prelates who recently returned from the Northwest, is reported as saying that the inhabitants of there "have a justifiable fear of an invasion of Chinese cheap labor," and that the latter "live on almost nothing," and that "white men cannot compete with them on this score." He does not think that the \$500 tax imposed on Chinese immigrants is sufficient, and in this opinion he is in accord with the practical experience of those best entitled to know, that is the organized labor in the cities of British Columbia.

Your committee have not forgotten, nor has your body, doubtless, that Dr. Barnardo, who makes quite a penny in transporting waifs and other children from the parishes of England, and mainly from London, to Canada, always asserted, while never giving any account to anybody as to the detailed expenditure of moneys given him, that a careful record was being kept of the whereabouts and condition and care of the children he "placed" in Canada. If these statements of the redoubtable doctor were true, then his plea in the following case was not well, not in accordance with former utterances in this respect. Some time ago the Toronto Mail contained a special despatch from London, England, which read as follows:—

"Another stage in what seems likely to be an interminable law suit was reached to-day in the form of an appeal now on its second hearing from a judgement of the Court of Appeal, affirming an order of the Court of Queen's Bench Division, whereby it was ordered that a writ of habeas corpus issue commanding Dr. Barnardo, director of the famous East End Homes for Waifs, to produce the body of Harry Gossage, son of the respondent, Mary Ferd. The boy was born in 1890, and was the child of the woman by a former husband. She is the indigent wife of a laborer, and is a Catholic by faith. In the autumn of 1888 she virtually sold the boy to an organ grinder, who afterwards deserted him on the streets of Folkestone. A local clergyman sent the child to Barnardo. The mother, learning of the facts, wrote approving this disposition of her child. The boy was sometime later sent to Quebec in care of one Norton, who was described as a man of good character and Christian principles, but who cannot now be located. Barnardo, it will be remembered, is in the habit of sending his reclaimed waifs to Canada, where they are given homes. Meanwhile the priests in the locality where Mrs. Ferd lives, persuaded her to take steps to have the boy removed from the care of Barnardo, whose institutions are conducted on an ultra-Protestant basis, and to have him placed in a Catholic home. When such an application was made Dr. Barnardo replied that he had sent the boy to Canada, and was not now able to learn either his address or that of Mr. Norton, who had adopted him. A writ of habeas corpus was applied for, and Dr. Barnardo made the same answer to court. The writ being granted, Dr. Barnardo appealed, and being overruled obtained a new hearing, which was had to-day before the Lords Justices sitting as the house of Lords, the tribunal of final appeal. After hearing argument they dismissed the appeal and ordered Dr. Barnardo to produce the boy within three months. Dr. Barnardo claims that he has not exhausted all his resources, and that he will find some means to avoid the consequences of not producing the child at the

end of the prescribed period. The suit is really a struggle between the Catholics and Protestants. The Catholic hierarchy is paying the mother's expenses, while those of Dr. Barnardo are being taken care of by the Protestant Alliance. It is estimated that the quarrel of the custody of the boy has already cost more than \$5,000 in legal expenses. Four Queen's counsel and several juniors hold briefs in the proceedings which were begun, and, for the time being, ended to-day. They are men of note in their profession, and will be sure to find means, if possible, to prolong the litigation as long as the backers of the respective parties are ready to pay the costs."

Your committee are aware that the annual meeting of the United Typothetae of America (employing printers) was held in this city during the week.

The President (Mr. Shepherd) in his annual address said some things very true and some things strongly indicating the contrary. For instance President Shepherd said:—

"I believe in conferences with our workmen, when there are any disputes, as the best method to settle those disputes. I have no sympathy for the men who grind down their employees to starvation prices and obstinately refuse to consider their complaints, nor have I any sympathy with the men who are always grumbling, and are never so happy as when engaged in creating trouble between the employer and his workmen. I believe that, in nine cases out of ten strikes can be avoided if those affected are willing to come together and discuss their differences in a fair and amicable spirit. I have said more than once, and it is worth saying over and over again, that if employer and employee were willing to be governed by the golden rule in considering the many questions that are continually coming up—if the law of Christian love were allowed to assert its sway over all the relations of life, the great burning question of capital and labor would not long disturb the peace of communities, paralyse trade and commerce, and bring desolation, murder and ruin in its trail."

Further on President Shepherd was so full of "Christian love," although all on one side that he had no compunction in saying things not borne out by facts. He tells the old untruthful story, father's the old and often-refuted slander as to "a few hot-headed leaders, who are fed and pampered by the horny-handed sons of toil" and tries to inculcate in the minds of the employees the exercise of the rule of slaves, obey your masters and trust to his exercise of Christian love. These are the views of the average employer, be the trade or calling what it may. President Shepherd expressed them in the following language:—

"Now, there is a right and a wrong way of doing everything. The right way is not for workmen to ignore the fact that employers have rights as well as themselves, nor to place in the hands of a few hot-headed leaders, who are fed and pampered by the horny-handed sons of toil, their liberty, their very life—it is not to resort to the mean and dastardly acts that disgraced the conduct of some of the strikers at Pittsburg, and which, alas, marks the progress of strikes everywhere—not to trample upon and drag through the mud the highest and noblest principles of man's nature. That is the wrong way."

"The strike at Pittsburg, in my opinion was unwarranted and unjustifiable, and up to the present time I have not seen any honest attempt to defend it. It could not be expected that the officers of this association would make proposals to effect a settlement of their differences while the men were still throttling the throats of their employers. The men should have first laid down their arms and voluntarily offered to resume relations with their employers before any attempt at reconciliation could be expected."

Mr. Shepherd, also in the exercise of his peculiar idea of "Christian love"—and truthfulness—conveys to the outside world to which he was speaking in reality) that trade unions "try to fix a hard and fast wage for good and bad." Trade unions try to fix a *minimum* scale of wages, leaving it to the "Christian love" of the employer to grade up from it—something he never does, except when compelled by circumstances not governed by the union. He would always like to grade downwards from the fixed minimum, and hence the untruthful charge of trying to fix a hard and fast wage for good and bad. The employer is not asked to nor does he keep in his employment any man, a member of a union, whom he does not consider worth that minimum wage; while in almost every instance employers have a large percentage of union men voluntarily working for the low rate fixed, who are worth much more than that figure.

As was to be expected, this body of employers, by a vote of four to one declared against even a 9-hour day, yet your committee hazard the prophecy that time will inevitably call for and secure not a 9-hour but rather an 8 hour working day even in the printing business, and that in the not very distant future.

Your committee, in concluding, report that

attention is being devoted to the subject of the manufacture of binding twine in the Central prison, and that a report thereon will be presented to your body as soon as may be practicable.

On the motion to adopt the report Delegate Francis held that the committee were prejudiced against the Chinese; that he did not believe that these people were responsible for the introduction of smallpox in British Columbia recently and demanded by what authority the committee based that part of their report. He said he saw reports to the contrary.

In reply he was informed that the information not only as to that particular item but as to objections generally to the Chinese in British Columbia came through organized labor sources, that to such sources credence was given in preference to that coming through associated press dispatches which were notoriously untruthful and unreliable in all matters affecting the working classes.

Delegate R. Glookling presented the report of the Municipal Committee. It evinced careful thought and sound judgment as to several matters of local importance. Among those it was pointed out that it had been announced in the press that prison labor would be employed in taking out and preparing the foundations of the new insolation hospital near the jail. This was condemned as there are numbers of honest workingmen out of work in the city. The City Council was also commended for taking the weigh-scales contract from the non-union firm of Gurney & Co. and giving it to another firm which employs square men.

In speaking to the report Messrs. H. Benson and Davidge, of the Builders' Laborers' Union, in unmistakable language corroborated the committee in the assertion that there were large numbers of men out of work in the city, as could be easily ascertained by those who doubted if they would only advertise when wanting men. The report was adopted as read.

Delegate G. Dower read the report of the Education Committee. After introducing certain lengthy correspondence which passed between His Worship Mayor Fleming and Chief of Police Grasset, in respect of allowing young children to play ball in the public parks—the Mayor holding that, while the law did not discriminate, children should not be prohibited by officious or over-zealous policemen; while the Chief of Police held that, instead of being so allowed the city should and could cheaply rent for the summer months vacant plots throughout the city, where baseball and other athletic games could be indulged in by children—the report concluded with the following announcement:—

"Your committee are pleased to announce that free text books will be supplied to the scholars of the public schools on the reopening, Monday, August 29th inst. Notice has been given to the small dealers, who have been engaged in that line of business, that the Board is prepared to purchase all text books at present in their shops at cost price. The furnishing of free text books by the Board of School Trustees is a step in the right direction, but your committee believe that the intention of the citizens, when voting on the by-law, was to authorize free school books. It is understood that the Board of Trustees has the power to place in their estimates an amount sufficient for the purpose of purchasing all supplies, but if not your committee would request the City Council to again submit the by-law to the people on the direct question of free school books, believing that all supplies used by the scholars during school hours should be furnished by the School Board." The report was warmly approved and concurred in.

The president then called the vice-president to the chair, and took the floor. He presented the report of the special committee on prison labor. As a city paper said the next day, "this report was clear, concise and logical." Endorsing these words myself and knowing how exceedingly important this subject is to all who make a living by wages instead of making a synopsis here, and as a matter of justice to the document, I send it herewith in the hope that it may receive the merited honor of a special place by itself in the columns of THE ECHO, with an appropriate heading by the editor. I need hardly add that this report also was unanimously adopted.

Secretary Criven read a report from the Demonstration Committee indicating that all arrangements were in a forward and satisfactory condition and anticipating a display which would do honor to organized labor in Toronto.

At this stage Delegate G. W. Dower announced as follows: "The Typographical Union has engaged the bugle band of the Queen's Own Rifles to play for them in the coming trades procession, and, as everybody knows, they play a quick step, I would suggest that the Typographical Union be put near the head of the procession to set the pace."

Delegate March—"I can assure Delegate Dower that the only union band in the city will head the procession, and that is the band of the Toronto Musical Union." Applause.

Delegate Devlin—"Every member of the Queen's own buglers is a union man, and on that day each will carry his card in his pocket." This statement was also met with "Hear, hear."

Delegate Davidge—with a humorous expression of countenance—"I would suggest that if these buglers play such a quick step it would be as well to keep them near the rear of the procession to push the others forward." This sally produced roars of laughter and was the better appreciated because of the intention to reach the Exhibition grounds about one o'clock at the very latest.

While thus in good humor the Council adjourned.

Mr. Isaac A. Sanderson, of the Longshornmen Assembly of the K. of L., will be Chief Marshal of the parade on the 10th while Mr. John Armstrong, of the Typographical Union, and Mr. Lawrence Judge, of the Painters' Union, will be deputy marshals—all mounted, of course. Besides being good men for the positions, they are really good-looking and will appear to advantage on horse-back—if the horses are of the required character.

An Associated Press dispatch, dated Pittsburg, August 22, says "the job printers' strike, which has been going on for a year, has taken a new phase. The strikers are to be prosecuted for conspiracy in using the boycott. To defray the expenses of the litigation the International Typothetae has placed \$100,000 at the disposal of its Pittsburg members. The boycott against some Pittsburg firms has been very disastrous."

To those "who know the ropes" it is not necessary to say that the foregoing dispatch is only "flap-doodle"—what fools are fed on, and no more.

I am much pleased in hearing that at the Congress next week we will have delegates from Vancouver, New Westminster, and probably from Victoria as well. This speaks volumes as to the value set upon the labors of our T. & L. Congress by our brothers in organization out in British Columbia.

There will be a full representation of Toronto organizations, of course.

URIM.

The Process of Disinheritance.

A little over ten years ago a New York capitalistic paper declared that a change in the ownership of the land of America must come; that there must arise a race of tenant farmers on the one hand and landlords on the other. This was not said as a warning of impending evil, but was a prediction of what the paper in question considered not more certain than desirable. It declared that the time was even then ripe for the change; that the farmers were reduced to the condition where they would gladly sell, if only buyers would appear.

At that time, even in the comparatively new state of Kansas, 13 1/2 per cent. of the farms were cultivated by tenants. To-day over 33 per cent. of the Kansas farmers are tenants. The prediction of the New York capitalistic sheet is coming true. Like the people of older lands, the people of America are becoming disinherited. While they boast as loudly as ever of their liberty, they are being surely reduced to vassalage, for it is the veriest mockery to talk of a man as being politically free who is dependent on another for the right to live.—K. of L. Journal.

THE CHOLERA.

LONDON, August 26.—There is now no doubt cholera has entered England. The disease was brought here by the steamer Gemma, which arrived at Gravesend yesterday from Hamburg. It was reported that the steamer was infected, but the authorities, after examining the passengers, allowed them to land. A few hours after two aliens, who had arrived on the Gemma, were taken sick. They were at once removed to the hospital at Gravesend, where doctors pronounced their malady cholera. In spite of everything that was done for them, they died shortly after they were admitted.