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MEETINGS.

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TORONTO NOTES.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

TORONTO, August 11, 1892.

We had it hot all week, but I suppose we in Toronto were no exception in that particular.

The Trades and Labor Council met last Friday evening and the proceedings must have been interesting for some of our city papers devoted over a column each to a report of the proceedings.

After the credentials of quite a number of new delegates were received the report of the Municipal Committee was read by Delegate R. Glocking. It dealt with many matters that have been well threshed out in the press of late. Architect Lennox's fight with the court house contractor in the city's interest was strongly endorsed. The clause referred back from last meeting in reference to the squabbles over the city engineership was sent on again slightly amended, but still declaring that the recent wrangles were to say the least by no means calculated to enhance the reputation of the city. Mr. Keating was advised to guard himself from wily contractors, and get those under him to treat citizens with courtesy. The day labor system was commended to him as a true solution of the botch contract system. The proposal of Ald. Jolliffe to insure the city against claims of workmen under the employers' liability was taken up and handled without gloves as one that would result in the men being beaten out of their just demands by the high-priced lawyers of the insurance corporations. In a lengthy discussion, taken part in by Messrs. Francis, Bradley, Armstrong and O'Donoghue, this view was pressed home and the committee instructed to fight the scheme, and if possible get instead a system by which all workmen may be insured by the corporation against accident while in the public employ. The report was adopted without amendment.

Delegate O'Donoghue presented the first report of the Legislative Committee since its election, and it covered a wide variety of subjects.

Attention was drawn to the cable statement of the Canadian High Commissioner that the right kind of emigrants could not be induced to come to this country, and this was contrasted with the assertions of the agents in various parts of the Dominion that the immigrants of each succeeding year are of a superior class. The abolition of the whole immigration system is called for, as the ordinary inflow is held to be sufficient to supply Canada's labor market.

The act respecting insurance corporations, passed at last session of the Ontario Legislature, was discussed in relation to industrial friendly societies. The act provides for the registration of all lawfully incorporated trades union insurance or benefit funds upon application. This requirement does not seem to have been generally understood and few trades unions have registered under the act. The time for making application to register expired on June 30th, but at the request of Messrs. G. T. Beales and George W. Dower, representing the Dominion Trades Congress, the inspector of insurance allowed—as he had power to do so under the statute—an extension of time till November 1st, so that the whole subject may be talked over at the coming congress and the position of the trades unions in relation to the act set before the various bodies. The hope was expressed that the act of last session to provide separate conveniences for girls and women in stores, workshops and factories would be enforced by the municipal authorities. A circular dated July 1 from the Emigrants' Information Office, London, England, stating that there was on that date "a great demand" for farm labor in Toronto and throughout Canada for men in the building trade, was flatly contradicted as utterly at variance with the well known facts. After brief debate the report was adopted. Before this, however, Delegate Francis suggested that the members go gunning a la Homestead for the Grand High Commissioner and his satellites who aided in disseminating such false information. He asked that the committee look into the proposed manufacture of binding twine in the Central Prison. Mr. H. T. Benson said there were thousands of men idle in Toronto. Men who wanted the work and could not get it were forced at the present time in midsummer to accept charity. Mechanics of all sorts were working on the

street railway change of system. He suggested that to prove the falsity of the High Commissioner's information a meeting of the unemployed be called. It would not be accommodated by the largest public hall in the city. The report was adopted as read.

The Education Committee's report was read by Delegate Dower. The report regretted that children were not allowed to play in the parks. The committee waited upon the Mayor, and he agreed to see the Chief of Police and have him request the members of the police force not to enforce the by-law against children playing handball and other harmless games in the parks. The committee referred to the appointment of Mr. Beddome as secretary of the High School Board, and said that the election of a member of the board to an office in its gift was wrong in principle. The committee endorsed Mr. Banton's remarks at the last meeting of the council on the appointment of representatives of labor on the Public Library Board.

This report was also carried.

A motion was passed, denouncing the action of the City Council in allowing Messrs. Gurney to lower their tender for a scale for the cattle market, thereby cutting out the tender of Wilson, the scale-maker, who is an employer of organized labor.

The hall opened on the binder twine question by Delegate Francis asking if the Legislative Committee had considered the binding twine question as regards the Central Prison?

Delegate O'Donoghue replied that the Legislative Committee never neglected to consider and report on any matter coming under its notice in the interest of organized labor.

This did not satisfy Delegate Francis and he moved that the old committee on Prison labor be reappointed. This was done.

Delegate Armstrong then moved that the Prison Labor Committee report on the manufacture of binder twine at the Central prison, and if it was an injury to organized labor.

This brought Delegate O'Donoghue to his feet, and he said he would like to know why Mr. Armstrong desired to force the hand of the Legislative Committee. Who told Mr. Armstrong about organized labor being injured by the binder twine industry started at the Central prison?

Mr. Armstrong—Did not some committee meet the Legislative Committee on this question?

Mr. O'Donoghue—Who told you? Who told the reporters about this? We are interested to know, for we think there is something behind all this; an interest that is not favorable to the interests of organized labor. Who told the papers that there was going to be a row here to-night on this binder twine matter? Who came here primed for a row?

Delegate Francis then said that there should be some action taken on the matter, but this stirred up a hornet's nest.

Delegate March walked into Delegate Francis, and said there was a nigger in the fence, and that the opposition to the making of binder twine was inspired by the combine of binder twine makers; that it looked very strange to have Delegate Francis so much interested in the binder twine question. Delegate Francis belonged to the Prison Labor Committee for a long time, but he never interested himself in binder twine or anything else till now. The Legislative Committee were quite competent to deal with the matter, and it was injudicious to bring the matter up.

Delegate Emmett began to make a lung speech, in which he said the whole matter was political.

Delegate Glocking jumped up to a point of order.

Delegate Emmett—What is your point of order?

Delegate Glocking—None of your business! Sit down and then you'll know.

Several members wanted Delegate Glocking to use milder language to Delegate Emmett, and in the heated discussion that followed the latter hinted modestly that if Delegate Glocking was outside he could not make him sit down.

Somebody moved the previous question, and Delegate Armstrong's motion was thrown out. A motion was then carried referring the matter to the Legislative Committee for consideration and report.

That Delegate March hit a nail on the head when he said at the last meeting of the T. and L. Council "that there was a nigger in the fence" in the agitation as to making binding twine in the

Central Prison is evidenced by the following remarks by the Mail of last Monday. It says:

"Every effort is being made to conceal the facts concerning the attempts being made by the binder twine combine to prevent the Ontario Government undertaking the manufacture of twine in the Central prison. The information first given in the Mail, that a meeting of so-called delegates of twine workers was held in this city, led to an enquiry as to who supplied the information, and the second statement in the Mail, that the expenses of the delegates, as well as the cost of an effort to arouse the workmen against the proposal of the Provincial Government was being paid by the combine, has fallen like a thunderbolt among the wire-pullers. At the meeting of the Trades and Labor Council on Friday night considerable warmth was caused by the short discussion on the subject, but the correctness of the statements in this paper were admitted, and the existence of "a nigger in the fence" acknowledged. The combine managed to get a scratch deputation together to interview the Local Government on the proposal, but the result of the interview was to strengthen the determination of the Government to make the experiment. In the meantime a representative of the combine is visiting the local trade societies to try and work up opposition to the scheme, but the workmen seem very unwilling to do anything to assist the combine."

The resolution passed by the T. and L. Council condemning the action of the City Council in allowing Mrs. Gurney (notorious as a non-union shop—the moulders still fighting them) to lower their tender for a scale for the Western cattle market, thereby cutting out the tender of Wilson, the scale maker, who is an employer of organized labor, may not have been read by anyone—I don't say it had, but—

The City Council, at its meeting on Tuesday afternoon last, reconsidered the question of granting the making of a scale for the cattle market, and on resolution the award to Messrs. Gurney was cancelled, and the contract was awarded to Mr. Wilson. Score again.

Our Trades and Labor demonstration on Saturday, 16th prox., promises well. The City Council has appointed a special committee of its members to act in conjunction with the Demonstration Committee of the T. and L. Council, and the city fire brigade is to be turned out in the procession also. It is expected the Public, Separate and Technical School Boards will also take a part therein.

Nearly every night is adding new delegates to those already elected to the T. and L. Congress. Besides the names of the delegates representing our T. and L. Council, D. A. 125, K. of L., and the Builders' Laborers' Union already published in THE ECHO, I learn that Messrs. John Armstrong, R. Stewart and M. Meehan will be the delegates from Typo Union 91; Mr. A. F. Jury from L. A. 2305 K. of L.; Mr. R. Southwell from Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners; Messrs. L. Colman and Chas. Ingram from the Stone Masons' Union; Messrs. Jas. Sim and Thos. Kirby from the Tailors' Union; Mr. Robert Emmett, from the Iron Moulders' Union; Mr. W. J. Spencer, from the Plumbers' and Steamfitters' Union; Mr. F. B. Downey from L. A. 5743 (bookbinders); Mr. J. Jones from L. A. 6250 (custom shoemakers); Mr. Hugh McCaffrey from L. A. 2622 (mixed); Mr. J. H. Sanderson from L. A. 6564 (longshoremen); and Mr. W. Brown from L. A. 3499 (bakers).

URIM.

EXCURSION.

The Letter Carriers of Montreal will hold their annual moonlight excursion on Thursday evening next. The steamer Berthier has been engaged, there will be a concert and other attractions on board, as well as an excellent orchestra for dancing, so that there will be lots of fun for all. We have no doubt the friends of those useful public servants will muster in large numbers on the occasion. The following are the officers of the Letter Carriers' Association, who compose the committee:—President, P. Callery; 1st vice-president, J. B. Dusseault, west; 2nd vice-president, A. Gauthier, east; treasurer, E. Chagnon; cor. secretary, A. Gauthier, centre. Representatives—M. Baulne, north; Thos. Latimore, Point St. Charles; J. J. Collins, St. Gabriel; J. St. Onge, east; A. Pepin, Hochelaga; A. Valiquette, St. Joseph. The committee in charge of dancing are as follows:—J. J. Collins, J. A. Boudreau, T. Moore, J. Miraglia.

OUR AUSTRALIAN LETTER.

CHIRREP SWAMP, July 7th, 1892.

Since last writing you things in Victoria have become terrible. The labor market has become glutted, and men and women are selling their labor, in some cases, for less than they can live upon. Over 6,000 out of work in Melbourne alone. Processions of unemployed, both men and women, some of the latter with babes in their arms, every day parade the streets, hold torch-light processions at night, and in every possible way they can conjure up, try to force the government to find employment for them; and this is the "paradise of the workingman." In West Melbourne, Dr. Maloney, M.L.A., has erected a large tent to shelter those who are homeless, and I can tell you there are hundreds of families who have taken advantage of his kindness. Besides these there are lots less fortunate who sleep on the banks of the River Yarra with nothing but an old bag to cover them, while some who are still worse off, have to be contented with a few old newspapers. These are facts and are not in the least overdrawn. People are evicted wholesale and their effects taken to the auctioneers to sell to pay for rent to fill the greedy landlord's pockets "who toils not, neither does he spin," and why should he when he finds lots of people only too eager to pay him big fat rents? Sometimes the bailiff has not got it all his own way, though. Several times the unemployed in a body have gone to the auctioneers and forcibly taken back the goods of one of their number and restored it to the original possessor.

Then there is the laughable side as well. One lady, a prominent member in the unemployed ranks, was visited by the bailiff one day and was told if she did not pay her rent in the course of an hour or so, out she would have to go, she told the bailiff to wait a few minutes till she should go and see if she could get a few friends to assist her. The bailiff suspecting nothing wrong waited till, as he thought, she would collect among her friends enough to pay a portion of the rent, when, after waiting a short time, his soliloquy was disturbed by the murmur from a multitude of throats, and on glancing out of the window, he never was more astonished in his life than to see some few hundreds of the unemployed waiting to get a glimpse of him, and I can tell you they made short work of him. Out he went neck and crop, and was told if he was seen haunting that district again that his friends would gather up all that was left of him with a tooth brush. It is needless to add that he vanished.

The Labor members of Parliament have not yet had an opportunity of getting down to hard work, but I hope when they do we'll see some good results.

G. R. Dibbs, Premier of N. S. W., has gone to London. Nobody out here seems to know what good his visit to England is going to do for Australia; does he know himself?

Now that the Ranaka (black labor) bill has passed the Queensland house we will expect soon to see hundreds of these very undesirable people over here competing with the already underpaid white labor.

There is every prospect of there being a first rate wheat season, the best, in fact, there has been for years.

In clearing land out here the farmers are very short-sighted. They burn all the timber on the ground after it is pulled down. Just think, hundreds of people in the large centres of population cold for the want of a little firewood, and millions of cords of it burnt every year to get it out of the way.

Melbourne Cable Tramway shares that were selling this time two years ago at £9 8s 0d are to day on the market at 16 shillings and can't find a buyer. Men who were, in 1888, worth thousands of pounds are to-day, lots of them, almost penniless. Business failures are recorded by the hundred every week. When and where will it end?

In conclusion let me say that the people are fast awakening. They are being starved into it, and when all hands and the cook see the cat, look out!

WM. W. LIGHT.

A stonecutter named Prevost, formerly employed here, tells a strange story. He said that he and his brother left Montreal for Whitehall, N. Y., for the purpose of securing work at higher wages. On arrival there they found a strike in progress. A week ago last Monday, when on their way to work, they were attacked by a large band of armed men. The brother was shot through the head, and his body dragged to a lonely swamp where it was buried.