

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by the Boarders.

"When the Canadian Pacific Railway was completed," said Brown, "the company had received, in one form or another from the people of Canada, subsidies and grants amounting to seventy-six cents for every dollar of its subscribed capital stock; such was the statement made in Parliament at that time and accepted as correct. No wonder therefore that some of the C. P. R. people rapidly became millionaires. Now, I don't find fault with them for taking all they could get, even though most of it was secured by questionable means, but I do find fault with them for acting in the mean, contemptible and dirty manner in which they treated the Widow Flynn. You would naturally suppose that a people which had acted in such a generous way by any private corporation would, at least, in return be entitled to and receive some little consideration at its hands. Legislators may vote bonuses and grants and guarantee the payment of interest on the company's bonds, but legislators as a rule don't pay this expense out of their own pockets, that part is left to the men who work—to the producers. While the people of Canada mortgaged their souls to build the road the leading men in the company became millionaires. The husband of this widow was not only one of the many who had to pay his proportionate share into the treasury of the C. P. R., but he was also an employee of the company. Had he lost his life through his own fault while in the discharge of his duty there might have been some excuse for the company's action; but so far from this being the case, it was clearly proven in every court that it was the company's fault. Under the circumstances honorable men would have paid the damages awarded the widow by the courts long ago; nay, they would not even have allowed the case to go to the court's because their sense of right and justice, not to speak of their feeling of pity for the widow and orphans, would have prompted them to minister to the wants of the family which they had deprived of their bread-winner. That the responsible officials of the company did not only not do this; but actually took advantage of every twist and turn of the law to escape the payment of even the small pittance awarded the widow by the courts stamps them the meanest hirelings of the meanest of all mean and grasping corporations."

"I suppose they thought that the widow being poor it would prove an easy thing to worry her into accepting their terms," said Phil, "by carrying the case from Pontius to Pilate and back again if necessary. In this, however, they have been disappointed, for not only is the widow and her lawyers as full of fight as ever, but they have succeeded in enlisting the sympathy of the public to such an extent that the company, if the whole truth were known, would now gladly pay costs and damages to be rid of the case. The Canadian Pacific is not the only railway by which people can travel in Canada, and humane men don't feel like patronizing a company whose funds are used for the purpose of persecuting widows and orphans, and the consequence of all this is, that the traveling public are beginning to study other time tables than those of the C. P. R."

"I see," said Gaskill, "that some of the labor organizations have taken hold of this case, and if they act intelligently and with their characteristic determination they can teach that company such a lesson that for all future time it will confine its labors to the discharge of its proper functions of a public carrier and leave the establishment of principles in law to other people who may not be under such tremendous obligations to the citizens of this country as what the Canadian Pacific is."

"Corporations have neither souls, honor, shame, or conscience," said Brown, "but they have a treasury and it is their most vulnerable spot—strike them there. The Canadian Pacific by its action in this case has outraged the feelings of every fair-minded man in Canada. There is nothing in the law of this country which will compel any man to travel by it; other roads transport freight and passengers as cheap and fast as the Canadian Pacific does, and while they perhaps care as little for the lives of their employees their actions toward them or their widows and orphans has never been of that brutal kind which characterizes the C. P. R."

BILL BLADES.

"SCRAPS" FOR CIGARMAKERS

The total amount of money collected in Canada as assessment for advertising the Blue Label was \$122.50, of which Montreal contributes \$66.50, or \$10.50 more than was collected in the five unions in Ontario; and strange to say Montreal has had no advertisement from the International Union. This is one of the many questions that should receive the attention of the delegates to the coming convention.

Union No. 58 has again draped their charter in mourning out of respect to their deceased brother _____, who died on Saturday, July 11, after a long illness. He was a faithful member of the union for a number of years, and his death is a serious loss, as he was one of the best workers in the interest of the union in this city. The members of the union turned out in large numbers to the funeral, there being over 200 in line.

Union No. 58 held their regular meeting on Friday, July 10, in their hall, No. 173 St. Lawrence street. It being at this meeting that a delegate to the convention was to be elected, the members turned out en masse. Though no nominations were made previous to this meeting, yet it was well known to the members that the aspirants for the honorable position were to be A. Lafrance and A. Garipey, financial and corresponding secretaries respectively. After the receiving of traveling cards and the reading of the minutes the election was begun, the utmost caution being taken to prevent any misunderstanding among the members. As the scrutineers called out the names of the members the excitement became intense. The report of the scrutineers showed that A. Lafrance was elected by a majority of 65 votes over his opponent, who received 37 votes. The total number of votes cast was 112. Cheer after cheer went up from the friends of the successful candidate. After order had been restored the president declared Mr. Lafrance duly elected delegate to the Cigarmakers' Convention, which convenes in Indianapolis, Ind., on Monday, Sept. 21. The election for alternate resulted in favor of Mr. Frank Dostie.

Now came another election. It was the selection of a representative to the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, which takes place the last week in August in the city of Quebec. As it is solely in the interest of Canada and has been of great assistance to the cigarmakers of Montreal and throughout the Dominion, and being ever ready to seize an opportunity to better their condition and expose their grievances to the Congress, the cigarmakers decided as in the past to have their union represented. The candidates nominated were Elie Massie and Arthur Pepin, both energetic members in the cause of unionism and capable of filling the position. The successful candidate was Mr. Elie Massie, who received 42 votes over his opponent. The defeated candidate accepted the result in good spirit, hoping that on a future occasion he would be more successful.

After some other business was transacted the adjournment of one of the most interesting meetings in the annals of Union No. 58 took place.

The manner in which the Cigarmakers' Union attend the funeral of a deceased brother is a credit to themselves and to organized labor in the city, and ought to be put into practice by every organized body.

Mr. T. De Dana, who has had his card in Union No. 58, has withdrawn and placed it in Union No. 226, where we have no doubt he will work with his accustomed energy for the welfare of the body.

The sudden departure of Mr. Murren for the United States has caused much regret, as he was looked upon by the members of the union as a valuable addition, having been elected president and one of the candidates to the convention.

Before the next issue of the Echo Union No. 226 will have elected a representative to the convention. It is to be hoped that the successful candidate will be elected on his merits, and not through any scheming on the part of his supporters; for should any attempt be made to use unjust means

to secure the return of a candidate I will endeavor to expose them and their ways of acting in a manner that they will have cause to regret.

The departure of H. Murren leaves three candidates in the field for the convention.

It is rumored that Geo. Weir will decline the nomination for delegate to the convention.

What is the matter with the report of the last New York convention? It is near time it was made. Probably it is to be combined with this one.

The inability to secure packers was the cause of a lay off in one of the shops of all hand workers.

When is the Advertising committee going to hold a meeting and give a report and offer suggestions for the union to act on?

The Rositana workers are now taking their vacation for a week or two. It was very reluctantly granted by the manager, who is in much need of that famous brand, orders being in for six months in advance. But they must have holidays during this warm weather.

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