

Day Classes Open Sept. 15th at 9 a.m. Evening Classes open Oct. 5th at 7.45 p.m. Send for Prospectus to A. G. HORWOOD, Secretary.

THE TOILER

Official Organ of the Toronto District Labor Council. Published Weekly in the Interests of the Working Masses.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 25, 1903

OUR PRINTING NUMBER IS MAIN 1344

PRINTING of all Kinds Done in First-Class Style

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TRADES CONGRESS AT BROCKVILLE

Convention Largely Attended.—Committees Appointed.—President's Address.—Important matters to be Considered.

The session of the Trades Congress at Brockville gave the Toronto delegates the opportunity of displaying their qualifications as entertainers. By special car the boys from Toronto embarked on Monday afternoon, after being joined by those from the west.

The car was comfortably filled, and refreshments were provided for all. "Sarsaparilla," "Bill," and "Loe Water Jimmie" not excepted. The open-ended wonder with which the car was watched at every flag station did not deter the boys from letting their melodious voices loose. This harmless bit of amusement served to pass the time upon the trip. It also was productive of several new choruses. The most important of these was rendered upon the march from the train to the hotel, after arriving at this pleasant little city on the banks of the St. Lawrence. The only disturbing element of the trip was "ignominiously" put on ice upon arrival, and left in "hock" all night to cool his ardent. Wild Bill's rendering of "God Save the King" was not appreciated to the extent it deserved, in that he was allowed to finish the journey without accident.

The boys from the Queen City dispersed to their different abodes and spent the evening pleasantly wandering about the city. The convention was called to order at 10 o'clock on Tuesday morning in the City Hall, and President Flett introduced the president of the Trades Council, who read a short address of welcome, and was followed by Mayor Harrison's welcome on behalf of the Council and corporation of the city of Brockville.

The Mayor had only one complaint to make, and that was that one of the burpous of the Manufacturers' Association. Mr. John Coleman, the fraternal delegate from the A. F. of L., spoke a few words of fraternal greeting. Mr. J. B. Mack, vice-president, followed with a short address. Mr. John F. Tobin, president of the Boot and Shoe Workers' International Union, was called upon by President Flett. After expressing his pleasure at again having the privilege of appearing before the Congress, which had become an annual affair with him, he hoped it would continue to be. Mr. Tobin was of the opinion that the Canadian trades unionists were quite capable of deciding for themselves what form of organization was best suited to their needs without the advice of the manufacturers. He advised that when we went fishing we should bait our hook as the manufacturer was evidently doing. They were very crafty in the selection of a bait when such bait was purely Canadian trades unions.

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EMPLOYERS' AND MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

The past year has been one of unusual industrial activity, the enormous growth of our Canadian industry coupled with a bountiful harvest has caused a greater demand for labor, and with it greater increase in the cost of living, yet wages have not kept pace proportionately with the enhanced cost of living or the general prosperity of the country. Many trade movements have taken place this year for better conditions and for shares in the general prosperity to which our people were justly entitled, but denied them by the unreasonable attitude of employers' associations and their members. Owing to the active hostility on the part of the employers' and manufacturers' associations seeking by legislative means, to hamper and disrupt our movement, an unusual amount of work has been placed upon our Executive Committee, in meeting this opposition, and a greater demand has been made upon their time than in any previous year in the history of the Congress. A detailed account of the work performed will be found in the report of your Executive.

An effort on the part of the above-named associations was made to prejudice the public against our unions and to pave the way for the introduction of legislation, such as has been introduced in the Senate, by Senators Loughheed and Brown, and passed by that body. Had these measures become law, they would not have accomplished the object aimed at, but would have widened the breach between employer and employee, and engendered strife and bitterness, where harmony and good-will should exist.

The action on the part of these unions of employers in attempting to destroy the unions of the working people is to be regretted. Trade unions have come to stay, and no amount of persecution, prosecution or retrograde legislation can stop their onward progress: they are the outgrowth of the requirement and economic condition of the times; while not perfect, yet they are as perfect as any other form of human society. Their mission is to protect the weak and defenceless and uplift the toilers in all lands, to take them from the quagmire of poverty and wretchedness and place them on the highlands of prosperity. That trade unions are constantly improving in their methods and organization is very apparent, and I believe that on the whole the employer and employee are coming closer together. This can be brought about more rapidly by a proper understanding of the relationship of one to another, and a due regard for the rights of each; this is being hastened by means of conciliation and arbitration. I would favor trade agreements between the representatives on each side: I think it is possible to find a common ground where employer and employee can meet with honor and satisfaction to both. This has been demonstrated by agreements made between unions of employers and workmen in many branches of industry. To be successful these must be organizations with discipline in order to enforce a due observance of these agreements, and all contracts religiously lived up to. (Continued on page 4)

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