LABOR'S LEGISLATURE.

MEETING OF THE TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL.

D. J. O'Donoghue's Obstructive Tactics — Immigration and the Street Railway — Factious Opposition to a Progressive Course of Action.

At the regular bi-monthly meeting of the Trades and Labor Council on Friday evening last at Labor Hall, Yonge St., the chair was occupied by President Bradley. After routine proceedings the report of the Legislative Committee was read by Delegate Banton as follows:

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Your committee beg leave to submit the following report. In the House of Commons on Monday, August 10th, Mr. Ingram moved, "That in view of the great loss of life resulting to employees of railway companies in the coupling and uncoupling of railway cars, it is the opinion of this House that a sum of money be set apart by Parliament to be offered as a reward for the invention of the best and most satisfactory self-acting car-coupler calculated to obviate such accidents, and that means should be provided by the Government to pass upon said inventions, and report upon the same to the Minister of Railways and Canals, or such person or persons as he may designate to receive such report, and to make the reward as provided for in this resolution. In supporting his resolution Mr. Ingram gave statistics of casualties on railways in Canada and United States. Out of 835 railway employees injured, in Canada and in United States for the year 1889, 366 were injured by coupling and uncoupling cars, 300 persons were killed and 6,567 persons were injured by coupling and uncoupling cars. The urgent need for greater protection to life in the management of railways is a subject of constantly increasing importance, and the duties of governments to exercise a controlling power in that direction is being generally advocated. In no case is such control more required than in protecting the lives of those engaged in railway shunting yards. Your committee therefore think that, Mr. Ingram's motion is a step in the right direction and would recommend that he have the approval of this council.

On August 10th, in answer to Mr. Lepine, Mr. Haggart said, "It is the intention of the Government to put into operation the Act of 1890 creating a Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Statistics which were collected by the census, forming the basis of such Bureau are being compiled as rapidly as possible. When such compilation is completed the Bureau will be organized." The information collected by such a Bureau ought to be of great value to the cause of labor, and we hope the Government will press forward and have a report for 1891 presented early next year.

Your committee are pleased to notice that Sir John Thompson has accepted the principle of Mr. Cameron's Bill, to amend the law in criminal cases, so as to enable an accused person to give evidence in their own behalf, which will be incorporated in Sir John Thompson's Criminal Code Bill.

The necessity for such amendment, both here and in Great Britain may be seen from the following:

"In the solitude of his prison cell, James Healy, a Manchester clogger, must meditate mournfully on the state of our oft-vaunted British laws. James was charged with bigamy; he was told by the Judge that if he could show that he had not seen his wife for seven years, the onus of proof would shift to the prosecution. But the law would not allow the culprit who was, of course, the only individual in the world who could give such proof—to enter the witness box, so he got six months' hard labor. The Judge remarked that he hoped the law would very soon be altered. But will the Home Secretary permit James Healy to serve six months simply because the law closed his mouth?"

The following extract is from the report of the Ontario Labor Bureau published in the *Globe*:

LABOR AND WAGES.

"There has been a sufficiency of labor during harvesting, chiefly because farmers are endeavoring to do as much work as possible within their own families. Occasional reports only were made of a scarcity of laborers. There has been no appreciable change in the rate of wages during the summer, but prices vary greatly according to locality and the rate of wages paid laborers in other branches of work. Based upon returns by farmers who employ help in every section of the Province, the following averages of wages paid farm laborers are derived. Yearly engagement with board $159 or without board $256, as compared with $157 and $253 respectively in 1890. Engagements for the working season per month, with board $16.66, or without board $25.81, as compared with $16.88 and $26.56 respectively in 1890. Servant girls average $6.25 and board, or two cents more than in 1890."

While showing a slight improvement in the condition of the workers—as reported by the farmers—it is quite opposed to the reports generally issued by immigration agents.

Your committee would recommend that it be an instruction to the delegates from this Council to the Trades and Labor Congress, that they submit to the congress the resolution passed by this Council, that an eight hours day be made the subject for legislative enactment.

Your committee are also pleased to inform the Council that in answer to their request, they are supplied with all departmental reports, blue-books, and parliamentary reports, through the kindness of Hon. Christopher Fraser, for Ontario, and, of Mr. Emmerson Coatsworth for the Dominion. Respectfully submitted,

T. N. BANTON, *Chairman.*

Delegate John Weir moved the adoption of the report and read an extract from the News relative to the kidnapping of children and their shipment to this country by Dr. Barnardo, urging that the matter be taken up.

Delegate Francis seconded the resolution.

Delegate O'Donoghue regretted that the Committee had not drawn attention to the circular issued from the Canadian Immigration office misrepresenting the condition of the labor market. Among other false statements it contained were that there was a demand for mechanics in Toronto and Hamilton and that servant girls got $8 per week. There should also have been a reference to the bills respecting the inspection of ships and regarding load lines. The bill for the inspection of vessels unfortunately contained no provision as to the gear and tackle used in loading vessels. The load line measure was also defective, as it only applied to ocean-going vessels, not to inland navigation.

Delegate Hepburn said that Delegate O'Donoghue had exaggerated the statements of the immigration circular with regard to men being in demand in Canadian cities. With one or two exceptions the assertions of the circular were tolerably correct. There was nothing more of interest in the gear and tackle inspection bill than in many other measures which they had not yet had time to consider. They thought it well, moreover, to allow the Dominion Trades Congress to pass upon it.

Delegate Armstrong thought that loading gear and tackle were included in the bill.

Delegate Banton considered that the immigration documents submitted to the Committee by Delegate O'Donoghue were on the whole fair. It was the desire of the Committee to expose any misrepresentation in immigration matters. It would, however, be their aim to deal with matters which would strike at the root of the evil. They should consider that there were overcrowded labor markets elsewhere, and they did not want to build a wall round the country to the exclusion of all born outside.

Delegate O'Donoghue said the working classes of Toronto would not bear Delegate Banton out in his broad philanthrophy. They must have an eye mainly to the people who were here. He contended that the statements of the circular were positively false.

Delegate Hepburn said Delegate O'Donoghue had put up a man of straw to attack him. Delegate O'Donoghue's course was nothing but an attempt to bulldoze the Council. (Applause.)

Delegate March said that if the committee thought the building trades would swallow a dose of abstract questions they would find themselves mistaken.

The report was adopted.

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Delegate Devlin read the Municipal Committee's report, as follows:—

Your Municipal Committee beg leave to submit the following report:

Your Committee are pleased to note that the Health Department of the city is taking means to cleanse the waters of Ashbridge's Bay. This step is not taken too soon. The south shore of Ashbridge's Bay, from the gut in the west to Coatsworth's Cut in the east, a distance of about two miles, is a putrid mass of fish, about three feet broad, the entire length. This fish is not the dead shad which one sees along the Island beach, and sometimes floating in the centre of the bay, but the putrid mass consists of innumerable pike averaging two feet long, perch measuring from five to nine inches, and sunfish from two to four inches broad, besides large clam fish, all heaped up in ridges on the shore as far as the eye can reach. From a food standpoint this sight is disgraceful; from a sanitary standpoint it is also a disgrace. The reason for this state of affairs is that Ashbridge's Bay has no outlet. The sewage of byres and drains empties into it, and the *debris* of the paint factory at the foot of Leslie Street also pours into this stagnant pool, which is in itself enough to kill all the fine fish as paris green is not generally looked upon as a food to sustain life. The smell arising from the mass of corruption along the shore is most stifling, enough to spread disease when a strong east wind blows it cityward. The Health Officer the other day reported that the citizens stood in danger of a pestilence arising from this state of affairs, and recommended that immediate steps be taken to apply a remedy. The City Engineer has commenced dredging an opening to allow the waters of the lake to run through this locked-up cesspool; but it seems that the Harbor Commissioners have demurred, on the ground that an opening in the breakwater will cause damage to that structure. This objection surely should not stand in the way of purifying Ashbridge's Bay, thereby saving the health of the citizens, particularly in the eastern part of the city. Your Committee would therefore recommend that the scheme entered upon by the Engineer for the purpose of letting in fresh water be pushed forward without delay. It would also be in order to enforce the Dominion Act in reference to the pollution of rivers and streams, so that no obnoxious or poisonous matter be allowed to enter this once beautiful fishing and boating resort.

It seems by the report of the Health Officer that he has recommended the closing up of all privy pits, or substitute the pail system. The latter plan might be too expensive, and if the present privy pits are done away with, and indoor closets connected with the ordinary sewers be enforced, it will add to our already polluted bay. Some years ago your committee approved of the construction of one or two trunk sewers to carry away all sewage to some low land or proper receptacle, so that it could be converted into a profitable fertilizer, thereby making the operation partially self-sustaining. If this plan were adopted a crematory would be unnecessary, but so long as the present plan is adopted it is only right the crematory should be erected, and your committee are pleased to note that the ... course of construction ... by the city.

It is now beyond all doubt that on every available opportunity certain aldermen consider it their special object to endeavor to "sit on" the City Engineer. If this were in the interest of the city it would be the less matter, but it is well known that their object in doing so is to vent petty spite because the Engineer will not sanction their pet schemes against the interest of the entire community. If the Engineer has violated the spirit and letter of the by-law governing his position, let the fact be brought forward by aldermen who have got no axes to grind, and not by those whom the Engineer has repeatedly thwarted in causing unnecessary work, thereby increasing general expenditure to no useful purpose. If our Engineer had less decision of character than he has, he would be a white-haired boy with the Hewitts and Jolliffes of the Council, but in the end what would be their gain would be the city's loss.

Still there seems to be some tampering with the cheap fares laid down in the street railway specifications. Inducements are held out by the Keily-Everett Co. in the shape of a two per cent. on the profits if the Corporation would at any time rescind the cheap fare clause of the contract. It is to be hoped there is some honesty left in the majority of the Council not to grant the point desired. If they cannot stretch their consciences in an honest direction to make permanent the clause as it now stands, it might be considered a favor by the community if the syndicaters would shuffle the question over to the end of the year, when others will take their places around the Council Board, pledged to do justice to the masses in this street railway bungle.

The Special Committee of the City Council on Salaries met last Thursday afternoon. After a short discussion it was decided to recommend that the office of mayor be purely honorary, without salary. The committee consisted of Alds McMurrich, chairman; Jolliffe, McMath and Saunders. Your committee strongly believe there should be no "honorary business" about the position of either mayor or alderman. The mayor should receive a respectable salary for work done by him, and all aldermen receive remuneration for their services. If such were the case at present, there would be aldermen around the Council Board possessing the full confidence of the citizens, and there would be no shady aspersions cast upon any of them. If aldermen were paid a salary like other officials, although elected by the people, the people could then say, "We pay you for your work, and we want you to do that work honestly, or get out." Your committee have known aldermen to say, when they were cornered, "Well, I do the best I can, and I give my services to the city gratis." That is decidedly a lame excuse for negligence, or a want of ability or want of honesty in their capacity as aldermen. Until such time as aldermen are paid for services rendered to the city, it is simply chance work to strike an intelligent and economic City Council.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

JAS. MORRISON, *Chairman.*

Delegate O'Donoghue objected to the endorsement of the cutting in the Ashbridge Bay until it was proved that it would be of advantage. Delegate Lamb replied that in their opinion it would be a benefit to the city.

The report was adopted.

Delegate R. Glockling presented the report of the auditors, which showed the receipts for the half-year ending June 30th, to be $244.07; cash in hands of treasurer from last audit, $73.99; making a total of $318.06.

The expenditure for the half-year ending June 30th, was $155.78; balance in hands of Treasurer $162.28.

Delegate Dower moved, seconded by Delegate Rogers that the sum of $50 each be granted the delegates from this Council to the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress. Carried.

Moved by D. J. O'Donoghue, that this Trades and Labor Council at this time offering no opinion as to franchise of the Toronto Street Railway, or the disposition thereof under existing circumstances, hereby records that it has taken no steps in the direction of nor has it sought an injunction restraining His Worship the Mayor from signing any agreement relative to said franchise with Keely-Everett or any other company. And, further, that no person or persons whatsoever, had authority from or sanction of this Council in any such proceedings as may have been taken, or that may be hereafter contemplated to that end or in that direction.

The President ruled this motion out of order, on the ground that the Council had declared against the vote of the franchise. Delegate Gilmour appealed from the decision of the President, and the Council sustained the ruling of the chair.

Moved by James H. Gilmour, seconded by D. J. O'Donoghue:

Resolved—"That this Council while endorsing the action of the Street Railway Committee, in demanding of the Mayor an investigation with the alleged Street Railway bribery, desires to state that no one on its behalf has been authorized to apply for an injunction to restrain the Mayor from signing the agreement." Carried.

Moved by John Francis, seconded by A. W. Holmes:

"That it be an instruction to the Educational Committee, that they consider the advisability of suggesting to the Public School Board of Toronto, the wisdom of selecting a female as assistant school inspector." Carried.

IMMIGRATION.

Moved by D. J. O'Donoghue, seconded by R. Glockling:

"That it be an instruction from this Trades and Labor Council to its delegates to the annual meeting of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, which convenes in the city of Quebec on the 31st instant, to move, support and vote for the following resolution, viz: 'that this Trades and Labor Congress, composed of regularly elected and credentialed delegates of *bona fide* labor organizations throughout Canada, having a knowledge that for years past, and at the present time, the labor market of the Dominion has been and is, constantly overcrowded in all its branches, mechanical and manual, be it therefore *Resolved* that the expenditure of any public money, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting, bonusing, encouraging or decoying immigrants of either or both the classes mentioned, adults or juveniles, from abroad to Canada, is unnecessary and unjustifiable under such circumstances. Be it resolved further, that as a consequence of the existence of such a condition of the labor market in the Dominion of Canada, the existing unjust and misleading system of Dominion immigration should be abolished, and that only those possessed of financial wealth should be encouraged to this country. Be it resolved still further, that it be an instruction to the Executive and Parliamentary Committee of this Congress to prepare and present to the Honorable the Minister of Agriculture in Immigration of Canada, a duly certified copy of this resolution, and that they press upon his attention the great importance to workingmen of this subject. Also that a certified copy of the same be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor-General, for such action as to him may seem most advisable.'" The resolution was adopted.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Delegate O'Donoghue gave notice of motion "that all committees of this Council, other than standing committees, be and they are hereby discharged. Any rule or resolution of this body to the contrary notwithstanding."

INSULTING YOUNG WOMEN.

DASTARDLY PROPOSITIONS MADE BY SOME OF THE PAYERS OF LOW WAGES.

WOMEN are the greatest sufferers from low wages. The cruelest feature of the wage situation is, that women standing side by side with men in the same shops and stores are paid far less wages for the same work. This is an aristocracy of sex that shames and belies all our claims to democracy. This injustice in the wages of women is already beginning to bear a fearful fruitage.

During the past week a thoroughly respectable young married woman, whose evidence is indisputable, and who, prior to her marriage, had worked for several years as saleswoman in the Boston stores, told me that at one time her employer told her that, on account of the dull season, he would have to discharge her, but that he would give her a good recommendation, and if she would take it to another prominent dry goods house, which he named, he thought she would at once receive employment. She took the letter of recommendation, and went as directed.

The employing agent of the firm to which she was sent asked how much salary she had been receiving, and she answered, "Five dollars a week."

He replied, "I cannot pay you that much; I can only give you three dollars a week," to which she answered, "I can hardly live on what I have now, and I could not possibly live on three dollars a week." He replied, with an insulting and meaning smile, "You would have to depend on the outside friend for that."

She looked him in the eye and said, "I want to earn an honest living, and I don't want any outside friend," and at that walked away.

She told her employer of her reception, and he said he did not intend to discharge her, but had heard that this firm were in habit of doing this sort of thing and was determined to find out if it was true.

I received a letter from a gentleman in Conway, N.H., a few days ago, who, without knowing that I was intending to discuss this question, wrote:—"After you have given the sweating system one round, can you not take up the question of the girls working in the big stores? I have just heard a well authenticated account of a man high in authority in one of the largest stores, suggesting the way to ruin a young girl from the country, who said, when she learned what her wages were to be, that they would not be sufficient to give her a bare support. This not only shows the attitude of these wealthy merchants to the souls of their working girls, but it also shows that they are conscious of their attitude, and have deliberately chosen to take it.

I am informed upon undoubtedly credible testimony of another young woman who came to Boston from the country, and sought work in several stores, and was so outraged at the vile suggestions that were made to her about means of adding to her salary that she went back to the house of her friend—a lady of as high standing as any in the city—and cried and sobbed all night long. She said she would beg or starve before she would submit herself to such outrage again.

It is impossible to turn these incidents aside as exaggerations. They are horrible I know, but the most horrible thing about them is that they are true. But you will see, perhaps, as some have said during the past few weeks, at my exposure of the sweatshops, "What good will it all do, this harrowing of people's minds with these cruel stories?"

I do not know how much good will be done. I only know that I could not retain my self respect and keep silent. Shall we look to the sweatshop, or to the chattel mortgage shark, or to the lecherous merchant to reform themselves?—*Rev. Louis A. Banks, of Boston.*

THERE are only two classes now—wealth producers and wealth gatherers.—*Northwest Reform Journal.*

We Have Reached the Climax

The Bon MARCHE

Presents this List for Next Week

Does it not surprise you? More Goods for One Dollar than can usually be purchased for Two. Read carefully every item.

1ST ITEM — One Dollar will purchase 25 yards Bleached Cotton, worth at least 6c per yard.

2ND ITEM — One Dollar will purchase 20 yards Real Scotch Zephyr Gingham, regular price 10c yard.

3RD ITEM — One Dollar will purchase 20 yards Cream Chambray, good value at 12½c.

4TH ITEM — One Dollar will purchase 20 yards Striped Dress Gingham, the original price was 10c. yard.

5TH ITEM — One Dollar will purchase 20 yards Light or Dark Fancy Seersucker.

6TH ITEM — One Dollar will purchase 20 yards Cream Striped Curtain Scrim, worth 10c.

7TH ITEM — One Dollar will purchase 20 yds. Check Swiss Muslin, good value at 10c. yard.

8TH ITEM — One Dollar will purchase 20 yds Pure Linen Huck Towelling, worth 10c. yard.

9TH ITEM — One Dollar will purchase 20 yards real Russia Crash for Rollers, worth 10c. yard.

10TH ITEM — One Dollar will purchase 20 yards Check Glass Linen, worth 8c. per yard.

11TH ITEM — One Dollar will purchase 20 yards Pure Linen Towels. They are a Great Bargain.

12TH ITEM — One Dollar will purchase 20 yards English Printed Challies. Style equal to French Delaine.

13TH ITEM — One Dollar will purchase 20 yards of beautiful French Dress Gingham, worth 10 cents yard.

14TH ITEM — One Dollar will purchase 12½ yards all wool French DeBeige.

15TH ITEM — One Dollar will purchase 15 yds. Stripe Feather Ticking.

16TH ITEM — One Dollar will purchase 14 yds. Fancy Art Muslin.

17TH ITEM — One Dollar will purchase 11 yards fine Pillow Cotton.

18TH ITEM — One Dollar will purchase a beautiful pure Linen Table Cloth.

19TH ITEM — One Dollar will purchase 2 Pure Linen 5 o'clock Tea Table Covers.

20TH ITEM — One Dollar will purchase 14 yards Heavy Check Shirting, worth 12½c yard.

A very Fine Wide English Sheeting, Bleached and Twilled, at 25c. worth 40c. the greatest value ever shown.

The BON MARCHE

7 and 9 KING ST. EAST.