

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by the Boarders.

"Things have come to a pretty pass," said Gaskill, "when capitalistic politicians openly advocate the employment of children under 14 years of age because their PARENTS DON'T EARN ENOUGH TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARIES OF LIFE FOR THEIR OFFSPRING. This is the kind of statesmanship which has enslaved labor and kept it in ignorance; which has made modern civilization a curse to humanity; which makes the poor poorer and the rich richer; which not content with seeing the father receive starvation wages would reduce them still further by making him compete with his child and thus create a race of slaves completely at the tender mercies of their capitalistic taskmasters. And these are the men whom we choose to make laws for us; is it any wonder that labor is ignorant, that it is poor."

"It may be poor," said Stephens, "but it is no longer ignorant; at least not ignorant enough to swallow this latest capitalistic remedy offered by the representative of a much protected industry as a certain cure for poverty. Arguments like he uses could perhaps have done him some good 200 years ago, but the present generation don't 'catch on' as easily as their grandfathers did. However, it is well that the man came out in his true colors."

"Just fancy, men working for four or five dollars a week," said Garlic, "and with this miserable pittance to provide for themselves and families; to buy food, pay rent, pay taxes, provide boots and shoes and clothes, to give liberally to the church, to stint and starve themselves in order that a few may live in idleness and luxury. Do you mean to tell me that the people would submit to this if they were in possession of their rights?"

"And what do you call the rights of man?" said Sinnett.

"I believe with John Swinton," said Garlic, "that a man has the right to life, the right to labor, and the right to the product of his toil."

"No one disputes that," said Sinnett. "You can live and you can work and you can get your wages, and what more do you want?"

"Hold on," said Phil, "and I'll tell you. The right to life gives you the unrestricted use of your faculties; it gives you an equal property in the land with all your fellows; it gives you an equal share of political right also with all your fellow-men, and I contend that the boarders in this ranch don't enjoy either the one or the other. To deprive men of property in land reduces them to slavery; to deprive them of their liberty, to a slavery yet more abject; to deprive them of their share of the political right is to take from them the only means of preventing the abstraction of their other rights. The equal share of the political right, enjoyed by a man in common with all the rest of his countrymen, therefore, cannot be said to be a right in contradistinction to other rights; it is the great right which comprehends all others, yet neither you or I enjoy it."

"You claim an equal right with all other men to the land in which you live," said Sinnett, "but what about the feller who holds the title to the land?"

"I'd let him hold the title," said Garlic, "but use the land as common property, unless indeed he could show that he had obtained his title from God Almighty, who alone has a right to invest anybody with property in land. But let us investigate this title of his. He holds it from the crown, and it's in order to find out where or from whom the Crown derived this right to the land. The Normans (pirates from Denmark and Norway) got possession of some cities in France and established themselves there under Rollo, the Great Duke of Normandy

in 912. Robert, the sixth duke from Rollo, had an illegitimate son called

William, by Herleva, the daughter of an officer of his household, who succeeded his father in the dukedom. William having landed with his army in England, gained a victory over the English on October 14, 1066, and thereby subjugated the country. Partly by grant and partly by usurpation he obtained possession of all the land of England, which he in turn parcelled out among the other descendants of the left-hand thief who had come across the channel with him and stolen the country. Then these robbers constituted themselves a Government and legalized their wholesale theft by confirming the actions of their chiefs, and undertaking to pay a yearly rent for the use of their land to the crown. This tax was a small one and is paid on all freehold estates of England up to this date except such as was purchased out of others upon condition that these would pay it for them. It is an acknowledgment of the right of the crown to this stolen property—the land. Titles to land were of small consequence in olden times. Earl Warrenne, when the commissioners of Edward I. asked him to produce the titles to the land which he inherited from his ancestors, unsheathed his sword, and produced that as his title, saying: "My ancestors came in with William the Bastard, and won these lands by the sword, and by the sword I will defend them." Nobody thereafter disputed his title. Since then parliaments of all kinds have hedged in this right of the individual to the ownership of land, without, however, positively recognizing private ownership. The Duke of Argyle has, I believe, lately introduced a bill in the House of Lords which, if passed, will establish the right of the individual to the land, even as against the Government; but he evidently forgets that no Parliament at this late day dare pass an act of that kind. The titles under which land are held were born in sin and reared in iniquity and will never prevent the people from taking possession of their own, once the time arrives to do so. It is your duty, and my duty, and the duty of every right-minded man to hasten this day by demanding that no child under 15 years of age be allowed to work in factory, mine and workshop, but that instead it be compelled to attend a free school where, among other things, it may learn how, by legislative trickery and brute force, the laborer was deprived of his birth-right.

BILL BLADES.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

THE MAYORALTY.

To the Editor of THE ECHO:

SIR,—In the Star of October 8th is to be found an editorial headed "The Mayoralty," in which I can agree in every particular but one, that is, that the matter should rest or be left in the hands of the Board of Trade and the Chambre de Commerce. Very good suggestion from whence it came; but I would like very much to know who will be called upon to vote,—the people, I should judge.

Now, I have noticed that the labor element has, of late, taken quite an important part in public matters, and it seems strange that they should be forgotten on this occasion. If the Star has forgotten that there exists a Central Trades and Labor Council in Montreal, I deem it my duty, both as a citizen and an admirer of the manly stand which the labor organizations have taken in municipal affairs, to let it know that such a body exists and that they should not be ignored when any candidate is to be selected, as would appear they now are according to the article mentioned above.

Now the question arises, who are they who call for reform? I would say the rising generation. If so, it is not time that they should seek to be represented? I am satisfied, if such a course is pursued, that a man can be chosen to fill the position of chief officer of this city of ours who will meet with the approval of all with the exception of some old fogies or political tricksters whose ambition would never be satisfied even though they got the earth and the moon thrown in. As for the working class of people, I think I am justified in saying that they are of the opinion that it is nearly time that the position should seek the man, and that that distinguished personage, whoever he may be, must be selected according to his past record, and must also be able, in order to satisfy them, to point to something more than the taking out of jail some miscreant who, in justice to the son of toil, should be allowed to do penance for

being a law breaker. Such actions are not looked upon meritoriously in the eyes of honest and true workmen.

So, for reasons of this kind and others, I think it would be more judicious, in the interest of the public at large, to call a citizens' meeting at an early date, so as to give satisfaction generally.

For my part, Mr. Editor, I hope that the present generation will see that it is to their interest to be represented, whenever and wherever the opportunity offers. It is time for our grandfathers to rest; they have done good work, God bless them, and made the world the better of their coming. It is now time that the younger ones should shoulder the burden, or at least take up the work where their fathers left off, and taking lessons from the past, benefitting by modern ideas and not ignoring the signs of the future, should so work and shape their course that when their time comes to retire from public life those who follow shall be able to say "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

JUSTICE.

SAFEGUARDS!

To the Editor of THE ECHO:

SIR,—So long ago as September, 1888 appeared the following item of news in one of our city newspapers:

"Last July Mr. J. J. Curran, M.P., was requested by the K. of L. Assembly to ask the Government to provide safeguards at the side of the canal in the vicinity of St. Patrick's Park, and also to extend the electric lights the whole length of the canal. Mr. Curran immediately attended to the request and both requirements are at once to be provided."

In reference to the above I would like to know what has the Government ever done in this connection? Last spring a number of bodies were found (after the water had been let out for repairs) in the canal in this vicinity. Now, if any attention had been paid by the Government to the request of Mr. J. J. Curran (for I presume he must have done as requested) some of those people might yet, for all we know to the contrary, be enjoying this life. I have myself seen on a Sunday morning, a very fortunate rescue from the canal in this vicinity of a person who had fallen in, and which would have been entirely avoided if the very commonest safeguards had existed in the place. In winter people cross on the ice here for "short cuts," and these same short cuts are very dangerous on account of the darkness. There should also be a railing of some kind all along the bank, and children and people not employed on the canal should be compelled to keep outside of same.

"GRIFF."

FALSE ALARMS.

To the Editor of THE ECHO:

SIR,—Only a short time ago a veteran fireman named Aumond was thrown off a hook and ladder wagon and killed. Now we have a young man belonging to the East End caught, at an early hour in the morning by Captain St. Pierre, of No. 8 Station, in the act of giving a false alarm; and then we have the spectacle of "the people's friend," our noble "Jimmy," coming forward to defend one who should, in view of past serious and fatal accidents, have been severely punished. If the young man O'Shea had been arrested for drunkenness he would have been brought before the Recorder in public and probably got at least ten days in jail. Instead of this, we read of him having a private trial and being let off with a paltry fine of \$20, which report says he paid with alacrity. Chief Benoit is right in saying that it is time to get the by-law altered so as to make the penalty much heavier, and in my humble estimation it is about time that our aldermen and politicians in general should cease interfering (presumably when a vote is concerned) in matters which should be left to the slow but sure process of the law.

FAIR PLAY.

THE POINT ST. CHARLES CARS.

To the Editor of THE ECHO:

SIR,—1st. The worst service in the city is the Point service.
2nd. The dirtiest cars are the Point cars.
3rd. The slowest running is made by the Point line.
4th. The car you can never catch on St. James street is the Point car.
5th. The car you can always catch at the corner of McGill and Wellington streets if you walk from the Post-Office is the Point car.
6th. I will stop here, as there are no good qualities.

Is there any use asking for improvement? I believe the Toronto system of one-horse cars could be used on this line, as there are no grades to climb, and that by doing so and doubling the number (or adding to in some ratio) of cars, a much better service can be had without entailing any considerable extra expense.

A "DISAPPOINTED" ONE.

THE NEW HOODS for children just received at S. Carsley's are really beautiful, and the assortment is very large.

LARGE CROWDS attending the sale of dress goods at S. Carsley's.

Barry Sullivan was "resting" some years ago at a hidropathic establishment not far from London. To the surprise of all and the annoyance of some, he was the only gentleman who, against the custom of the house, appeared at the dinner table without evening dress. Complaints were made to the management, who asked Mr. Sullivan the reason for it. "Sir," he said, "I have spent nearly the whole of my life taking off and putting on clothes. I am here for rest, and will not change my dress for anyone."

In spite of his advanced age—he is in his 66th year—M. Blondin is not yet afraid to give his remarkable performance on the high rope, and never, if he can help it, will the intrepid gymnast use a net. After more than fifty years of hard professional life, the Old Wonder, as he is called—just as he was styled the Little Wonder when, at the age of four, he first began to astonish the French people by his remarkable feats of strength and agility—is thinking of retiring. He has a nice little property at Islington, bearing the title of Niagara Terrace, and he does not seek after engagements. Now and then, however, he is induced to emerge from his retirement.

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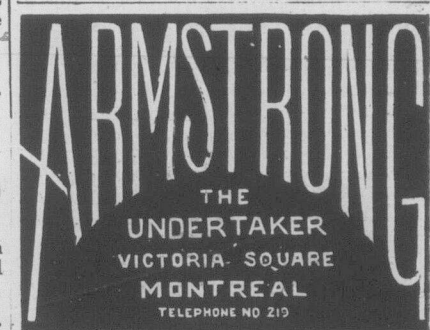
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