

## OFFICIAL REPORT OF Toronto District Labor Council

REGULAR MEETING, NOV. 2nd, 1905

Meeting opened by President Hungerford at 8.20 p.m.

Credential Committee was appointed for the meeting, and reported favorably on the following credentials:

From Brewery Workers, appointing W. M. Bitsky.

From Steam Engineers, appointing P. McCarthy and John Fox.

Roll call of officers showing vice-president and sergeant-at-arms as absent. Thos. Williams appointed as vice-president and Arthur Callow as sergeant-at-arms. Minutes of previous meeting were read and adopted.

Executive report was read by the secretary, dealing with correspondence, which was placed on file.

Clause in report, advising that letters be sent to Hamilton brewery proprietors, urging them to hasten the organizing of their plants, as we had been asked to place their products on the unfair list, was on amendment to the report, stricken out. The reason given was that active steps were being taken to organize said breweries.

Report was adopted as amended.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter read from Canadian Peace Society, announcing that Ernest Crosby, of New York, would lecture in St. George's Hall on evening of Nov. 14th. Cards were distributed to the delegates, and trade unionists were advised to attend the meeting.

Letter from Federation of Majority Rule was left over until report of Municipal Committee was presented.

Letter from Marble Workers' Association, stating they had withdrawn from the Council.

Letter enclosing resolution from Board of Trade, "Re Tax on Commercial Travellers" by some of the Provinces, was dealt with by the Council passing the following resolution: "That the District Labor Council go on record as opposed to any Province in the Dominion interfering with the trade of the sister Provinces."

Report of Municipal Committee was read, and is printed in full in the labor paper, The Tribune. The report advised action by the Council to defeat certain aldermen who had broken pledges to the Federation for Majority Rule, and asked for a contribution to the federation.

The report advised that Crown Attorney Curry prepare an indictment against the "landlords' combine," "the lawyers' combine," "the doctors' combine," and "the coal combine," for the excessive charges made, as being of greater advantage than his zeal in the plumbers' investigation.

The Building Inspector was criticized for his activity against the people building shacks on their lots, while the laws were disregarded by the opulent builders of the city.

The report was amended by striking out clause asking for grant to Federation for Majority Rule.

### STATEMENTS.

The Iron Molders reported trouble as still on at the McClary Stove Works, of London; the Donerty Stove Works, of Sarnia; the Huron Stove Works, of Wingham, and Gurney Foundry Co., of this city.

The Lithographers denied the reports that their strike was a failure, and were very hopeful of success.

The election of representatives on Majority Rule Federation was laid over till next meeting, Nov. 15th.

Council adjourned at 10.00 p.m.

D. W. Kennedy, Sec.

Toronto, Nov. 2nd, 1905.

Third Report of the Municipal Committee of the District Labor Council.

Your Committee beg to submit the following:

In the autumn of 1902 the District Labor Council adopted a report of the Municipal Committee which recommended the formation of the Toronto Federation for Majority Rule, with the object of obtaining the Initiative and Referendum in Toronto by means of pledging candidates for election to the City Council. The Federation was formed accordingly; your Council being one of its members, along with about twenty-five other Labor bodies, and three or four outside organizations.

Candidates for municipal honors were questioned by the Federation in December of the years 1902, 1903 and 1904; with such success that about twenty of the members of the 1904 City Council have given pledges for the Initiative and Referendum; including a pledge that they would use the power of their office to carry out the will of the majority as expressed in any referendum votes taken.

At the election of January, 1905, a referendum vote was taken on the question of whether the city should ask power from the Legislature to exempt dwelling houses from taxation to the extent of seven hundred dollars. The result of the vote was "Yes," by a majority of two to one. Notwithstanding this overwhelming expression of the popular will, the Council disregarded it. Nine or ten members broke their pledges and by a vote of eleven to seven the motion was defeated. Following are the names of those who voted against the motion:

Mayor Urquhart, Controllers Hubbard, Coatsworth, Fleming, Geary, McGhie, Sheppard.

Your Committee recommend that strong action be taken to defeat those members of the City Council who voted against this motion to carry out the will of the people. Part of this action must necessarily be taken through the Federation for Majority Rule, to whom the pledges were made; and that the President appoint two delegates to act on its Executive Committee, with instructions to report to your Council from time to time.

In view of the investigation before the courts of the methods of the Master Plumbers and the Plumbers and Steamfitters Union conducted by Crown Attorney Curry, the object of which is to protect the citizens from the wholesale robbery of which these gentlemen are charged, your Committee would most respectfully suggest a few instances in which Mr. Curry could display his zeal and energy to still greater advantage. Might we suggest that he immediately prepare an indictment against the landlords' combine, who are most unjustly robbing the people. The lawyers' combine, who can charge what they please. The doctors' combine, who can charge anywhere from \$25 to \$100 for half an hour's work performing a surgical operation, and if they kill you there is no redress. The coal combine, which can sell their coal cheap to the rich, who can order it at summer prices, and to the poor at an advanced rate without reason. They have no redress, but must pay or freeze.

The thousand and one manufacturers who take advantage of the Patent Laws to mulct the people hundreds per cent. profit on their goods.

All these could be looked into by Mr. Curry with great profit to the citizens at large, but will he? Is corporate interests too large for him to grapple with? He is opening up a question which can be far-reaching and we can foresee

the end if an honest attempt is made to probe the methods of all business enterprises so that justice may prevail.

In the Evening Star of November 1 appeared a statement that the Building Inspector was about to proceed against the shack builders for not complying with the City By-laws. He has got a case at last where he can display his remarkable zeal and energy. Hurrah, Toronto is saved! The Stigma that Toronto has so long labored under that no office of the corporation had backbone to do his duty will be forever erased—exit, stigma—enter, duty, with courage. Other officers, take notice. We delight, as a committee, to do honor to the man who will do his duty. The shack builders must be made to see that the corporation of Toronto will not be played with. The opulent builders of the city are the only ones who can do the play act, they are the only people who may disregard the Building By-laws with impunity, and the inspector recognizes that fact and governs himself accordingly. Noble inspector—noble man—noble authority—that urges you on in the noble path you are following and your noble war cry. Down with the shacks will go down to future ages as a monument to your untiring zeal and industry.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

F. MOSES,  
Chairman.  
JOHN TWEED,  
Secretary.

Labor leaders are aware unless they were able to obtain better wages and shorter hours for their fellowmen it would be impossible to raise the standard of living and lift men and women to a higher level.

While men and women were compelled to work the greater part of the day and sometimes part of the night to earn a mere pittance to keep the wolf from the door it was useless to try and get the vast army of workers out of the sea of despair. But now a brighter day has dawned on the labor field owing to the untiring effort made by those who in some cases have not only given the best part of their lives, but have also surrendered their lives for the cause.

The above being so most of union men and women can now devote a little time for the purpose of reaching out the strong hand of friendship to those toilers who do not see the advantage of elevating themselves or living the better life.

For years in this city labor had no official home. But now they have a home they can be proud of. An if the body of union men and women are proud of the Labor Temple, then each individual should strive to make his or her home just as beautiful.

Because the work of some may be humble it is no reason why their lives and homes should not be on a higher plane. The mind makes the man or woman. It is therefore the duty of each one of us to try and follow in the footsteps of the Great Master Laborer. If we do so we cannot help making not only ourselves but everyone we come in contact with better men and women.

Bright thoughts will disperse the mental mists that cloud our minds.

By hating we injure ourselves more than we do our enemy.

### Brass Moulders Union Local No. 5

One of the best attended and most enthusiastic meetings was held in the Labor Temple, Nov. 1st, every member was on edge. Business of great importance was transacted with energy and good will by all present. There were fully 90 per cent. of members present.

### Press Assistants and Feeders Local 1.

W. Tampayne, Pres. F. S. Attrell, Sec. At a meeting held in the Labor Temple on Thursday night there were 1 initiation and 5 applications for membership. The representative of THE TRIBUNE was well received and heartily endorsed. The following letter from the Secretary of the Temple Co. was read:

MR. F. S. ATTRELL, City.  
Dear Sir and Bro. I have been instructed by the Board of Directors to convey to the Printing Press Assistants and Feeders No. 1 their sincere thanks for the action of your local with reference to crowding around the entrance to Temple on their meeting night, and we express the hope that other unions in the near future will take the same commendable action.

Fraternally yours,  
JAS. SIMPSON, Sec.-Tres.

A most delightful At Home of Prosperity Hive, No. 349, K.O.T.M., was held in the Labor Temple on Thursday evening and was largely attended.

### The Best Coal at a Cheap Rate

Have you ordered your coal and secured the cheapest rate? Any member of organized labor in good standing can secure this through The Tribune office. All grades for \$6.25 per ton. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded.

As a result of the printers' eight-hour fight the publishers of the Woman's Home Companion are now on the unfair list of organized labor.

The evidence in the civic investigation is nearly all in, and nearly all the controllers and aldermen have been placed upon oath. This was the proper course, in order that those who hinted sinister things about the members of Council might have an opportunity to tell the prosecuting attorneys what they knew, and have anyone they desired cross-examined. The air has been freely cleared by the candid evidence of the members of Council, who have entered the witness box. We believe that Toronto has an honest Council—as to their intelligence and ability, well, perhaps we cannot be drawn out so easily.

The Local Council of Women did not go far enough regarding objectionable advertising in our daily papers. They should try and take steps to stop it altogether. Many of these ads are not fit for a man to read, much less so our sons and daughters. Some of them are simply vile, and decency demands they should be stopped altogether. Practical strenuous objections would do it.

We are pleased to hear that as a result of Ald. Jones' motion in regard to holidays for civic employees, the noble brigade of "White Wings" who have been without holidays this year, are, on Dr. Sheard's recommendation, to have the option of two weeks' holidays or two weeks' pay. This is only fair play, and is as it should be. The whole question should, however, be gone into, and a uniform rule arrived at as to holidays for all civic employees.

The meeting of the Local Union of Railway Machinists, held last night, was a private one. At the close Business Agent Gibbons stated that the strike situation on the Grand Trunk did not enter into the evening's discussion.

Subscribers will confer a favor by notifying us at any and all times when the paper does not arrive.