

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by
the Boarders.

"A few weeks ago the coxswain of the Ramsgate lifeboat died," said Phil, "and the event was duly chronicled by a two-line item in the capitalistic press. Beyond this no mention was made of a man who had risked his life a thousand times in the service of humanity, and who was instrumental in saving more lives than perhaps any other man in England. The other day Prince Victor died, and though even the most sycophant spittle-licker has failed to find in the record of his whole life one single generous or even useful act, the whole capitalistic press, without exception, continues to grind out columns of gush and senseless twaddle about himself, his bride, his father and mother, and all the other titled humbugs who thrive and fatten at the expense of the British taxpayer. To judge by the despatches of the Associated Press one would be led to believe that the whole of England was in sackcloth and ashes, and none more so than the working classes, and to judge by the Canadian papers we are actually breaking our hearts over the loss of a man whom ninety-nine out of every hundred of us knew nothing at all about until he died. Now, what are the facts of the matter? As a Canadian workingman I don't care the toss of a half-penny whether these titled loafers live or die if only they will have the grace to take themselves out of the world as quietly as they came into it; and in this I believe I will be supported by all in Canada who work for wages. Let there be no mistake about it; instead of passing resolutions of condolence we feel more like congratulating the English people upon having one pauper less to provide for than formerly."

"And that is evidently the way in which the workingmen of England regard this whole affair," said Brown, "in spite of what the capitalistic press may say. The other day at Stoke-on-Trent a convention of the Miners' Federation, representing a quarter of a million of miners, positively refused to pass resolutions of condolence though specially invited by three or four of their members of Parliament to do so. They had no use for dukes or princes, and didn't propose to waste any time on them either dead or alive, and this is a fair indication of the feeling among English workingmen and gives the lie to those who would have us believe otherwise. Such men as the Duke of Clarence will never be missed, and least of all by workingmen. While columns are being printed about the dead prince, who was a nonentity, comparatively little is being said about Cardinal Manning, who was one of the foremost men of his age and the trusted friend and champion of the working classes. He was in sympathy with all our wants and aspirations and ever ready to advance the interests and increase the influence of labor organizations. It is most likely that on account of this the capitalistic press has so little to say about him, but Cardinal Manning's name will be remembered and his many words of encouragement cherished by workingmen of all nations long after that of both Prince Victor and his father shall have been forgotten. We can afford to lose a score of princes and be none the worse for it, but we cannot spare such whole-souled, upright men as Cardinal Manning was, more particularly among the clergy. When the hasty and ill-advised action of Archbishop Taschereau inflicted a grievous wrong upon the Order of the Knights of Labor in this Province, it was Manning with his liberal-minded brother of Baltimore who raised their voices in protest and had it righted, and while there is one Knight of Labor or Union man left neither Manning or Gibbons will ever be forgotten, in this Province at all events. It is well that the capitalistic press makes little or no mention of him,

it would be an insult to his memory if it did and altogether unnecessary, for the name of 'Manning' is engraved on the heart of every workingman."

BILL BRADEN.

LABOR IN NEW YORK STATE.

The eighth annual report of Charles F. Peck, Commissioner of the New York State Bureau of Statistics of Labor, has been made public. Among the subjects covered are the eight-hour question, early closing, factory laws, labor laws and reforms, displacement of labor by machinery, the Saturday half holiday and strikes and boycotts. Fifty-six pages of the report are taken up with the replies of labor organizations to the question: "Do you approve of eight hours as the standard working day?" The answer in nearly every case is in the affirmative. Answering the question, 497 organizations, with a membership of 103,645, say "Yes." Ninety-two organizations, with a membership of 30,381, stated that they had received the benefit of the Saturday half holiday. Three hundred and eighty-one organizations, with a membership of 65,567, say that they have received no benefit from the law or custom. The queries about the Saturday half holiday were submitted only to organized laborers, male and female. Of the 6,258 strikes of the past year, 5,433 were settled by conciliation with labor organizations and 464 were abandoned. Of the establishments affected, 1,941 reported an increase of wages after the strikes; 3,746 no change, and 441 a decrease. A reduction in the hours of labor was obtained by the strikers in 2,085 instances.—The Voice.

LAND AND WAGES.

Labouchere says the members of the House of Lords alone own 14,258,527 acres of land in the British isles. This is more than one-sixth of the whole area, which is 77,929,960 acres. This is why wages are lower in Europe than in America. The landless feed the land-owners of Europe to a greater extent than is done in America, but the speed with which land is getting into the hands of the few on this side insures "pauper wages" to American labor in a few years. Manipulation and monopolization of land is the key-note of low wages. In the end it makes the landless peasants, serfs, slaves, men unfit to be citizens of a republic. The single tax on land, regardless of improvements, is the only practical remedy in sight for these abuses, which have not been felt in this country in the past very much as yet, on account of the ease with which land could be obtained in the West; but with the disappearance of the "free land of the West" there will come the pressure of the injury and burden of land monopoly.

IS IT A NEMESIS?

The toiler of the world, as he matures, may be made to love Socrates, or Buddha, or Marcus Aurelius. It would seem often as though he could not be made to love Jesus! Is it the Nemesis that ultimately discovers and avenges the sublimest, the least conscious departure from simplicity and verity? Is it the last and most terrible illustration of a great axiom: "Faith has a judge in truth."—Robert Eltmere.

ROBBING THE COMMUNITY.

East St. Louis, as a municipality, is poor. It has to rake and scrape to find money for necessary public improvements. Yet yesterday a man sold land within its limits for \$12,870, for which he paid two years ago \$3,200. There was 300 per cent. added to the value of that land in two years by the growth of the community, and the community got none of it.—St. Louis Chronicle.

THE TRADES COUNCIL.

The regular meeting of the Central Trades and Labor Council was held on Thursday evening last.

Credentials were read and accepted from D. Verdon, P. McInnes and P. Francon, of the Coopers' Union; Jno. Keegan, Black Diamond Assembly; M. Ehardt, Amalgamated Steel and Iron Workers; Jas. Cameron, Jas. Williams and B. Lamontagne, Carpenters and Joiners, No. 376; H. Havard, Carpenters and Joiners, No. 311.

The minutes of the last regular and special meetings were read and confirmed.

Delegates Charbonneau and John Brennan were elected to fill the vacancies on the Organization Committee.

The auditors reported having audited the books of the Financial Secretary and Treasurer and found the same correct. The financial standing of the Council on the 31st December, 1891, was as follows:

Receipts.....	\$1,365 85
Expenses.....	870 01

Balance	495 93
Balance from last report..	338 12

Bal. to credit of Council..\$ 834.05

The report was adopted as read.

The Widow Flynn Committee reported having received the sum of \$25 from the Plasterers' Union towards the litigation fund.

The Employment Bureau Committee was ordered to give a complete report at next meeting.

The special election for St. Mary's Ward handed in a very encouraging and complete report, which was adopted. The recommendation of the committee that Mr. Thomas Fisher be replaced, he having publicly worked against the labor candidate in St. Mary's Ward was concurred in, Delegate John Fraser being appointed in his place.

The following resolution was then adopted by 29 to 11.

That the Corresponding Secretary request the Painters' and Decorators' Union, No. 222 to have Thos. Fisher replaced as delegate from that Union to this Council, this request being due to the manner in which he broke faith with this Council re the nomination of the labor candidate in St. Mary's Ward.

The St. Ann's Ward committee reported that everything was progressing favorably. The meeting then adjourned.

Trades and Labor Council.

The last meeting of the Quebec and Lewis Trades and Labor Council was one of the most numerous attended ever held, Ernest Bouchard, Vice-President, in the chair. After the transaction of routine business the election of officers for the ensuing six months was proceeded with and after a lively contest resulted as follows: President, George Gale; Vice-President, Delphis Marsan; Second Vice-President, Amand Trepannier; Secretary, P. J. Jobin; Financial Secretary, Felix Marois; Treasurer, Luc Routhier; Sergeant-at-Arms, George Moss; Auditors, D. Marsan, P. P. Lemieux and Charles Teakle. The election of the several permanent committees was held over. A proposition to nominate several men in different electoral districts of the city for the Local Legislature was delayed until next Tuesday evening, when a special meeting of the Council takes place.

Oh, How Pitiful.

In a magnificent city of plenty, with its luxuriant homes, cheerful firesides, rapid pulse and gay thrill of life, its brave men and beautiful women, there are hundreds of poor girls dying from hunger and want without a friend to aid or encourage them in their vain, woful battle against the world. What wonder, then, that multitudes of young girls who in other circumstances might grace a home and fill a husband's heart with pure delight shrink from the hopeless struggle and sink lower and lower into the great city's maelstrom of vice?

It was not till the Working Women's Society began its investigations a few years ago that the world began to feel the piercing pangs of these young women's lives. Since then many noble efforts have been made by philanthropists and charitable societies, but they have proved hardly more than drops in the sea.—New York Recorder.

Missing Persons who Have Been Eventually Found.

About two years ago a stranger made his appearance in a house at Greenwich, claiming the mother of the family as his wife. He was supposed to have been drowned at sea upwards of thirty years before, and his wife had taken a second husband. In the year 1706 a Mr. Howe, who had been married seven or eight years, and lived in a house in Jermyn Street, London, near St. James's Church, informed his wife one morning that he was going to the Tower to transact some important business. The same day at noon his wife received a letter

from him which informed her that he was under the necessity of going to Holland, and would probably be away three or four weeks. He was absent for seventeen years, during which time she neither heard from him nor of him. The evening before he returned his wife received a note, without any signature, requesting the favor of a meeting in the Birdcage Walk, in St. James's Park, on the following evening. Having shown the letter to her brother, he declared it to be Mr. Howe's handwriting, and together they went to the appointment, when in a few minutes the missing husband appeared, and having embraced his wife walked home with her, and they lived together in great harmony from that time to the day of his death. During the whole seven

teen years of his absence he had lived within a mile of his wife, and had allowed her to obtain an Act of Parliament to make a settlement of his affairs and a provision for herself, whilst he enjoyed the pleasure of reading of its progress through the House in a coffee-shop near his lodging. His estate was valued at between £700 and £800 a year. James Annesley, son of Lord Atham, was missing from 1727 to 1844, and during these years was a slave on the River Delaware. William Wheelwright, of Pennsylvania, was wrecked in 1826 on the Argentine coast, and, having no means then of returning, remained there forty years. Afterwards he constructed the first railway in South America, and founded the Pacific Steam Navigation Company.

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