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MEETINGS.

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TORONTO NOTES.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

TORONTO, August 4, 1892.

If my memory does not deceive me I read in THE ECHO a few weeks ago a letter from somebody in this city, challenging (at least by implication) the figures and deductions therefrom of Dominion Statistician Johnson at Ottawa, as to the profits of the workmen and the losses of their employers during the ten years prior to and including 1890. In support of the contention of your correspondent I observe in the GLOBE of the 27th instant a despatch dated "Barrie, Ont., July 25," which reads as follows:—"The GLOBE in its issue of Saturday published the census bulletin No. 12, it being the third of a series dealing with manufactures. But if the statistics are no more reliable in reference to other towns and cities than they are to Barrie they are worse than worthless, for they are grossly false. This town is credited with 77 establishments, employing 355 hands in 1881, whereas in 1891 the number has increased to 139, giving employment to 551 persons. Now to those who know anything of this place the exhibit here given of both periods is as wide of the mark as it is possible to be, and we were not certainly in 1891 in advance of ten years ago, either in the number or size of our manufacturing concerns. The facts are these:—Not a single new industry has been started in the town in the past ten years, and of those in existence then one, employing from six to ten men, has closed and turned its premises into dwelling houses. A second, in which from 30 to 40 mechanics found steady work, has run down till the number found within its walls will barely average six persons. A third establishment furnishes employment for about six to ten mechanics in the summer season, and a fourth has on its pay list the names of twenty, to whom it gives the opportunity to labor for about ten months of each year. Next to these came the three saw mills at the head of the bay, running from four to six months out of the twelve, and employing in the neighborhood of 65 men. There are in addition two carriage manufactories, a punt factory, a couple of boat builders, a maker of fur garments and a few marble cutters. Thus in the aggregate the number engaged in everything of the nature of manufacture will scarcely reach 150.

Those who have any personal knowledge of the people of the City of Ottawa—I refer more especially to its "upper crust" on Parliament Hill—were not surprised, I am certain, in reading one evening last week that the capitalists received a warning through an earthquake. I will hazard the well grounded prediction that that same earthquake will require to repeat itself time and again, and each time more threateningly, before any perceptible change for the better will exhibit itself in the lives and characters of some conspicuous people in that inland borough.

Even the wire-puller and schemer can find his way into our Ontario High School system. At a meeting of the Toronto High School Board one evening last week Trustee St. John moved that Trustee Beddome be appointed secretary of the Board in the place of Mr. McHenry.

Trustee Parr opposed the motion on principle. He held that no man, being at the same time a trustee, should be elected to any office of emolument under the Board. He had no personal objection to Mr. Beddome, yet as there were men competent to be found idle, and would be glad of such an appointment, and as Mr. Beddome was already enjoying a large salary outside of the Board, he therefore moved that the matter be referred back for further consideration and report by the School Management Committee as to the justice of one man holding two salaried offices at the same time. This was lost, it being evident that Mr. B.'s name had been "on the slate" for some time, although Mr. Parr was unaware of the fact. It is a compliment to the Trades and Labor Council, who recommended to the City Council the name of Mr. Parr as one of the trustees of the H. S. B. that he is recognized by his confreres on that High School Board as one not approachable in any questionable transaction. Mr. Parr's head is always level.

Through the thoughtful courtesy of the General Secretary of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America

I am in receipt of his biennial report, dated Philadelphia, Pa., July 25, 1882, which was laid before the seventh general convention of that body in St. Louis, Mo., recently. To say that in careful detail and sterling advice, begotten of sound reasoning and experience extending over long years of hard and zealous work in the ranks of organized labor, is a credit of Brother McGuire, is adding nothing to a character earned long ago. While bristling with details of special interest to the Brotherhood yet it goes farther, in that the figures and conclusions, as well as the work accomplished, point a striking moral for those of all classes who pay the slightest attention to the work of improving their condition and how best to do it.

I would much like to see every word and every figure in the twelve pages of close and small type which compose this valuable report printed in THE ECHO, but of course this is out of the question. Still I will test your space and the patience of your readers by some extracts from it as well as some remarks thereon on my own part.

In the spring of 1881 a preliminary meeting of carpenters was held in the city of St. Louis, Mo.,—where the recent convention was held—and, as a result, in August of the same year a convention was held in Chicago, Ill. From this arose the powerful organization I am writing about. Prior to this convention in Chicago, as Secretary Maguire tells us, "effort after effort had been made to raise wages and advance the interests of the trade in St. Louis, and as often as the union men were successful, they were again pulled back by the influx and competition of carpenters from lower paid towns in adjoining states and from other portions of the country.

"The same condition of affairs likewise prevailed in all other large cities where unions existed. The spirit of unionism among carpenters at that date was to some extent narrow and contracted. The carpenters of one city were indifferent to the interests of the carpenters of other cities. . . . It mattered not to other cities whether they succeeded or not. There was no tie of unity, no bond of solidarity among the carpenters of America. . . . Two previous attempts at a national organization of American carpenters had signally failed—the first in 1854; the second in 1867.

Under this discouragement the work was attempted a third time. And after eleven years of amazing progress the United Brotherhood is now a fixed institution in the front rank of labor organizations" (mainly due to the patience, perseverance, honesty of purpose, eloquence, sound judgment, and organizing ability and tact of P. J. McGuire). "It has the largest membership and greatest roster of local unions of any trade union in the whole world—outstripping all the oldest and best labor organizations and unparalleled in the successes achieved and in the fruitful good accomplished."

At the Chicago convention, when the organization was established, there were only twelve local unions represented, with a membership of 2,042. Now the organization proudly points to 802 locals and 84,376 enrolled members—with 51,313 members in good standing and benefits.

Under the heading "Shortening the Hours of Labor," Secretary Maguire says to the convention that

"In the past two years we have continued the agitation for shorter hours and with good effect. We have now 46 cities working eight hours a day" (none of these in Canada) "in 1890 we had only 36. We now have 303 cities working nine hours a day, in 1890 we had only 234. We now have 432 cities working shorter hours Saturdays, in 1890 we had only 260. These reductions in the hours of labor by actual calculation, estimating on an eight hour basis, have led to the employment of 11,150 ADDITIONAL carpenters more than would be employed were the ten hour day universal—of old. These men, who would have been idle and penniless, footsore looking for work, can thank our organization for the betterment of their condition, and those too who are now working the shorter hours of labor well know the glad advantage they have obtained."

I find that of the 393 cities working nine hours, Canada has nine, viz.:—Belleville, London, St. Catharines, Ottawa, Peterboro and Windsor, in Ontario; Vancouver and Victoria in British Columbia; and Winnipeg, in Manitoba! Fifty-four hours con-

stitute the working week in Toronto. Among the 462 new unions organized during the past year I am glad to note one in the city of Montreal. How many more will be recorded to the credit of your great commercial metropolis in the report for the year now entered on?

Secretary McGuire tells us "how wages are advanced" through organization, in the following words. He says:

"Where wages eleven years ago were \$1.50 to \$2.50 a day, they have been advanced to \$2.25 and \$3.50. Thousands of carpenters, union and non-union men, now go home on a pay day with more money than they had prior to the advent of our Order. In 531 cities we have forced wages up; that on a careful computation close to five and a half million dollars more wages have been annually distributed in the last five years among the journeymen carpenters in cities and towns where we have unions. These gains in wages and advantages in shorter hours have not always been attended by costly strikes and lockouts. Much has been done by strategy, tactics and conferences, backed by the moral force of organization, and by the knowledge the employers had of the strength and ability of our organization to make sturdy fight, if need be, to enforce its demands. Still, in the past year we have spent nearly \$146,000 from our general fund in strikes and lockouts.

Referring to the benevolent feature of their organization, the Secretary says:

"While the United Brotherhood is really a trade union for the protection of our trade interests and for the advancement and welfare of the working people, at the same time, we have various benevolent features of great advantage to our members. While our local unions have taken care of the sick and needy members, and in that way have spent \$452,360 the past eleven years, the general organization has taken care of the disabled members and of the widows and orphans of our deceased members. In the past nine years we have paid out \$228,863 for these general benefits from headquarters; \$72,613 was spent the last year.

to every man, and prove an all convincing argument as to the good, the value, and benefit of trade unions.

In accounting for a fall in membership to the extent of 5,624 in 1892, Secretary McGuire, after citing certain internal causes as contributing thereto, continues to say:

"Another good reason for this decrease is that in the past year there was not the same general widespread agitation and consequent public awakening on the eight hour question that prevailed in 1890, through the work and plans of the American Federation of Labor. Then we added 22,000 new members to our organization.

"In 1886, when there was an active agitation on the eight hour question, we gained 17,070 members that year, but the next year, in 1887, our increase in membership was only a trifle over 4,000. Whenever there has been any general lively agitation in the labor movement it has helped our organization.

Secretary McGuire's remarks under the head of "Strikes and Lockouts" are well worthy of thoughtful consideration on the part of all labor organizations. He says: "The strikes of the future in our trade" (yes, and in all other organized trades) "are likely to be more prolonged, and there is possibility of many lock-outs and bitter contests close at hand. These struggles will test the manhood and devotion of our members. We will have to pass through a crucial ordeal, which will strain every nerve and fibre of our organization. The employers are preparing for it, and so must we. With dull times on their side and an array of selfish interests they present a formidable front. On our side, we must be more than ever united, harmonious in our counsels, cautious in our actions, and ever vigilant and determined in the protection of our fraternal interests, backed by the "sinews of war," in the shape of an abundance of funds to do manly battle whenever provoked to conflict. At all times our policy should be first to secure conferences with the employers, and by negotiation or conciliation, endeavor to secure a settlement, only resorting to a strike as a last alternative. But when we do strike let us strike to win, and give little notice of our intention to strike. And strike only when carpenter work is plentiful, and let our strikes be short and decisive.

"Last year the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners had in all 169 strikes and lost ten. This year we have had 128

trade movements, and have been successful in all but three instances. This is certainly a good record to find only three strikes lost out of 128. For strikes and lock-outs we spent in all \$75,497 in 1890; \$14,400.20 in 1891; and this year we spent only \$26,114. Nearly one-half of this was spent in the Baltimore strike this year for the eight-hour day. In that strike we expended nearly \$12,000 from our Protective Fund."

Under the head of "Financial Affairs" the Secretary says:—

"The cost of wife funeral benefits the past two years has been \$23,650, which is an enormous amount, and is equal to twice the amount of money raised by the special assessment levied in March, 1892, to replace the deficiency in the General Treasury. This deficiency was caused by the increased death rate of the past two years incident to the 'Grippe,' and which has likewise severely affected the finances of all fraternal and benevolent organizations."

In concluding his report, and referring to the "Importance of the occasion," Mr. McGuire says:

"This large convention of delegates from all sections of the country indicates the extensive and wide-spread character of our organization, and now, at this time, more than any other, the eyes of the American people, and of all the civilized lands are centered on the trade unions of America. The contest which began this month on the banks of the Monongahela is a struggle which has aroused more solid thought and produced a larger public awakening than any like movement since 1877. It is a struggle between the organized few, representing the corporate wealth and privileged interests of our Republic, and organized labor—the iron and steel workers representing the bone and brawn, the brains and heart of the disinherited millions. In the crack of the rifle and amid the thunder of cannon, in the fiery glare of battle and in the fury of the people, the Pinkerton service has at last been condemned to go! And with it in time will go all vested privileges, moneyed rule and every monopolized interest detri-

"In these trying times, the duty of maintaining public order and peace rests with the men and women of toil, for as our cause is based on justice and human fraternity, we have little to gain by brute force. By an appeal to reason, by public discussion, by the intelligent use of our ballots, and by the legitimate work of Trade Unions, we can accomplish more than by any appeal to the destructive powers of civil conflict, with all its interecne horrors and uncertainties.

"In the sight of this great responsibility, our actions and words at the convention should be carefully guarded. All our legislation here should be directed to the furtherance of the movement we are engaged in and which has so much at stake, not only for our own members, but for the millions of workers." Sound advice.

David A. Carey, F. C. Cribben and W. Glockling will represent D. A. 125 K. of L. at the ensuing T. & L. Congress; Geo. T. Beales, H. T. Benson and — will represent the Builders' Laborers Union; and David Hastings, now living in Hamilton will represent the T. & Council of that city URM.

LABOR DAY NOTES.

The following is the route the route to procession will take:—

Form on Craig opposite Champ de Mars and proceed along Craig to Papineau road to St. Catherine to Plessis to Ontario to Denis, Sherbrooke to Cadieux, Rachel St. Lawrence, Mt. Royal avenue to Exhibition grounds.

The organization committee will send circular to all employers of labor asking them to shut down their factories on Labor Day and it is hoped there will be a very general response to the request.

Mr. Victor DuBreuil, secretary of the committee, has written to Mayor McShane asking him to proclaim Labor Day a civic holiday and further not to grant any permits to sons running games of chance. The Mayor readily consented to this, and further say will have the flag hoisted on the City Hall honor of the day, as well as take part in parade.

A dispatch from Interlaken, Switzerland says that G. Ribbons, of "Spring America," while crossing the Grindel glacier, was struck by an avalanche and instantly killed.