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REPORT OF LEGISLATIVE COM-

MITTEE.

Your committee met at the Toiler office on the evening of Friday, September 10th. The majority reported progress on the question of assisted emigration of orphans and friendless children from the United Kingdom. As there is more information to come, we are not yet prepared to bring in a recommendation. In discussing the interests of labor and the immense difficulties of making any impression on the combined and solid ranks of the Employers and Manufacturers' Association for an increase of wages or shortening of hours, the attention of the committee was called to the subject of the poor law. Surely the home is the most important place on earth to a workingman. After the exhausting, sweating toll of a hot

summer day it is to the home he turns at night for rest and refreshment. In the winter time, tired and cold, and wet with rain or snow, the worn, cheerful home, with the loving hearts that gather there, is about the only thing that makes life worth living. Yet for this homely workman in Toronto to do has to pay the whole of his week wages in every month for house rent, at the time equal to a land-lord's notice to quit or raise of rent. At the rate of half that burden of rent, it would be equal to raising the wage from 10 to 15 per cent. Suppose again that many workmen have a desire or purpose of buying a home, yet we may safely say that 20 per cent. of the workingmen of Toronto are obliged to give up if they had reasonable encouragement. And another quarter of the 15,000 tradesmen of Toronto are living in their "Freehold Homes," which would wonderfully affect the cost of labor. Our secretary has written pamphlet on this subject, and he appealed to our committee, on a recommendation to this council to endorse the pamphlet, as was recently similar done to a pamphlet written by W. A. Douglass. After hearing and discussing this pamphlet on house rent, we know that our unions need educating on the question, knowing also that the education of literature is the most powerful means of reaching the intelligence of the masses. We have seen that Douglass has paid for the printing of it. All of which is summed up in your resolution by your Legislative Committee.

John Gardner, Chairman.
J. H. Reeks, Secretary.

REV. J. I. GORDON COMMENDED

Editor Toiler. In the present issue of The Toiler (Sept. 20th) I notice "Gem Thoughts" from the Bond street pulpit. To my mind they are thoughtfully fresh and worthy of attention. It is not the time that I have seen such gems in The Toiler, though the speaker is my brother-in-law. Of course, being a brother-in-law of mine coming from the Bond street pulpit, some of your readers may think me prepossessed favorably. If I say "Yes" and "Amen" to them. Not so. I am not exactly prepossessed. Like a pulpitist that even if it does not come from Bond street, I am not particularly inclined to church worship, yet I must say that Rev. J. I. Gordon does say some things, palatable, hence it is due to one to say a word in his behalf. Tradition and the church have grown out of my notion with my experience, for my experience of church worship means noisy worship in the pews of the publican's house. I have the recollection of Rev. J. I. Gordon saying that he did not like a man (minister, of course) taking the highest salary if offered it. Of course it applied to the humblest suppliant of the mass as well, for the labor question was in his mind at the time. When the pulpit is fair in dealing with important questions in the interest of the common people, it should be accorded a good part by those chiefly interested. But can it be said that the ministry of our church in general desire to see the common people clothed and in their right minds rather than our deluding them that the soul's salvation is the only requisite to get all worldly need satisfied, a kind Providence?

Now, sir, I am beyond the three score years and ten, and of the near thirty years of that period have on occasions witnessed the trials and tribulations without the success from a worldly point of view, that the faithful are supposed to attain. You will bear with me if I say that it is time that our old-fashioned ministers should be morally and spiritually rejuvenated into thinking human beings, who see that Negro is the very important question that the soul must first be made healthful as well as being saved. Of course, all wise and good men who occupy the pulpits see that to build up a healthful soul a healthful, well-fed body is the first requisite; hence it will be seen, as the saying says, the man will be "clothed and in his right mind."

My old means give us pupit gems and healthful spiritual food coming from the pulpit of earnest, good men, who truly sympathize with the "poor laborer's" distress. Yours truly,

W. H. Stevens.

P.S. - I would like to say something about a closer unity of the churches from a workingman's standpoint, if permitted.

W.H.S.

THE PERFECT STATE.

Where is the perfect State?
Tis where no palace stands,
Trembling on shifting sand,
And where the sky is free.

Where far the eye may see,
Scattered o'er hill and lea,
Homesteads stand;

Where clean and broad and sweet,
(Market, square, lane and street,
Blessed by leagues of wheat.)
Cities are found.

Where is the perfect State?
Tis where no lives are seen
Huddled in dark and mean,
Gazing for food and sleep.

Where the home is pure,
The bread is sure,
The wives are few,

And each want fed;

Where plenty and peace abide,
Where health dwells heavenly-eyed,

Where, in mook beautified,
Slumber the dead.

- Robert Buchanan.

Organized labor goes into politics to keep organized labor out of politics.

THERE are two kinds of tramps—one

right and the other wrong, but if

the present conditions of life are

right the poor are in the wrong but if

the present conditions are not right the

poor are wrong.

Many men and women can only see

truth in the scale of what, from their

point of view, is respectable. Truth, however, makes no impression on this class

of people. They have to pay for a decent house in Toronto.

Surely the home is the most important place on earth to a workingman. After the exhausting, sweating toll of a hot

summer day it is to the home he turns at night for rest and refreshment. In the winter time, tired and cold, and wet with rain or snow, the worn, cheerful home, with the loving hearts that gather there, is about the only thing that makes life worth living. Yet for this homely workman in Toronto to do has to pay the whole of his week wages in every month for house rent, at the time equal to a land-lord's notice to quit or raise of rent. At the rate of half that burden of rent, it would be equal to raising the wage from 10 to 15 per cent. Suppose again that many workmen have a desire or purpose of buying a home, yet we may safely say that 20 per cent. of the workingmen of Toronto are obliged to give up if they had reasonable encouragement.

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After hearing and discussing this pamphlet on house rent, we know that our unions need educating on the question, knowing also that the education of literature is the most powerful means of reaching the intelligence of the masses.

We have the best French Nut and

Lady Caramels on the Avenue.

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