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MEETINGS.

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Meets in the Ville-Marie Hall, 1623 Notre Dame street, the first and third Thursdays of the month. Communications to be addressed to O. FONTAINE, Corresponding Secretary, 391 Amherst street.

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No. 3862, K. of L.
Meets every First and Third Tuesday at Lomas' Hall, Point St. Charles.

BUILDERS' LABORERS' UNION.

Meets in Ville Marie Hall, 1623 Notre Dame street, every TUESDAY at 8 P. M.
Address all communications to
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111 St. Dominique street.

BLACK DIAMOND ASSEMBLY

1711, K. of L.
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TORONTO NOTES.

Meeting of the Trades and Labor Council—Snap Resolutions Promptly Sat on—The Mayorality Election—Free School Books.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

TORONTO, January 6th, 1892.

The untiring wheel of time has whirled the world into another year, since the date of my last epistle. This change brings with it new responsibilities. These responsibilities involve continuous, intelligent, active, and, if possible, united action on the part of organized labor when and wherever the interests of those who make a living "through the sweat of their brow" are endangered or are to be subserved. Is it too much to hope that the lessons in experience during the year just past may be of use in that direction? Being an optimist myself, I hope for the best. But even if disappointed there will be some solace in the knowledge that it will not be the first time. Even under the worst phase of circumstances progress was made in the past, and, I doubt not will continue in the future. But why moralize, better record passing events—it will be more pleasing, even if it fails in imparting practical lessons to the great majority of your readers.

During the past two weeks we have had little if anything to distract public attention from the municipal election struggle—meetings, speeches, etc., every night. The mayorality contest and the question of whether or not Toronto should have the street cars running on Sunday were the most interesting topics in the minds of the electorate, and with no section of it to a greater than with the working classes. While this is true, yet the Trades and Labor held its regular and first meeting of the year 1892 on Wednesday evening of last week instead of on Friday evening because of the latter being New Year's Day, and the attendance of delegates was up to the average number, too. The reports of the Legislative and Municipal committees were, as usual, creditable productions, and after debate and explanation were adopted without division. Business ran along nicely until the heading of "New Business" was reached, and then came a surprise. Delegate Banton moved a resolution in favor of Sunday street cars. For a time the chairman had his hands full in deciding points of order and determining who had the floor. Delegate O'Donoghue raised the point of order that as the Council had already recorded itself against Sunday street cars, the resolution was untenable without previous notice. The chair decided the point well taken although personally in favor of the motion. An appeal from his decision was taken at once. His ruling was sustained on a division of 22 to 9. Then came another unexpected event. At the first meeting in December the Legislative Committee presented a supplementary report recommending the blacklisting certain aldermen of the year then expiring. With one exception the recommendation was concurred in. But the report went further. It recommended, in effect, that the Council declare itself opposed to candidature of Messrs. Fleming, Osler and Beatty for the office of Mayor, and in this way the endorsement of Mr. McMillan would have been secured, even if only by implication, for his name was not mentioned at all. On motion of Delegate March this part of the supplementary report was laid on the table at the time. At the last meeting of the Council after the vote on the Sunday street car question had been recorded it was moved that tabled question just referred to be taken up, but after a warm and to some extent acrimonious discussion this resolution, or rather recommendation was also voted down. It may be said here that a week or ten days before the Council met, its President, Mr. Geo. Bradley, Messrs. John Armstrong, Geo. W. Dower and Mr. A. W. Wright of the Gen. Ex-Board of the K. of L., who was in this city during last week, had taken the public platform in favor of McMillan. This action on their part forced Messrs. Jury, Benson, Webb and O'Donoghue to the front in support of Mr. Fleming. Had this not been done the outside public would have been justified in thinking that the former gentlemen authoritatively represented organized labor in their position. Besides this, Mr. Wright also championed the running of Sunday cars, and to that extent at least committed the Order of which he is an executive officer to the principle of

seven days' work for six days' pay. On the other hand, Messrs. D. A. Carey, District M. W., (and who also supported Mr. Fleming) W. H. Parr and D. J. O'Donoghue worked and spoke on and off the public platform with activity and earnest zeal in opposition to Sunday cars. It is as well to note also that neither Mr. Beatty nor Mr. Osler was publicly supported by anyone out of the ranks of organized labor, although it was publicly alleged that Wright, Armstrong, et al., only supported Mr. McMillan so as to divide the labor vote to the detriment of Mr. Fleming and in the interest of Mr. Osler. Before reaching the polls I will place the candidates in the following order:

James Beatty, an ex-M. P. as well as an ex-Mayor of Toronto, a lawyer, and known to Parliamentary fame as one who always looked well after the material interests of "The Boy" as he considerably called himself;

E. B. Osler, a director, and one who made much money in various ways out of the C. P. Railway, and still largely interested in its welfare, was the nominee of the Board of Trade. He was the candidate of the classes who in their hearts despise mere tradesmen and laborers. He was supported by the Empire and World—the mouthpiece and donkey-engine, respectively, of the Dominion Government;

Mr. John McMillan, merchant, ex-alderman, and supported almost exclusively by the Orange Order and the Mail;

R. J. Fleming, a real estate dealer and ex-alderman, who was supported by the masses irrespective of creed or nationality and by the News and Telegram.

Well, the battle was fought at the polls on last Monday. Osler had splendid organization—and paid for it, for there was plenty of money at the command of his committees. Beatty and McMillan canvassed actively and unceasingly, and Mr. Fleming trusted to his record and personal reputation, and he was not disappointed. At the close of the polls the figures stood: Fleming, 8,683; Osler, 8,273; McMillan, 4,702; and Beatty, 603; or a plurality of 410 for Fleming. Of the fifteen aldermen condemned by the T. & L. Council, nine were elected to stay at home for the next year. It is to be hoped that those who were re-elected may make an effort to mend their ways for the future. On the whole organized labor—in fact all who work for wages in Toronto—may be congratulated on the general result. I will return to this subject again.

The T. & L. Council is to be congratulated in another very important victory as a result of the recent election also. For some years it has persistently agitated for free school books. As a result the Provincial Government introduced and had passed into law at last session of the Legislature an Act enabling municipalities so desiring, to furnish free school books within their jurisdiction. Toronto took advantage of this and on Monday authorized free school books by a vote of 12,040, against 7,993—a majority of 4,069. As the smoke and excitement passes away we will be able to estimate the real value of the victories and will record the results from time to time.

U.R.M.

A Narrow Escape.

A vivid notion of the intensity of a cobra's venom is given by the experience of Dr. Francis T. Buckland. He put a rat into a cage with a snake of that species and it was killed after a plucky fight. Upon examining the skin of the dead rat immediately afterward he found two very minute punctures, like small needle holes, where the fangs of the cobra had entered. The flesh seemed already to be actually mortified in the neighborhood of the wound. Anxious to find out if the skin was affected Dr. Buckland scraped away the hair from it with his finger nail. Then he threw the rat away and started homeward. He had not gone 100 yards before all of a sudden he felt as if somebody had come behind him and struck him a severe blow on the head and neck. At the same time he experienced a most acute pain and sense of oppression about the chest. He knew instantly that he was poisoned, and so lost no time in seeking an apothecary shop, where he was dosed with brandy and ammonia. He came very near dying. Undoubtedly a small quantity of the venom had made its way into the system through a little cut beneath his nail, where it had been separated slightly from the flesh in the process of cleaning the nail with a pen-knife a little before.

WHITE SLAVERY IN ENGLAND

What the Mill Operatives of Yorkshire Have to Submit to.

In an interview with Tom Mann on the Labor Commission, published in the South Wales Daily News, this well known labor representative made some highly interesting statements, as the result of the examination before the commission, on the social condition of wage earners. Nothing, he said for instance, had struck him more than the evidence tendered by the textile operatives of Yorkshire. To the surprise of all the commissioners, and apparently of the public who have taken notice of it, they were told that skilled workmen in the neighborhood of Bradford, Yorkshire, rarely earned more than 15s or 16s a week, whilst taking the whole year round the money did not run higher than 10s or 12s a week. In consequence of that the wives of those men also went to mills, leaving their babies with other women where that was possible, and in a large number of cases with children only. Then, too, the children who had reached the age of ten must also leave the family and school and go as half-timers to work at the mills, so as to contribute to the family's necessities, because the father earned so little.

The witnesses from Yorkshire, he said, unanimously supported the statements as to low wages. One witness, whose evidence could not be shaken, declared that he and his wife had to work in the mills together, and that their joint earnings did not amount to more than 14s per week on an average, and said further that hundreds of cases were equally bad. The astounding and equally suggestive part of these discoveries is the light they throw upon an industry that, not only is one of the best organized in Great Britain, but has also produced some of the purest and simplest of the "pure and simple" school in the unions.

Mr. Mann declared himself as distinctly favorable to the organization of all kinds of workers, and equally favorable to the effective organization of employers, believing that by such means it would be possible to establish Boards of Conciliation able to adjust labor difficulties, for strikes and lockouts must be prevented. He was sure that the disciplined workers disagreed with strikes and lockouts as a method of settling difficulties, but would favor the settlement of all such difficulties by discussion, and therefore they could all favor the establishment of Boards of Conciliation on voluntary lines. In his opinion the real obstacle to the effective settlement of labor disputes now by means of conciliation on the lines suggested was the non-union element among workers and those employers who refuse to take concerted action with their fellow-workers. He was glad, however, to note that to an increasing extent employers were now organizing, and allowed the representatives of the workmen to approach them when the workmen feel that they have a grievance requiring discussion. "If this is pursued," he said, "it is certain to result in the effective adjustment of difficulties in such a way as to entirely obviate the necessity for the disastrous cessations of labor which have troubled so many portions of the country during the past few years, and which cause serious loss to all concerned without benefiting anyone."

The Mother of Cities.

Montreal is, historically speaking the mother of cities. Here will be marked the birthplace of Bienville, the founder of New Orleans, and the homes of La Salle, of Du-Luth, and of La Mothe Cadillac, founder of Detroit. Here will be shown the eyrie of Mackenzie, discoverer of the Mackenzie River, and first European to cross the Rocky Mountains. Dollard lane will have its glorious legend made plain upon it. The ancient town walls will be made easy to follow. The Recollet Gate, where General Hull and his army were brought in prisoners, and the Quebec Gate, where the same was done with Ethan Allen, will receive tablets.

The position of the armies at the time of capitulation will not be forgotten. Neither will a variety of strange traditions miraculous and horrible—such as the Veronica-like legend of the Pere le Maistre, whose head was cut off by Iroquois, but imprinted its image upon a handkerchief, and thereby haunted and addressed them until the conversion of his murderer.—Toronto Week.

SOCIALISM IN FRANCE.

Organization in a Backward State—Rapid Growth of Trade-Unionism.

The first ten years after the establishment of the French Republic were largely devoted to purely political efforts. The Republic had to be defended against a monarchical reaction. The common danger united the workingmen and the radical elements of the higher classes. The radical leaders, Gambetta and Clemenceau, were sovereign in the workingmen's quarters.

During the last ten years this has been changed. The Republic is safe. Its supporters can indulge in the luxury of factions. The working-people have deserted the Radical Party, probably for ever. Socialism is beginning to spread. It has taken serious and scientific shape under the influence of Marx. But while Socialist ideas are widely diffused, the organization of its believers is very backward in France as compared with Germany and England. There are innumerable factions. This is due, perhaps, partly to the National character, partly to the jealousies of the leaders, and partly to an incapacity for sustained self-sacrifice among the masses.

Three tendencies of thought may be distinguished.

First, the Possibilists, who repudiate force and believe in the possibility of a gradual transition from the wages system to collective ownership. They ask for the abolition of private monopolies and for a heavy inheritance tax. The theoretical champion of the party is Benoit Malon, the editor of La Revue Socialiste, an idealist, a thinker, a poet, but not a popular leader.

Secondly, the Collectivists. They are the radical Socialists. They put no faith in labor reforms under a capitalistic government, but work for a political revolution as the necessary condition of an economic revolution. Their leader is M. Guesde, a stern and powerful character, of undoubted political ability. He is systematically training the working people for the revolution by strikes and demonstrations.

Thirdly, the Anarchists. In France, as everywhere else, very few in number, without organization, but desperate and noisy.

There are several workingmen in the Chamber of Deputies, but though they make a fuss frequently they do not really lead, and their sympathies are apt to change in the new social environment into which they enter at Paris.

The syndicates or trades-unions, are increasing rapidly and are destined to be an educational force. During the last four months unions have been organized for the employees of omnibus, street-car and railway lines, for clerks, grocers, sausage-makers and match-makers. A newly formed union of the municipal employees in the parks, streets and buildings of Paris, is said to number 12,000 members. The unions in the provincial cities are frequently more solid and better conducted than those in Paris.

In the disorganized condition of Socialism in France it is of great importance that the City Council of Paris has a compact Socialist majority. So have several provincial towns. In case of a National revolutionary uprising, it is very possible that the City Council of Paris would furnish the one solid nucleus, and would take the initiative in realizing the Socialist idea.—Correspondence of The Voice.

The Causes of Nightmare.

The causes of nightmare may be divided into the exciting and the immediate. The exciting causes are very numerous. Unusual fatigue, either of mind or body, recent emotional disturbance, such as that produced by fright, anxiety or anger, and intense mental excitement of any kind may produce it. I have known a young lady to have a severe attack the night after a school examination in which she had been unduly taxed.

Another young lady is sure to be attacked after witnessing a tragedy performed. A young man, who was under my care for a painful nervous affection, always has a paroxysm of nightmare during the first sleep after delivering an address, which he was obliged to do for a year or more.

Fullness of the stomach or the eating of indigestible or highly stimulating food late at night will often cause nightmare.

The immediate cause of nightmare is undoubtedly the circulation of blood through the brain which has not been sufficiently aerated.—Dr. Hammond in the Indianapolis News.