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BEFORE ELECTION.

[Written for THE ECHO, by Cyrille Horsicot.]

We have a few words to say to the tradesmen, workmen, and farmers of this district and elsewhere. Here is a great city, with its outlying towns and villages, in which laboring men largely predominate. In scores of foundries, mills, and factories, are heard the clang, din, and whirl of almost unceasing industry. Let the scores of thousands of men and women who are the producers of wealth in this region emigrate to another locality and the city and its environs would become dead. They create the wealth; they keep trade active in all departments; it is for their custom and convenience the multitudinous stores and shops are established; they support the street railways; they are largely the patrons of the railroad and steamboat lines; if it were not for their generous support our places of amusement would close never to open again; even the churches would find their occupation gone were it not for the attendance and liberal contributions of the working classes. Their productions, so varied in their character, supply their own and each other's needs and the needs of all classes; they furnish a market for the products of farmers, who are themselves workmen.

The wage-workers, tradesmen, and farmers have interests in common. What benefits one man benefits all; what is injurious to one is a common injury. Their common enemies are the grasping monopolists, the soulless corporations, the embezzlers of public money, in a word the money power of the land. These degrade labor, reduce wages, prolong the working hours, starve women, rob youth of both sexes of health and strength, lay burdens too heavy to be borne upon the shoulders of children, condemn them to ignorance, lift the load of taxation from their own shoulders to lay it upon those of the working people who, in many countries, become socialists, anarchists, and all sort of ists, on account of their iniquitous proceeding; rob the farmers by exorbitant freights upon their produce, and contract the currency to the point of stagnation in business and the multiplication of mortgages and business failures.

The producers, whose wrongs are thus enumerated, have very little or nothing to hope from legislation as it stands now. Whatever has been accomplished by legislation has been for the most part the work of individuals carried for their own benefit; it is to individuals we must look at both sessions of the Federal and Provincial legislatures for action in behalf of labor till the producers have put forward enough candidates of their own craft. How are the workmen of this country—so largely in the majority that the power lies wholly in their hands—going to vote for themselves by voting next month for the men known to serve best their interest? The time is ripe for action. The word has gone all down the line of the labor ranks that principle and men, more than party, shall be the watch-word at the next election. Will the workmen prove true to themselves in trampling under their feet their old grudges, prejudices, and cast their vote for an honest producer, or will they betray their own interest in supporting the honey-tongued wheedlers who always have made and will make them their scapegoats?

During the past years the wage-workers have become organized as they never were before. They have just begun to discover their own strength, and change the contempt of their enemies into respect. They have held picnics and excursions; they have made parades; they have given their time, strength and money without stint to the cause of labor—everything but their vote, and yet they have among them many clever and upright men who understand and are able to take care of their own interests better than those who make use of them to pull off the fire the chestnuts that they crack between themselves at their pompous banquets. Will they give or withhold them? Will they carry out their work of the past season to its legitimate conclusion at the ballot box, or will they nullify all they have done already by forsaking their principles at the one place above all others where they ought to carry them if their work in the past was for anything more than show? If they do this latter thing, then let them hold their peace, and submit patiently and hum-

bly to all the iniquities which may in future be heaped upon them, for they themselves will have demonstrated, better than their enemies could do, that they do not know how to use the rights and privileges of free men.

In conclusion, I will say to the producers: think and reflect of the past; don't let yourselves be once more blinded and fooled by the smooth-tongued professionals who for generations had always thrown golden dust in your eyes; for they are in both parties, of the same chips, and can't be your friends, except in election times. Throw your vote not only for a single producer, who will be, when in session, like a timid lamb among a pack of wolves, but for as many as you can; and don't forget that the worst of them will serve your interest a thousand-fold better than the best of all the high and petty bureaucrats who form the oligarchical fraternity here and elsewhere.

THEY WANT AN EIGHT HOUR DAY.

American Workmen Say They Will No Longer Be Slaves.

The first annual convention of the United Mine Workers of America opened in Columbus, O., on Wednesday morning with fully three hundred delegates present, representing fifteen States, the special object of which is to make definite arrangements for the inauguration of the eight-hour day on May 1, 1891. The inauguration of the movement has been delegated to this Order by the other labor organizations. President John R. Rae appointed committees on Credentials and Rules. Committees were also sent for President Samuel Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor; Treasurer Hayes, of the Knights of Labor, General Assembly; A. W. Wright, member of the General Executive Board of Knights of Labor, and Hugh Cavanaugh, General Worthy Foreman of the Knights of Labor. All but Secretary Hayes were found, and they were enthusiastically greeted on their entrance to the hall. When the president, Mr. Rae, introduced Mr. Gompers, a significant incident occurred. Taking Mr. Gompers and Mr. Wright by the hands he said that this illustrated the good feeling existing between the three great labor organizations. Uproarious applause followed this announcement. The speeches by the visitors were on the subject of eight hours, showing the sympathy of the organization they represented with the movement and pledging their support. The sentiment of all seemed to be that everything was in good shape for a monster strike on May 1 next for eight hours if the operators do not accede to the demand.

FRESH LABOR TROUBLES IN ENGLAND.

LONDON, February 19.—The Government is at length aroused to the formidable character of the labor movement that has been gradually gaining strength for about a month past in the seaport towns. Cardiff to-day is full of policemen to prevent the strike; from becoming violent, and troops are held in readiness for use should the situation become alarming. The Cardiff dockers are desperate and avow their determination to drive free labor out at any cost.

The dockers having withdrawn their December manifesto at the instance of the federation, the latter now demands that work shall be unconditionally resumed before any further discussion takes place. The dockers are very angry about this, claiming that it is in violation of the understanding arrived at when the manifesto was withdrawn, and they charge a breach of faith on the part of the federation. The dockers hold that in any resumption of work the interests of the exporters must be considered.

The Pall Mall Gazette, while still hoping for some satisfactory compromise of the shippers' troubles, considers such a termination of the crisis as extremely doubtful. The paper charges the Shipping Federation with practicing deception and of a covert determination to crush the Dockers' Union. It concludes by saying that the men may be forced to appeal to the public for support, but eventual their triumph is certain.

Government should be purely secular, and should give itself not the least concern about the religion or religious calling of its subjects.

TRUE TO HIS WORD.

A NOVEL.

"What! merely for being smitten by their sister's charms? Is it not possible that they may have led him into some imprudence?"

"Perhaps," returned Santoro. "His body was taken into the church, to be left till morning; but in the night he revived, and dragged himself to the mountains, where there were some fine fellows like ourselves, who received him gladly. Among us there is a field for merit, and the best man is nearly certain to come uppermost."

"Corbara, for example," said Walter. "Do you think yourself a worse man than Corbara or less fit to govern?"

"Of course, everything is not perfect even up in the mountains. Corbara will be shot some day, and it will be better for such as you, signor, when it happens."

"Corbara is a brute, I suppose?" observed Walter.

"Yes, indeed; or if he is a man he has no heart. He would always rather have blood than ransom."

"And yet you must obey him or men like him," said Walter, "and be a witness to his brutalities. Now, supposing it were possible that I could procure your pardon?"

"It is useless, signor," interrupted the other; "such propositions have been made to me before to-day. You are about to propose some scheme of escape."

"I have no such intention; I merely wished to know if the opportunity of living another sort of life should offer itself to you?"

"It never will, it never can. Why should we talk of such matters?" said the brigand. "We were speaking of Corrali. Well, in course of time he became captain of the band. It was not in that year, nor in the next, but, however, he had not forgotten upon the mountain what had happened down yonder. One Sunday morning, when the folks were all in the village church in which he had been left for dead, he descended with his men and surrounded it. The congregation were made to file before him. Two of the brothers of Carmina (that was the girl's name) were among them; those he shot, and three others escaped. Then he went to the house of his old master, and carried off the girl with him into the mountains."

"What a monster!" ejaculated Walter. "Carmina never took to him, in consequence of what he had done; and after a few months she died."

"And what is the story of Joanna?" inquired Walter.

"Joanna's case was the reverse of Carmina's; she too was in farm service, and wooed by her master's son, whose affection she did not return. She joined the band, and Lavocca, who was her inseparable companion, did likewise."

"I see. Joanna could not well have come without Lavocca, who, to keep her company, sacrificed her own prospects. It is no wonder that she is Joanna's friend."

"Indeed, she has a right to be so considered, even though Joanna is a great lady. She can shoot and run like a deer, and is so beautiful."

"And notwithstanding these accomplishments," inquired Walter, "is Joanna tender towards those persons who fall into her brother's hands?"

"Well, she has an eye for a handsome fellow," answered Santoro; "but that is what men are sure to say."

"If Joanna likes handsome men, Santoro, you give her this," said Walter, handing his companion the little portrait which he had finished.

The delight of Santoro at this presentment of himself was extreme; his expressions of admiration were so loud that they attracted not only his mate Colletta, but the gamblers themselves, who crowded about him.

"Wonderful!" "Fine!" "Excellent!" One would have thought that no one had sketched the human figure since Michael Angelo's time.

"What is all this about?" asked Corbara. He plucked the portrait from the hand of its original, and made as though he would have torn it.

"Stop!" cried Santoro in a voice shrill with passion; his musket, fortunately for his foe, was not within reach, but his hand sought his girdle. The next minute a blow from the lieutenant's pistol struck levelled him to the ground. If the onslaught had been less violent, and Santoro had been able to take his own part in the matter, it is possible that he might have gained the victory, for the feelings of the great majority of the band were clearly with him. But now that the man was down who might have proved their ringleader, authority was paramount, and neither tongue nor finger stirred in rebellion against it. Only Col-

letta quietly brought a handful of half melted snow, and, kneeling down beside his fallen comrade, proceeded to wipe the blood from his face.

"This rubbish here," said he, still holding the sketch in his left hand, "is either worthless or dangerous. If it resembles the man, it is clear that it may be used to identify him should this Englishman ever gain his liberty. Would it be for your advantage if he took a portrait of every one of you and stuck them up in Palermo, so that the soldiers should know you wherever you moved? If it is not like him, it is of no value to any one."

"What you suggest might have had some sense, Corbara," observed Walter, "had I intended to keep the sketch for myself; but I had given it to Santoro, and am willing to do the same for any one else who has a fancy for having his portrait taken."

"Come, come, lieutenant," said one, "what the signor says is reasonable enough; we need only show the pictures to whom we like and who like us."

"Yes, and when shall we have such another chance?" pleaded another. "It is not as though we could go into the towns and get our pictures taken by the sun for half a ducat, like those who live down yonder."

Walter did not trouble himself to listen to these arguments or to the lieutenant's reply to them; he had found it hard enough to give the man the few civil words which he had bestowed upon him, with that spectacle of his brutality—the prostrate form of Santoro—before his eyes. Now he had knelt down by the side of Colletta and was assisting him in his simple ministrations to the wounded man. Santoro had been friendly towards him, and he was not going to withhold the hand of sympathy from him, for fear of this insolent bully. It was upon Walter's pitying face that the eyes of the poor brigand first opened upon his remaining consciousness.

"The picture!" murmured he. "Where is the picture for Lavocca?"

"You shall have it or another," said Walter. "Have you brandy?" inquired he of Canelli, whom the condition of the wounded man appeared to interest, not from tenderness of heart, but because blood had a natural attraction for him. "It will be the best medicine for your friend."

"I have a little," returned the juvenile brigand—"about as much as I want for myself. He shall have a drain of it if you will draw my picture."

So it seemed that Lieutenant Corbara had taken off his embargo upon art, and had graciously permitted his men to sit to Walter.

This permission was of no slight advantage to the prisoner, both immediate and remote, for not only did it put him on amiable terms with his patrons, but when the hour for the mid-day meal arrived, and with it only loaves of black bread, without even the raccolta of the previous evening, he found his loaf had been filled by some grateful hand with pieces of broiled kid. It was a contribution, Colletta whispered to him, from his sitters, but of which he was to say nothing, because of Corbara, who would have deprived him of it; and he enjoyed it, and none the less because he gave a share of it to Santoro. The poor fellow was little the worse for his maltreatment, and seemed in no way to resent it. Punishment under authority was not looked upon as an indignity among brigands, though they were quick enough to avenge an insult.

After dinner the disadvantages of open-air life became very perceptible in the shape of a driving rain, from which, in their elevated situation, there was but little shelter. It was intensely cold, and yet the brigands dared light no fire, for fear of announcing the position of the camp to the soldiers. Nothing was to be done, but for all (save the sentinels) to wrap themselves up in their capotes, and huddle together as close as sheep frightened by a dog. His companions, accustomed to sleep in the daytime and move at night, soon forgot their discomforts in slumber; but Walter was not so fortunate. He lay for hours listening to the sigh of the wind, the swish of the rain, and had only just fallen asleep, when a kick on the leg awoke him, accompanied by an order to "get up." It was fine overhead, though by no means clear, and the moon was rising, by the light of which he perceived Corbara, his musket sloped over his shoulder, and evidently prepared for departure.

"Santoro," said this worthy, in tones that he endeavored to make conciliatory, "you are still an invalid, it seems, so you will be excused from your attendance on the prisoner, and command in camp in my absence. Canelli will take your place upon the march."

"Pardon me, lieutenant," answered he; "I am quite well now, and have received my orders from the captain; and I mean to obey them. Strike me again, and you will have to settle with him the Who-shall-be-Master question a second time."

The allusion was evidently a very bitter one, and yet one which he dared not resent. "I shall have a word or two to say to the captain about you, my fine fellow," was his rejoinder.

"That is one of the reasons why I intend to accompany you, lieutenant. It is only right he should hear both sides."

"I believe you to be half a traitor," answered Corbara. "You are unfit to be trusted with the care of a prisoner, you who receive gifts at his hands and make yourself his friend. You require some one to look after you, and Canelli shall do it."

At these words the young recruit stepped up, gun in hand, and stationed himself on Santoro's left. It was an indignity, as Walter could perceive, which touched his old body guard to the quick, who, next to Corbara, was the senior member of the band; but he said nothing. About a dozen brigands had been selected for the expedition, the rest remaining in camp. At the word "March!" they set out; but there was not much marching. The ground did not even permit of a foot pace; it was so steep that they had to run, except where the brushwood was so thick that they could make way through it with difficulty. After they had gone a mile or two they crossed a small stream, at which every one stopped to drink, for streams are rare in Sicily, and they had had nothing hitherto to quench their thirst, save melted snow. Walter took the opportunity to wash his hands and face, which he had not done for twenty-four hours; his delay was not of a minute's duration, yet the purpose of it being misconstrued it almost cost him his life. "Get on or I shoot!" cried Santoro; and this was accompanied by the ominous click of three guns. Walter made some remonstrance, and though the incident dashed certain hopes he had begun to cherish, did not permit it to interrupt his amiable relations with Santoro. Nor did the latter appear to treat it otherwise than as a matter of official routine, such as no person holding a commission from Il Capitano Corrali could have dispensed with.

"Can you guess, signor," said he in a low voice, "why the lieutenant was so civil just now as to make me his deputy in his absence if I would have accepted the honor?"

"To make up, I suppose, for his brutal attack upon you yesterday."

"No, no, signor; he is not one to repent his deeds. He wished to keep me from seeing Lavocca."

(To be Continued.) The Strike.

Experience has shown that strikes are a drastic, and at best a very questionable, remedy for the redress of the laborer's grievances. They paralyze industry, they often foment fierce passions and lead to the destruction of property, and above all, they result in inflicting grievous injury on the laborer himself by keeping him in enforced idleness, during which his mind is clouded by discontent while brooding over his situation, and his family not unfrequently suffers from the want of even the necessities of life. It would be a vast stride in the interests of peace and of the laboring classes if the policy of arbitration which is now gaining favor for the settlement of international quarrels were also availed of for the adjustment of disputes between capital and labor. Many blessings would result from the adoption of this method, for, while strikes, as the name implies, are aggressive and destructive, arbitration is conciliatory and constructive; the result in the former case is determined by the weight of the purse, in the latter by the weight of the argument.—"Our Christian Heritage," by Cardinal Gibbons.

SIR DONALD SMITH, K. C. M. G.

DEAR SIR,—The undersigned, electors of Montreal West, respectfully urge you to allow yourself to be again nominated as their candidate for the representation of this division in the next Parliament. They ask from you permission to give them the opportunity of expressing in this way their high appreciation of your services to the city and country, as a representative in Parliament, and as an honored citizen.

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LABOR.

How to Give It Its Full Earnings.

All produce is divided into three parts—rent, wages and interest. It is a confusion of terms to speak of a further division into profits, or two kinds of rent. Profits is a term meaning partly wages of superintendence, partly interest. Rent is the payment for the use of land only; payment for the use of a house, as distinguished from the land it stands on, is interest, not rent, for a rented house is capital, it is wealth in course of exchange. As for taxes, they are drawn from either rent, wages or interest. The primary division of the entire product, therefore, is always into these three parts, rent going to the landowner, wages to the laborer, interest to the capitalist.

Interest, the reward of capital, is earned by capital, capital being labor stored up in the form of wealth, and used in producing more wealth. Interest, therefore, is not drawn from the earnings of labor and does not reduce wages.

Economic rent is that part of the total product which represents the increased power with which the community, as a whole, aids the individual. Land bears no rent until the presence of population, the growth and improvement of the whole community, have made some locations more valuable and productive than the best locations which can be had free. By guaranteeing to certain individuals the exclusive possession of locations which it has rendered valuable, society increases their product. The excess of their product over that which the same application can secure from the least productive land in use is rent. As it is not the result of extra application of either labor or capital, rent is not part of the earnings of individuals. Therefore, taking rent for public purposes will not decrease wages. But the effect of leaving rent in the hands of individuals is to greatly decrease wages as well as interest, and the total product of the community. This results, first, from the fact that the private ownership of rent causes the speculative monopolization of land; and second, from the fact that society, not receiving the rent which it creates, is compelled to levy taxes on production and products of industry, which eventually are drawn almost entirely from the earnings of labor.

Wages and interest are fixed and would be fixed under the Single Tax as well as now, by the rent line on margin of cultivation; that is to say, they are fixed by the reward which labor and capital can secure on the best land which bears no rent. Or, to put it more clearly, the average rate of wages of skilled labor is determined by the wages of unskilled labor; and the wages of unskilled labor are determined by what such labor could produce by employing itself on the best land that can be had free of rent; the general rate of interest being determined in the same way. The reason why wages, at the primary distribution of products, are not the full earnings of the individual to-day, is because the margin of cultivation is artificially lowered. The desire on the part of all men to hold all the land they can get, using to its full extent only a mere fraction of it, creates a speculative monopolization of land and lowers the margin of cultivation far below what it would naturally be if speculation in land were destroyed by the Single Tax. Hence, rents are artificially increased and wages and interest lowered, wages and interest being now fixed by what can be produced on the best unappropriated land, instead of being fixed by what could be produced on the best unused land, which is where the margin of cultivation naturally should be.

As long as land speculation exists the value of land increases in a greater ratio than productive power, rent takes more than the increase, and wages and interest fall. Under the Single Tax, where land speculation was destroyed, the value of land would follow after the increase of productive power, not run on ahead of it, and while rent would increase so also would wages and interest.

To raise wages to the full earnings of labor, then, we must destroy speculation in land and raise the margin of cultivation to the level of the best unused land; and, in order to leave to the individual his full earnings, we must abolish all the taxes on the products of labor, which are paid out of wages in increased prices. All this we can do by taking rent for public purposes by means of a single tax, levied on all land, improved or unimproved, according to its value.

The effect would be, moreover, not merely to raise wages to the full earnings of labor, but to make these earnings enormously greater than at present. With production freed from every trammel; natural opportunities open to all; all the members of the community engaged in productive work—none living on rents as at present, the product both of society as a whole and of each individual would be the result of the most improved methods employed under the freest conditions. Rent, wages and interest would all be increased; and rent being distributed in public benefits equally among all the members of society, every man would receive far more than his individual earnings.—The Standard.

TO THE Electors of Montreal West.

DEAR SIRS,—You did me the high honor of electing me as your representative in the House of Commons at the election which took place in 1887, and while I deemed it my duty to give my best attention to your interests during the four sessions of the Parliament recently dissolved, I had fully determined not to seek re-election I am so impressed, however, by the kindness and consideration you, irrespective of party politics, have again so generously extended to me, and regard so seriously the grave issues now presented to the electors, that, throwing personal convenience aside, I accede to the request given expression to in the above Requisition, and have the honor of placing myself in your hands as a candidate for the Western Division of Montreal. I need only add that, if returned as your Representative, my earnest endeavors will be to promote such measures as may appear most to the advantage of the City of Montreal, and of the Dominion generally, and to oppose tariff legislation calculated to discriminate against the mother country. I have the honor to be Faithfully yours, DONALD A. SMITH.

=The Echo=

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MONTREAL, February 21, 1891.

WE WANT AN ANSWER.

Our Government proposes to establish laws for the benefit of the whole people; and such laws, if justly administered, should secure to every individual a fair equivalent for his labor, yet probably half the wealth of the nation is accumulated in the possession of about two and a half per cent. of the population, who, to say the most, have not done more labor toward the production of the wealth than the average of the ninety-seven and a half per cent., among whom is distributed the other half of the wealth. Let those who doubt whether two and a half per cent. of the population own half the property of the nation select in their own neighborhood, or in a village containing, say, four thousand inhabitants, the twenty most wealthy men, and see if the twenty are not worth as much as all the rest. Allowing five persons to a family, they would amount to one hundred individuals—just two and one-half per cent. of the population. If it be found that the twenty men and their families own one-half of the property, then see if they have contributed more labor, physically, intellectually, or morally, for the general benefit than the rest of the villagers. We do not now speak of what their wealth may have done in hiring others to make improvements, but of the improvements that the twenty men and their families have effected by their personal labor. If they have not accomplished as much as all the rest of their townsmen, and yet own half the wealth of the town, some wrong to the majority of the people has been done. Not that these men have not acted in as good faith, or with as upright intentions as other citizens, or that others would not be equally glad to accumulate wealth in the same manner; but we ask how it occurs the comparatively few have such a large proportion? They have not earned it, for they could not have performed the labor of building half the town, nor of providing half the inhabitants with food and clothing; nor could they have given half the instruction in the various trades and in the school education of the villagers. And if they have not done one-half the labor, why is it they possess one-half the property?

THE END OF THE RAILWAY STRIKE.

The great railway strike in Scotland has ended, both the Caledonian and North British Railway Companies agreeing to reinstat the men as far as possible and to withdraw all actions taken against the men for breach of contract, etc. In the reinstatement preference was given to such of the men as had wives and families depending on them, and it is stated the younger men willingly acquiesced in

in this. Considering that about nine thousand men actually took part in the strike, the number that will eventually be out of work is expected to be comparatively small, as large numbers of the blacklegs are returning to their homes. The companies have also agreed to consider the grievances of the men and to remedy them as far as possible. It is believed that the day of long hours for railway men is past, and if the strike has done nothing more than this, that it has drawn the attention of Parliament to the matter, it has done a great deal. The good results may not be felt for some time, but ultimately all classes in the service will reap the benefits. Though the men have been beaten, they do not return to duty hopeless and discontented as substantial advantages have been gained, besides drawing forth the sympathy of almost the entire nation. It is certain that, had the men been better organized, better results would have been obtained or perhaps the strike would not have been permitted to occur, and from this a lesson may be learned, namely, that a good cause without organization is not of itself sufficient to command success. As to the railway companies, their dearly bought experience must have taught them that it would have been better to have given an ear to the repeated complaints of their workers. They should be able to see by this time that the nearer an approximation to a ten-hour working is made the more economical it will prove. To continue the present system of long hours is simply to foment discontent and breed disturbance.

THE ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN WORKERS.

Looking at the vast number of women now engaged in our factories and workshops it is surprising to find that there has never been any serious attempt made to organize them into a body to work in conjunction with men for the purpose of securing a just compensation to them for their labor. At present advantage is taken of their weakness and helplessness to draw them into competition with men at a much less wage, although in many cases and in many employments their earning capacity is equal to man. Not only is this an injustice to women themselves, but it is proving a serious injury to the male worker. Until women have been helped to place themselves in a position to command equal pay for equal work by combination this injurious effect upon male labor will continue to grow, and what is now a menace to the structure of society, if not remedied, will result in a reversal of the established order of things. There is an old Scandinavian legend which tells of a powerful Queen who set her hand-maidens to grind out gold. Through long years they toiled on, and at last, weary of their endless drudge, they cried out in despair: "Give us rest, Oh Queen." But the Queen replied: "Grind on; rest ye not; sleep ye not longer than the cuckoo is silent." And the wearied slaves ground on, singing as they ground the song of vengeance and revolt. Inspired by the song of the maidens a band of armed men rushed upon and slew the Queen amid her gold. From a modern point of view this action was hasty, and, as the legend goes on to show they only exchanged one form of slavery for another. Had the maidens been wise they would have formed a trades union, demanded shorter hours and a fair share of the product of their toil, or struck work and stuck together to the end, in which case they might have come to terms and lived happily afterwards. The necessity of combination amongst women workers has been clearly pointed out by Lady Aberdeen in an admirable address to the Women's Protective League of Glasgow. The labor of educating working women to a full appreciation of the benefits of Union-

ism is a hard, but not a hopeless task, and we trust that before long decisive steps will be taken in the matter. To the philanthropist it opens up a new field of social work of the first importance, and all who have influence should take part in it. To those who feel that womanly lives are being made unwomanly or destroyed altogether in the fierce race after wealth of the capitalist, now is the time to step in and take part in the struggle. Become propagandists of the doctrine of organization; there is no danger to society in combination, but much in a weak Unionism.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The political prospects of the Hon. Peter Mitchell are away down below zero, and the likelihood of their rising above that point is extremely problematical. Deserted by his former most influential friends, he is experiencing the full force of what he did his best to encourage during the Herald trouble, namely, "ratting," and we would ask, "How does the medicine agree with you?" Evidently it does not, for, from latest accounts, he was hiding under the plea of indisposition. It will be welcome news to organized labor in this city and elsewhere when the intelligence comes to hand that Peter Mitchell has been elected to stay at home.

A much needed measure of reform has been introduced into the British House of Commons by Mr. Haldane. It relates to the wages of farm servants in Scotland. The bill provides, among other things, that all wage shall be made payable and shall be actually paid in money. Its chief clause enacts that in no proceedings commenced by any farm servant against his employer for the recovery of money due to such farm servant for wages under any such contract shall the defender be allowed to plead compensation, or claim any reduction of the pursuer's demand by reason or in respect of anything, not being money, had or received by the pursuer, as or on account of his wages or in reward for his labor. In the event of the bill becoming law, all contracts for the hiring of any farm servants shall be subject to these provisions.

The Liberals would appear to have abandoned the idea of opposing Sir Donald Smith in the Western Division, and by this resolve they have acted wisely. From the nature of the constituency it would be extremely difficult to find a man capable of taking the field against Sir Donald, and least of all, a labor candidate would have the slightest show of success. Apart from his independent position in politics, which renders him acceptable to both parties, Sir Donald has entrenched himself too strongly in the hearts of his fellow-townsmen of all classes by his acts of generous munificence to be lightly discarded, and to have brought forward opposition after the magnificent requisition tendered him would have been factious.

The Central Trades and Labor Council met on Thursday evening, but only routine business was transacted. It was expected that some action would have been taken on the candidates for Montreal Centre, but the delegates expected to move in the matter were not on hand, and the subject has been dropped in the meantime.

THE ECHO is mailed to subscribers at a distance every Friday evening, and delivered in the city early on Saturday. Parties not receiving their paper regularly should communicate with the office.

Subscribers, who have not already done so, will oblige by remitting at their earliest convenience.

Liberty is not a placard stuck on the wall; it is a living power which we feel within us and without us—the protecting genius of the domestic hearth, the guarantee of social rights. You have need of much patience, and of courage that never tires, for you will not conquer in a day. Liberty is the bread which nations must gain by the sweat of their brow.

"You can't legislate money into the pockets of the people," said an old party man. This Government has legislated a vast amount of money out of the pockets of the people, we take notice. Be candid about this matter and admit it like an honest man that the rule will work both ways.—Alliance Times.

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Gents' Plain and Fancy Flannel Shirts, worth \$1.25, for 75c. Gents' Navy Blue Flannel Shirts, Collars attached, worth \$1.25, for \$1.00.

HANDKERCHIEFS.

Gents' Colored Bordered Handkerchiefs, worth 13c and 15c, for 9c. Gents' White and Colored Bordered Handkerchiefs, worth 18c and 20c, for 12½c each. Gents' Handkerchiefs, at lowest prices.

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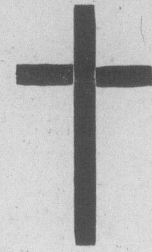
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THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN.

Sir John Macdonald on the Future Policy of the Country.

QUEEN'S HALL MEETING—ROUSING SPEECHES BY HON. MR. LAURIER AND OTHERS.

No statesman in modern times has ever received such a flattering ovation as that which greeted Sir John Macdonald in the Academy of Music, Toronto, on Tuesday night. The building was packed in every part, and on the appearance of the aged chieftain, the audience rose en masse and cheered for several minutes. Sir John was visibly affected, and for a time could only smile and bow his acknowledgments. When the cheering had subsided,

Sir Charles Tupper came to the front and spoke for an hour and a half. He claimed to be a true friend of Canada and had served her cause thirty-six years. He was not a candidate, but he was present to speak on behalf of one of the most distinguished statesmen not only in America but in the world. (Cheers.) In what country had so much been accomplished by a party as by Sir John's during the past twelve years? In 1878 Canada was not in a good state; depression, stagnation, retrogression marked the situation. Her progress since then had been marvellous. To-day she could challenge comparison with the same population in any part of the world. Erastus Wiman dictated from New York the policy—treasonable policy—of the once great Liberal party, some of whose leaders would not accept him. He differed from Sir John in calling it "veiled treason." It was open and unveiled treason. To hear Wiman talk as he did was enough to curdle a Canadian's blood. Wiman was a lonely Canadian over there, and like a fox who had lost his tail, he wished the Canadians to lose not their tails but their heads, for that is what Canadians would lose. He would not serve in England a party which had raised the banner of discrimination against England.

Sir John, on rising to speak, was received with cheers. He said:—

"I can scarcely hope that my feeble voice will be heard to the extremities of this hall. The happiest years of my life have been spent here. One of the consolations of being handed over to the cold shades of Opposition was to come to Toronto in order to earn my bread. When I came here the trade and commerce of this great city was crippled by the vicious legislation and still more vicious want of legislation of the previous five years. Oh, Mr. Chairman, affairs were in a bad state. Workingmen were reduced to half time, three-quarters time, and no time at all, and the markets of the city were burdened with the sweepings of the United States warehouses. It was pressed upon me more than ever, who was always a protectionist, that the country was in urgent need of protection to native industries; that Canada should be kept for the Canadians. (Cheers.) I say the policy of the Government is the same as it was in 1878. The policy of protection which we brought before the people then has been faithfully carried out. The results of that policy need not be dwelt on. I was here in 1874 and I have seen what Toronto is in 1891. Then our workmen were out of employment and were obliged to seek foreign countries to make a living, trade languished and property was at a discount. Now, I see evidences of progress and prosperity on every hand, palaces are being erected, and I see magnificent edifices being dedicated to Canadian industry. I was obliged to buy a home while here at that time and I bought the property on St. George street, occupied by Mr. Mowat. To-day one-half of it will sell for six times as much as I paid for it. The policy which we then initiated and which we have faithfully carried out has, notwithstanding aspersions and opposition, succeeded, and now we see its effect on every town, village and hamlet in the country. Hamlets are growing to villages, villages to towns, and towns are aspiring to be cities. I say that all this has been done by the effect and the influence of the National Policy. (Applause.) By the building of the C. P. R. we have opened to England and Europe a route carrying the wealth and immense products of England and Europe to the great empires of Asia. We are establishing a line of steamers which will open up to us the trade of Australia and Australasia. They had two reservations, the first was they would never hand over their parliament and their country to the control of a foreign country, and the next was that they would suffer no discrimination against the mother country. It is true, Mr. Chairman, that we find great obstruction at Washington, great indifference in the American mind to enter into discussion with us because Canadian traitors, as Sir Charles Tupper had truly called them,

have gone to Washington, have told them: "You should not concede to Canada anything. If you do not put the screws to Canada, if you do not put every possible obstruction upon her trade, if you do not coerce them, bulldoze them in every possible way, you will not get Canada; we will assist you and with our assistance we will get Canada." But there is no fear of it, no, no, but if it should happen that we should be absorbed in the United States the name of Canada would be literally forgotten—we would have the State of Ontario, State of Quebec and State of Nova Scotia and State of New Brunswick; every one of the provinces would be a state; but where is the grand, the glorious name of Canada, which we now have in one and which we are proud of. It would indeed be this in the end. All I can say is that not with me, or not by the action of my friends, or not by the action of the people of Canada, will such a disaster come upon us. I believe that this election, which is a great crisis, and upon which so much depends, will show to the Americans that we prize our country as much as they do, that we would fight for our existence as much as they fought for the preservation of their independence (hear, hear), that the spirit of our fathers which fought and won battle after battle, still exists in their sons; and if I thought it was otherwise I would say the sooner the grass was growing over my grave the better, rather than that I should see the degradation of the country which I loved so much and which I have served so long." (Loud and prolonged applause.)

The meeting was brought to a close by singing "God Save the Queen."

The Queen's Hall Meeting.

Seldom indeed has the Queen's Hall been invaded by such a struggling, yelling and excited mass of humanity as filled its every nook and corner on Tuesday evening. At a quarter to eight there was no standing room left. Hon. Mr. Lafamme, Mr. J. K. Ward and Hon. Mr. Laurier soon afterwards appeared on the platform, and amongst others beside them were: Messrs. Hon. T. W. Anglin, Hon. R. Harcourt, Mr. Edmund Guerin, the candidate for Montreal Centre; W. Keys, P. A. Duffy, B. J. Coghlin and Dr. Guerin.

Mr. J. K. Ward, M. L. C., who was elected to the chair, made a short address to the meeting, referring to the number of representatives of labor who were present, and concluded by introducing the Hon. Mr. Anglin, from Ontario.

The audience received Mr. Anglin right graciously, and as he was a new speaker to most of those present, his address was listened to with a great deal of interest. He spoke fluently and pointedly, and was only interrupted by the applause with which the numerous good points he made were received. Mr. Anglin said: The dissolution of Parliament has taken us all by surprise, Liberals and Conservatives alike, and up to this moment I have not heard a single good reason assigned for the dissolution of the House and the violating of the most essential principle of our constitution. Last year there was the question raised in the House of Commons as to the revision of the voters' lists, and it was then stated by the Government that it was unnecessary to revise the lists, as there would be no elections. The plea then put forth by the Government was that under the circumstances the expense incumbent upon a revision of the voters' lists was not necessary, and that the lists would be revised before the elections came off. On this explanation a bill was passed authorizing a suspension of the Act for a year. There was a distinct pledge on the part of the Government that the elections would not be held this year. That pledge has been broken by Sir John A. Macdonald. The constitution too provides that in the House of Commons the various provinces shall be represented according to their population. Within a few months you will know if the population of the different provinces is so changed as to require modification in their representation in Parliament; and it was the duty of the Government here to wait until that census had been taken, and it could ascertain whether a redistribution of seats was necessary, or whether or not any of the provinces were entitled to greater representation. That duty has been disregarded. Sir John has dissolved the House, and if he should get a majority of only half a dozen he holds on to power for another five years, and during that time the provinces will not enjoy the representation they should get. I listened some days ago to a speech by Sir John Thompson. He said that he would explain the true inwardness of the reciprocity negotiations, but he talked and talked and talked without giving any explanation. They have nothing to say in argument against our policy. They simply charge us with disloyalty. They wave the old flag and think it will answer the men of this country who find themselves compelled to ask what has brought the country to the present condition and how the old prosperity can be regained. You have, gentlemen,

two policies before you. You will have to choose between Sir John's measure of reciprocity or the unrestricted reciprocity of the Liberals. (Hear, hear.) What Sir John's policy is no one knows. He does not care a straw about reciprocity and will trouble himself very little about it. He cannot go back on the interests of those who have subscribed to his election funds, and he will say to them that he will not interfere with their interests. On the other hand you know what unrestricted reciprocity is. We do not conceal anything; we take you right into our confidence. We say that we are willing to have absolute free trade in the products of both countries, and in the manufactures also. We believe that the Canadian people have the skill, the energy and industry to compete with the United States or any other people on the face of the earth. (Hear, hear.)

On rising to speak Hon. Mr. Laurier received a tremendous ovation. He began by saying:—I come before you on this occasion, first of all to ask you to give my young friend, Mr. Guerin, a hearing and support, and I am certain my appeal will not be in vain. I have not known Mr. Guerin long—personally—but I am rather fond of him, and I am fond of him because of the pluck and courage he has shown to beard the Conservative lion in his den. I have been told quite often that the Liberal party was dead in Montreal Centre, but from what I have seen to-night I am certain that it is not so by any means, and I think that the great enthusiasm shown by those here present for Mr. Guerin is the best proof that the Liberal party is more alive at the present moment than it ever was before. As I said before, I came to ask you to give Mr. Guerin your most hearty support on the 5th of March next. But without losing any time, without any oratorical preparations, let me tell you that the policy to which we appeal and we expect to win is the policy of Unrestricted Reciprocity with the great neighboring and kindred nation with sixty-five millions of inhabitants near us. We must have a change; we cannot remain stationary. To remain stationary means to rust, and to rust means retrogression; we must progress a little. The Conservative party rests entirely upon the National Policy, through which they claim the farmer has found a market, the artisan and laborer employment. I arraign the National Policy upon every claim made in its behalf, and I arraign it in this especially, that it was in the language of its creators to stop the curse of emigration, and give employment to every laborer in Canada, when in the light of the past it has been shown as a sham and a fraud. It is true that during the reign of the National Policy much brick and mortar has been used, and it is also true that many tall chimneys have arisen, but it is equally certain that many of them do not smoke, simply because the National Policy has restricted their own usefulness. As far as cottons alone are concerned, the steady production of two months would glut our markets, and with woollens it is the same. The result is that the manufacturers combine. They stop their machinery and they reduce the wages of their laborers without being able to reduce the appetites of their children, which remain as large as before and have to go unsatisfied. There is no market for the product, and to prevent glutting, the manufacturers combine and shut down. This is all right for the manufacturer, but what is to become of the operatives? And why are most of the manufacturers such strong National Policy men? Simply because it does not hurt them, but only their laborers, and because they like to earn their bread by the sweat of another's labor. As to competition, it is all buncombe to say that we cannot compete with the American manufacturer. If reciprocity does come, Canada without fear or favor is ready to compete with America and to hold her own. I once heard of a man who visited a barren island on the coast of Maine, and on asking what the inhabitants did for a living, was informed that they skinned people. If there are any strangers here, said his informant, we skin them; if there are none we skin each other. This illustrates the situation in the Dominion exactly, the East skins the West, the West skins the East, and between the two they manage to skin Quebec on both sides. We want to build up a nation in this country, and if we try to build up a nation we must do it with the best, the broadest, the most patriotic spirit that can be found. There is no man in this hall who has for England a greater regard and love than myself. I love England because she is the mother of freedom in the world, but much as I love England, still more do I love Canada, and I do not hesitate to say here that in any measure my first regard shall be for my native land. The first duty of us all is to the land of our adoption, to the land of our birth. But do you think it was loyal of Sir John and his followers to put the representative of the Crown in the painful position he occupies at present, the realization of having broken faith with Her

Majesty's people, and preventing thousands of young men from using their right to vote. No, it is a shame, a burning shame, and an outrage that will never be forgotten as long as there is enough manhood in the British character to resent such shameful treatment, and I hope that you all will realize the necessity of my appeal to come out and vote for one of the men who will treat you fairly, while loyal to his country, and avenge yourself by placing him at the head of the list."

Hon. E. Harcourt was next introduced and was received with loud cheers and waving of hats and handkerchiefs. In regard to the trade question he declared there was one thing upon which there was common ground. We wanted a more extended market. The Conservatives said: "Let us extend it by going to Jamaica," 3,000 miles away and shutting our eyes to a market right close to us, and when by the stroke of a pen we might double our revenue. The population of New York State was, he said, over 6,000,000, and if they would adopt the policy of Mr. Laurier, they could easily acquire that market.

Mr. William Keys, who followed, said that the best policy for the working classes of the Dominion is to stand shoulder to shoulder with our brothers in arms across the line. We should stand true to our own interests. The election of Mr. Guerin would be a labor victory and one of the grandest of labor victories. (Cheers.)

Mr. Edmund Guerin, whose rising was received with a storm of applause, caused considerable surprise by addressing the audience in excellent, elegant, French. He hoped for the support and good-will of his French-Canadian friends for the coming elections when their victory would be his, and his victory that of their great and beloved leader, Hon. Wilfrid Laurier. Mr. Guerin then addressed the meeting in English. He said: "You will not be surprised if on an occasion of this kind, surrounded by such a sea of faces, that I should feel in my heart a profound emotion. For the first time in my life have I stood before such an audience, and I feel the occasion is one that I am almost unable to compete with. However, I feel in full sympathy and accord with the public sentiment of the citizens of Montreal. I am a Canadian, I was born in Montreal. I am of Irish extraction and proud of my race. We have been taunted with disloyalty, I have been taunted with disloyalty; I suppose because I am Irish I am a little more disloyal than any one else. I will say this, however, gentlemen, that if I do represent you in Parliament and the day ever does come and Mr. Blake or Mr. Anglin, or any one else brings up a resolution favoring Home Rule for Ireland, I can assure you that I will never vote against it. My first loyalty is not to the throne of England. It is to my mother and my family. Next it is to the city where I was born and the boys with whom I was raised, with whom I studied, with whom I played, with whom I fought. Next comes loyalty to my native province, and after that I should be loyal to the Dominion of Canada, and then to the great kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. I am proud of being a citizen of the great British Empire. I have worn Her Majesty's uniform, and have carried a gun. Gentlemen, I would just like to show you the myth of Sir John Macdonald's boast that he has given the poor man a free breakfast table. All teas coming from other places than the United States are allowed in free, but teas coming from the United States are taxed ten per cent. It is well known that the principal market in the world for Japan teas is in New York, and so, gentlemen, for all the Japan tea you drink you pay a tax of ten per cent. Why was this tax put on teas coming from the United States? It was because the Government wants to force you to buy your teas directly from Japan, so that they will have to pass over the Canadian Pacific Railway. The Government has decided that all teas must be carried over the Canadian Pacific Railway. There is one grievance which I will always try to abolish, and that is the competition of paid prison labor with the labor of honest men. I will always seek a reform of this great wrong. No competition, even prison competition, for the poor workingmen. The laboring men have suffered from all this. I am not one who is glad to act as an usher for monopolists and who receives large donations for my support. I thank you sincerely for the support you have given me, and I think we will show Sir John A. Macdonald that we will attain a victory."

The meeting enthusiastically applauded Mr. Guerin at the conclusion of his speech.

The Chicago Times says it is wrong to say that people are starving in Chicago; it will frighten people away. But suppose it is a fact, should the people be induced to go there under false pretences when there is nothing for them to do!

CARSLEY'S COLUMN.

EARLY CLOSING.

Our stores close at one o'clock on Saturdays during February.

S. CARSLEY.

FEBRUARY CHEAP SALE!

COSTUMES AT DESPERATE PRICES.

- A Complete Costume for \$3.50.
- A Complete Costume for \$3.50.
- Walking Skirts from \$5.40, with material for waist.
- Tailor-made Skirts from \$3.00, with material for waist.
- Handsome Skirts for \$3.73, with material for waist.
- New Spring Skirts for \$10.80, (new importation) with material for waist.
- Waists made up at reduced prices during cheap sale.

S. CARSLEY.

FEBRUARY CHEAP SALE!

Children's Dresses.

Children's Dresses.

- Children's Dresses from 50c.
 - Children's Dresses for \$1.08
 - Children's Dresses for \$1.35.
 - Children's Dresses for \$1.50.
 - Children's Dresses for \$1.68.
 - Children's Dresses for \$2.00.
 - Children's Dresses for \$2.25.
 - Children's Dresses for \$2.50.
 - Children's Dresses from 50c to \$20.
- The best and cheapest assortment of Children's Dresses in the city.

S. CARSLEY.

FEBRUARY CHEAP SALE!

Jerseys, Jerseys, Jerseys.

- Jerseys all Reduced.
- Jerseys from 75c.
- The New Military Braided Jersey, \$5.00 for \$3.50.

CARDIGANS, CARDIGANS, CARDIGANS

Cardigans all Reduced.

Cardigans for Ladies and Children.

BLOUSES, BLOUSES, BLOUSES.

Blouses all Reduced.

Silk Blouses for Evening Wear.

S. CARSLEY.

DRESSMAKING.

The Cry is "Still They Come."

Orders for Dressmaking are coming in faster than we anticipated.

Ladies who require their Spring Dresses would do well to leave their orders before the rush.

Our Dressmaking trade has commenced six weeks earlier than usual. This proves our new system is a success.

New Cutters and Fitters.

Dressmaking under a new System.

S. CARSLEY.

FEBRUARY CHEAP SALE!

Colored Dress Goods Department.

- Colored Dress Goods, only 7½c.
- Colored Dress Goods, only 8½c.
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- Colored Dress Goods, only 15c.
- Colored Dress Goods, only 19c.
- Colored Dress Goods, only 22½c.
- Colored Dress Goods, only 25c.
- Colored Dress Goods, only 30c.

S. CARSLEY.

FEBRUARY CHEAP SALE!

Colored Cashmere—Reduced

Colored Fancy Cashmere—Reduced

Colored Nun's Veiling—Reduced

Colored Twill Serge—Reduced

Colored Alpaca—Reduced

Colored Lustre—Reduced

Colored Chalie—Reduced

Colored Skirting—Reduced

Colored Water Moree—Reduced

Colored Fancy Robes—Reduced

Colored Check Robes—Reduced

Colored Striped Robes—Reduced

Colored Ladies' Cloth—Reduced

Colored Melton Cloth—Reduced

Colored Llana Cloth—Reduced

Colored Figured Llana—Reduced

Colored Dress Cloth—Reduced

Colored Check—Reduced

S. CARSLEY.

CLAPPERTON'S SPOOL COTTON.

Always use Clapperton's Thread.

Then you are sure of the best Thread in the market.

Clapperton's Spool Cotton never breaks, never knots, never ravel, and every spool is warranted 300 yards. Always ask for

Clapperton's Spool Cotton.

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NOTRE DAME STREET, MONTREAL.

CARSLEY'S COLUMN.

LABOR AND WAGES.

Cleanings From the Industrial Field of the World.

The coal-miners' strike at Belleville, Illinois, was ended on Saturday. The operators granted the men a uniform rate of 1½ cents per bushel.

The weavers in the Atlantic Cotton Mills at Lawrence, Massachusetts, about 500 in number, have been notified of an increase in wages from five to ten per cent.

The trouble at Corning, N.Y., is still unsettled. The blowers are firm and the company refuses to recognize the union in matter of negotiating for a settlement.

At a meeting of miners in Brazil, Indiana, last week, the delegates elected to the National Convention of the United Mine Workers were instructed to favor the eight-hour-day movement.

The Tunnel Ridge Colliery, near Mahoney City, operated by the Reading Coal and Iron Company, at which place 400 men were employed, shut down last week for an indefinite period.

The car-washers, section hands, engine-wipers, and lamp-cleaners of the railroads centring in Boston at a meeting last week voted to make an effort to secure a uniform wage of \$1.75 per day. They constitute an assembly of the Knights of Labor.

The furnace men in the Illinois Company's Works, in South Chicago, Illinois, are on strike. They demand an advance in wages and the discharge of an obnoxious foreman. The strike has virtually caused a shut-down of eight big rolling mills. The company claims the strike is in violation of the terms of the agreement entered into some time ago.

The puddlers of the Brooke Iron Company at Birdsboro, Pennsylvania, have refused to accept the proposed reduction of twenty-five cents, from \$3.75 to \$3.50 per ton, and the rolling mill was closed down last week. The stopping of work in the rolling mill also necessitated the closing of the nail factory. About 450 hands are thrown out of employment.

The twenty-sixth week of the morocco strike and lock-out in Lynn, Massachusetts, ended on the 11th inst. A. L. Rohrer, of the Committee of the Board of Trade, appointed to endeavor to effect a settlement, says that the committee has not yet held a meeting, but that each member proposes taking the matter into earnest consideration.

The Granite Cutters' Union has notified the proprietors of the various quarries in Milford, Massachusetts, that after April 1 they may expect the pay of all cutters and blacksmiths to be increased from \$2.75 to \$3 per day, fifty-three hours constituting a week's work, nine hours the first five days and eight hours Saturday, and that no cutter or blacksmith shall be discharged until the Shed Committee is consulted.

All the miners employed in the coal mines along the line of the Louisville, Evansville, and St. Louis Railroad, between Evansville and Huntingburg, Indiana, with the exception of one mine at Chandler Station, have gone out on a strike. The prime cause of the trouble is that it is impossible for operators who mine their coal by manual labor to compete with machine mining. They were compelled in the face of this competition to reduce the scale of wages, which resulted in a strike.

The Sanitary Ware Pressers of Trenton, N.J., issued a statement in reply to that of the manufacturers in regard to the lock-out of the potters. The pressers claim that there has been no advance in prices charged by workmen in making certain goods, and that there has been no increase in the cost of manufacturing, and no reduction in the selling price. They also claim that an increase in wages is not a disadvantage to the employers, as the workmen made many more pieces in a week and turned out work of better quality. The pressers ask that the trouble be settled by arbitration.

New spirit is animating the carpenters of Boston and vicinity. Great success has attended them in the past in securing reductions in the working time and increase in wages. It is not five years ago that throughout Massachusetts the carpenters were working at least ten hours a day and sometimes longer. Their wages were from \$1.75 to \$2.25 per day, and varied very much upon the same job between men of the same ability. A great change has been made. Carpenters all over the State work now but nine hours, and in many cases only eight. Now the feeling is strong for a push ahead on the eight hour day this spring. The leaders propose to make this move an effective one.

Bricklayers' Union 7, of New York city, was suspended at the recent convention of the Bricklayers' and Masons' International Union in Toronto, Canada. Since No. 7 was organized, four years ago, it has distinguished itself by its efforts to secede

from the International Union and drag with it the other locals in the City of New York and its immediate neighborhood. Besides being the largest local union, its membership being 2,364, No. 7 has also the reputation of being the wealthiest, owning its own meeting hall in East 24th street, and having, according to its last, semi-annual report, over \$6,000 in the treasury. The members of other subordinate unions in New York and vicinity have been ordered to strike any job where a member of No. 7 is employed.

The entire iron works of Ellis & Lessig Steel and Iron Company in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, shut down last week, throwing out of work 700 men, the pay-roll for whom amounted to about \$22,000 per month. This action was taken because of a contemplated reduction in the wages of puddlers of from \$4 to \$2.50 a ton. The men objected to this reduction on the ground that it was twenty-five cents per ton lower than the other iron companies of Pottstown were paying. During the past two weeks conferences have been held between a committee representing the puddlers and officials of the company, but an agreement could not be reached. The men offered to accept \$3.75, but the company refused to grant the offer.

LABOR'S RIGHTS TO PROTECT ITSELF.

Labor has a right not only to its own freedom, but it has a right to protect itself. And now I know I am treading very near to dangerous ground; nevertheless, I will speak as an historian or as a political economist, but certainly not as a demagogue. If you go back to the earliest period of our Saxon history you will find that there always were associations distinct from the life of the family on the one side and from the State on the other. The family has laws of its own—laws of domestic authority, laws of domestic order, and—I will say, after King Solomon—laws of very salutary domestic punishment. On the other hand, the State has its public laws, its legislature, and its executive. But between the public and the domestic life there is a wide field of the free action of men and of their mutual contracts, their mutual relations, which are not to be controlled either by domestic authority and cannot be meddled with by the public authority of the State—I mean the whole order of commerce. Commerce existed as soon as there was the interchange of one thing for another, and these free contracts between man and man—between employer and employed—are as old as civilization. Clearly, therefore, there is a certain field which must be regulated by a law of its own, by tribunals of its own; and as soon as we begin to trace anything in our Saxon history we begin to trace the rise of guilds. They were of a religious character at first. Some have thought they were religious only, but that is a mistake; they were also what we should call benefit societies; they were also for protection; they were again for the vindication of liberty from the oppressive jurisdiction of those who held local authority. There were guilds, or gilds, of many kinds—some were called "frith-gilds," and others were called "craft-gilds," and these "craft-gilds" were composed of masters and of men—of employers and employed, in all the history of civilization, if you go back to the Greeks or to the Romans, you will find that trades and professions always had their societies and fellowships by which they were united together. It seems to me that this is a sound and legitimate social law. From this it would seem to me to follow that the protection of labor and of industry has at all times been a recognized right of those who possess the same craft; that they have united together; that those unions have been recognized by the legislature; that, whether they be employers or employed, whether they possess the dead capital or the live capital—the dead money or the live money—all have the same rights. And I do not see, I confess, why all men should not organize themselves together, so long as they are truly and honestly submissive to one higher and chief, who is superior over us all—the supreme reign of law.—Cardinal Manning.

STATE TAXES ON CORPORATIONS

The Indianapolis Sentinel points to the fact that the State of Wisconsin meets its expenses by taxes on railways, insurance companies and other corporations, and levies no direct tax on the people of the several localities, and says that this is the proper source of State revenues. It declares that a plan of taxation that will separate State and local taxes is the only one under which fair assessments can be brought about. Under such circumstances the local assessors, it thinks, would have no inducement to undervalue property, and a fair and reasonable basis of taxation could thus be had. The plan proposed by the Sentinel is, in some respects, a step backward, but so long as the present sys-

tem of taxation continues, it does have the merit of removing the inducement to undervaluation, about which so much has recently been said in this and other cities. The only advantage that the advocates of the Single Tax could derive from such a change would be the ascertainment of values, which would serve as a basis for more correct estimates of possible revenue under the Single Tax than can now be made. The discussion of the subject is a good thing, as is every other discussion which tends to concentrate public opinion on the great problem of taxation. How widespread this debate is becoming is seen by all readers of newspapers.

A Short Story.

She—Please make me up a dose of castor oil.
Smart clerk (after a lapse of five minutes)—Have a glass of soda, won't you?
She drinks soda and waits for the oil.
Smart Clerk—Anything else, Miss?
She—The castor oil, please.
Smart Clerk—Why, I gave you the oil in the soda!
She—Well, I didn't want it for myself. It was for my brother.

A Sad Mistake.

Mrs. Yerger—Bridget, there is something the matter with the soup. It tastes queer, and everybody who has taken any feels sick. What did you put in it?
Bridget—I made it the same as usual, mum, except, that as there was no salt, mum, in the salt cellar, I took some of the other salt, mum, that ye put on the shelf.
Mrs. Yerger—Great heavens! that was Epsom salts.

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Sleep! Silence, child! Sweet Father of soft rest,
Prince whose approach peace to mortals bring,
Vouchsafed to all of Townsend's bed possessed,
The guests alike of peasant, squire or king,
This bedding is far famed for purity.
If health you wish, then henceforth use no other
But rest and sleep with the assured security
An infant feels when nestling to its mother

Established over 20 Years.

Feather Beds dressed and purified. Mattresses purified and re-made equal to new at the shortest notice. A large stock of IRON BEDSTEADS to be sold below cost to make way for Spring goods. Special prices to Hotels and Boarding Houses.

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Having determined to sell only for Cash in future, I intend selling goods on that merits at ROCK BOTTOM CASH PRICES ONLY.

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PHUNNY ECHOES.

Our English cook—"Now, ma'am, 'ow will you 'ave the duck to-day? Will you heat it cold, or shall I 'eat it for you?"

"Where's your mamma this morning, Dolly?" "Can't find her anywhere, auntie. Perhaps I've killed her; she always said I'd be the death of her."

The visitor (viewing the new baby)—"Do you think he is going to resemble his father?" The mother—"I shouldn't be surprised. He keeps me up every night."

A bad financier.—Minnie to Gus—"Yes, I have an allowance now; and I'm always so hard up the last thirty days of the month that I don't know what to do."

"How many revolutions does the earth have a month?" said the teacher of astronomy. "Do you mean in South America or Europe?" cautiously inquired the boy who reads the paper.

The Utica Herald has found a small boy who speaks up for his sex and defines a bachelor. According to this observant little scion, a bachelor is a man who hasn't got no wife, and doesn't want no wife, and can't get no wife.

In Egypt.—Rude foreigner (meeting British tourist)—"Ah! I see it is true that no one but a pig and an Englishman can face the hot winds." British tourist—"Evidently, for you and I are the only living things abroad."

A New Yorker worth \$25,000,000 says he took the most comfort when his wealth counted up about half a million. A man with a million can take all the comfort that one with \$75,000,000 can buy, and he has only one-seventy-fifth of the cares and anxieties. Stop, young man, at a million.

Blind beggar—"Alas! madame, I am starving." Charitable old lady—"Poor creature! I am sorry to say I have nothing smaller than a ten-dollar gold piece. (She opens her purse.) Not a single smaller piece." Blind beggar—"I beg your pardon, madame; I see a five-dollar bill. (He draws his purse from his pocket.) I can easily change that for you."

The Rev. Dr. Wayland Hoyt tells of a man who kept the people of his town in an extremely nervous condition by prophesying the end of the world. One day an unbeliever asked Mrs. Stewart, the prophet's wife, if she really believed the world was coming to an end on the date he had named. "Well, I don't know," she replied, "but I do hope it will, for it will do Mr. Stewart so much good."

"John," said a New York school teacher to a boy who had come from the West, "you may parse the word 'town.'" "Town' is a noun," said Johnny, "future tense—" "Think again," the teacher interrupted. "A noun couldn't be in the future tense." "I don't know about towns here," said Johnny stoutly, "but half the towns out where I come from are that way."

LIVE LONG, AND LIVE HAPPY.

Statistics prove that wealth does not necessarily favor long life. In Prof. Humphrey's "Report on aged persons," containing an account of 824 individuals of both sexes, and between the ages of 80 and 100, it is stated that 48 per cent. were poor, 42 per cent. were in comfortable circumstances, and only 10 per cent. were described as being in affluent circumstances. High and sumptuous living, a lack of proper exercise, and being continually in the hands of the doctor will account in a large measure for the small percentage who reach old age. The poorer class, and those in moderate and comfortable circumstances, when any of the symptoms of disease show up, as a rule use that great and infallible remedy, Paine's Celery Compound, which is nature's true restorer.

The nervous, used-up, brain-tired mortal is braced up and strengthened for life's battles.

The sleepless, wakeful, irritable, morose, despondent and morbid victim secures sleep, rest, peace of mind, joyousness and vivacity of spirits, and is therefore enabled to enjoy life and long years. Ample proof is on record of the fact that men and women of from 80 to 90 are living to-day through the agency and power of Paine's Celery Compound.

Prosperity Dependent Upon the Demand for Labor.

The cost to a community of maintaining a man in a state of perfect efficiency for mental and physical effort is the same precisely, whether his powers be wasted or reproductively applied. He must eat, be clothed, and be protected from the weather, and must therefore consume a quantity of capital, which is thus withdrawn from the common stock. Although withdrawn and consumed it is not, however, destroyed; it reappears in a higher form, the food having become man, the being made in the likeness of his Creator, and capable of directing the forces of nature for the accomplishment of his purposes. The community thus becomes from hour to hour more wealthy than

before, provided always that the capital thus reproduced be so directed that its consumption shall be in itself an act of further reproduction. The power of man to change the forms of matter so as to fit it to serve his purposes greatly exceeds the demand of the animal man for food and clothing; and all the difference between the quantity of things consumed and the quantity produced is so much added to the general wealth. Each of its individuals, therefore, is capable of adding largely to the common stock; and whether he shall do so or not is dependent altogether on the existence of a prompt demand on the spot for the services he is prepared to render. Labor-power is, of all commodities, the most difficult to be transferred, and the most perishable; for, if not put to use on the instant of its production it is lost forever. Where there is a regular demand for it communities rapidly increase in wealth and power, but where there is not they decline with even more rapidity.—Carey's Social Science.

ARBITRATION IN MASSACHUSETTS.

While there seems to be on the part of a certain section of the labor movement in New York State a disposition to criticize and condemn the State Board of Arbitration as not in any sense filling the purposes for which it was established, the Massachusetts Board seem to have been much more successful. In their recent report to the Legislature the Massachusetts Board state that notwithstanding the friction always attending the best efforts to promote the common welfare of employers and employees they have been able to render direct aid in the settlement of labor controversies immediately affecting thousands of workmen and women with annual earnings amounting to over \$4,000,000, and indirectly benefiting many times that number. They report that some of the strikes have been disastrous to the workers who engaged in them, as the employers had made combinations among themselves and made an organized resistance to the organizations of the employees. The vain attempts to settle differences in these cases have only served to intensify the feelings of hostility on either side; but where the Board was permitted to exercise its functions by bringing parties together on terms of equality, and reducing the causes of difference to a minimum, reason and conciliation have prevailed, and the Board has succeeded in effecting favorable settlements.

The Massachusetts method and its principles of arbitration have, it is claimed, attracted attention in other States of the Union as well as in Europe and Canada, and students of political economy in the colleges and professions make frequent use of the reports of the Board. One feature is the establishment of wage lists as standards which, with proper adjustment to the circumstances of each case, have served to bring about an agreement of the parties most interested.

It would be well if the New York State Board were to be vested with like authority and to receive like directions. Under the present law its powers are so limited as to leave the Commissioners powerless, except where there is a mutual disposition to arbitrate and abide by the decision. The Commissioners feel that they have been unjustly censured by the official organ of the Knights of Labor for the report made by them in the case of the ill-advised and disastrous strike on the New York Central Railroad. To a representative of the Irish World Commissioner Donovan, the representative of the labor interests on the Board, spoke strongly of what he regarded as unfair and ungrateful treatment. He courted the fullest investigation to show whether or not he had been faithful to the trust reposed in him and to his oath of office, while at the same time consistent with his principles and convictions as a friend of the working people. During the present session of the State Legislature it is to be hoped that the laws under which the Arbitrators are empowered to act will be so amended as to give promise of more practical results than can be hoped for under the present system.

A Moment of Terror.

Algernon, dear, you silly fellow, what made you turn so pale when you proposed? Were you so awfully afraid that I would say no? No, dearest, it was not that which alarmed me. I heard your father calling in the dog.

The Magician Time.

Mother—What is the matter, Clara? You look distressed.
Clara (a bride)—George has—has had to go off on a—trip, and he won't be back for—two days—boo-hoo!
Same mother (some years later)—How long will your husband be away?
Same Clara—I forgot to ask.

With a Susceptible Artist.

Mr. Winthrop—Tell me, Jack, does it take long to paint the portrait of a lady?
Jack—Well, if she's pretty, it takes a long, long time.

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THE ECHO ESTABLISHMENT

329 St. James Street, MONTREAL,

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by the Boarders.

"Does a tariff on the products of labor protect labor itself, is a question the workingmen of Canada will have to answer correctly within the next few weeks," said Brown. "Now, does it protect labor?"

"Certainly not," said Phil. "The prosperity of the laborer depends, first: upon the amount of money he receives in exchange for his labor, and second: upon the purchasing power of that money. If his wages were regulated by the price of the products of labor then something might be said in defence of this policy of protection, but they are not. His wages are regulated by the law of supply and demand, and whenever the supply of labor is greater than the demand, wages will go down in spite of all the tariffs you may enact; and whenever the demand is greater than the supply, wages must of necessity rise, no matter what the price of the products may be; the tariff has nothing whatever to do with it excepting in so far that it reduces the purchasing power of what little you do earn in exactly the same ratio as the amount of duty collected on the articles you consume. A duty on the products of labor enables those who manufacture them to compel the consumer to pay thirty or thirty-five per cent more than what they are worth, or for which they could be imported, while at the same time he takes every advantage of the overcrowded labor market to reduce your wages. This explains in part how a few are enabled in a comparatively short time to amass millions, while the great majority of the people can hardly keep the wolf from the door."

"But," said Sinnett, "the protective policy has induced capital to embark in enterprises of all kinds, and by doing so it has employed labor and kept the money in the country which otherwise would have been paid for foreign cheap goods." "But who has this money? Have you got it? And if you haven't what good is it to you?" said Sharkey. "The importation of foreign cheap goods has never and will never do you any harm, but the importation of foreign cheap labor cannot help but reduce your wages. If the protectionists wanted to protect the interests of the Canadian workingmen they would have placed such a high tax on every individual worker landing on our shores as would practically make it impossible for him to come; such action would make labor scarce in Canada and wages would rise; the demand for labor would soon exceed the supply, and the laborer would become more independent, but that is exactly what the protectionists don't want. They don't want the laborer to be independent, they want him to live from hand to mouth, so that he may be more submissive and helpless, and for this reason they placed a tariff of thirty-five cents on every dollar's worth of goods he consumes, and then by assisted passages and money grants, by misrepresentation and windy promises made by their authorized agents, induced foreign cheap labor to come here and compete in an already overcrowded labor market in order to reduce wages. The manufacturer shares the benefits of protection with his employees in the same way as the sailor shared the pudding with the soldier: he cut it in halves and took the ends, leaving the soldier the rest. It's a game of 'heads I win and tails you lose.'"

"Anyway," said Sinnett, "the question isn't free trade or protection, but restricted or unrestricted reciprocity with the States."

"The question is nothing of the kind," said Brown, "it is plain and simple, free trade or protection. Unrestricted reciprocity with the States two years from now will mean free

trade with all the world. No man who can read the signs of the times will deny that protection is deadlier than a door nail in the States; it is only a question of time, and a short time at that, when free traders will control national affairs in Washington; and if the workingmen of Canada do their duty on the 5th March free traders will control our national affairs at Ottawa after that date. The whole question in a nutshell is this: If Canadian workingmen are willing to take sixty-five cents for every dollar they earn, then they will vote for Sir John and his policy; if, on the other hand, they believe in receiving a hundred cents for their dollar, then they will support the Liberal candidates, no matter by whom they are opposed. Let them place principle before men.

BILL BLADES.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RECIPROCITY AND WAGES.

To the Editor of THE ECHO:

SIR,—In its edition of to-night, in a lengthy article worded "Workingmen and Reciprocity," the Witness ridicules the idea that Unrestricted Reciprocity will in any way lessen the wages of the workingman. It asserts that as a result of the policy higher wages would move in Canada—also that living would cost more. So that it amounts to the same thing. There is not much use in earning more if you are compelled to spend more. But the object of my letter was to ask this question: How does the Witness reconcile its present statement in re high wages with the fact that during the Mackenzie Administration that paper cut down the price of its own employees, at first 20 per cent, and then 10 per cent, besides, man and boy alike? If that is the way free trade with the U. S. affects us—if that is raising our wages—the sooner the free trade cry is abolished the better. Perhaps, however, the Witness would like another opportunity to lessen their wages sheet at the expense of their intelligent, though much abused, staff of compositors.

Yours truly,

SINGLE PRICE TABLE.

Montreal, February 17, 1911.

PILING IT ON THE LABOR HORSE.

There is no fad however ridiculous, no humbug however apparent or pretentious, and no fraud however stupendous, that has not at some time or other attempted to attach itself to the labor engine, so that it might be pulled into port by the moral force of that movement. Long-haired men and short-haired women, professional foreigners and barrel-house politicians, silver schemes and green-back schemers, pension sharks and land sharks, all have at times undertaken to use the labor movement in the interest of their nefarious schemes of plunder.

While standing in the rotunda of the capitol at Washington last August the writer was approached by a professional lobbyist and introduced to an individual whose card bore the seducing announcement "Chairman of the Committee on Eight-hour Claims." He claimed to be, and no doubt was, the master workman of a political knight of labor assembly in Washington. His special mission was to look after and advance the interests of a bill then pending in the House, but which was this week practically rejected by the Senate, which provided for the adjustment of wages under the national eight-hour law of 1868. There was no question as to the equity of the proposition. These claims should certainly be paid to the men who did the work, "but," we asked the chairman of the committee on eight-hour claims, "what is the real inspiring motive of those who are behind this thing? Is it to get money for the men who did the work or for some one else?" "Oh, of course," he replied, "there are some expenses that will have to be provided for out of what is procured from the Government, and then we have to make a fair allowance for the risk in time and money of those gentlemen who have contributed both to assist us." It finally developed that a large number of the claims, aggregating several million dollars, had already been assigned to the gentlemen who contributed time and money to procure the passage of the bill, and if the real claimants ever receive anything, if the bill should pass, it would not exceed twenty-five or perhaps fifty per cent; the balance goes to the sand baggers.

Now this is what honest labor objects to, and yet it has apparently not the power to free itself from the clutches of these sharks. The Government owes the workmen these claims, and they ought to be paid, but when provision is made to do this it should be understood and provided for that not one cent shall go to the sharks and sand baggers.—The Rights of Labor.

WOES OF THE WORKING PEOPLE.

Willing Hands and Empty Stomachs in the Wealthiest City in America.

The New York World has made a careful survey of the condition of the laboring classes at the metropolis, and it states that there are no less than 160,000 people in that city crying for work. The number of the unemployed is larger than ever before in the history of the city. There are fully 100,000 mechanics and artisans out of work, and 50,000 more people with no trade and no occupation. Add to these about 10,000 people composing the usual driftwood of society and the total is large enough to alarm the most conservative and distress the most hard-hearted. The building trades' section of the Central Labor Union numbers from 80,000 to 90,000. Of these about 45,000 are out of work. The class of men who suffer the most are the laborers, numbering 15,000, their wages being so small that they can not pay up money for seasons of idleness.

There are thousands of workers in the clothing trades without employment, as the holiday rush has ended, and the spring trade has not yet taken any decided shape. Great hordes of men and women are compelled to remain in idleness. Longshoremen have never had as prosperous times in this city as the period during the war. Contrasted with the condition of these sturdy workers to-day that by-gone time of plenty seems like a vision of good things which have passed away in a mist. The reality to-day is a saddening one. More than 10,000 are to be found at any hour lounging along the river fronts eagerly looking for something to do. The number of men seeking employment along the river front has increased far in excess of the proportionate increase of the commerce of the city until to-day there are fifty men ready to fill one man's place. The result has been the reduction of wages to a point far below what was paid seven or eight years ago. The protective unions which the men had built up to save themselves from the tyranny or close-fistedness of employers have been broken up, and the longshoremen of the present are without any means at hand to enable them to improve their condition or at all advance their interests from the unenviable plight in which they are placed.

Of the purely unskilled laboring element in the city, more than a third find themselves without work when winter sets in. When in this predicament they seek relief, some of them from friends, others in the streets, and many of them even go so far as appear before the justices in the police courts.

There are always at least 3,000 idle men in and around the depots of the street railway companies. These men are known as extras, and act as substitutes for drivers, conductors or stablemen who may be off duty for the time being. The policy of the management of these roads seems to be to hire as many men as they can get, and fill them with the delusive hope that they will get enough of work to keep body and soul together at least. They must attend at the depot every morning and answer to their names, or if they absent themselves, they "go down" to the bottom of the lists that are kept by each company. The worst feature of the condition of such employees as the street car men and unskilled laborers is that they do not foster benevolent or industrial organizations which might tend to help them in their hours of want or trial.

Out of 6,000 compositors in the city, there are 5,000 strongly organized in Typographical Union No. 6. Of the total, there are 500 men out of work at present. There are 150 pressmen and feeders seeking employment, and in the other branches of the printing trade there are 500 men without anything to do. Among the printers there are over a thousand men who depend largely on their chances as "substitutes." These men may get two or three days' work a week, or they may not get a day. Practically speaking, the "sub" has to take his chances just as he has to take the weather—whether he likes it or not.

There are 500 telegraph operators without situations. These men and women are finding a new condition of affairs staring them in the face as the world grows older. Schools of telegraphy have multiplied to such an extent that "graduates" are turned out in thousands every year to compete with men and women who have practically grown with "the key" in their hands.

In the tobacco workers' trades there is also a very decided dullness. Of the 6,500 cigar-makers in the city over 1,200 are now idle. Cigarette-makers: 1,000 of them are also out of employment. Salesmen to the number of 1,000 are vainly looking for work. About 500 shipping clerks experienced a like condition of affairs. Porters, packers, and book-keepers to away up in thousands can be found by merely asking for them.

It is a pregnant and striking fact that American slavery was never afraid of American religion.

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