









THOSE SORRY JESTERS

(Written for THE ECHO by Cyrille Horstot.)

It is the hardest of all jobs to get through any of the legislatures and City Council even the pettiest bill or request to lighten the shackles of labor, and it often seems scarcely worth while to keep on trying. These bodies of stipendiaries are all under the rule of the lords of misrule, and they don't care a snap about the ruck of voters for whose ballots they whine and grimace like Neapolitan beggars at every election. A wink from a money king or a nod from a factory slave driver counts infinitely more to them than all the humble petitions that could be piled up before their eyes in a century. Many clear-sighted men have persistently urged the workers to carry into politics the vital questions of life and liberty, and thus to procure such necessary legislation as ought to be early obtained by the majority under our political system. Use the old parties, if you can; start a new party, if you can; run such candidates that you think will suit you; but, in some way, take hold of the all-controlling agency of the state as a means for rescuing the people from the sad plight in which they are kept, and defeat the machinations of their foes. But we are almost thrown into despair of the political policy by its working in our legislatures during their sessions every year, and by the afflicting farces played every day, all the year round, at the public expense, by a set of notorious and well-known mountebanks in our civic sanctuary. Although the wrongs of misrule, nowadays, exist more or less, in every quarter of the globe, we will limit our remarks only on the north part of this continent in which we are the most concerned. In the legislatures of at least half the States of the union as well as the Dominion, we have seen many measures introduced to ameliorate some of the grosser evils under which certain classes of working people especially suffer; but, in almost every case, these measures have been booted out of nearly every legislature at the direct bidding of the golden calf. We are not speaking of "radical" bills, for we have heard of none such; we are but referring to those palliatives of reformers forced to the front after having been under debate through long years. We have classified a few of these bills that have been brought from Quebec to California. We find among them anti-child labor, fewer hours for factory women and a shortening of the legal day's work; we find mechanics' lien and employers' liability bills; we find prison labor bills, a score of them; we find bills for the abolition of conspiracy laws, and for blacklisting and of the "truck" system; we find bills providing for weekly payments; we find bills for mine ventilation and for the sanitary inspection of factories, mills and workshops; we find bills for the fostering of co-operative companies, for the founding of industrial schools and for the establishment of state boards of arbitration; surely all these are bills well deserving of the honest consideration that has been refused them. The enemy's tools in nearly all the legislatures have fought every one of them. Capitalism has set its foot against the slightest interference with any of the powers which it has wrested from mankind, and which are now turned to the enslavement and debasing condition of millions of God's creatures. In Maine, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Missouri and many other places, the ten hours factory bill for women and children was a farce, and in our very city of Montreal we were an eyewitness in a factory where some poor girls were compelled to give very often two and three hours overtime without receiving a single red cent as compensation, and if they refused, were discharged by the slave driver of the firm. In the anthracite regions the

bill for the protection of miners has been pigeonholed though hundreds of human beings are killed every year through corporation negligence and scores starved to death or murdered by hiring assassins. It is a nameless shame for all these bodies of demagogues and mercenaries who are elected by the workers to vote for their adversaries. In looking over the whole field we are disposed to agree with our friend D. P. that it is wasting time to petition legislatures or city councils for this or that beggarly measure of justice. Let us not waste the best of our lives striving for those things that even were we to get would leave us but very little better off than we are now. Millions of people are coming to agree that it is futile to expect such laws as the working people need from these capitalist legislatures and city councils. Every effort of the workingmen to secure a recognition of their rights and furtherance of their interest by the state and local authorities has utterly failed in its accomplishment. The aims and desires of organized labor have been continually and designedly ignored by those who have been elected to represent them in the state assemblies and councils, thus preventing them from securing any protection against the encroachment of unjust capitalists. Even when a thing is demanded by a direct vote of the people their will is thwarted, as may be seen by the way in which they gamble and laugh over our petitions at each of their sittings. The facts that we give are the experience of the past, after all the promises that were made and are made to every labor deputation, who get in return for their trouble and expenses lumps of "taffy." The gentlemen who did these wrongs will find to their cost that the workingmen every day acquire more "pluck" and have better memories now than formerly, and are not nearly so ready to forgive the misconduct of their representatives, as they had shown them lately and will at every election time. The whole business must bring something like despair even to the hopeful minds. The trail of the serpent is over it all. It must lead workingmen and reformers to look to some other engine of action than the politics of capital, and to some other agents of relief than the double-faced demagogues who run or are accessories to run the parties machines. Many reformers, nowadays, are of different opinion how to settle the existing disparities between labor and capital; some do not deny that the ballot might be of some service to the working people, but think it will not until the masses get so educated as to vote like a unit for their cause. When will that be? "The thing very plain for the working people to do, they say, is to abolish the modern slavery, the private property system, the property qualification to become aldermen and the restriction of that omnipotent power consigned in the hands of the few who, instead of being the servants of the people, as they ought to be, are, on the contrary, the traders of its rights and liberties that they sell to the highest bidders every day and everywhere; but it is very likely this must be done by armed revolution." Of course, that is the opinion of every sensible man; but when the working people are ready to fight, and thus to sacrifice their lives, for the abolition of "modern slavery or the private property system" they will surely be ready to vote for it. This job, like all other jobs, should be done with the greatest possible economy of force and the least waste. The ballot is more economical than the sword; you can put as much power into the ballot as into the sword, and you can do the work as well by the ballot as by the sword. It does not require any more "education" to use the ballot wisely than the sword, in a case of this kind. The working people are more likely to be a "unit" in favor of an armed revolution than a ballot box revolution. The people would have to

be "educated" up to fighting against private property no less than to voting against it. The mere destruction of property, even though all property were destroyed, would not root out the "principle" of "private property" from society; and, unless the reason of the community were turned against that principle, it would revive with the reconstruction of those things now called property. Private property, as we have it, is a fiction of the law, and that fiction is the thing for our friends to destroy. Reason is the logical engine of destruction. The reason of the community is the thing for genuine revolutionists to get hold of. The ballot is the weapon at its hands. Through that omnipotent weapon the community can put an end even to "private property" if the reason of the community runs that way. But if this reason does not run that way, what would be the sense in mere blind fighting? We uphold armed revolution when it is necessary, as it was the case in England, France, the United States and other places at times when the ballot box was unknown, but when the bone and sinew of a country detest the system of "private property" so much as to be ready to take up arms against it, the system will be abolished without the necessity of armed revolt. In conclusion we will never cease to repeat that the worst foes of our unification are not the employers; but the miserable blacklegs who stuff their small brain with unwholesome sophisms supplied them by some crafty sycophants of the press and others, ill-advised anti-humanists who laugh heartily at the result of what their mischievous teachings do every day in the ranks of organized labor, where the tendency of so many windy demagogues is solely to create dissension.

**UNION IS STRENGTH.**

**THE BUILDERS' LABORERS**

Have an Enthusiastic Meeting and add Greatly to their Number.

A mass meeting was held by the members of the Builders' Laborers' Union of Montreal last Tuesday evening at their hall, 1623 Notre Dame street, for the purpose of reorganizing their union. A very large audience was present. The meeting was opened by the chairman, Mr. Paul Desrosier, who, after having explained the object of the meeting, read letters of regret from Mr. C. Chapleau, of Lowell, Mass.; Mr. J. Lafrance, of Chicago, and Mr. L. Z. Boudreau, of this city, for their inability to attend, after which he called upon Mr. J. Easton to address the audience. Mr. Easton gave a very clear explanation of the union's condition from the time it first started up to the present time; also how the members had acted and how they should have acted, and wound up with an appeal to all who did not belong to the union and those who formerly belonged to it to rejoin, attend its meetings, assist their officers, lend a helping hand to make it what it ought to be, the leading union of Montreal. After his remarks had been translated into French, Mr. G. S. Warren was called upon to address the meeting, which he did in French and English. Mr. Warren first drew attention to the reason why they were assembled together. He explained the amount of good that had been derived by such gatherings, and strongly advised them to unite and they would have good results from such a union. Speaking of how labor had progressed during the past twenty years, he remarked that while he was at the last session of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress one of the delegates drew his attention to the fact that one organization represented at the congress cast nine votes every time a ballot was taken, which meant that their union was 900 strong. What union was this? said the speaker, and the answer was: It was the Builders' Laborers' Union of Toronto. Then, if the Builders' Laborers' Union of Toronto, a city with a much smaller population than Montreal, can muster 900, what is to prevent the Montreal builders' laborers from having as strong a union as Toronto? and if they would unite they could soon boast of even greater numbers and greater power than Toronto. It is a duty, said the speaker, imposed upon all by the Divine law that they should support their families in a proper manner. He who had placed them upon this earth had also placed plenty of the comforts of life upon it for them, and it was a well known fact

that they were not receiving anything like a fair share of those comforts. Whose fault was it? It was their own. If they would organize they would have a better opportunity of getting their rights, as it has been clearly shown all over the world that only through organization has any workman ever received a fair remuneration for his toil. After a further exhortation to combine and fight their cause like true and loyal men who were born to be free men and not white slaves, he announced that his friend, Mr. Jos. Gingras, would deliver a short address. Mr. Gingras begged to be excused from speaking long, as the evening was very night spent. He advised the men to begin to organize with a new spirit. He explained how organizations that he belonged to had failed three times before they got well organized. He kindly tendered them his services every Tuesday evening for the next six months. He then thanked them for the opportunity they had given him of addressing them. A resolution was passed thanking the speakers, and another to call a second mass meeting for next Tuesday at the same place. Every builders' laborer present enrolled himself as a member. After passing a vote of thanks to the chairman the meeting, which was very enthusiastic throughout, adjourned.

**THE INTERNATIONAL TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION.**

Election of Officers.

The International Typographical Union has been in session in Boston since Monday last, a large number of delegates from all parts of the United States and Canada being present. On Thursday the proposition to create a "law officer" was reported favorably from committee, but was defeated. The committee's report setting apart 33 1/2 per cent. of the capita tax for a burial fund, \$50 to be allowed for burial expenses of each member, was adopted. W. B. Prescott, of Toronto, Ont., was elected president on the second ballot, his opponents being Marion Johnson, of Fort Worth, Tex., and S. L. Freeman, of Birmingham, Ala. Among other officers elected were: First vice-president, J. H. McKenna, New York; secretary-treasurer, W. S. McClevy, Indianapolis.

**The Baccarat Case.**

In the British House of Commons on Monday next Mr. William Summers, Liberal, and Mr. Henry Peyton Cobb, Radical, will question the Secretary of State for War as to what action he intends to take in regard to the three officers, Field Marshal the Prince of Wales, General Owen Williams and Lieutenant Berkeley Levetit of the Scots Fusilier Guards, who signed the document which practically allowed Sir William Gordon Cumming to remain an officer of the British army, although he was believed to have cheated at cards.

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24 in. wide, 9 1/2 a yard.  
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20 Different Shades in Twill Beiges  
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Suitable for Children's Dresses. Double fold.  
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Fancy Striped Homespun  
Fancy Spotted Homespun  
44 inch wide — 44 inch.  
Prices range from 33c, 44c, 47c, etc., etc.  
Fancy All-Wool Canadian Tweed. 68c yd.  
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Ladies will find a full assortment and all the newest Checks and Striped Tweed for travelling costumes at reduced prices.  
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BLACK SURAH SILK  
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Some splendid lines of Black and Colored Surah Silk received for this week and marked very low. Prices range from 50c upward.  
**THE VERY BEST.**  
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## OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by the Boarders.

"There is a great deal of unnecessary 'gush' just now about the heroic way Sir John struggled with death, and the care and devotion of his wife in nursing him," said Brown. "If the reports are to be relied upon, the Premier has been unconscious for days, and all this newspaper talk of 'fighting' death is mere balderdash, for an unconscious man is unable to fight anything. For years Sir John has administered the affairs of this country in the interests of capital, and it would be strange indeed if the subsidized and sycophantic press, this hiring tool of capital, did not stick to him to the last; but in their anxiety to prove their loyalty to the class which employs them they are overdosing the thing, and people are beginning to get disgusted with it. As far as labor is concerned, Sir John has consistently promised to look after it and its interests 'to-morrow.' For our cause he has done nothing, and there is no occasion for any workingman to feel sorry that he has paid his debt to Nature. Manufacturers, combinesters and capitalistic sharks generally will feel sorry to lose a man who was ever willing and anxious to advance their interests, but laboring men will never miss him."

"As to this talk about the devotion and kindness of his wife," said Phil, "that's all bosh. There are thousands and thousands of wives in this Dominion to-day who not only nurse their husbands with as much care and devotion, with as much love and self-sacrifice as Lady Macdonald did, but who actually have to earn the money that buys the nourishment and medicine for their sick to boot, and yet never a word is said about them. And yet their task is harder, and the strain on their system must necessarily be greater than is that of a woman who has everything needed at her command. There is not to-day in Canada a workingman's wife who, under similar circumstances and advantages, would have done any less for her husband than did the Premier's wife for her's, and there are, as I have said before, thousands who do a great deal more every day in the week, yet you look in vain through the columns of the daily press for mention of the heroine of the 'laborer's home.' Therefore, all this 'gush' about Lady Macdonald becomes nauseating and intolerable."

"You don't understand this thing right," said Gaskill. "Among the upper crust it is so seldom that a man does full justice to the woman he calls wife, and more seldom still that a wife does full justice to her husband that whenever either one or the other does do it this extraordinary event is telegraphed all over the globe. The great mass of the people know that members of the upper ten have little or no conception of duty, they know their morality ain't worth two cents, and they regard them with abhorrence. The upper ten are well aware of this, and just to show the masses that there are exceptions even among their clique, they make the most of every case where a man or woman has proved themselves man or woman in the full sense of the word. The only trouble is that these cases are few and far between. With a workingman or his wife the thing is altogether different. Their whole life is one continuous sacrifice, one long look out for death, and they do their full duty to each other as becomes man and wife. There is no necessity to advertise this fact; this devotion, this love, this self-sacrifice which in Lady Macdonald's case the public press lauds to the skies can be found at every sick bed in the humble home of every workingman. With us it is a matter of course, a natural sequence, with them it has become a very rare exception, the greatest proof of which is the desire of the capitalistic

press to make the most of their case. They are welcome to all the glory they can get out of it."

"With Sir John's death closes a chapter in Canadian history," said Brown. "He was smart and clever and—unscrupulous. To maintain himself in power he would have bought the devil himself. I don't suppose that he was any worse than any other professional politician, but he was by no means the demi-god the papers would make him. He was no friend of labor and its aspirations, but bent all his energies to perpetuate a system which enriched the few at the expense of the many. Let these few and their hangers on mourn for him; the many will never feel his loss."

BILL BLADES.

## "SCRAPS" FOR CIGARMAKERS

I observed in last week's issue an article correcting "Scraps," in which the writer attempts to explain the cause of the cigarmakers' conference in Canada not being successful. Now, before going any further, I want to correct "Long Fillers" in a statement that he makes, in which he says he read in last week's issue of THE ECHO where the Cigarmakers' Union No. 97, of Boston, was going to hold an eight hours conference, etc.

It distinctly states that Union No. 97, of Boston, intends taking part in the eight hour movement on July 4 at Franklin Park, and apart from that, they intend to found a New England Conference, not for the special purpose of discussing the eight hour movement, as "Long Fillers" would have it understood, but everything that will be a benefit to them. "Long Fillers" admits the good that would have resulted from such a conference had it been a permanent institution. He says that G. S. W., with hands tied, done all in his power to better the condition of cigarmakers in Canada.

In reply to the above statement I am convinced, from the explanation he gave, it was not from a practical point of view, and will try and show some reasons, in as brief a way as possible.

After the necessary arrangements were made for a conference in Toronto and the delegates present, they pass resolutions for the good and welfare of all cigarmakers in Canada, but decided that before carrying these resolutions into effect they were to be brought before the convention at Binghampton for adoption, though it has been admitted that they in no way conflicted with the International Constitution. If such was the case, why did they not begin immediately to put into practical operation the work done at this convention? Would it not have been the means of interesting a large number of our fraternity in trying to bring these resolutions to be felt all over Canada, more especially when they would be aware that wherever a Union existed that they, too, were doing all in their power to make a successful crusade against all the abuses existing in our trade. And, admitting that the convention held at Binghampton did not endorse these resolutions, why did they not commence this crusade? I would in no way have been a violation of the constitution, and would have proved their sincerity.

Now, the difference between the special legislation asked for by the California Union and the endorsement of resolutions asked for by Canadian Unions is, that the former wanted the International Union to take their grievances up and be looked after by the general body, while the latter merely asked for the endorsement of resolutions passed at the Canadian conference, as stated by "Long Fillers," which, if not supported, did not in any way prevent them from going on with the work intended to be done in Canada. And, admitting that those resolutions were adopted, in what respect would they be of assistance to Canada unless they were voted a sufficient sum of money from the general fund to defray expenses incurred in carrying out these resolutions? It is not the approval of the International Union that would make them a success. While it would give us more courage to carry on the good work, it certainly would not defray such expenses as would be required to bring it to a successful issue. And if money was voted for such a purpose, would it not (as in the past) be under the direction of the Executive head of the International Union; which would, to a certain extent, mean the abolishing of the Canadian conference; for if the work intended to be done by this conference was taken up by the International Union what need would there be of a conference? This Canadian conference, which took place at Toronto in, in my opinion, nothing more or less than a caucus of Canadian delegates (who made a very weak attempt to carry into effect those resolutions which they adopted) who would have the International Union shoulder all the expense of improving the condition of cigar-

makers in Canada while they sit by and reap the harvest, and who now tell us that if the Canadian conference was not a success it was due to the International Union. What absurdity. The assertion that cigarmakers are doing their best in Canada to improve their condition does not go any further than on paper.

Is advertising non-union with Union cigars?

Is patronizing places where non-union cigars are sold?

Is attending political instead of union meetings?

Is trying to use the organization for your own benefit?

Is granting the label to shops that fail to comply with the letter of the law, or have a definite understanding as to what is necessary to receive the use of the Blue Label?

Is this what "Long Filler" terms progressing as well as we can, or is it playing into the hands of the enemy under guise of Unionism?

I do not wish to say that such a state of affairs exists throughout Canada; but I am positive they have and do exist in some parts.

As for a lecturer, I do believe that it would result in being a great benefit in Canada, as our label is not properly advertised and our organization very incomplete. But what is to prevent the six or seven hundred union men in Canada from being lecturers, wherever an opportunity presents itself, until such time as we will be accorded a lecturer from the International Union? What a different story it would be if such were the case. This is progressing from a practical point of view.

Now, in conclusion, I would suggest to that good-willed and active Third Vice-President of the International Union to organize a Canadian conference (not to meet and elect officers, pass resolutions, and then disband) that will adopt a plan of campaign against all dealers in non-union cigars throughout Canada, notify local Unions to that effect and have them report at least once a month to the Third Vice-President, said reports to be published in the Cigarmakers' Journal or such Labor paper as may be deemed proper. This can be done at a nominal cost; no need of having a convention to decide this matter; we have a good postal system in Canada and a telegraph one also, if need be necessary. Then we will be a practical people, seeking to better the condition of our more unfortunate brothers who are compelled to submit to the unjust tyranny practiced by unscrupulous employers in our trade.

You've got to have a spittoon to hold your job in some shops, and pay for it too!

The usual lay off for stock is carried out to perfection, Friday and Saturday being the popular days.

The old timer from Boston, who arrived here last week after several years' absence, during which time he accumulated considerable wealth, intends to settle down and enjoy the comforts of life.

There would be a different story to tell by the Shamrocks had the captain insisted on playing our reliable Alec on Saturday. The general verdict reached by the scraps who witnessed the game was that the Shamrocks were not in it. There were no pools made, owing to the absence of Bookmaker Silver. Much regret was expressed at his inability to be present.

I am surprised at some members attempting to levy an assessment on the members of the Union in this city for the purpose of donating a present to one of their ex-members. It would be more creditable and beneficial were they as much interested in the welfare of their union, instead of coercing members to contribute for such a purpose. Advertise your label and you will have more satisfactory returns for the trade in general.

SCRAPS.

## MACDONALD.

Low lies a lofty head,  
Calm be his rest and deep,  
Tears by a nation shed  
Hallow the Chieftain's sleep.

A light among mankind, he passed  
From the world like a brilliant sun,  
Whose grandeur lingered till the last,  
As if its reign had but begun.

He loved that flag, now half-mast high,  
As man will love his liberty,  
Upholding it till death came by  
And gained its awful victory.

The flood of years will still roll on,  
And bring its changes as of yore,  
Yet in their course Macdonald's voice  
Will still be heard although no more.

—WELLINGTON NENDICK.

## Knights of Labor.

It is understood that the General Executive Council of the Knights of Labor will meet in this city next month. The Council holds its annual sessions in different cities, and we believe the members have already decided upon Montreal for their annual convention of 1891. The Council will likely

sit for a week, during which period some very important labor questions will be decided.

## ENGLAND'S TRIBUTE

To the Memory of Sir John A. Macdonald.

LONDON, June 12.—Solemn and impressive was the memorial service held in Westminster Abbey this morning as England's tribute to the memory of the late Right Honorable Sir John Alexander Macdonald, Premier of Canada. The Very Rev. Dean Bradley conducted the service. Amongst the great and distinguished assemblage of English and colonial personages present were Lord Waldegrave, who represented Her Majesty the Queen; General Ellis, who was present on behalf of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales; the Marquis of Lorne, Lord Brassey, representing the Imperial Federation League. The Imperial Government was represented by Lord Knutsford, Colonial Secretary, and the Right Hon. William Henry Smith. The following prominent persons were also present: Lord Kimberley, Lord Mount Stephen (formerly Sir George Stephen), Lord Aberdeen, the Right Hon. Wellesley Peel, Speaker of the

House of Commons, General Laurie, Sir Richard Temple, Sir Selby Smith, Sir Stafford Northcote, the Countess Burdett-Couts and Lady Galt, the Hon. C. C. Colby, Messrs. Rae and Redpath, Mr. Courtney, Canadian Deputy Minister of Finance, and the various colonial agents resident in London.

H. R. H. the Princess Louise is unwell or she also would have been present.

Sir Charles Tupper was detained at the International Postal Congress at Vienna.

An appropriate portion of the burial service was read and the lesson for the day. The famous choir of the historic Abbey rendered with great feeling and solemnity Spohr's anthem, "Blessed are the Departed." The assemblage sang a hymn, the collect was read, and finally the Dead March in Saul was played on the organ, all standing while it was rendered.

The following is the standing of the National Baseball League:

	Won	Lost
Chicago.....	25	17
New York.....	26	16
Philadelphia.....	21	23
Boston.....	22	21
Cleveland.....	21	24
Pittsburg.....	18	23
Brooklyn.....	21	22
Cincinnati.....	18	26

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Housekeepers, look to your interests and

## BUY STROUD'S TEAS AND COFFEES.

Have you tried STROUD'S 30c Black, Green or Japan Teas? If not, do so and save 10c to 20c per lb. This is no catch, and any person finding these Teas not as represented will have their money refunded.

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