

THE ORGANIZATION OF LABOR

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(FROM THE METHODIST MAGAZINE.)

(CONCLUDED.)

And there is this further argument, that if the employers are allowed to keep the "blacklegs," as they are called, there will be so much less employment for the men who have been on strike. Mark you, I would leave just the same right to the master. A master has a perfect right, if he thinks he can beat the union, to get in all the "blacklegs" he can obtain; and he has an unanswerable claim upon the civil authorities to see that his works and the non-unionists are properly protected. He has a right, again, when the men are beaten, to refuse to take back more than he wants. It is industrial warfare, which cannot be carried on without the running of risks on both sides. But if we see no way of preventing the war, we can at any rate take care that each side is given the same terms; and this cannot be unless both are given the fullest liberty to offer such conditions, either for employing or for working, as they think fit.

This concession was not made in England until 1875, when the last vestige of the law of conspiracy, so far as it affected labor combinations, was abolished, and it was enacted that only such acts were to be criminal when committed by a unionist as would be criminal if committed by an individual who did not belong to a combination. Canadian law, as I understand it, has not yet reached that point; the old common law of what is called *conspiracy* is still in force here.* As late as two years ago, in the case of Gibson and others, in the city of Hamilton, three men were sentenced to three months' imprisonment because they moved, seconded and supported a resolution inflicting a fine upon any of their number who worked for the corporation while it retained a certain person in its employ. I know nothing about the special circumstances of the case; but as far as I can gather, the judge laid down that a mere agreement not to work for a particular employer so long as he retained a certain person in his employ was a criminal offence. I can conceive of few things more disastrous than an attempt to enforce such law; it ought to be amended at the earliest possible moment, and the law assimilated to that of England; for by enforcing it a feeling of soreness is created which will stand in the way of industrial peace—a soreness which is quite justifiable; for, however well-meaning such action may be, it displays unwillingness and inability to recognize the fundamental principle of unionism.

To sum up this part of the argument it must be recognized (1) that the formation of unions is justifiable; (2) that this principle brings with it certain consequences—as, for instance, that unions must act through their officials; that if they have reasonable grounds for believing that they can be permanently successful, they are justified in striking; and finally that they have a right to try to get certain conditions, just as the masters have a right to refuse to employ any one of them.

All this, when one comes to deal with any particular case is but preliminary; but in human affairs difficulties often arise more from the preliminaries than from the questions ultimately at issue. I regard strikes as a most grievous outcome of the present economic situation. The machinery of the union is largely a machinery for industrial war; and we must all hope that some better way may show itself by-and-by of adjusting the shares which the various participants in production are to re-

ceive. Moreover, I am very far from thinking that workmen are always in the right, and victimised martyrs; just as I do not believe that employers are always in the right, and models of equity. What, then, do all these preliminary considerations "amount to?" They "amount to" this: There will be a much greater chance of an amicable settlement of disputes, and, if the men are mistaken, the employers will be far more likely to persuade them, if there is a complete recognition from the outset of the principle of unionism and its necessary consequences. And again, I am as strong as anyone, perhaps stronger than many, in maintaining that it is the first duty of the civil authority to keep order and punish violence by whomsoever committed. To allow non-unionists even to be "hust'ed" with impunity, and still more to be assaulted—to permit, for example, street car lines to be taken possession of by strikers—is a lamentable exhibition of weakness on the part of the magistrates. But the magistrates would be able to do their duty with more firmness, and the men would be more disposed to keep order, if the public did not frequently confuse together altogether different issues. Violence and unionism may chance to go together, but they are not necessarily connected, and they ought not to be condemned in the same breath, as they so often are. If the well-to-do classes persist in treating them as necessarily going together, is it any wonder that ignorant men, who feel that their unionism is not wrong, should feel also that violence is not so very wrong?

I said just now that the method of strikes and lockouts is the method of industrial warfare, and it is warfare with much the same weapons as in the open field—starvation on the one side and ruin on the other, with embitterment of spirit and mutual distrust as its inevitable accompaniments. Whether we look at industry from the point of view of Christians, whose duty it is to bring about peace and goodwill, or as good citizens wishing to remove obstacles in the way of orderly government, or as mere economists distressed at the enormous waste of productive powers, we must be anxious to help towards the introduction of better methods of adjusting wages. Now it is folly to expect, as some employers seem still to do, that workmen will ever allow employers to assign them what wages they think fit; and on the other hand it is hopeless to expect, as some labor enthusiasts do, that a plan can ever be struck out as a perfected whole, and introduced all of a piece, which will prevent all possibility of collision. Improvements have always come slowly, and will come slowly in the future. All we can do is to seek to discover in what direction improvement seems to be beginning, and to endeavor to smooth the way for its further development. Now the most hopeful of all the methods hitherto adopted is the method of arbitration. In England from repeated arbitration they have advanced to the establishment of permanent Boards of Conciliation, which have been at work for some sixteen or seventeen years in the manufactured iron trade of the north of England, and in some other trades. This is a subject which demands a lecture of itself; meanwhile I advise all those who are interested in the experiments in that direction to study the detailed account of them which they will find in Mr. Price's "Industrial Peace."

The essential matter to observe with regard to arbitration and Boards of Conciliation is that they all involve the recognition of the principle of unionism as an absolutely indispensable preliminary condition. Why has arbitration been so much less successful in the United States than in England? Partly because the employers have not yet, as in England, fairly granted the right of the men to combine; and partly because, owing to a variety of causes, the unions in many cases did not exist.

Now, unless you have unions with regular methods of coming to a common decision, and with the habit of acting through representatives, how are you to get the workpeople to work together, to allow themselves to be treated with through men of their own number, and loyally abide by the decision? Of course if men not in the habit of common action are brought together just for once and asked to confer powers to act for them upon delegates and, if they agree to this, they ought in honor to abide by the award; but it needs little knowledge of human nature to anticipate that they will frequently refuse. And again, if they have a union, and the employers begin by refusing to recognize it, and by shutting the door on its delegate, what chance is there of successful arbitration if by-and-by the employers do propose it?

It is, therefore, not because unions are always wise—for they are often sadly mistaken—that I urge their completest recognition; it is because I hold them to be unavoidable outgrowths of the present state of affairs, and to furnish, as far as we can see, the necessary basis for the most hopeful means of bettering the present miserable condition of affairs.

The burden of my argument has been directed towards the employing class; but before I close I want, if there are any strong labor advocates present, to make an appeal to them. It is about a matter which does not directly fall within the scope of my subject, but which I am constrained to speak of.

A Commission is sitting to investigate into all parts of our prison system. Among others they will deal with prison labor. Now, I will grant most fully that prison labor has often been managed in the most careless and happy-go-lucky fashion; I say not in Ontario—about that I have no sufficient information; but certainly elsewhere. I grant, in particular, that the system of contract labor has been worked in such a way as to injure the working classes; but I would beseech workmen to hesitate long before they joined in any cry which resulted in prisoners being kept either without employment or at wasteful forms of labor which they feel to be degrading. If they do, prisoners will come out worse than they went in, and the best means for their reformation will be taken away. The working classes will then not only have to pay the full cost of their maintenance, and the increased cost of the judiciary and police, but they will have the damnation of men on their souls. It is a matter to which they have a right to give and ought to give careful consideration. All I ask them now is to think long before condemning prisoners to idleness, or, what is worse, useless labor. It is a noble thing to have a giant's strength—and doubtless the workmen of Ontario can make the politician do as they please—but it is base to use it like a giant.

COMING EVENTS.

CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.

The English speaking local branch of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners will hold their annual banquet in Pengelly's restaurant, on Wednesday evening next. Friends from the ranks of other branches of organized labor will be made welcome, and tickets which are fixed at a merely nominal figure can be procured from the Committee.

THE CHAMPION TUG-OF-WAR.

The long-looked-for tussle between the Garrison and Police teams will come off in the Armory Hall on Tuesday evening next. Mr. Ross Mackenzie has been chosen referee and Messrs. Geo. Bradshaw and B. Tansey will act as judges. Each pull will be of five minutes' duration, best two in three. The following comprise the teams: Garrison—M. Goodbody, W. Goodbody, C. Gardiner and J. Drysdale; W. E. Fegan, captain. Police—Constables Tremblay, Maheux, Carey and M. Laroque; Sgt. F. Loye, captain. Captain Loye is very sanguine that his men will be able on this occasion to retrieve their laurels. Besides the big event there will be tugs between other teams from the Garrison, Prince of Wales' Rifles, Police and others who are expected to enter before that date. Entries, which must

be accompanied by the entrance fee of \$2, will be received up to Monday evening by the secretary, Constable Hollauid, of No. 5 Station. To relieve the tedium between pulls an excellent variety entertainment is promised from the following performers: Professor Wilson, piano; McAnally and Nicholson, negro sketch; R. V. Milloy, character sketch; Harry Smith, negro specialist, and W. E. Burgess, ventriloquist.

THE GLASSBLOWERS.

Local Union 24 A. F. G. W. U. will hold their annual ball in the Queen's Hall on Easter Monday evening. From the success which has invariably attended this social event among the glassblowers it is safe to predict that the forthcoming one will equal, if not surpass, any that have gone before. The committee having the matter in hand are men of the stamp who work energetically in whatever they undertake and on this occasion they are sparing no effort to make it one of the best social events of the season. Everything will be on an elaborate scale and we have no doubt a large number of their friends will be anxious to be present.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION NO. 176.

This year is the 25th anniversary of the formation of Montreal Typographical Union and that body does not intend to allow it to pass without notice. It was suggested, at the last meeting of the Union, that a concert and ball should be held to celebrate the event and a resolution to that effect having been adopted a committee was struck to make necessary arrangements. We understand that Easter week has been decided upon, and the talent for the concert will be drawn from the best in the city.

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*I was not aware until very recently that the law had been amended in the direction here indicated shortly before this lecture was first delivered.

MY LOVE.

I love my love with a love so strong
That no weight of iron could bend it,
Nor the wear of years, nor the fiercest blow,
Nor the scythe of time could rend it.

I love my love with so great a wealth
That, though placed in the poorest dwelling,
My blessings great I'd daily count,
And my riches be ever telling.

I love my love with a love so bold
That my lips with pleasure linger
On her velvet cheeks and ruby lips,
Nor fear to sorrow bring her.

I love my love with a love so deep
That the deepest mine could not hold it,
Nor the fathomless sea could not, I know
In its bosom broad unfold it.

I love my love with a love so vast
That this world will not contain it,
And it soars above to the God of love,
And He, too, will maintain it.

And He will guard my love of loves—
Blest Friend and Elder Brother—
Now wist ye who she is—my love?
Why, she's my precious MOTHER!

—Margaret Douglas.

PHUNNY ECHOES.

Consider the man who is always punctual—how much time he wastes waiting for other people.

We have been asked if in the water which flows in Wall street, there are any fish? There are—suckers, chiefly.

Jack Rounder—Isn't Miss Belle a beauty? Miss A—Yes. But, you know, beauty is only skin deep. Jack Rounder—Well, I'm no cannibal. That's deep enough for me.

Things one would rather have left unsaid—A lady thanked a gentleman for a very complimentary remark he had made in a newspaper article about her ability as a writer. Oh, he replied, that was all a joke. I never dreamed the editor would print it.

Nupop—Maria, I believe that baby knows now what it took Sir Isaac Newton a life of thought to find out. Mrs. Nupop—How absurd! What do you mean? Nupop—Just notice how he tilts that bottle to gravitate the milk his way.

Hanks—How did Closefist manage to get his men to withdraw from the Knights of Labor? Banks—He quoted Scripture to show that members of that organization could not go to heaven. Hanks—What was his text? Banks—And there shall be no night there.

Old Lady—Doctor, do you think there is anything the matter with my lungs? Physician (after careful examination)—I find, madam, that your lungs are in a normal condition. Old Lady (with a sigh of resignation)—And about how long can I expect to live with them in that condition?

Have you fixed up my will? said the sick man to Lawyer Quillins. Yes. Everything as tight as you can make it? Entirely so. Well, now, I want to ask you something, not professionally, but as a plain, everyday man. Who do you honestly think stands the best show for getting the property?

One of the professors of the University of Texas was engaged in explaining the Darwinian theory to his class, when he observed that they were not paying proper attention. Gentlemen, said the professor, when I am endeavoring to explain to you the peculiarities of the monkey I wish you would look at me.

Wit of the Youngsters.

Father, in bed with son of six years. Father—Well, I suppose I must get up now to get the daily bread. Son—Don't you trouble, papa, the baker will bring it.

Small boy, who has been present at a discussion of domestic matters—I suppose some hens lay cooking eggs and some lay fresh eggs.

Saint like little girl of five—I wish I had wings like an angel, I would fly straight up to heaven. Matter of fact young sister—Silly gell, silly gell! Go up to ceiling—come down bump!

Small Lisper (speaking of school fellow)—No, I don't like Tommy Hall. (Musingly) I fink I'll ask him to tea, and then we'll fight.

Little girl (looking at hair on new baby's head)—Oh, nurse! It's got whiskers on its head!

I must now rob to get back what I paid you.
But I'll send you to prison for this.
Perhaps, but I hope not. This time my spoils will enable me to employ even a better attorney than you are. Good bye, old fel—see you later!

MORAL.

Business should always be done spot cash.

A Story of Dickens.

Howard Paul tells an amusing story of Dickens, with whom he was on intimate terms. In the days when he and his wife were giving their entertainments, Mr. Paul had as manager a man named Dolbey, whose lack of business ability was as marked as was his enormous appetite. Mr. Paul struggled along as best he could with his manager, but he was vastly relieved when Dickens chose Dolbey to manage his readings on his second visit to the United States.

When Dickens returned to London from his American tour, Mr. Paul asked him how he liked Dolbey's managerial services.

He is a treasure, a perfect treasure! replied the great novelist, enthusiastically.

Mr. Paul was almost taken off his feet with astonishment.

Wha-a-what? he managed to gasp. A treasure? With all due respect to your judgment, Mr. Dickens, I never found him anything else but a nuisance.

Ah, but my dear fellow, there is a difference, replied Dickens. You engaged him for his head, whereas I engaged him for his stomach. Why, man, he was invaluable. Those hospitable Americans were forever asking me to eat or drink with them. All I would have to do would be to make some excuse and follow it up with, But here's Dolbey, my manager, who I am sure will be delighted. Why, Dolbey's cast iron stomach and colossal capacity saved my life. I've come back strong as an ox, and Dolbey's a wreck—a total wreck. I wouldn't have been without him for a thousand pounds.

A Sad State of Affairs.

A committee has been investigating the sweating system of Chicago, and the result is shown by the following extract from their report: The condition of the places visited was terrible. Overcrowding, long hours and low pay was the rule. Girls of ten years of age were found to be working ten and twelve hours a day for 80 cents per week. Ten girls were found, none being over ten years of age, who worked ten hours a day for 75 cents to \$1.20 per week. In a DeKoven street den were found a half a dozen men working eighteen hours a day for from \$4 to \$9 per week. At 168 Maxwell street were found ten men that worked sixteen hours a day each and received \$6.50 to \$9 per week. In the same place were six girls working from twelve to fourteen hours a day, whose weekly pay was \$3. One child was found in the house that worked for 75 cents per week. At 455 South Canal street a girl was found who declined to tell what she received, fearing that she would be discharged, and a discharge meant starvation. At 69 Judd street the wages of the men were found to be from \$5 to \$9 per week, and one child there received \$1 per week. The women worked fourteen hours a day.

Capital and Labor.

The causes of poverty are manifold. Intemperance, vice, idleness, improvidence, ignorance, inherited weakness of mind or body, are among them. More potential than all these, and oftentimes their antecedent cause, is human avarice—the vilest passion that ever cursed the race. This it is that compels women to toil in cramped and stuffy rooms in the city of New York for sixteen hours out of twenty four, for the miserable pittance of fifty cents, making handsome garments for their more fortunate sisters to wear. This it is that presents the spectacle of the most wretched and ill-paid labor in all England—female labor at that—working in the production of cheap bibles to be sent to the heathen. It is avarice that forces poor wretches to crawl on their hands and knees in the bowels of the earth for wages that scarcely suffice to keep body and soul together. It is avarice that offends decency and humanity with the sight of half naked and almost unsexed women tugging at the coke ovens owned by Pennsylvania millionaires. It is avarice that crowds the great factories of New England and the Middle States with little children, and fills its coffers with gain literally ground out of their pinched and stunted bodies and their starving souls.

The Owners of London.

The owners of London include all sorts and conditions of men, from the dual ground landlord and the more or less wealthy leaseholders down to the shareholders in a building freehold land society and the owner of a single tenement. The great bulk of the rental of London, however, belongs to comparatively few people—not more than 5,000.

Amongst these large owners are the Ecclesiastical Commissioners (especially in Paddington, Notting Hill, and Lambeth); the seventy-four City Companies (especially in the City, St. Giles', and St. Martin's); the Government, through the office of Woods and Forests (especially near Regent street, Regent's Park, and on Holborn Viaduct, and through the Exhibition Commissioners of 1851, at South Kensington); various colleges at Oxford and Cambridge (notably Magdalen); the three great endowed hospitals of St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas', Guy's (especially at Southwark and in the city); and the great charitable foundations (such as Christ's Hospital and the Foundling Hospital).

Next to these public or quasi-public owners come the great private ground landlords. The Duke of Westminster (Belgravia, Pimlico, and the Grosvenor Square district), the Duke of Bedford (Bloomsbury, the Covent Garden district, and Amptill Square), Lord Portman (West Marylebone), Lord Cadogan (Chelsea), Sir W. Carr-Gomm (Rotherhithe), the Duke of Portland (East Marylebone), the Marquis of Northampton (Clerkenwell), the Duke of Norfolk (south of the

and illustrations of man's inhumanity to man. And these laws, this system, will not be changed as long as selfishness is crowned with wealth and power, and popular applause, and the world continues to worship blindly at the shrine of financial success. Samuel E. Morse.

The Selfishness of Unions.

"People sometimes talk of selfishness of trades unions. But there is all the difference in the world between the selfishness of a capitalist and the selfishness of a great labor organization. The one means an increase of selfish luxury for one man or a single family. The other means not luxury, but increase of decency, increase of comfort, increase of self respect, more ease for the aged, more schooling for the young, not of one but of ten thousand families. Others may call this selfishness if they please. I call it humanity and civilization and the furtherance of the common weal."—John Morley, M. P.

Protection and Free Trade.

"Protection or free trade" is simply an issue between capitalists who have opposite interests. Manufacturers want protection so that they may keep the home market to themselves and sell their goods as dear as the buying power of the people will permit, while paying the lowest wages which unrestricted competition between the workers may force labor to accept. Importers want free trade because they deal in foreign goods which, for some reason that they do not care to consider—whether it be natural advantages or cheaper labor—can be sold here at a less price than similar articles of domestic production. Both parties to the controversy look for profits. Neither minds for a moment the condition of labor, except to lower it with a view of greater profits. Why, then, should the workingmen, oppressed by protected capitalists, vote for or against protection? And why should workingmen oppressed by free trade capitalists vote for or against free trade? Is it not plain that they should all unite against capitalism which oppressed them under any fiscal system that either side of the capitalistic contestants may force upon the other side.—The New Era.

Conservative and Reformer.

Motions to reconsider are in order. Mankind seems to be digging for roots. While some delve with the grubbing hoe, others are busy with illumination and cry out: "Turn on the light!" It is funny to watch Conservative and Reformer. They are very un congenial bed fellows. Conservative snuggles down in his feather bed, draws his velvety blanket under his chin, closes his eyes and murmurs dreamily, "I'm drowsy. What a delicious night for sleeping." But Reformer is restless—sleepless. Hour after hour he turns first one way and then another, until finally Conservative loses patience and growls, "For God's sake be still! I can't sleep a wink." "Selfish dog!" answers Reformer. "If you can only keep warm yourself you are satisfied, if all the rest of mankind freeze." And he gently draws his feet up until his knees are upon his breast, and before Conservative suspects his purpose, gives a vigorous kick and sends the cover into the middle of the floor. "Now, confound you; shiver a little while you are fixing the bed again!" he says, and gets ready to begin tossing and tumbling again.

Strand), the Marquis of Camden (Camden Town), Lord Southampton (Tottenham Court Road and Kentish Town), Sir Spencer Maryon Wilson (Hampstead), Captain Denton, M. P. (Pentonville), the Tyssen-Amherst family (Hackney), the Eyre family (St. John's Wood), the Curzons (Mayfair), Lord Salisbury and others.

As to the smaller owners of London their number is very great, being estimated at 150,000 to 200,000. The annual rental of Greater London is now about £40,000,000 sterling, being £32,000,000 for inner London and £8,000,000 for the outer ring.

What is the Difference?

A certain king, by the power of the sword and the superstition of his followers, fell upon a defenceless people and took from them their lands, cattle, and all their possessions.

A certain financier, by the power of his wits and the selfish ignorance of his followers, quietly went among a certain people, and by careful, shrewd management, with rents, interests and profits, kind words, long hours and short pay, soon became the owner of all their lands, houses and all their goods and means of employment, then told them it would profit him nothing to hire them longer, and turned them out to starve.

A certain pugilist overpowered a certain traveler and took from him all his possessions and left him a beggar among strangers.

What is the important difference between the above three methods and their results? One operates by the sword, another by his wits, and the third by his muscle.

Is there any difference in the result?

Is there any difference in the morality of these three methods? Are we not morally bound to oppose all schemes by which one man can have power to take from another his food, clothes and shelter? Should the needs of life be left as a gambling stake for the shrewd ones to capture, and hold at their own sweet will from the multitude? This is the rising question of the age; and in it we shall have the pro and con of the two great parties of the future.—The Dawn.

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Reflections on Current Events by
the Boarders.

"I have often heard it said that there was a compact between the politicians of both parties in Montreal Centre," said Brown, "under which the McShane clique are to support Curran in a Federal election and the Curran wing of the Conservative party are to help McShane in a Provincial one. To those who are prompted to take political action by a laudable desire to develop the resources of our country and advance the prosperity of its people and who regard our chosen representatives as disinterested patriots working to that end, such a compact would seem incredible and preposterous. With those, however, who understand that party politics is a mere game of grab in which patriotism or principle forms no part, and who know that such deals have been worked in both municipal and parliamentary elections in the past, this rumor will have considerable weight."

"Particularly if taken into consideration with the candidature of Ald. Kennedy in Montreal Centre," said Phil. "If that candidature means anything at all, it means the splitting of the vote in that division to enable McShane to step in if possible, and may perhaps explain Kennedy's walk over in the late municipal election. Either the Conservatives who are working the Kennedy 'boom' are working under contract or else they are in total ignorance of the feeling of the people towards their own candidate; neither do they seem incited to reap benefit by the experience which their party has had in the past in that self-same constituency. The strongest man they ever placed in opposition to McShane was the present Judge Doherty who, despite his great popularity and unquestioned ability, came out of the last three-cornered fight as a badly beaten third; and where Doherty has failed Kennedy need not try."

"I don't believe that the men who are bringing out Kennedy are working 'under contract,'" said Gaskill, "though it certainly looks suspicious, but I do know that the regulation hide-bound Conservative is so prejudiced against anything that smacks of labor reform that he would sooner vote for the devil than for a labor candidate. It is to accommodate this particular class of seventeenth century Tories that Kennedy is brought out; they can't vote for McShane because they hate him like sin, and they won't vote for Boudreau because they hate him—or rather those whom he represents—a great deal more. Happily their number is few; but if I had anything to do with directing the action of organized labor in this election I would teach these people such a lesson that they would not soon forget it as long as they lived. Since they made it their business to needlessly oppose us in the Centre, I would give them a double dose of their own medicine by running labor candidates in both Montreal West and St. Lawrence Division. Both Hall and Morris can be defeated by such a move, and that move should be made, and made at once. The tactics which they pursue in connection with Boudreau's candidature is conclusive proof that all their talk about purifying politics is mere buncombe calculated to catch 'suckers,' but they will find that Kennedy, Hall and Morris are mighty poor bait. It was a blunder on the part of organized labor which gave Hall his seat in the first place, and it will be a blunder on the part of his party which will make him loose it."

"I must say that I am in perfect accord with you on this question," said Brown, "and furthermore, I believe a labor candidate in St. Lawrence Division would stand a good chance of election. The Conservative candidate there is the head and front of a gigantic combine which, while paying ridiculously low wages to its employees, has

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become immensely wealthy and powerful, and will hardly be acceptable to the workingmen of that constituency. And since the purification of politics has become a secondary question with Conservatives, why not run a labor candidate there who would be acceptable to the Mercier party, and thus make sure of victory. If this election is going to be run on the plan of each for himself and devil take the hindmost, no sensible man will blame us for taking such a step, and anyway, I can't see that we have a greater stake in the country than anybody else. Since the Province is bound to go to the devil it might as well go there with a man at the helm who knows the shortest and most direct route. I am decidedly in favor of running candidates in both of these divisions. We have been ignored so long that it is really time to teach some of our two-penny-half-penny statesmen that we are a factor in politics, which is something which they seem to have forgotten."

BILL BLADES.

FREE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

A recent report to the State Department from the United States Consul at St. Etienne, France, contains some facts of special interest to the working people of this country. It is calculated to bring into more general discussion the question of free industrial training as a part of our general system of education, a question upon which there is at present much diversity of opinion. St. Etienne is one of the greatest industrial and manufacturing cities in all France. It is

famous for its vast coal mines, iron and steel works of all kinds, from heaviest ordnance and naval armor plate down to the finest cutlery, its potteries and manufactories of every line of goods produced from silk, cotton and rubber.

The national school system of France permits in the elementary schools throughout the country the introduction of industrial training as part of the regular course of studies for the benefit of the children of the poorer parents, who find it necessary to withdraw them from school at an early age to assist in the support of the family. St. Etienne has taken advantage of this feature of the law in a very practical way and has established a very thorough system of industrial training. Its technical institute was built in 1885 at a cost of nearly \$150,000. It has three hundred students, and the trades taught are weaving, dyeing, sculpture, iron founding, cabinetmaking, etc. The apprenticeship is four years in duration, and the institution is free. At the end of four years a certificate of aptitude is given, which enables the pupil to obtain a situation in the line of industrial labor which he has chosen. The work of the school begins each day at seven in the morning and ends at seven in the evening.

The members of the Parnellite party met in London on Wednesday and appointed their parliamentary whips and secretaries. It was resolved to leave the chair vacant as a mark of respect to the memory of their late leader, Charles Stewart Parnell.

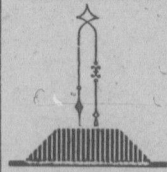
At a meeting of the members of the Parnellite party in London Mr. John E. Redmond was formally elected chairman.

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