





LABOR'S LEGISLATURE

REPORTS OF THE LEGISLATIVE AND MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES

MIDWINTER REPORTS OF THE LABOR MARKET

The Fifteen Cents per Day—The Eight Hours Movement

President George Hadley called the regular meeting of the Trades and Labor Council on Tuesday, December 20, to discuss the report of the 17th annual meeting...

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

A Legislative Committee in its last report for April 1894, began to address business in every trade and calling to which wage earners make a living, and especially in those pertaining to the building trades...

The Committee are seeking urgent attention to the provisions of the Ontario Legislature for Immigration purposes...

Your Committee had cause to feel that the subjects to which the knowledge in the mechanical and manufacturing arts is a Government Bill granting to those engaged in manufacturing...

Your Committee are very much pleased to learn through the reports of the newspapers that the three year's contract for the maintenance of the British House of Parliament is now being renewed...

The Amendment bill to the Factory and Workshops Act, which passed the second reading on Wednesday last, has met with the warmest approval of the laundry proprietors...

Your Committee is submitting the following resolution for the consideration of the Trades and Labor Council...

both unreliable and misleading—did not in fact as very often been distorted by contradiction by your Committee in the course of the present writing...

Resolved That the members of the Board of Trade, whether the attention of the Government had been drawn to the prospects and other circumstances...

Your Committee having stated in its last report that the sum voted by the Ontario Legislature for Immigration purposes...

Your Committee find that, according to the first annual report, the number of immigrants to Ontario in 1890 was 27,447, and at Halifax 9,437...

Your Committee also note that the number of immigrants landed at the wharves of charitable societies and individuals...

The committee is submitting the following resolutions for the consideration of the Trades and Labor Council...

Resolved That the members of the Board of Trade, whether the attention of the Government had been drawn to the prospects and other circumstances...

and that they had been examined not to be asked into going to Chicago in the meantime...

On motion, Messrs. D. J. O'Donoghue, J. H. McKelvie, J. H. Bant, J. L. Lizzard and G. Gluckling were appointed a Committee to refer to by the Council in respect of the subject...

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Your Committee beg leave to submit the following report:— "Two members of your Committee intervened in the course of the proceedings ascertaining if he opposed, as alleged, the lengthening of the hours of voting at municipal elections..."

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This resolution produced a lengthy discussion and a vote was taken on all things considered, such a step as this and the Old Country, and is of course a satisfactory and enduring basis...

reading as follows:—"Delegates to be wage-earners and journeymen at their respective trades, calling on them they represent a trade or calling governed by an apprenticeship system..."

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TORONTO, CANADA, APRIL 24, 1891.

NEEDED TARIFF CHANGES.

AMONG the changes in the tariff asked for during the approaching session of the Dominion Parliament are some which would be greatly in the interest of the printing and book-publishing trades, and secure to Canadian workmen a much larger share of the work in connection with publications than in Canada, thereby to give possession. On general principles it would be far preferable were the whole tariff administration swept away at once, and in ports of every kind allowed to come in without restriction. But, aside from any such thorough-going measure and recognizing the fact that at present the country is committed to the policy of protection, there are abundant arguments to show that from that standpoint alone it would be advisable to make some important changes. Among the most desirable of these is the free admission of stereotypes and electrotype plates, the duty on which was mistakenly imposed under the impression that it would encourage the printing industry by compelling the type-setting on works reprinted for Canadian circulation to be done in Canada. This expectation has been disappointed. Under the American copyright act, the type of all books upon which a United States copyright is desired, must be set in that country while the circulation of British and other books reprinted in the States is so small here as to render it unprofitable to have the type-setting done in Canada for the United Dominion market. The question then is simply between encouraging the printing and publishing trade by the free admission of stereotype plates, and so having the press-work, binding, etc., done in Canada, or importing the book in its fully manufactured state. In the interests of Canadian industry it would clearly be desirable to remove the tariff on plates and so encourage the publication here of many works, the type on which, under no circumstances would be set here.

Another modification which is urgently required with the same object, is the placing on the free list, when used by bookbinders, of a number of articles essential to that trade, not manufactured in Canada, with one slight exception. These include bookbinders' cloth, straw board, nail board, wire, Morocco, calf, genuine Russia and seal leathers. Were these raw materials, considered from the standpoint of the bookbinding trade, imported free for

such use, a great impetus would be given to that and allied industries, which would in turn increase the demand for paper. These considerations ought to have weight with the Government when the tariff is under revision. At present, the book printing and publishing trade, and those dependent upon them are crippled by the duties on their materials, without compensating benefits to any other industry.

THE DIVISION COURT CURSE.

In this age of progress it seems strange that we should have in our midst an institution which brings forcibly to mind the old Maralston Prison and the sorrows of Little Dorrit, yet such undoubtedly exists in the Eastern and Western Division and Judgment Summons court of Toronto, a court whose business it is to grind the face of the poor.

At the head of each of these divisions is placed a clerk, a man requiring no particular distinction of mind or standing and invariably possessing none, and yet this clerk draws a larger income than do those officials who occupy the most honorable and arduous positions of any of the servants of the crown, viz.—the Judges of the High Court of Justice, who, none of them, draw more than \$6,000 and travelling allowance a year, while the clerks of the Division Courts of Toronto draw nearly if not more than \$10,000 a year each.

If this money were drawn out of the pocket of the regular tax payer no doubt it would be hard to arouse sympathy for him as he is supposed to be able to stand any extraneous taxation, but it is taken out of the pockets of the poorest section of the community. It is money that should go to feed hungry children and to buy food for some wretched tenant, where misery already existing is made greater and almost unbearable in order that ten thousand dollars a year may be paid into the pockets of men already rich, for work which hundreds of honest and "free" men capable, then, would gladly perform for one fifth the amount.

But you will say if a man is so poor why does he pay at all? It is here that the shadow of the old Maralston comes in. If the debtor is fortunate enough to be heavily in debt so that he is sued in the High Court, if he has no property he cannot be worried, but if a poor man gets behind with his grocer's or butcher's bill and is earning his daily wages, often and almost always insufficient to provide for his family properly, he is brought up on a judgment summons, ordered to deprive his family of some necessities in order to pay a certain sum monthly, and when he is unable to comply with the order he is committed to jail in order, it would seem, to drag him down to the level of the felon and make payment impossible. We fortunately have in Toronto a judge of good sense and with a kind heart, so that this last grievance is greatly mitigated.

Now surely, with an alleged "Liberal" government at the head of affairs, whose boasted reforms are shouted from the hustings at every election, with a premier who, with pride, proclaims that he has put more good law on the statute books than any man in Canada, this greatest of all reforms should be accomplished, these fees, which often times exceed the debt and are always large, should be made merely nominal, the imprisonment for debt should be abolished and the division court clerks should be paid a salary, ample but not ten thousand a year.

For whom is it we pray in our churches? The poor! For whom is it our people give large donations? The poor! Yet our government boated by its supporters, to be the most liberal under the sun has no time to reform an institution which makes so much heavier than the burden of those already so weary and heavy laden that life has lost every pleasure and comfort.

We are blessed or cursed, which ever way you may like to look at it, with three members whose duty is supposed to be to look after the interests of the

citizens of Toronto and their attention should be called to the fact that the most suffering portion of the community is crying out for relief and that it is their bounden duty to see that relief is obtained, not by the introduction of some measure which will only be filed away for future consideration, but by forcing the attention of parliament to it this present session so that another winter may not pass over us with this grinding machine still oppressing our people.

IT IS NOT NATIONALISM.

The failure of the Kawach colony in California is again announced by the press despatches. As we have frequently pointed out, it is never safe to believe anything coming over the wires which has a tendency to discredit any progressive movement. The Associated Press is a monopoly machine, and its agents are always ready to spread broadcast any lie that will please their capitalist patrons. The reptile press, of course, gleefully panders the announcement, and make it the occasion for slurs on Nationalism. Anyone who knows anything of the plans and purposes of Nationalism is perfectly well aware that the formation of such colonies is no part of the program. Individual Nationalists may organize with such an end in view in the hope of anticipating a general reconstruction of society, but that in no way commits Nationalists as a body to their methods. It is obvious that any attempt to establish a socialist community in the midst of a society organized on the competitive basis, and so subject to the disabilities of competition in all its dealings with the outside world, must be undertaken under very great drawbacks.

The distinctive principle of Nationalism proper is the reorganization of the general community so as to make all men useful workers and equal sharers in the product. The people at large have rights in the existing accumulations of capital, established social mechanism and facilities of production and exchange—now monopolized by a few—which Nationalism proposes to assert. The stories about the failure of Kawach may or may not be true, but, in either case, the attempt of a few pioneers to found a Nationalist colony in the wilderness, abandoning their rightful share in the socially-created wealth and productive agencies, the result of the toil of many generations, in no way reflects upon the proposal to organize industry and regulate distribution by the State for general good.

THE OFFICIAL FEE SYSTEM.

The question of substituting regular salaries for fees in the payment of Provincial officials, such as sheriffs, registrars, county attorneys, etc., came up in the Provincial Legislature on the 10th inst., a resolution in favor of the change being moved by Mr. Wood, of Hastings. As was to be expected the Government was strongly opposed to the change and the resolution was defeated by a strictly partisan vote of fifty-one to thirty.

As it is a recognized practice to fill lucrative offices of this kind when a vacancy occurs, by the appointment of some member of the Legislature, who, by the servility with which he has supported the Government, has established a claim on the party, it was hardly to be expected that any of the Grit majority would vote for the abolition of the fee system. A large number of them, no doubt, expect to be sheriff or registrars themselves, and, in voting to retain this glaring abuse, have a shrewd eye to their own interests in the future.

The fee system, especially in the case of large and growing communities like Toronto, results in the over-payment of office holders. Men whom no private firm would employ at one quarter the amount—who have often no other qualification than their ready assent to support the party through thick and thin—have, as a reward for political services, been placed in positions where they draw extravagantly large incomes annually from the public funds

for work which is really performed by subordinates whom they engage at ordinary clerks' salaries. The Premier's lame attempt to justify the system by a reference to the large salaries paid to bank managers and cashiers and officials of financial institutions, is utterly without force. In the first place these men are selected with special reference to their qualifications for such positions, which demand a high degree of ability, whereas, any man who is not utterly ignorant and dissipated, will fill the post of sheriff or registrar satisfactorily enough. It needs no particular talent, skill or education beyond the ability to keep accounts, and book-keepers can always be hired at a low salary. Secondly, the high salaries paid to bank officials and financial managers are just as great, or perhaps a greater abuse than the exorbitant official incomes, because it is only possible for the assiduous to pay such salaries by reason of the financial monopoly under which labor is robbed of its earnings. Two wrongs do not make one right.

The real reason why the Government want to retain the fee system is that the patronage which they enjoy under it strengthens the Grit party, by holding out an inducement to politicians to work for it in the hope of getting fat offices. Until the people select independent men they cannot expect any reform in such abuses.

The Canadian Manufacturer—of all papers in the world—is a couple of strong, forcibly-written articles condemning, in the most emphatic terms, the importation of English guttersnipes, as conducted by Dr. Barnardo and other frauds of like kidney, and the proposal of General Booth to ship consignments of English paupers to Canada. The Manufacturer goes into detail, showing the number of juvenile waifs sent here under the auspices of Barnardo and others in the business, largely at the expense of the Canadian taxpayer. It proves by Barnardo's own testimony that the character of many of these immigrants is of the very possible description, and adds—"It is with these 'waifs and strays' that Dr. Barnardo and the other British philanthropists (if) are populating Canada, and the Dominion Government are encouraging them to do it." To say that we are surprised is to put it mildly. We are glad the Manufacturer is getting new light, and hope that it will revise its ideas on some other phases of the social question.

The Detroit Tribune refers to the old complaint that when a great man has been found to take his place. The remark is called out by the death of Senator Edmunds.—Hamilton Spectator.

What a blessing it would be if this were true! Nine times out of ten a great man is simply a great fraud, especially where his greatness, as in the case of politicians, depends upon popular recognition. Under present conditions it is almost impossible for any man of enlightened ideas and honest purpose to attain any public position. For a candidate for public favour to express his real opinions would be to court extinction at an early stage of his career, by offending the majority of fools. Every "great" statesman, journalist or preacher must be more or less of a hypocrite and charlatan. Otherwise some other man of equal talents but greater availability would beat him in the race.

The disturbances in the coke region of Pennsylvania continue. The strikers who have been threatened with eviction from their homes, evidently prefer to die fighting than starving, and several collisions have taken place between them and the guards. This time the casualties have not all been on one side, and a couple of guards have been seriously hurt, one of whom is not expected to recover. The spirit shown by these poor "ignorant foreigners," in resisting to the death the hirings who came to drive them from their homes, ought to be an example to many "free-born" Americans who, under similar circumstances have tamely submitted to the worst acts of oppression,

because perpetrated in the name of law. No Labor Reformer need be ashamed of such comrades who are their origin.

The award of the \$40,000 railway attorney was presented to the railway attorney Thursday last week. As was expected this dented executive, having been with Frank Smith, having a net income \$14,533.78 as the value of the actual plant and real estate in connection with the road. They refused to allow anything for the franchise, rightly considering that it never was contemplated to give any body such a privilege in perpetuity. The anti-labor old monopolist, however, is not satisfied with the million and a half which the too generous arbitrators have decided to allow him, and threatens to take the matter into the courts, trusting, no doubt, to the notorious partiality of our judges for the plutocracy. It is quite possible that a few feeling men induce some pompous judicial body in the right of the few to own everything in sight, to assist him in stealing another million or two of the city's money.

It shows the modern spirit of cosmopolitanism and its accompanying love of fair play and free discussion without prejudice or sentiment, that an article lauding and defending the Loyalty Bill should appear in an American magazine.—Herald.

Ho! It shows nothing of the kind. What it does show is that the modern American of the leisureed and comfortable classes is a degenerate snob and a believer in caste and privilege. He has all the worst and meanest qualities of the Loyalists of the Revolution with out their redeeming virtues of courage and readiness to fight for what they called their principles. While boasting of his Revolutionary forefathers he is responsible for acts one thousand times more oppressive than anything ever done by the unfortunate old lunatic George III, and his pig headed ministers.

The Street Railway Committee of the City Council, are struggling with the tenders for the franchise, three of which have been presented. It is going to be a matter of great difficulty to settle upon any decided course of action in regard to the matter before the 16th of May, and every day's delay and uncertainty tells in favor of the final adoption of the only way out of the difficulty—the operation of the road as a civic enterprise. Every labour organization or other progressive body in favor of the scheme of running the road by a civic commission should, within the next week or two, bring every possible influence to bear upon the council. Now or never!

The holding of an immense public meeting by the striking weavers of Bradford, England, last Sunday in the teeth of the prohibition of any such gathering by the municipal authorities, is a noteworthy incident of the struggle in England. The "rioters," as the lickspittles of the capitalist press call them, stood bravely for the right of free speech, against arbitrary military power, backed by police and military. And what is more they displayed a dogged determination which carried their point. There is no power on earth that could prevent the laboring class everywhere from doing the same in much more important matters— if they were only united.

SEVERAL notable cases have occurred lately in which bourgeois politicians have been exposed in connection with heinous and revolting crimes. Of course, it is only about one in a thousand such times that such offences, when perpetrated by the upper classes, come to light, as every exertion is usually made to hush matters up. The case of De Cobain, the accounting Officer Ormsby M.P., charged with unmentionable offences, Capt. Verney, the English "Liberal" parliamentarian, and W. H. Hurllert, the renegade Yankee Tory, both of whom are accused of shameful sexual offences, give a slight insight into the moral rotteness of plutocratic society.

The exposure by the Trades and Labour Council of the actions of a man from Chicago, named James, who was trying to induce carpenters and bricklayers to go to that city, by holding out false inducements of high wages as a good piece of work, and resulting in the flight of the scoundrel. But for the timely action of Mr. J. Houghlin, it is probable that a large number of those deceived by his plausible statement, would have been induced to join their fate to Chicago, only to be bitterly disappointed. James was clearly a scoundrel, and it ought to be made an example of.

Moralizing on the prevalent discontent in the British service—which is one of the most encouraging signs of the times—the *Mail* says:

Ordered by gentlemen the British soldier is a hero; officers and British sergeants manage them; they may turn out a dog's snout.

This is rather rough on the present staff of officers from the Duke of Cambridge down. What does General Herlet think of the theory, we wonder? What a singularly constituted people the British soldier must be to require a gentleman to tell him to be here before he can develop any heroic qualities!

We give this week the first instalment of an interesting story of London life, by Mr. Samuel M. Jones, entitled "A Whitechapel Mystery." It will run through three or four numbers, and will be followed by the publication of "As in a Looking-glass," the brilliant and highly sensational novel, the dramatization of which furnished Mrs. Langtry with one of her most telling roles. Every one should read it.

**LOCAL NEWS.**

At the last regular meeting of the Boot and Shoe Workers International Union, two candidates were initiated and four were proposed. The committee on resolutions, reporting having met the manufacturers and that a satisfactory agreement had been made for two years, the revised bill to take effect on the 8th of May and to remain in force until the 1st of July, 1893. James Cumming was elected delegate to the annual convention to be held in Boston on the 1st of June.

The East End branch of the W. C. A., met at 781 Queen street on Thursday the 16th inst. A very interesting phase of the Women question was taken up in the form of a debate. It resolved that married women should have the ballot. The alternative made good points, and helped them round. The negative brought up the time-honored objections of "influence," "spoons," etc., but these were ably met by the women on the affirmative, who gained the decision. Several new members were admitted. The officers were elected for the coming year.

The regular meeting of the Toronto Brotherhood of Printing Press Assistants and Press Feeders, was held on Thursday the 14th inst. in Temperance Hall, and the following officers elected:—Chas. R. Reed, president; H. P. Fox, vice-president; J. S. Swanson, financial and corresponding secretary; E. G. Gray, recording secretary; John Neat, treasurer; Wm. Crowley, sergeant-at-arms; Wm. Bolland and E. Charlton, executive committee; E. G. Gray, delegate to the International Printing Pressmen's Union; president G. E. Bell, orator; and A. Graham and Thos. Keatts, auditors.

The Eight Hour League, at their regular monthly meeting, elected as their executive committee, Messrs. F. C. Gibben, C. Harding, S. Staughton and T. T. Farah. A committee of three was appointed to interview the labour unions and K. of L. assemblies in this city to obtain their support in carrying out a general eight-hour demonstration, and to entrust the most energetic members, Messrs. S. Staughton, and Chas. Harding, were received as delegates from L. A. 5743 and 1905 respectively. A number of new members were accepted and some applications filed. At the next meeting, on the 5th day, the following resolution, passed at the Trades and Labour Council, was being discussed:—"That this Council is in entire sympathy with the eight hour movement, which is causing so much attention in this

and the Old Country, and is of the opinion that in order to place such a system on a satisfactory basis, legislative enactment is desirable and necessary, and should be sought in conjunction with and in unison with the same movement in other countries."

At the regular meeting of the National Association, held on Tuesday evening last, President Howell in the chair, an address was delivered by Mr. F. E. Tuttle,—"The Swiss Referendum." The speaker traced the growth of the institutions of the Swiss Republic, which, he claimed, were far in advance of those of Anglo-Saxon countries in securing the free expression of the popular voice in political matters. He pointed out that every bill passed in a general character passed in the Federal Assembly, unless in cases of special urgency, is suspended in its operation for three months. If during that time eight cantons or 50,000 voters ask to have it submitted to the popular vote, it must go to the electors for ratification by a majority. The electorate also had the power to initiate legislation. Any measure asked for by 50,000 electors must be submitted to the people. In most of the cantons the referendum prevailed in matters of local legislation. The working of the system was admirable, there was no class legislation, no extravagance, and no corrupt partyism. Politics were not a trade, and it did not pay a party to spend

should endeavor to concentrate his mind on the subject. John Bright and Lord Houghton were accustomed to write out their speeches for the purpose of reading them, and then to speak without the manuscript. It was important that a speech should be properly arranged with the points in logical and consecutive order. While there should be abundance of facts it was well to appeal to sentiment, which was always effective. He gave an example of Patrick Henry's powerful eloquence in his celebrated denunciations and urged on all present, men as well as women, the importance of cultivating the art of public speaking. The address abounded in practical suggestions and was much appreciated.

Two boys are held for trial in New York upon the charge of stealing 3 cents. A dealer of Hosiery in Montreal has among his stock of fur the skin of a marten worth seven dollars. It was stolen by a boy, and thirty cents around the girl. It is the largest marten captured on the west coast, and is worth \$500. It was captured by an Indian.

Statistics of the little difficulty with Italy, it is interesting to note that Italian stand pro-union. In the number of homicides during 1889, the last tabulated, there were 900 for every 100,000 inhabitants, while in Austria there were but 2 1/2; in Germany 0.80, and in England 0.10. Ten Italian murderers for every German and twenty for every Englishman is certainly a remarkable showing.



A PITEOUS APPEAL.

"Won't some private speculator please take this gold mine? The City Council won't work it as a civic department, as they're afraid they can't trust their own honesty!"—Grip.

**THAT "INSULTING" LETTER.**

MR. GEORGE A. HOWELL'S LETTER TO THE MINISTRIAL ASSOCIATION, WHICH THEY REFUSED TO READ.

At the meeting of the Toronto Ministerial Association last Monday, the Secretary announced that he had received a letter from Mr. George A. Howell in connection with the Association's recent deliberances on the subject of dancing, theatre-going, etc., which he characterized to a committee for consideration, who reported that, as there was nothing in it calling for a reply, it was unnecessary to read it. Accordingly, it remained unread. We give the communication below, and our readers will see that it is an excellent and suggestive document. The association decided to ignore it, as the Association would have found it very hard to answer.

MR. HOWELL'S LETTER.  
To the Members of the Toronto Ministerial Association.  
GENTLEMEN,—You were pleased at your last session to decide for us less fortunate during the present, however, of this momentous question, one of your members deliberately went out of his way to insult the men and women of Toronto by their indifference to those of other members. This although there was no present who felt as I do about it. Belonging to the Toronto Ministerial Association, I demand an apology.

On behalf of the sex from the man who dared to speak of any woman as Dr. Parsons did on that occasion. His speech was not only to our Association but to Christianity, as I for one would have not believed it possible that such things would be said of the women of

Canada under any circumstances, much less under a cloak of religion. This is a part of the question from the question of the correctness of your finding. That is a question quite from your point of view although I totally disagree with you there. But granting that you were right, and that our country could be taken to the language used do you not think that you are wasting valuable time in discussing such trivial and unimportant questions of your domestic question? Are you aware of the fact that girls as dear to your friends as your own daughters are to you—

DAUGHTERS TO LEAVE OF THEMSE by the insufficiency of the miserable justice of our employers call wages? That able-bodied men, as sober and industrious as any of you, have searched in vain for the chance to earn sufficient to keep their wives and children from starvation, and has falling this, they had to eat or submit on charity? That women, who were somebody's dear if not ours, are compelled to starve from morning till night making shirts at forty cents a dozen, or over-sewing our countrymen, in order to keep body and soul together. Do you know that these things, and worse, exist right here in Toronto? Of course you do, you can't help but know. Knowing that, do you not think you could spare a little time for their consideration? So, your answer to my query is:—"The matter is out of our province; our duty is to make known the glorious truths of the Gospel, and the good of our countrymen, and the good of our own souls." And so on ad infinitum. You are right, but it seems to me that there are no officials in which apply to this question, and which bring it into your province if you teach Christianity. "All things therefore whatsoever you would that men should do unto you do even so to them." "Love one another, even as I have loved you. They are some of the glorious truths of the Gospel, and if conditions exist which make it impossible for men to live up to them, do they not call for action?

TO REMOVE THOSE CONDITIONS! Do you really think that Jesus of Nazareth, with his great tender heart filled with love for the poor and downtrodden, ever meant to decree that these things should always be? That "Our Father" intended that his children should have to live by their shame, that they should be glad to die—as many are to-day—rather than keep up the terrible struggle for existence.

You cannot believe it, and, if you do not, it is not your duty to at least make an effort to find out whether the conditions are the cause of such misery cannot be changed? I do not ask you to accept any opinions of my own or anyone else's, but to take up the question with the desire to get to the bottom of it, and if you are not afraid to think about it, or to study it, you will come to the conclusion that there is some way of bettering things, and not, as you say, we ourselves are to blame.

**THE MISERY AND POVERTY**

which exist side by side with wealth and luxury. With all due deference to your superior wisdom, this appears to be of rather more importance than the subject you so lightly discuss. If it may not offend the same opportunities for the display of the special talents of the gentleman mentioned, and might perhaps be less unpopular, would it not be well to make an attempt to really think it is worthy of at least passing notice.

**THE CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE.**

For'th great mass meetings were held in this city within a week to protest against the mysterious course of our plutocracy, and, if possible, to save from the gallows, by a timely expression of public indignation, the three strike-breakers of a class party of Pittsburgh, in disregard of the most obvious evidence, law "found" guilty of murder in the first degree.

Such a protest was ordered by the Central Labor Union, and was chiefly attended by Knights of Labor. The second was held at Union Square and the fourth was held at the same place by the American Workingmen's Defence Association.

It is safe to say that at least twenty thousand people of all trades, nationalities and opinions entered their individual protest at one or another of these four imposing demonstrations. The press, however, practically ignored those events in its news columns and carefully abstained from commenting editorially upon them. Nor is this all. Similar meetings have been held in Brooklyn, New York, and in many other places. Great labor organizations have also passed resolutions to the same effect. But in no case has the press responded in the least to this general movement of indignation. Such a silence speaks volumes. Could it doubt be otherwise entertained that there was a widespread conspiracy among the plutocrats to choke, strangle and hang the laboring class into slavery, the ominous direction of this capitalistic press would at once remove it.—A. J. People.

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CORRESPONDENCE

WOMAN SUFFRAGE

I was glad to see that you condemned in fitting terms the course of the City Council in setting down the proposal to confer the suffrage upon married women possessing the qualifications now requisite for municipal election.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE

The division but of the vote in the City Council on the proposition to extend the municipal suffrage to married women given below.

- For: The Mayor, Atkinson, Bell, Giesbe, Gresham, Hall, Lucas, Maloney, McDougall, McMurich, Park, Phillips, Pope, Saunders, Stunley-13. Against: The Mayor, Atkinson, Bell, Giesbe, Gresham, Hall, Lucas, Maloney, McDougall, McMurich, Park, Phillips, Pope, Saunders, Stunley-13.

NATIONAL INSURANCE

Flow time to time the question of State or National Insurance is discussed by the press of this and other civilized countries notably by the English press, but so far as I can ascertain, no government has as yet adopted any such plan.

It may be stated as a fact, at least the exceptions are so few as to be not worth considering, that very few men from both disease and physical strength at some time in his life earns more per week than he actually needs for his weekly support.

It is only of creating on a universal scale the system of adopting a superannuation fund which would make it possible for the branches of the civil service. All the charitable organizations which exist for the benefit of old people are doing their best to do no matter how admirable their intention.

ty is the chief of virtues. A greater love, a huger favour was never bestowed. Charity is only the effluvia of a much more ethereal and noble quality which is the cause that has created charity. No man who thinks men should act ethically as to do and to be, but by individual effort in other words by the State and not by individualism.

LABOR AND POLITICS

This letter, to which reference was made last week in last week's issue, ought to have appeared in this paper, but was omitted by mistake.

THE ISSUES between the tint and Tory parties have no bearing whatever upon the really important questions in which Labor Reformers are interested, so which way it goes we do not regard the course as the slightest practical consequence.

Before commenting on the above, allow me to state that I am neither a Liberal nor a Conservative, but a man who has, for two years, been an impartial student of Canadian politics. I believe in the land rule.

Mr. Editor, if the Grit party was successful at the last election, it is certain that the present government, in the United States, the Dominion, within a year, would have free oil and sugar.

Canada produces annually less than 600,000 barrels of crude oil, a little more than half the consumption.

What if we could produce our own oil? It would be worth the trouble for fuel.

Adding together the cost of the oil and sugar tax, we have the sum of \$20, and it \$25.

Mr. Editor, do you regard this result of no importance whatever? Will it pay the cost of a good life, will it allow us to choose the one of two evils which we face to 10 per cent, to his income?

If we are to succeed in emancipating labor, advantage must be taken of every opportunity.

It was that it was opposed at every point, but that way was gratefully accepted. The Missouri compromise, the Kansas and Nebraska struggle, the Fugitive Slave law and the Dred Scott case.

A REFORMER at Toronto, Ca., owns a mule forty five years of age, which is about half the life of ordinary mules, and sports the name of Jesse. He is as sprightly as a spring, and is a single step forward in a gain, and a gain is never lost.

WHAT IS CAPITAL?

THE DESPOTIC POWER CONFERRED BY THE CONTROL OF THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION

Capital is the Taskmaster Instead of the Servant of Labor. A Great Day of Reckoning at Hand.

What is capital? Capital is an ethereal entity that is the product of further wealth. Wealth is the necessary and co-existent of life—the results of former labor.

Let us take an illustration that is common to all. A man goes to the bush and catches a wild pig. Into the pot which he does not mangle, he adds a little of the spirit necessary for him to do any other work he purposes to do.

When he has in this manner accumulated sufficient to buy him some tools, we will suppose he gets about the manufacture of a canoe from a knurr log.

THE PROPERTIES OF ALL THE underlying cause of all this destructive internecine warfare is that the capital and the land have passed out of the possession of those whom they rightfully belong.

Coar, when sitting along the Punio beach, fell asleep and dreamt a dream. He saw a vast multitude of men, women and children, marching along and weeping in bitterness. Suddenly, without warning, they all raised their heads and stretched out their arms toward him, crying in a heart rending voice, "What our city?"

FOOTNOTES—"I'm a desperate man, and I want your money!" "Carry on!" "You've sold your own soul for your money, the same as I do?" "Footnote—"Same as you do! Well, ain't I tryin' to?"

"stay-at-home" brother, what then is the thing that makes the man who sits at home or tills the ground become the servant of him who owns both tools and raw material.

THIS is the actual position at the present moment. Our lands, our forests, our mines, the profit of factory machinery, the railroads and railways, have somehow become in possession of a small non-labor class.

WHO LIVES WITHOUT LABOR upon the profits of others' exertion, and defying that command, if they do not change in thought and deed, punishment will surely overtake them.

WHILE A VOICED-HEARD MOVING. Instead of being the laborer's greatest help, the mill tax has turned into the laborer's taskmaster.

THE examination in High School Drawing will be set for the afternoon of Oct. 25th. The examination in High School Drawing will be set for the afternoon of Oct. 25th.

ical. If every producer received in wages the full value of his product, there would be nothing left to pay interest, rent, dividends, etc. This producing workman would be enabled to combine with his fellow men in providing for their wages a common fund to be their united capital, for use in all future industrial enterprise.

The reason why lands of workmen are unable to do this under present circumstances is because they are deprived of a large portion of their natural wages, and what is left to them in money wages is largely subtracted to provide the necessities of life. It is an undeniable truth that if the laborer received full dues for the work he does, the non-labor class would soon be reduced to a state of starvation.

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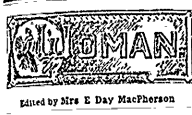
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Edited by Mrs E Day MacPherson

Mrs MARIJA J. LAMER, editor of the... membership in twenty-five of the... learned societies in Europe and the United States.

It is an ancient fact that England has more workers than any other country, with per cent of the industrial class...

Mrs HELPA CAMPBELL has been awarded a prize of \$200 offered by the American Economic Association for the best paper on 'Women Wage Earners'...

Mrs Wm. CURTIS, in the Easy Chair of Harper's Weekly, says 'The admission of women to the school suffrage question really the overthrew of the British Empire...'

In an early number of the Speaker Mr. Clouston gives a resume of the British people who have best contributed to the world's literature during the present century...

Two women were talking together on a street car. 'Now speak in a straight tone,' she stamps the most decisive.

'The future hits in its blindness and sorrow. We peer still through a night that abides in it. Haunting us onward.'

'BREAD OR BLOOD?' 'At any hour, when the cry lifts wide and persistent, there is no other cry.'

'I am highly pleased with your Arithmetic Problems for Senior Classes and Candidates for Entrance to High Schools and Colleges.'

'I have examined the problems, and they are arranged for persons intended. I am sure that teachers of arithmetic will find them a great benefit.'

tion of the printing office is no worse than anything else.

CANADA THE STATES. 'HARRIS' was fence in the metaphor which fortallly describes the barsh and high parallel tariff line which runs athwart the continent of North America...

'Brushing aside the trivial personal interests of the hour, address and contemplating the future of the continent and of the British Empire as an economic whole, consisting of historic and material interests...

'My eye to open an undisturbed eye. And so it will rise and bid me create. A devil who will rouse and work and must create.'

'The TURN OF THE TIDE. Two women were talking together on a street car. 'Now speak in a straight tone,' she stamps the most decisive.

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the efforts of women towards the education of the world's affairs. This is their inability to look at matters from any but a viewpoint of merely personal prejudice.

'There is so much talk about the emancipation of women, in continued, with a kindling look in the quiet eyes, but I, for one, go in for more than that.'

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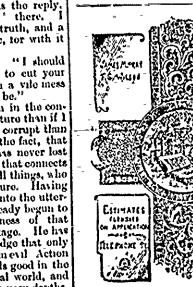
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CASUAL COMMENTS.

Rev. Mr. Galbreath, pastor of Wesley church, is not satisfied with the Toronto dailies, complaining that they publish detailed reports of crime. I would have thought that the Methodist clergy should be the last to find fault with them after their recent success in the suppression of the Potts scandal. What greater assurance to them want they than to be displayed by the daily press in that instance, but it is the old tale of getting in such and wanting an all. His other remarks were in keeping with the cover-up policy of this good town of ours. Ignorance is classed as innocence and an appearance of goodness must be maintained at any cost. How much longer will this falter prevail, and how long will our teachers of morals set this baneful example? But I must hush this language is insulting, at least to the Municipal Association says. I see that someone had courage enough to write to that august body the other day regarding their attitude on the amusement question. The letter was considered to be "sounded off" in such language that it amounted to our teachers of morals in this city. I have seen a copy of the letter, and I defy any member of the Association to point to one expression that warrants such a statement. The worst that can be said of it is that it is true, and the latter part of it deals with the advisability of donating their time to more important subjects, which was worthy of serious consideration.

Adv. Hall and a few others are doing noble work for their friends the contractors, and will doubtless be affectionately remembered by them. They oppose the city ownership of anything outside the city hall, and if it were not too late it is fair to assume that they would support will, already a proposition from the city syndicate to erect a building with six floors and lease the city a room or two in it. Just now a determined effort is being made to repeal the fifteen cent an hour law, continue the contract system, under which the supplying of the city bridge horses has been a dead soft snafu for some favored contractor, and discredit in every possible way the city labor plan of constructing city works. With a little care the contractors' party in the council can easily be distinguished. Their strenuous efforts for the continuance of a system which has already shown itself to be a Godsend shall receive due appreciation at the polls next January.

Speeches of the Godson affair, was there ever such an exhibition of limited nerve in this city as that displayed by his preparation to read the matter to the Board of Trade for arbitration? A man charged with deliberate robbery of the city suggests that the amount of his stealing be left to arbitration, and yet none of the dailies appeared to think it anything out of the way. They let him down to you gently in their editorial columns, you really hate to turn back to the account of the judge's finding to see if it wasn't all a mistake. If only the capital leaders stood by each other as the capitalists do, it wouldn't be long until both classes would be wiped out.

Course along Carlton street the other day I was struck by a haughty stare from something in a passing dog cart. My attention was attracted, I am sure, as well as beside it on the side and in the vicinity of servitude, arms correctly folded, head at the proper angle, and with as great an appearance of inferiority to the driver as was possible under the circumstances. This was what he was paid for, and he was only doing his best to earn his wages so the shouldn't blame him. But products of the road are not of this kind. They are added by our friends the clergy, think it's all right, and that who differ from them are cranks, doctrinaires, and many other things too numerous to mention.

I was informed a day or two ago by one of the alternates that a prominent labor man had said to him that as long as the Labor Council didn't care whether the road was run by the city or not. I was not aware that that body had so completely changed their minds on the question, nor do I believe that they have. The city ought not to hesitate for a day about the advisability of running the road in the interests of the citizen. The advantages to be secured by such a course

of action are so numerous that it seems incredible to me that there should be any question as to being the best thing to do. It would do away with all possibility of strikes, expensive arbitration, disputes with the company, and ensure to the city a service fully up to the latest improvements in transport systems. We could have reduced fares whenever the running expenses warranted it, and would also all retain control of the city streets, lamping the rights of a few electric light, heating, and gas companies. But they will go later.

We are slowly coming to the conclusion that the city of Toronto can conduct its own business without the aid of capitalist sharks, and an opportunity of retaining in our own hands one of the best paying departments of public service should not on any account be missed.

I have said a good deal lately in reference of complimentary to the representatives of the cloth—perhaps too much—but I felt they deserved it. Perhaps on this account I have all the more pleasure in noting the accession to their ranks of a broad-minded, fearless man. I refer to the Rev. Mr. Jackson, the new pastor of the Unitarian church. He is unfortunately like myself in being a young man, but I will not doubt on that account be frequently considered very presumptuous. He will "be carried away by the enthusiasm of youth," and will often "forget himself." These qualities in older men are called fearlessness and intense earnestness; they never forget themselves. He is only "these" because he is the subject," still for all this the thinking people of Toronto will be glad to welcome him, and the others might be able to forgive his youth if he agreed with them. For myself I am glad he is young—if we were all old with settled opinions on everything we could hardly say "the world is moving."

FREEDOM'S BATTLE.

THE FIGHT FOR AN EIGHT HOUR DAY—THE STRIKE IN EUROPE AND AMERICA. In all directions come the news of preparations for a keen conflict between labor and capitalists for shorter hours of labor. By common consent the first of May has been selected as the date on which the organized labor of both continents will precisely the same. It is estimated that eight hours ought to be the outside limit of a day's labor. It is estimated that unless the employers yield—of which there is no prospect—fully half the population will go out on strike. The result of the contest will be eagerly watched by Canadian workmen.

IN THE UNITED STATES.

The bituminous coal trade has suffered a terrible blow from the coke strike, and will suffer a greater one on May 1st. As far as is known up to this time, the eight hour strike of May 1st will be joined by the 15,000 bituminous miners of the Clearfield, Huntington and Broad Top regions, and the 10,000 men in what is known as the Pittsburgh district of railroad miners. The latter are distributed along the Baltimore and Ohio, Pennsylvania and Panhandle lines, within a radius of seventy-five miles of Pittsburgh. The 50,000 coal miners of Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana and Illinois are also in the movement, and most of them will make a stand for the eight hour day. In New York the situation is alarming, and had a dress trade unions will go out of work on the refusal of an eight hour day. At St. Louis the outlook is good. Carpenters, masons, bricklayers, painters and others are in line. With the army of strikers, and will listen to no compromise. In Baltimore the stonecutters have set their faces in the face of employers, and unless their requisition is heard before May 1st they will, to a man, march to the fight for shorter hours. In New England there is less agitation. Boston workmen want a nine hour day and more pay, and the smaller cities are in sympathy with the trouble doers as it appears to be dangerous in the cities of Ohio, Cincinnati and Cleveland.

OF THE STRIKERS ARE LOCATED.

The following table shows the figures of the workmen in leading cities who are engaged in Western Coal Mines. Estimated in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and West Virginia. 75,000. New York: Bricklayers' helpers 20,000; Bricklayers 2,000; Masons 1,000; Marble polishers and stone sawyers 3,000; Carpenters 2,000; Carriers 2,000; Machine woodworkers 400. Baltimore: Stonecutters 2,000. Pittsburgh: Carpenters 5,000. St. Louis: All trades (estimated) 15,000.

AS REPORT.

According to the cable despatches, "Anarchists" are busy throughout Europe organizing for a general strike. In Paris, Vienna and Madrid they are distributing four circulars. Fifty thousand of these circulars are said to have been distributed in the barracks of Paris surreptitiously during the past week.

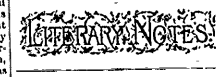
Meetings of workmen were held on Sunday throughout Austria and Hungary to arrange for their strikers. In Spain the workmen are agitating in Barcelona, Valencia, Cadix, Valladolid, Burgos and other places. All the European governments have decided to prohibit outdoor demonstrations. The employers are continuing to refuse a holiday strike and insist that every indoor meeting must be attended by a Government delegate.

BEFORE FACTORY LEGISLATION.

THE STATE OF THINGS WITH HERBERT SPENCER AND OTHER INDIVIDUALISTS WITH TO HISTORY.

The victory of combination over competition is perhaps an economical result not to be regretted, but socially and politically it is fraught with grave perils. Can anyone picture the state of the world in England before the consciousness of the nation was expressed through its statutes, and with it, now the era of laissez faire? We extract from David F. Schloss a article in the *Fortnightly Review* on "The Road to Social Peace," a well-drawn picture of these times, "I never yet in the history of the world had the lower orders of society been plunged in an abyss of misery so profound as that into which the lower classes of England sunk in the first half of the present century."

At the same time the continual improvement of our economic condition continuously increased the number of the unemployed. Wages fell to starvation point, while the hours of labor were extended to the most cruel extent. The employer exercised an unbounded dominion, compelling his workmen to purchase their supplies in shops belonging to their masters, in cottages for which he exacted exorbitant rents, and from which his captive might at any moment be ejected, and to risk their lives, from hour to hour, in teeming dangerous machinery, which his callous ceremony allowed to remain with the slightest protection. Cheap was the labor of men, it was yet too dear for the taste of the factory owners. Out of a total of 14,000,000 operatives employed in England in 1814, there were 242,206 females, of whom no less than 112,192 were under the age of eighteen years, while the number of males over that age was only 90,603. When we learn that it was usual for women to continue working day in and day out, with no rest, and to return to the factory within eight days after child-birth, we can easily understand how it was that the women of the plebeian of our working classes exhibited "a irrefragable evidence proves that it did—no most grave deterioration to the intellectual position of the workers, it is not too much to say that they were left in a state of savage ignorance. Home life, no home, drunkenness and immorality were universal; thrift was unheard of. Patricians found no place in the hearts of the toilers in our factories, our fields, or our mines. The Church neglected their spiritual, the great world had no need of their material resources. Owing great space between 1805 and 1835 conditions in England and Wales meted five-fold."



ARCHBISHOP FABIAN will contribute an appreciative paper on "The Salvation Army" to the next number of Harper's Magazine.

The May number of the *North American Review* will contain a reply from Sir Charles Tupper to Mr. Ernest Wiman's recent article, and also an article by the Marquis de Lorne on "Canada and the United States."

"The statement that Rev. Dr. Mendell, of Cleveland, is the author of 'The Kingdom of God' is denied by the publishers, Messrs. Harper Bros. of New York, who say that they negotiated with another author for the same. So the statement just unswayed. It looks a good deal like another 'Beautiful Snow' mystery.

"The intellectual progress of the West," says the *New England Magazine*, which is indicated by the number of good and valuable books that are being put forth by Chicago publishers, where but few really important books are published. The fact may be fully recognized, in spite of the humorous paragraphs of rival cities, that Chicago is rapidly becoming a literary centre."

Hart & Co., Toronto, have in hand a translation by Charles O. D. Roberts of "The Canadians of Old," by Philippe Aubert de Gaspé, a historical and colorful embodying many interesting descriptions of life, and fascinating legends of French Canada in the eighteenth century. They also announce a work entitled "The New Empire," by O. A. Howland, barrister, dealing with the Canadian constitution and our relations with the United States. As the domestic book-seller's trade diminishes in London, John Murray, Jr., is said in an address that while individual authors now make larger sums than ever before, there is yet greater poverty and distress among authors; there is greater research on individual subjects, and a greater degree of thoroughness in the treatment of all that is published, and yet more worthless productions appear; there is greater education and less discrimination among the public, and there is a cheaper than ever, and yet individual books sell for fabulous prices.

We have received a copy of the second edition of the *Practical Grammar*, with introduction by O. Mercer Adam, published by Messrs. J. B. Orlin & Co., Toronto. Mr. Innes is one of the best and most rapidly increasing number

of Canadian poets. His verse is simple and unpretentious, and totally devoid of that artificial straining after effect which mars the work of so many modern writers, but always characterized by true poetic feeling and melodious expression. His themes are mostly those of every-day life, and are treated feelingly and in a manner which renders it obvious that the author writes from the heart. The volume includes a number of songs set to music, and may be commended to all who enjoy the poetry of the domestic affections and the simple joys of life.

Education of the industrial masses brings thought, and thought brings discontent when things are viewed from the right direction. As fast as the people are educated and can see and think for themselves, they are condemning the present system of robbery that has been operative in England for the last decade. They have no use for modern politics or modern politicians.—*Midland Chronicle*

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