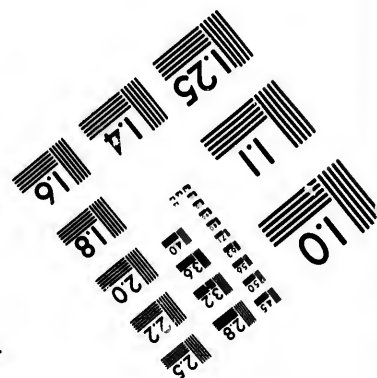
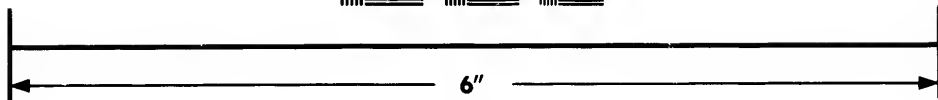
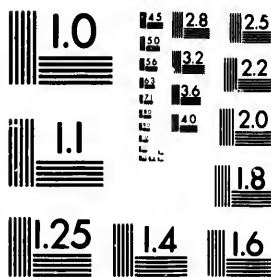


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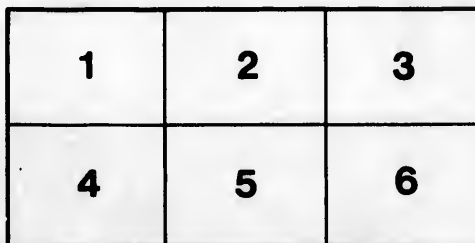
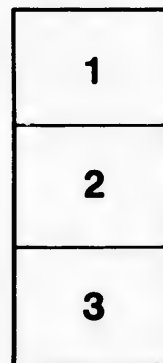
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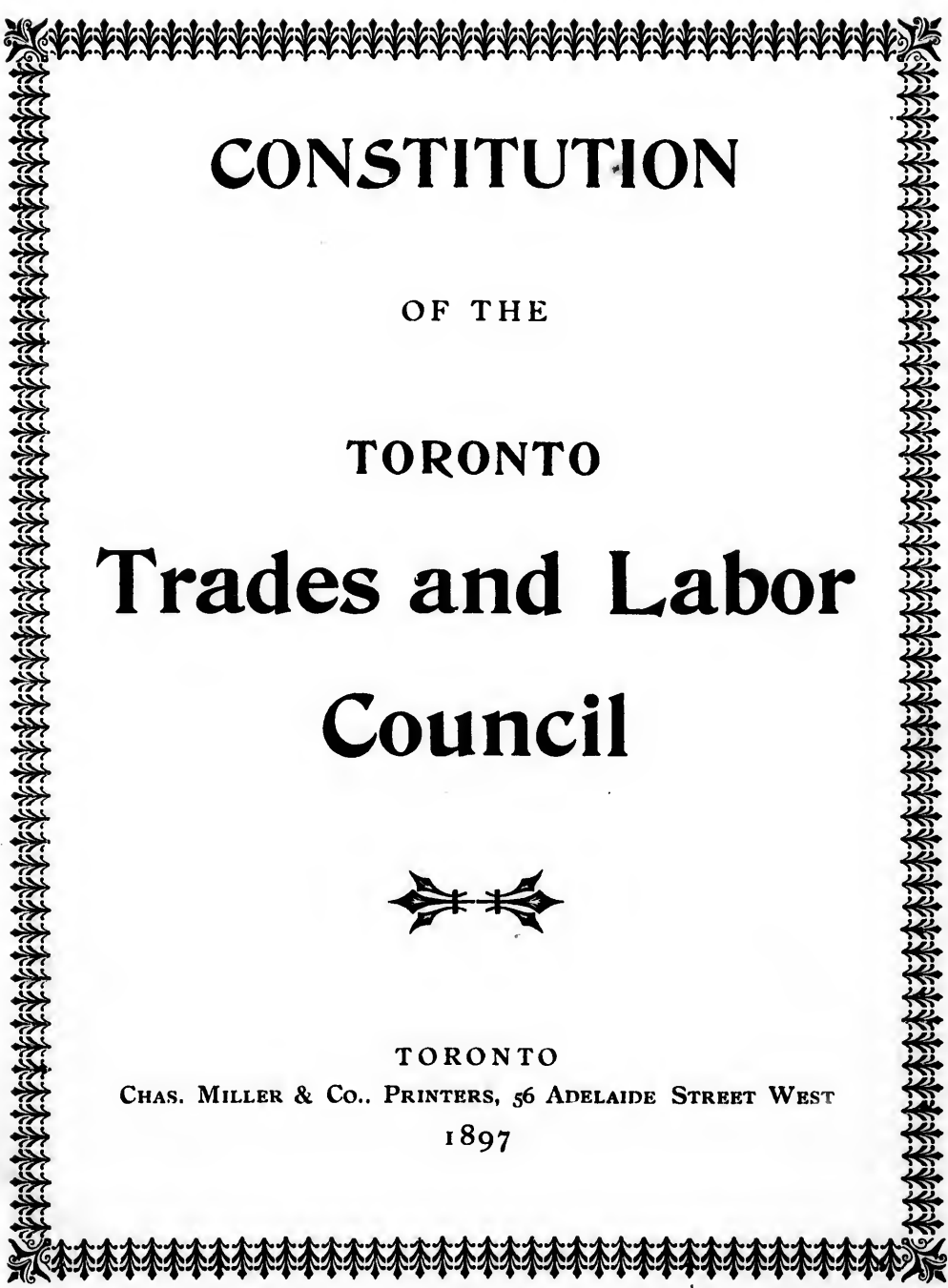
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**CONSTITUTION**  
OF THE  
**TORONTO**  
**Trades and Labor**  
**Council**



TORONTO  
CHAS. MILLER & CO., PRINTERS, 56 ADELAIDE STREET WEST  
1897



**CONSTITUTION**  
**OF THE**  
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**Trades and Labor**  
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**1897**





## P R E A M B L E

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Disorganized labor has no protection—the weak are devoured by the strong. All wealth and all power centre in the hands of the few, and the many are their victims and their bondsmen ; and, in studying the history of the past, the impartial thinker must be impressed with the truth of the above. In all countries, and at all times, capital has been used by those possessing it to monopolize particular branches of business, until the vast and various industrial pursuits of the world have been under the immediate control of a comparatively small portion of mankind.

Year after year the capital of the country becomes more and more concentrated in the hands of the few ; and in proportion as the wealth of the country becomes centralized, its power increases, and the laboring classes are impoverished. It, therefore, becomes us, as men who have to battle with the stern realities of life, to look this matter fairly in the face. There is no dodging the question. Let every man give it a fair, full and candid consideration, and then act according to his honest convictions. What position are we to

hold in Society? Are we to receive an equivalent for our labor sufficient to maintain us in comparative independence and respectability, to procure the means with which to educate our children, and qualify them to play their parts in the world's drama, or, must we be forced to bow the suppliant's knee to wealth, and earn by unprofitable toil, a life too void of solace—to confirm the very chains that bind us to our doom?

“In union there is strength,” and in the system of Trade and Labor organizations, embracing every workman in the country—a system founded upon a basis broad as the land in which we live—lies our only hope. Single handed we can accomplish nothing, but, united, there is no power of wrong we may not openly defy.

Let the craftsmen, and those of other vocations, who have not already moved in the matter, organize as quickly as possible, and connect themselves with the Trades and Labor Council of Toronto. Be not deceived with the idea that the project cannot succeed. We are no theorists; this is no visionary plan, but one eminently practicable. Nor can injustice be done to anyone; no undue advantage can be taken of any of our employers. There is not, there cannot be, any good reason why they should not pay us a fair price for our labor. If the profits of their business are not sufficient to remunerate them for the trouble of

doing business, let the consumer make up the balance. The stereotyped argument of our employers in every attempt to reduce wages is, that their large expenses and small profits will not warrant the present prices for labor ; therefore, those just able to live now must be content with less hereafter.

In answer, we maintain, the expenses are not unreasonable, and the profits are large and in the aggregate great. There is no good reason why we should not receive a fair equivalent for our labor. A small reduction seriously diminishes the already scanty means of the operative, and puts a large sum in the employer's pocket ; and yet some of the employers would appear charitable before the world. We ask, is it charitable, is it honest, is it humane to take from the laborer, who is already fed, clothed and lodged too poorly, a portion of his food and raiment, and deprive his family of the necessaries of life by the common resort, a reduction of wages ? It must not be so.

To rescue our trades and other callings from the conditions into which they have fallen ; to raise ourselves to that position in society to which we, as workmen, are justly entitled ; to place ourselves on a foundation sufficiently strong to rescue us from further encroachments ; and to elevate the moral, social and intellectual condition of all workmen, is a work the necessity of which

has been fully demonstrated. We believe unity of action can be best accomplished by an organization composed of delegates elected by the various Trades and Labor organizations ; thereof,

*Resolved*, That we, representatives of the various Trades and Labor organizations in Toronto, in order to form a central organization for the benefit of all laboring men, do adopt the following



# CONSTITUTION.

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## ARTICLE I.

### NAME AND OBJECTS.

SEC. 1.—This organization shall be known as the **TORONTO TRADES' AND LABOR COUNCIL**. Its objects shall be to unite the various trade and labor organizations of the city, and to assist in the formation of organizations where none exist, so that they may form one brotherhood for the defence of the rights and the protection of the interests of the laboring classes.

SEC. 2.—To discuss and examine all questions affecting the interests of labor and to so concentrate labor as to render it able to successfully combat the enactment of any legislation deemed inimical to the rights of labor, to seek the enactment of such new laws as may be considered necessary to labor, and to secure an impartial judgment in, and execution of, existing law and laws which may be hereafter enacted.

SEC. 3.—To use our utmost endeavors to impress upon the various branches of labor the necessity for the organization and maintenance of protective organizations, to use every honorable means in

our power to adjust difficulties that may arise between workmen and employers, and to labor assiduously for the development of a plan of action that will be beneficial to both parties ; and, while the central body has no power to dictate to organizations as to matters of compensation in their several organizations, it is deemed better for the general interest that the central body be consulted in all disputes, in order that its good offices as arbitrator may be used.

## ARTICLE II.

### REPRESENTATION.

SEC. 1.—This Council shall be composed of three delegates from each organization represented, where such organizations has 100 members or less, and one additional delegate for each additional 50 members or majority fraction thereof. Delegates must deposit their credentials, together with their proper addresses and the address of the Secretary of the organization they represent with the Recording Secretary before taking their seats. All credentials must bear the signatures of the presiding officer and the Secretary of the organization sending delegates, and also the seal of such organization, if one exists. Delegates to be wage-earners, and journeymen at their respective trades or callings when they represent

a trade or calling governed by an apprentice system.

SEC. 2.—Any representative who is absent from this Council for two consecutive meetings shall be so reported to the organization he represents, by the Secretary.

SEC. 3.—Any representative who is absent from this Council for three consecutive meetings without any acceptable excuse shall forfeit his seat, and the same shall be declared vacant and immediate notice given to the organization he represents.

SEC. 4.—No person at any time a defaulter to this Council or a declared defaulter to a local labor organization shall be eligible to sit as a delegate to this Council.

SEC. 5.—For the regular transaction of business twelve members shall constitute a quorum.

SEC. 6.—Any member of a labor organization visiting this Council while in session must have permission from the presiding officer.

### ARTICLE III.

#### MEETINGS.

SEC. 1.—The regular meetings of this Council shall be held on the second and fourth Thursdays in *each month*, for the transaction of business.

The meetings shall be held at such place as the majority may from time to time determine.

SEC. 2.—The hours of meeting shall be from 8. p.m. to 11 p.m., but at any meeting the time may be extended, provided that it shall require two-thirds of the members voting to carry any motion for such extension.

SEC. 3.—The Council will, at each meeting, after the regular business is completed, allow discussion of all matters directly concerning the interest of wage-earners, but discussions of party politics or theology will not be permitted.

## ARTICLE IV.

### EXPENSES.

SEC. 1.—The expenses of this Council shall be defrayed by a tax upon each organization represented of one cent per month upon each member in good standing on the roll of such organization, to be paid quarterly.

SEC. 2.—The funds of this Council, or any part thereof, shall not be disposed of in any other way than in defraying the expenses of the same ; and in no case shall the funds of this Council be used for carrying on a strike unless by a two-thirds vote of a summoned meeting called for the purpose.

SEC. 3.—Any organization failing, after proper



notification, to pay its assessment for two consecutive quarters, may be suspended from representation.

## ARTICLE V.

SEC. 1.—In case of a dispute between employers and employees, it shall be the duty of the delegates from such organization to at once lay the matter before the Council for such action as may be deemed advisable. In the absence of such official notification, no action shall be taken in any trade or labor dispute or difficulty.

## ARTICLE VI.

SEC. 1.—The officers of this Council shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Recording and Corresponding Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian and Sergeant-at-Arms—all of whom shall be nominated and elected, with their consent only, at the last regular meetings in July and January. All officers and committees of this Council shall be elected by the Hare-Spence system of ballot; and at the meeting previous to the semi-annual election a trial ballot shall be taken for educational purposes.

SEC. 2.—On any officer absenting himself for three consecutive meetings without reasonable excuse his office shall be declared vacant, and the

Council shall at once proceed to elect his successor. An officer so elected shall enter upon his duties at once.

SEC. 3.—Whenever any officer or delegate is charged with neglect of duty or misdemeanor, such charge shall be referred to a special committee of five members, to be elected by the Council, who shall investigate the same impartially, hearing witnesses, and examining papers, books, etc., carefully. They shall report as soon as possible, and if the charge be sustained according to the committee's report, such officer or delegate may be removed by a majority vote of the members present. Such removal, in cases of misdemeanor, shall operate as an expulsion.

SEC. 4.—No person expelled by the Council shall be again eligible to be elected from any organization as a delegate to the Council, unless he be the unanimous choice of his union and afterwards accepted by a three-fourths vote of this Council.

## ARTICLE VII.

### DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

SEC. 1.—It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings ; he shall see that the laws are operating, and that the offices are duly filled ;

he shall sign all orders on the Treasurer, authorized by the Council; appoint all committees not otherwise provided for, and transact such other business as may of right appertain to his office.

SEC. 2.—*Vice-President.*—The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in case of absence or resignation of that officer, and shall also discharge the duties of the chair when called upon by the President.

SEC. 3.—*Recording and Corresponding Secretary.* The Recording and Corresponding Secretary shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of the meetings of the Council, in a book provided for that purpose; make an enrolment of the name, residence and vocation of each delegate and of the name and address of the Secretary of each organization represented, attend to and carry on all correspondence connected with the business of the Council; summon all special meetings of the Council when so directed by the President, and perform such other duties as may pertain to his office.

SEC. 4.—*Financial Secretary.*—The Financial Secretary shall receive all moneys, and pay the same over to the Treasurer, at each meeting taking his receipt therefor; he shall keep an accurate account of all moneys received and expended, and shall make half-yearly returns of the same; fill and sign all drafts on the Treasurer, and

perform such other duties as may of right appertain to his office.

SEC. 5.—*Treasurer.*—The Treasurer shall receive all moneys from the Financial Secretary, and hold the same subject to the order of the Council. He shall keep a correct account of the moneys received and disbursed, and shall make half-yearly returns of the same. He shall pay all orders that may be drawn by the Financial Secretary and attested by the President.

SEC. 6.—*Sergeant-at-Arms.*—It shall be the duty of the Sergeant-at-Arms to have charge of the door of the place of meeting under direction of the President, and perform such duties as may be assigned to him by that officer or by vote of the Council.

SEC. 7.—*Auditors.*—Three auditors shall examine and report on the state of the books at least once in six months. One to be appointed by the President and two by the Council.

SEC. 8.—*Trustees.*—Immediately after the officers-elect have taken their places, the Council shall elect a Board of Trustees, which shall consist of three members elected from different organization, who shall exercise general supervision over the property of the Council. They shall invest all moneys placed in their hands in a safe and profitable manner, as may be directed by the

Council, depositing their vouchers with the Treasurer immediately, and shall make half-yearly returns of their transactions.

## ARTICLE VIII.

### COMMITTEES.

SEC. 1.—There shall be five Standing Committees, consisting of the Legislative, Municipal, Educational, Organization and Arbitration, and Label Committees, which Committees shall be nominated and elected at the last regular meeting in January and July. Each of the said Committees shall consist of five members.

SEC. 2.—All Special Committees shall report in writing at the next regular meeting, unless otherwise ordered.

SEC. 3.—No member shall be appointed on a Committee unless present at time of appointment or consenting thereto.

SEC. 4.—The Recording Secretary shall furnish the Chairman of each Committee with the names and addresses of the members associated with him upon it, together with copies of the resolution, subjects or documents referred to them. For the purpose of this section the member first named on a Committee shall be considered its chairman until the committee has organized.

SEC. 5.—Committees appointed at a session of this body to make reports at the same sitting shall have precedence of all other business, except reports on credentials or a motion to extend the time.

SEC. 6.—The President shall appoint at each session a Credentials Committee, consisting of three members, whose duty it shall be to examine the credentials of all delegates seeking admission, and see that they are properly signed and sealed, and accompanied by the address of the delegate and of the secretary of organization sending him.

SEC. 7. The elective officers of the Council shall constitute an Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE IX.

### ALTERATIONS OR AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution shall not be altered, amended, or suspended, except at a regular meeting of the Council, and with the concurrence of a two-thirds vote of the members present. Notice of any amendment or alteration of this Constitution must be given in writing at a previous regular meeting.

## RULES OF ORDER.

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1. The meetings of this organization shall be opened at the appointed time.

2. The business of each session shall be conducted in the following order, viz :

(1) Calling Roll of Officers by the Secretary.

(2) Reception of Credentials and Report of Credential Committee.

(3) Reading of the Minutes of last meeting.

(4) Statements by Delegates respecting callings.

(5) Calling Roll of Delegates. (This order shall not be suspended except with the consent of two-thirds of the members present.)

(6) Bills and Communications.

(7) Election and Installation of Officers.

(8) Reports of Standing Committees.

(9) Reports of Special Committees.

(10) Unfinished Business.

(11) New Business.

(12) Report of Receipts.

(13) Adjournment.

3. The regular order of Business may be suspended at any time by the President to receive the



report of the Credential Committee, or by a two-thirds vote for the transaction of special business.

4. Every motion and resolution shall be made in writing, at the request of the Chairman, except merely formal resolutions.

5. No question shall be stated unless moved by a member, and seconded.

6. When a question is before the Council, no motion will be in order except,—

To amend ; (2) To refer or recommit ; (3) To postpone ; (4) The previous question ; (5) To lay on the table; (6) To adjourn; and shall have precedence in the order they stand herein—the last three of which shall be decided without debate.

7. After the previous question shall have been stated, no amendment shall be entertained, and no explanation shall be allowed to be made or offered by any member, and all debate shall cease, and the Council shall proceed forthwith to vote.

8. Any member voting in the majority may, during the same meeting, move a reconsideration.

9. Any member feeling himself aggrieved by the decision of the Chairman may appeal therefrom ; and in such case the question shall be :



"Shall the Chair be sustained?" and shall be decided without debate.

10. When a blank is to be filled, the question shall be taken first on the highest sum or number and the longest time.

11. Any member may call for a division of the question when the sense will admit of it.

12. Any member wishing to address the Council must rise, and if more than one rise at the same time the President shall decide which has the floor, and the other shall speak next in order.

13. During the reading of the minutes, reports, communications, or other papers, and when a member is addressing the Council, silence shall be observed, and no one shall be allowed to retire or otherwise disturb the meeting.

14. No member shall interrupt another member when speaking, except to raise a point of order, which shall be definitely stated, and the President shall decide it without debate.

15. Any member who shall misbehave himself during the meeting, and disturb the harmony thereof, by abusive, disorderly or profane language, or who shall refuse obedience to the President shall be admonished by that officer, and if he offend again, he shall be excluded from the

room for the evening, and afterwards dealt with as the Council may determine.

16. The previous question shall be stated in the following form: "Shall the main question be now put?"

17. Each speaker on any question before the house shall be allowed *ten minutes*, and no member shall speak more than twice on the same question, except by the unanimous consent of the Council.

18. The Chairman shall not be permitted to speak on any subject while in the discharge of his duty as President, except on matters of order, in which he shall have precedence; when the Council has occasion for facts within his knowledge, then he may, with leave, state the matter of fact.

19. The President shall have the right in the absence of the Vice-President, to name any member to perform the duties of that chair, who shall be during such time invested with all the powers of the Vice-President.

20. A member shall not be interrupted while speaking, except on a privileged question, a call to order, or for the purpose of explanation.

21. If a member, while speaking, be called to order, he shall, at the request of the Chairman,

take his seat until the question is determined, when, if permitted, he may proceed.

22. Each member when speaking shall be standing, and respectfully address the presiding officer, confine himself to the question under debate, and avoid all personalities, indecorous or sarcastic language.

23. When a question is put every member shall vote, unless the Council shall for special reasons excuse him.

24. On a call of one-third of the members, the yeas and nays shall be ordered, when every member's name and manner of voting shall be recorded on the minutes.

25. No Committee shall be discharged until all debts contracted by it shall have been paid.

26. When there is no question before the Council no debate whatever shall be allowed, save questions asking for information.

27. All questions of order as to the propriety of entertaining the consideration of any subject may be debated.

28. The President when in the chair, shall state every question coming before the the Council, and immediately before it is put to vote shall ask—"Are you ready for the question?" when it shall be open for debate.

29. The President need not rise from his seat to state a question, but must rise to put a question.

30. When the Chairman has arisen to put the question all debate shall cease, and he shall immediately proceed to declare the result of the vote on the question which has been under consideration.

<i>Chairman,</i> C. WHEAT	}	<i>Committee on Revision</i>
D. J. O'DONOGHUE		
A. W. HOHMES		
ARTHUR CALLOW		
<i>Secretary,</i> A. G. HORWOOD		







