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MONTREAL, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1891.

MEETINGS.

CENTRAL TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL OF MONTREAL.

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Meets in the Ville-Marie Hall, 1623 Notre Dame street, the first and third Thursdays of the month. Communications to be addressed to Jos. Renaud, Corresponding Secretary, 198 Amherst street.

RIVER FRONT ASSEMBLY,

No. 7628.
Rooms K. of L. Hall, Chaboulliez square. Next meeting Sunday, Nov. 29, at 2.30. Address all correspondence to J. WARREN, Rec. Sec., P. O. Box 1456.

DOMINION ASSEMBLY,

No. 2436 K. of L.
Meets every FRIDAY evening at Eight o'clock in the K. of L. Hall, Chaboulliez square. Address all communications to H. J. BRINDLE, R.S., No. 11 St. Monique street.

PROGRESS ASSEMBLY,

No. 3852, K. of L.
Meets every First and Third Tuesday at Lomas' Hall, Point St. Charles.

BUILDERS' LABORERS' UNION.

Meets in Ville Marie Hall, 1623 Notre Dame street, every TUESDAY at 8 P. M. Address all communications to WM. JARVIS, Secretary, 111 St. Dominique street.

BLACK DIAMOND ASSEMBLY

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THOUGHTS ON THE LABOR QUESTION.

Passages From Unpublished Chapters by Richard Jefferies.

Among the manuscripts left behind him by the late Richard Jefferies were several pages of a projected work on the labor question. He does not appear to have finished the work, nor is it clear to what definite conclusion, if any, it would have tended; but the spirit in which he took the subject up is sufficiently clear from the introductory pages, some portions of which have been placed in our hands for publication. These will be read with interest, says the Pall Mall Gazette, alike for the subject of them and for their author. "In writing this book, I am influenced," he says in his preface, "by no political bias. I take no interest in politics, and belong to no party or political body. I am simply a student of nature and human life, and I paint only what I see; the others must draw their conclusions."—

CHAPTER I.

THE "LABOR QUESTION."

It is everywhere. That is the prime difficulty with this "Labor Question." You cannot meet it, fight it, even define it, because it is everywhere—all round, above, beneath. You cannot fix it to one spot, or one matter, and so discuss it conclusively, for innumerable links and threads bind and weave it in with every phase of life. Therefore in writing this phrase enclose it always with inverted commas to indicate that it is a conventional term used to express an unknown quantity—the x in the equation of the world.

If a man goes into business it confronts him on the threshold, and threatens him from the first entry in his ledger till the pen falls from his stiffened fingers at three score and ten. The ceaseless seesaw of capital and labor interferes with calculation and destroys all certainty. The boilers are strong and in good order, the engine works smoothly but the engine-driver—there is the terror and the trouble. It is literature in which a special interest is taken! Well, the major part of books and papers are carefully flavoured to suit the swaying opinions of the multitude, the masses who work. It is art! The palette and even the sculptor's chisel must pander to the passing taste, and are now to find their noblest aim in educating the great unwashed. Is it political? The hammer and trowel knock so loudly at the statesman's mahogany door that he must listen perforce. Is it religion? The pickaxe is already laid to the foundation of the church tower.

On the other hand, this omnipotent power breathes its influence over the whole world: from Europe to America, America to Asia, Africa, Australia, the Pacific Isles. The history of the last hundred years, not the mere bare chronicle of the movements of kings and armies, but the cause of the heavings and throbings of the nations, has been written in blood by the workman's tool. The future, growing as inevitably out of the present as the tree from the acorn, will be shaped by the voices sounding from the bench, the mine, and the plough.

CHAPTER II.

THE DIVINE RIGHT OF CAPITAL.

Throw a golden sovereign upon the mahogany table, and listen. The circular disc of heavy metal rebounds and rings clear as a bell as a bell calling slaves to obey the behest of its owner. They crowd in troops holding up their hands: true, it may be only sufficient to engage one, but then while you retain it each individual among the thousand aspirants thinks he may be that fortunate one. And this is part of the power of money, however small the sum.

Now, returning to the sovereign which lies quiescent glittering on the dark mahogany, it is clear that it ought not to be permitted to remain thus, but must, if we believe the political economist, be made to add its atom of weight to the great pendulum which drives the clock of the world. It must buy something, even if it be only 5 per cent., a shilling additional per annum, and whatever that something may be—spend it, invest it in what ever manner—it will be the equivalent of human labor. When you spend it you purchase a man or woman; though possibly for a few hours only. Still these are for the time being yours absolutely. This is the primary step in the investigation; even if you pass it across the bank counter "to my credit" still you have bought somebody, somebody will come to the bank and say, "I want it—lend it to me," and that man really works for you to pay you your 5 per cent.

The only way to escape this inevitable result is to bury it, as the ancients did, in jars and caves.

It follows that the more money there is in circulation the more work is done, and the greater is the sum of human happiness according to the political economist. Perhaps it may presently dawn upon the mind of some one that the increasing protest of the rising "Labor Question" denies this, his proposition; which in effect is the proposition of Capital.

Meantime put the sovereign into circulation, and buy somebody.

Two pence to a boy to grovel on the dirty pavement and black your shoes. For five minutes your most obsequious slave.

Two shillings six pence for breakfast at the restaurant for eggs and ham and coffee, and a penny the waiter. This is more complicated, because you have bought not only the cringing waiter, the restaurant keeper, the cook, the servants, even the ultimate landlord, but also the agriculturist who fattened the ham, whose fowls produced the eggs.

Three pence to the omnibus conductor, buying him, the driver, and the whole body of shareholders: and time and space into the bargain.

Two shillings at the railway bookstand for a book while you wait for the train, buying the author, publisher, printer, compositor, "devils," and all.

One penny the newspaper, and the same process is repeated, including a fraction of the correspondent at the distant seat of war.

Five shillings railway ticket, the equivalent guard, porter, stationmaster, driver, plate-layer, &c.

Ten shillings for an article of merchandise to sell again, buying those who produced it, and those to whom you will sell it, since they must travel to re-sell and get their profit.

Or £1 in a lump to a creature decked in scarlet and fine linen, painted, soft of speech—but hush! That is buying a soul. This is absurd, says the political economist, there is no possible comparison between legitimate trade and the traffic in vice. In reply, stern fact points to 30,000 women avowedly earning a livelihood in this way in London alone: assuredly they do not do it from choice. They attend on Capital: squandered if you like.

FEMALE ROTHSCHILD.

She Makes Much Money and Gets Married and Divorced at Will.

Chief An-na-hootz is dead, James Jackson won't marry the widow so as to be chief, and Emaline Baker, the Princess Thom, has raised a ruction at Yakutat. Nothing in all this to startle the world, but to the Sitka Indians it is just as important as a revolution in France would be to Frenchmen, for their tribal government has gone to sticks and they are plunged into political anarchy.

An-na-hootz was eighty-two years old and living with his thirteenth wife when he died. He was a convert to the Greek church, a firm friend of the whites and the first of his race to take medicine and other precautions as old age came on. The rule among the Sitkas has been that when man or woman grew old and incapable of great activity and endurance, he or she lay down and waited for death, dying easily of inanition as a rule. So it was rare to find a Sitka over sixty. The rule of succession is for the chief's oldest nephew to succeed him, but he must marry the chief's widow. Now, the widow is seventy years old and as unhandy as aged squaws generally, while the nephew Jackson is, as his name implies, a converted Indian, besides being young, handsome and possessed of a pretty wife. So he won't take the widow, and there is no king over the Sitkas.

They are superior to Alaska Indians in general, have a rather pretty village and cattle, and the richest woman in it is the Princess Thom. She is a regular female Rothschild, owning about \$15,000 worth of stuff, most of which was acquired by her own activity and shrewdness as a trader. Some years ago she married a man named Thom, considerably her junior, but after awhile decided that she preferred his younger brother, who was the handsome Indian in the settlement—a regular aboriginal Apollo. So she divorced the older Thom and gave him her sister, then married the younger, whom she literally loaded with jewelry and elegant hunting gear. But the young squaws delighted to make her jealous and the young husband suddenly died. Soon after her sister died just as suddenly, and then she remarried her original Thom. Of course there is "talk." The Greek priests protested, but no official made inquiry; the princess has her way, and so there is a society scandal as well as a "political situation."

LONDON'S LABOR PAPERS.

Some of the Journals Which Direct Workingmen's Ideas.

The working people of London are generally well represented in the journalistic field. There are papers that represent all shades of opinion, from the extreme individualism of the Commonwealth to the State socialism of Justice, the organ of the Fabrian societies. But Labor papers in London have come and gone just as they have elsewhere. The Labor World, published and edited by Michael Davitt, was one of the best labor papers ever published in the English metropolis. Its total issue was thirty-nine numbers, thirty-two of which were edited by Mr. Davitt, who finally resigned the editorial chair on account of ill-health. The Labor World had, before its discontinuance, a very large circulation, but nevertheless was financially a failure. A short time after the discontinuance of the Labor World, a new paper was launched called the Worker's Cry, published by a stock company and edited by ex-Commissioner, Frank Smith. The first issue of the paper was dated May 2 of this year. It immediately took possession of the field left vacant by the Labor World, and up to date has met with phenomenal success. It consolidates next issue with the Leader, and will be known as the Leader and Worker's Advocate. Frank Smith, who will edit the new paper, will be remembered as the ex-Commissioner of the Salvation Army. Mr. Smith did not agree with the methods of Gen. Booth, and resigned his position in the colonial office. Another well known paper in London is Reynolds's Weekly, and its continued war on vice of every kind, its repeated exposure of frauds in public affairs, its gallant fight for the seating of the member of Parliament for Northampton, Mr. Bradlaugh, constitute a record of which the Radicals of London are justly proud. The People's Press is an illustrated labor paper of sixteen pages, edited by Shaw Maxwell. It was printed for over a year, and had to suspend about two months ago for lack of support. The Labor World, Worker's Cry and People's Press were all sixteen page papers and gave all the foreign and home news. But for some reason the workingmen of London failed to support them sufficiently to justify their continuance. The Commonwealth and Justice are meagrely supported and only four page weeklies.

Some Curious Ideas About Hell.

A curious article appears in the Nineteenth Century on the various ideas of hell that have prevailed in different ages. An original idea was the result of the speculative inquiries of Jean Hardouin. This most learned fool maintained that the rotation of the earth was due to the efforts of the damned to escape from their central fire. Climbing up the walls of hell, they caused the earth to revolve as a squirrel its cage, or a dog the spit. There is, moreover, no clock in hell. Braidaine represents a tortured being rising from his bed of appalling agony, and asking, "What is the time?" And a dull voice out of the darkness answers, "Eternity." Of devils, Gulielmus Parisiensis has found, on an exact computation, that there are 44,435,556, but it has been said that they vastly exceed that number. John Weir, a physician of Cleves, convinced that this world is peopled by crowds of devils, wrote in 1576 a book of some thousand folio pages, which is one of our chief sources of information on the subject. He makes 72 princes of devils, with 7,405,926 subjects. By Europeans the devil is commonly painted black. The Africans prefer a white devil.

Absentee Landlordism on Long Island.

Union College, of Schenectady, owns land in Long Island city valued at \$2,000,000, or about one-tenth the valuation of the entire city. The government of Long Island city has been so extravagant that taxes are enormously high, and the college is forced to sell. If taxes were confined to land values, it is easy to see that this would result in a net gain to the inhabitants, notwithstanding the extravagant public expenditures; for no one could afford to buy, except to improve. But as the taxes fall upon improvements as well as land, the extermination of this great corporate landlord is offset by the taxation menace to improvers.

The striking French miners have agreed to submit the difficulty to arbitration.

Cheap Labor.

A question worthy of the consideration of practical manufacturers is whether cheap labor is more profitable than well paid labor. My experience has convinced me that the smaller the wages the less incentive there is to produce on the part of the laborer. It is the man who works cheaply that is always watching the movements of the clock and for him the fingers seem to travel too slowly. In the days of Southern slavery it was found necessary to hire watchers to keep the slaves awake. The man who is paid low wages never gives a passing thought in connection with the use of supplies and the saving which could be effected for his employer by reasonable economy in this direction. No; instead of trying to be economical he is invariably on the outlook for a situation where he can get more pay. The goods that have been destroyed and the orders that have been cancelled through imperfect work resulting from the employment of poorly paid workmen would amount in value to millions of dollars if the sum total could be ascertained. Cheap labor often turns out to be dear labor in the end. It is the well paid laborer who has a contented mind and the interest of his employer at heart, who uses the strictest economy in supplies, spares no effort in endeavoring to obtain the greatest amount of quality possible out of quantity of material given him to manufacture.

This is the man who is constantly doing his utmost for his employer in the hopes of increasing the figures on the income side of his ledger. Then again well paid labor is profitable in many ways. For instance we assume that the wage workers of the United States receive daily in wages \$9,000,000, and that the pay roll was increased \$10,000,000, it would mean 10 per cent. more consumption, or thereabouts of all kinds of manufactured products, such as boots and shoes, hats, clothing of all descriptions and other articles necessary to make life comfortable. This is where the beneficial feature of trades unions is plainly seen advantage, as their principal object is to increase wages whenever the industrial condition of the market warrants such action. In this way not only consumption is increased, by increasing the purchasing power of the laborers, but profits are enhanced, employers and operatives who were formerly unemployed would find employment owing to the increased demand for goods, putting all idle machinery in motion. Trades unions are performing a great work towards elevating mankind, and should be encouraged in the efforts they are making to push forward the car of progress and civilization.

The Unemployed.

The Rev. Edward Everett Hale expressed in the Christian Revier for November this country by the analogies of Europe. There they are carrying their Old Man to the Sea, and we have an idea that because they are carrying theirs we must be carrying ours. This is not true. America has no surplus population, and, within any which it is worth while to talk about, will not have any surplus population. We have no need of Lady Bountifuls, we need no need of gracious condescension from class to another class. All that we need to give to everybody in America is to subdue the world which the good wants him to occupy. We need a "highly to resolve" that the civilization America shall go forward and go upward the work of the people who are in America and who are going to come into it. This sentiment is noble enough but springs from a misapprehension of facts that is apt to lead to false conclusions. Statistics that, to put it low, two and a half million men in this country are unemployed, they do not have a surplus population? The distinguished essayist might say, "no, employment could be given to them, the land large enough to accommodate all of them. True, and there is the rub. The so-called European surplus population is not "surplus" than our unemployed. It does not contain one half the population could house in comfort. The reason Europe has a surplus population is the same that causes the unemployed to be so numerous here. Both countries are afflicted with the same incubus, both have their Man of the Sea—the Capitalist system.

Young Mitchell says that Slavin in Sullivan's class. He says Sullivan get into fine shape for a fight.

LADY BOUNTIFUL.

A STORY WITH A MORAL FOR SOCIAL THEORISTS TO ACT UPON.

CHAPTER VII.

THE TRINITY ALMSHOUSE.

From Stepney Green to the Trinity Alms-house is not a long way; you have, in fact, little more than to pass through a short street and to cross the road. But the road itself is note worthy: for, of all the roads which lead into London or out of it, this of Whitechapel is the broadest and noblest by nature. Man, it is true, has done little to embellish it. There are no avenues of green and spreading lime and plane-trees, as, one day, there shall be: there are no stately buildings, towers, spires, miracles of architecture; but only houses and shops which, whether small or big, are all alike mean, unlovely, and depressing. Yet, in spite of all, a noble road.

This road, which is the promenade, breathing-place, place of resort, place of gossip, place of amusement, and place of business for the greater part of East London, stretches all the way from Aldgate to Stratford, being called first Whitechapel Road, and then the Mile End Road. Under the first name the road has acquired a reputation of the class called, by moralists, unenviable. The history of police-courts records, under the general heading of Whitechapel Road, shows so many free fights, brave robberies, gallant murders, dauntless kickings, outdgelings, pummelings, pocket-pickings, shop-liftings, watch-snatchings, and assaults on constables, with such a brave display of disorderly drunks, that the road has come to be regarded with admiration as one of those Alsatian retreats, growing every day rarer, which are beyond and above the law. It is thought to be a place where manhood and personal bravery reign supreme. Yet the road is not worthy this reputation: it has of late years become orderly; its present condition is dull and law-abiding, brilliant as the past has been, and whatever greatness may be in store for the future. Once out of Whitechapel, and in the respectable region of Mile End, the road has always been eminently respectable; and as regards dangers, quite safe, ever since they built the bridge over the Lea, which used now and again to have freshets, and, at such times, tried to drown harmless people in its ford. Since that bridge was built, in the time of Edward I., it matters not for the freshets. There is not much in the Bow Road when the stranger gets there, in his journey along this great thoroughfare, for him to visit, except its almshouses, which are many; and the beautiful old church of Bow, standing in the middle of the road, crumbling slowly away in the East End fog, with its narrow strips of crowded church-yard. One hopes that before it has quite crumbled away some one will go and make a picture of it—an etching would be the best. At Stratford the road divides, so that you may turn to the right and get to Barking, or to the left and get to Epping Forest. And all the way, for four miles, a broad and noble road, which must have been carved originally out of No Man's Land, in so generous a spirit is it laid out. Angela is now planting it with trees; beneath the trees she will set seats for those who wish to rest. Here and there she will erect drinking-fountains. Whitechapel Road, since her improvements begun, has been transformed; even the bacon shops are beginning to look a little less rusty; and the grocers are trying to live up to the green avenues.

Angela's imagination was fired by this road from the very first, when the Idle Apprentice took her into it as into a new and strange country. Here, for the first time, she realized the meaning of the universal curse, from which only herself and a few others are unnaturally exempted; and this only under heavy penalties and the necessity of fluting out their own work for themselves, or it will be worse for them. People think it better to choose their own work. That is a great mistake. You might just as well want to choose your own disease. In the West End, a good many folk do work—and work pretty hard, some of them—who need not, unless they please; and a good many others work who must, whether they please or not; but somehow the forced labor is pushed into the background. We do not perceive its presence; people drive about in carriages, as if there were nothing to do; people lounge; people have leisure; people do not look pressed, or in a hurry, or task-mastered, or told to make bricks without straw.

Here, in the East End, on the other hand, there are no strollers. All day long the place is full of passengers hastening to and fro, pushing each other aside, with set and anxious faces; each driven by the invisible scourge of necessity which makes slaves of all mankind. Do you know that famous picture of the Israelites in Egypt? Upon the great block of stone, which the

poor wretches are painfully dragging, while the cruel lash goades the weak and terrifies the strong, there sits one in authority. He regards the herd of slaves with eyes terrible from their stony gaze. What is it to him whether the feeble suffer and perish, so that the Pharaoh's will be done? The people of the East reminded Angela, who was an on-looker and had no work to do, of these builders of pyramids: they worked under a task-master as relentless as that stony-hearted captain or foreman of works. If the Israelites desisted, they were flogged back to work with cats of many tails; if our workmen desist, they are flogged back by starvation.

'Let us hope,' said Harry, to whom Angela imparted a portion of the above reflection and comparison—'let us hope the Pharaoh himself means well and is pitiful.' He spoke without his usual flippancy, so that perhaps his remark had some meaning, for himself.

All day long and all the year round there is a constant Fair going on in Whitechapel Road. It is held upon the broad pavement, which was benevolently intended, no doubt, for this purpose. Here are displayed all kinds of things: bits of second hand furniture, such as the head of a wooden bed, whose griminess is somewhat exaggerated, in order that a purchaser may expect something extraordinary cheap. Here are lids of pots and saucepans laid out, to show that in the warehouse, of which these things are specimens, will be found the principal parts of the utensils for sale; here are unexpected things, such as rows of skates, sold cheap in summer; light clothing in winter; workmen's tools of every kind, including, perhaps, the burglarious Jimmy; second-hand books—a miscellaneous collection, establishing the fact that the readers of books in Whitechapel—a feeble and scanty folk—read nothing at all except sermons and meditations among the Tombs; second hand boots and shoes, cutlery, hats and caps, rat traps and mouse-traps and bird-cages, flowers and seeds, skittles, and frames for photographs. Cheap-jacks have their carts beside the pavement; and with strident voice proclaim the goodness of their wares, which include in this district bladders and dried haddock, as well as crockery. And one is amazed, seeing how the open-air Fair goes on, why the shops are kept open at all.

And always the same. It saddens one, I know not why, to sit beside a river and see the water flowing down with never a pause. It saddens one still more to watch the current of human life in this great thoroughfare and feel that, as it is now, so it was a generation ago, and so it will be a generation hence. The bees in the hive die, and are replaced by others exactly like them, and the honey-making goes on merrily still. So, in a great street, the waggons always go up and down; the passengers never cease; the shop boy is always behind the counter; the workgirl is always sewing; the workman is always carrying his tools as he goes to his work; there are always those who stay for half a pint, and always those who hurry on. In this endless drama, which repeats itself like a musical box, the jeune premier of to-day becomes to-morrow the lean and slippared pantaloon. The day after to-morrow he will have disappeared, gone to join the silent ones in the grim, unlovely cemetery belonging to the Tower Hamlets, which lies beyond Stepney, and is the reason why on Sundays the frequent funeral blackens all the road.

'One can moralize,' said Harry one day, after they had been exchanging sentiments of enjoyable sadness, 'at this rate forever. But it has all been done before.'

'Everything, I suppose,' replied Angela, 'has been done before. If it has not been done by me, it is new to me. It does not make it any better for a man who has to work all the days of his life, and gets no enjoyment out of it, and lives ignobly and dies obscurely, that the same thing happens to most people.'

'We can not help ourselves.' This time it was the Cabinet-maker who spoke to the Dress-maker. 'We belong to the crowd. You can't make much glory out of a mercenary lathe or out of a dress-maker's shop, can you, Miss Kennedy?'

It was by such reminders, one to the other, that conversations of the most delightful kind, full of speculations and comparisons, were generally brought up short. When Angela remembered that she was talking to an artisan, she froze. When Harry reflected that it was a dress-maker to whom he was communicating bits of his inner soul, he checked himself. When, which happened every day, they forgot their disguises for awhile, they talked quite freely, and very prettily communicated all sorts of thoughts, fancies, and opinions to each other; inasmuch that once or twice a dis-

agreeable feeling would cross the girl's mind that they were perhaps getting too near a line at which 'keeping company' begins; but he was a young workman of good taste, and he never presumed.

She was walking beside her guide, Mr. Bunker, and pondering over these things as she gazed down the broad road, and recollected the talk she had held in it; and now her heart was warm within her, because of the things she thought and had tried to say.

'Here we are, miss,' said Mr. Bunker, stopping. 'Here's the Trinity Alms-house.'

She awoke from her dream. It is very odd to consider the strange thoughts which flash upon one in walking. Angela suddenly discovered that Mr. Bunker possessed a remarkable resemblance to a bear. His walk was something like one, with a swing of the shoulders, and his hands were big and his expression was hungry. Yes, he was exactly like a bear.

She observed that she was standing at a wicket-gate, and that over the gate was the effigy of a ship in full sail done in stone. Mr. Bunker opened the door, and led the way to the court within.

Then a great stillness fell upon the girl's spirit.

Outside, the waggons, carts, and omnibuses thundered and rolled. You could hear them plainly enough; you could hear the tramp of a thousand feet. But the noise outside was only a contrast to the quiet within. A wall of brick with iron railings separated the tumult from the calm. It seemed as if, within that court, there was no noise at all, so sharp and sudden was the contrast.

She stood in an oblong court, separated from the road by the wall above named. On either hand was a row of small houses, containing, apparently, four rooms each. They were built of red brick, and were bright and clean. Every house had an iron tank in front, for water; there was a pavement of flags along this row, and a grass lawn occupied the middle of the court. Upon grass stood the statue of a benefactor, and at the end of the court was a chapel. It was a very little chapel, but was approached by a most enormous and disproportionate flight of stone steps, which might have been originally out for a portal of St. Paul's Cathedral. The steps were surmounted by a great door-way, which occupied the whole west front of the chapel. No one was moving about the place except an old lady, who was drawing water from her tank.

'Pretty place, ain't it?' asked Mr. Bunker.

'It seems peaceful and quiet,' said the girl.

'Place where you'd expect Pride, ain't it?' he went on, scornfully. 'Oh! yes, Paupers and Pride go together, as well known. Lowliness is for them who've got a bank and money in it. Oh, yes, of course. Gar! The Pride of an Inmate!'

He led the way, making a most impertinent echo with the heels of his boots. Angela observed immediately that there was another court beyond the first. In fact, it was larger; the houses were of stone, and of greater size; and it was if anything more solemnly quiet. It was possessed of silence.

Here there is another statue erected to the memory of the Founder, who, it is stated on the pedestal, died, being then 'Commander of a ship' in the East Indies, in the year 1686. The gallant captain is represented in the costume of the period. He wears a coat of many buttons, large cuffs, and full skirts; the coat is buttoned a good way below the waist, showing the fair doublet within, also provided with many buttons. He wears shoes with buckles, has a soft silk wrapper round his neck, and a sash to carry his sword. On his head there is an enormous wig, well adapted to serve the purpose for which Solar Topes were afterward invented. In his right hand he carries a sextant, many sizes bigger than those in modern use, and at his feet dolphins sport. A grass lawn covers this court, as well as the other, and no voice or sound ever comes from any of the houses, whose occupants might well be all dead.

Mr. Bunker turned to the right, and rapped with his knuckles at a door. Then, without waiting for a reply, he turned the handle, and with a nod invited his companion to follow him.

It was a small but well-proportioned room with low ceiling, furnished sufficiently. There were clean white curtains with rose-colored ribbons. The window was open, and in it stood a pot of mignonette, now at its best. At the window sat, on one side, an old gentleman with silvery white hair and spectacles, who was reading, and on the other side a girl with work on her lap, sewing.

'Now, Cap'n Sorensen,' said Mr. Bunker, without the formality of greeting, 'I've got you another chance. Take it or leave it, since you can afford to be particular. I can't; I'm not rich enough. Ha! He snorted and looked about him with the contempt which a man who has a Banker naturally feels for one who hasn't, and lives in an Alms-house.'

'What is the chance?' asked the Inmate,

meekly, looking up. When he saw Angela in the door-way he rose and bowed, offering her a chair. Angela observed that he was a very tall old man, and that he had blue eyes and a rosy face—quite a young face it looked—and was gentle of speech and courteous in demeanor.

'Is the chance connected with this young lady, Mr. Bunker?'

'It is,' said the great man. 'Miss Kennedy, this is the young woman I told you of. This young lady'—he indicated Angela—'is setting herself up, in a genteel way, in the dress-making line. She's taken one of my houses on the Green, and she wants hands to begin with. She comes here, Cap'n Sorensen, on my recommendation.'

'We are obliged to you, Mr. Bunker.'

The girl was standing, her work in her hands, looking at Angela, and a little terrified by the sight of so grand a person. The dress-makers of her experience were not young and beautiful; mostly they were pinched with years, troubles, and anxieties. When Angela began to notice her, she saw that the young workgirl, who seemed about nineteen years of age, was tall, rather too thin, and pretty. She did not look strong, but her cheeks were flushed with a delicate bloom; her eyes, like her father's, were blue; her hair was light and feathery, though she brushed it as straight as it would go. She was dressed, like most girls of her class, in a frock of sober black.

Angela took her by the hand. 'I am sure,' she said, kindly, 'that we shall be friends.'

'Friends!' cried Mr. Bunker, aghast. 'Why, she's to be one of your girls! You can't be friends with your own girls.'

'Perhaps,' said the girl, blushing and abashed, 'you would like to see some of my work.' She spread out her work on the table.

'Fine weather here, cap'n,' Mr. Bunker went on, striking an attitude of patronage, as if the sun was good indeed to shine on an Alms-house. 'Fine weather should make grateful hearts, especially in them as is provided for—having been improvident in their youth—with comfortable roofs to shelter them.'

'Grateful hearts, indeed, Mr. Bunker,' said the captain, quietly.

'Mr. Bunker,'—Angela turned upon him with an air of command, and pointed to the door—'you may go now. You have done all I wanted.'

Mr. Bunker turned very red. 'He could go!' Was he to be ordered about by every little dress-maker? 'He could go!'

'If the lady engages my daughter, Mr. Bunker,' said Captain Sorensen, 'I will try to find the five shillings next week.'

'Five shillings!' cried Angela. 'Why, I have just given him five shillings for his recommendation.'

Mr. Bunker did not explain that his practice was to get five shillings from both sides, but he retreated with as much dignity as could be expected.

He asked, outside, with shame, how it was that he allowed himself thus to be sat upon and ordered out of the house by a mere girl. Why had he not stood upon his dignity? To be told he might go, and before an Inmate—a common Pauper!

There is one consolation always open, thank Heaven, for the meanest among us poor worms of earth. We are gifted with imaginations; we can make the impossible an actual fact, and can with the eye of the mind make the unreal stand before us in the flesh. Therefore, when we are down trodden, we may proceed, without the trouble and danger of turning (which has been known to bring total extinction upon a worm), to take revenge upon our enemy in imagination. Mr. Bunker, who was at this moment uncertain whether he hated Miss Kennedy more than he hated his nephew, went home glowing with the thought that but a few short months would elapse before he should be able to set his foot upon the former and crush her. Because, at the rate she was going on, she would not last more than that time. Then would he send in his bills, sue her, sell her up, and drive her out of the place stripped of the last farthing.

He might go! He, Bunker, was told that he might go! And in the presence of an Inmate. They thought of his nephew, and while he smote the pavement with the iron end of his umbrella, a cold dew appeared upon his nose, the place where inward agitation is frequently betrayed in this way, and he shivered, looking about him suddenly as if he was frightened. Yet, what harm was Harry Goslett likely to do him?

'What is your name, my dear?' asked Angela, softly, and without any inspection of the work on the table. She was wondering how this pretty, fragile flower should be found in Whitechapel. Oh, ignorance of Newham! For she might have reflected that the rarest and most beautiful plants are found in the most savage places—there is beautiful botanizing, one is told, in the Ural Mountains; and that the sun shines everywhere, even, as Mr. Bunker remarked, in an Alms-house; and that she herself had gathered in the ugliest ditches around Cambridge the sweetest flowering mosses, the tenderest campanula, the lowliest little herb-robot.

'My name is Ellen,' replied the girl.

'I call her Nelly,' her father answered, 'and she is a good girl. Will you sit down, Miss Kennedy?'

Angela sat down and proceeded to business. She said, addressing the old man, but looking at the child, that she was setting up a dress-maker's shop; that she had hopes of support, even from the West End, where she had friends; that she was prepared to pay the proper wages, with certain other advantages, of which more would be said later on; and that, if Captain Sorensen approved, she would engage his daughter from that day.

'I have only been out as an improver as yet,' said Nelly. 'But if you will really try me as a dress-maker—oh, father, it is sixteen shillings a week.'

Angela's heart smote her. A poor sixteen shillings a week! And this girl was delighted at getting so much.

'What do you say, Captain Sorensen? Do you want references, as Mr. Bunker did? I am the granddaughter of a man who was born here and made a little—money here, which he left to me. Will you let her come to me?'

'You are the first person,' said Captain Sorensen, 'who ever, in this place, where work is not so plentiful as hands, offered work as if taking it was a favor to you.'

'I want good girls—and nice girls,' said Angela. 'I want a house where we shall all be friends.'

The old sailor shook his head.

'There is no such house here,' he said, sadly. 'It is "take it or leave it"—if you won't take it, others will. Make the poor girls your friends, Miss Kennedy? You look and talk like a lady born and bred, and I fear you will be put upon. Make friends of your servants? Why, Mr. Bunker will tell you that Whitechapel does not carry on business that way. But it is good of you to try, and I am sure you will not scold and drive like the rest.'

'You offended Mr. Bunker, I learn, by refusing a place which he offered,' said Angela.

'Yes; God knows if I did right. We are desperately poor, else we should not be here. That you may see for yourself. Yet, my blood boiled when I heard the character of the man whom my Nelly was to serve. I could not let her go. She is all I have, Miss Kennedy—the old man drew the girl toward him and held her, his arm round her waist. 'If you will take her and treat her kindly, you will have—it isn't worth anything, perhaps—the gratitude of one old man in this world—soon in the next.'

'Trust your daughter with me, Captain Sorensen,' Angela replied, with tears in her eyes.

'Everybody round here is poor,' he went on. 'That makes people hard-hearted; there are too many people in trade, and that makes them mean; they are all trying to undersell each other, and that makes them full of tricks and cheating. They treat the workgirls worse because they can not stand up for themselves. The long hours, and the bad food, and the poisonous air—think a little of your girls, Miss Kennedy. But you will—you will.'

'I will, Captain Sorensen.'

'It seems worse to us old sailors,' he went on. 'We have had a hardish life, but it has been in open air. Old sailors haven't had to cheat and lie for a living. And we haven't been brought up to think of girls turning night into day, and working sixteen hours on end at twopenny an hour. It is hard to think of my poor girl—' he stopped and clenched his fist. 'Better to starve than to drive such a mill!' He was thinking of the place which he had refused.

'Let us try each other, Nelly,' she said, kissing her on the forehead.

The captain took his hat to escort her as far as the gate.

'A quiet place,' he said, looking round the little court, 'and a happy place for the last days of improvident old men like me. Yet some of us grumble. Forgive my plain speech about the work.'

'There is nothing to forgive, indeed, Captain Sorensen. Will you let me call upon you sometime?'

She gave him her hand. He bowed over it with a courtesy of a captain on his own quarter deck. When she turned away she saw that a tear was standing in his eyes.

'Father!' cried Nelly, rushing into his arms, 'did you ever see anybody like her? Oh! oh! do you think I really shall do for her?'

'You will do your best, my dear. It is a long time, I think, since I have seen and spoken with any one like that. In the old days I have had passengers to Calcutta like her; but none more so, Nelly—no, never one more so.'

'You couldn't father.' His daughter wanted no explanation of this mysterious qualification. 'You couldn't. She is a lady, father,' she looked up and laughed. 'It's a funny thing for a real lady to open a dress-maker's shop on Stepney Green, isn't it?'

Remark, if you please, that this girl had never once before, in all her life, conversed with a lady, using the word in the prejudiced and narrow sense peculiar to the West End. Yet she discovered instantly the truth. Whence this instinct? It is a world full of strange and wonderful things; the more questions we ask, the more we may; and the more things we consider, the more incomprehensible does the sum of things appear. Inquiring reader, I do not know how Nelly divined that her visitor was a lady.

(To be Continued.)

LABOR AND WAGES.

AMERICAN.

Six thousand Indiana miners are out on strike.

Indiana has a woman's real estate association.

Chinese-made shoes at 'Frisco are being boycotted.

Employees of the Bellaire, O., steel works are on strike.

Logansport, Ind., carpenters want eight hours and \$2.40.

Milwaukee railway laborers struck against a reduction to \$1.25 a day.

After twenty months the molders' strike at 'Frisco has been declared off.

Denver bricklayers held their eighth annual reception and ball a few days ago.

One hundred of the Italian sewer workers on strike at Boston will return to Italy.

New York Cuban cigarmakers are organized. New York also has a Spanish cigarmakers union.

The organizing committee of the Trades Assembly of Syracuse is trying to effect a union among merchants.

There are 12,000,000 workmen in the United States adding to its wealth at the rate of \$7 a day, but they get less than \$1 a day.

Cabinet Makers' Union No. 7, of New York, has been requested by the Board of Walking Delegates to raise its initiation fee to \$5.

The weavers of Wright Smith's silk mill in Paterson, N. J., are on strike against a reduction in wages, ranging from 10 to 50 per cent.

An application for permission to strike was granted last week by Cigarmakers' Union No. 144; 19 new members have been enrolled.

Mayor Baker of Lockport, Ill., has locked out his fifty wire workers, who refused to obey his order to withdraw from the Amalgamated Iron Workers' Union.

A recent visitor to the mines of Temescal, Cal., says that about 40 tons of ore is being crushed in a day and from this about 3,500 pounds of block tin is turned out.

The local unions and assemblies of the slate and tin roofers in the United States are corresponding with each other to form an international organization of their trade.

A short-lived strike occurred at the cigar shop of H. H. Heert & Co., 114 Murray street, New York. The firm agreed to continue paying the wages as agreed upon last year.

The Oleander Association of Colored Hotel and Restaurant Waiters' Local Assembly No. 171, K. of L., of New York, which lapsed several months ago, was reorganized last week.

Two Chicago inventors have patented an artificial ice skating rink. It consists of an iron tank, through which run ammonia pipes with which to melt the ice when it becomes necessary to provide a fresh, smooth surface.

One of the striking cigarmakers of Herman Jacoby, New York, named Heilmann, was placed under \$300 bail last week to keep the peace for three months. He had been charged with creating a disturbance in front of the shop.

The miners of Pittsburgh district have decided to make the strike more general because the bosses have declared that the price of mining for all markets must be 79 cents a ton. About 14,000 men in the district will be called out.

Trouble again at Smith & Sons' carpet factory in Yonkers. About 1,000 people have been laid off under the pretence of necessary repairs, and the wages of those remaining at work were reduced. The firm's experience of eight years ago seems not to have made them any wiser.

The Vienna Bakers' Benevolent Society of New York has been disbanded, and the \$55 which remained in the treasury were divided among the few members who attended the last meeting. It was charged that negligence of the officers had caused the collapse of the society, which, however, is to be reorganized.

A serious riot occurred in Anderson, Ind., and it is not known exactly how many were shot and stabbed. James Purcell and a striker were attacked in the Panhandle freight yards by a crowd of glassblowers connected with the factories here. The young men were nearly beaten to death before the police arrived.

The United Bookbinders of North America called a mass meeting at 98 Forsyth street, New York, which took place Monday evening of last week. It was attended by about 300 people, who seemed to agree that only through harmony and a strong organization would they be able to improve their condition. The speakers were Theo. F. Cuno, George K. Lloyd and Daniel DeLeon.

EUROPEAN.

Hamburg will have an international convention of bakers.

Coal miners of Bohemia earn the princely salary of \$132 a year.

The South Australian Labor party ordered a straw vote to be taken in all unions to ascertain its strength in case of a by-election.

At Nevers, France, 60 strikers have been condemned to pay fines from \$10 to \$50 and damages alleged to be caused by them to their bosses.

Three outspoken Socialists, Hill, Laidler and Stewart, have been returned as members of the School Board by the workmen of Newcastle, England.

In the mines of the Prussian Government 338,505 laborers were employed last year, against 314,171 in the previous year. Most of these men belong to the Social Democratic party.

The Municipal Council of Milan, Italy, has given 168 honorary prizes to members of labor organizations who were sent to the Paris exposition for their reports made upon the different branches of industry studied by them.

Europe contains five "proving houses," or testing places for firearms, the largest of which is located at Liege, in Belgium. At this establishment there is consumed every year between three and four million cartridges and over forty tons of gunpowder.

Three hundred miners who went on strike at Eokington, near Chesterfield, England, without notifying the Unstone Coal Company, with whom they had contracts, have agreed not only to resume work, but also to pay for the damage caused by the strike.

The socialistic character of the French strikes grows more and more marked. At the request of the socialist deputies the Government has appointed a jury of arbitration to settle the questions which at present divide the masters and their men in the mining districts. The miners, on the other hand, have elected their delegates, and are anxious that when the masters have chosen theirs the Government arbitrators shall decide between them. Unless the masters consent to this arrangement the men will refuse to accept Government arbitration. So far the mine owners have declined to trust their interests to delegates, and consequently the strikes continue. If the present state of things last a week longer France will be compelled to go to Germany and England for her coal. As things stand, this would lead to grave economic difficulties. The strike seems spreading.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A machine stamps 24,431 letters in an hour.

Twenty-one railroads centre in Minneapolis.

Montana has a saloon for every sixty inhabitants.

Scotland has thirty towns with more than 10,000 people.

There are 50,842,434 acres of vacant land in Wyoming.

London bus conductors have electric lighted buttons on their coats.

A new machine will thread four different sizes of bolts in an hour, and with one man can thread 15,000 bolts in ten hours.

Labor can change five pounds of pig iron worth five cents into 110,200 steel watch springs worth \$1.75 per dozen—\$16,070.84.

The farmers of Iowa, after ten years of hard work of about 14 hours a day on an average, find themselves \$65,000,000 poorer than they were ten years ago.

Horace Greeley said that "He who is content to enjoy the fruits of others' toil, rendering mankind little or no service in return can be but a very distant follower of the Divine Redeemer."

A new cement is attracting considerable attention in England, owing to its adhering so strongly to iron, wood and stone. It is made of 20 parts of gas tar, 75 parts of clay and silica earth, and 5 parts of natural sulphates.

There are about 1,460 abandoned farms in Massachusetts, comprising about 125,500 acres. Every one of these farms is worth about \$3,500, but their owner could no longer compete with the bonanza farmers of the West, who cultivate many square miles by means of costly machinery.

WATCH YOUR WATCH.

Some Queer Things That Happen to Pocket Timepieces.

A watch is indeed a queer thing. It possesses some unaccountable peculiarities.

Some time ago when there had been a succession of fine displays of the aurora borealis, it was estimated that in a single night in New York the mainsprings of not less than 3,000 watches broke. The estimate is based on actual inquiries.

Fine, sensitive watches are particularly liable to be affected by electrical atmos-

pheric disturbances. During the months of June, July and August, when these phenomena are most frequent, there are more mainsprings broken than during all the remaining months of the year. They break in a variety of ways, sometimes snapping into as many as twenty-seven pieces.

It is a fact that since the use of the electric light has become so general a large number of watches, some of them very fine ones, have become magnetized. While in this condition they are useless as timekeepers. This defect used to be considered incurable and because of it thousands of watches have been thrown away after much money had been spent on them in vain attempts to persuade them to keep good time.

Among the methods resorted to were washing the parts in garlic juice, refinishing and passing them through the fire. But all these devices were entire failures, or only in parts effective.

There are occasions when it is a very serious matter to have your watch magnetized. The captain of an Atlantic steamer, before putting to sea on a recent voyage, was invited to inspect an electric dynamo machine and examined its parts closely.

Soon after getting on board the steamer he noticed that the compass became strangely affected when he approached it. Whether he stood on the right side or on the left, or immediately in front of the compass, the needle would invariably point to him. The compass was worse than useless when he came near it. It was dangerous, and might wreck the ship.

This phenomenon alarmed and puzzled the captain not a little. An length he recalled his visit to the dynamo machine, and the true solution of the eccentric behavior of the needle flashed upon him. His watch had become magnetized. When he removed it the needle resumed its constancy to the north star.

Watches frequently get magnetized in iron mines or machine shops, where they are incautiously brought near swiftly running belts.

It is a well known fact among horologists that no watch will keep the same time with two people. The cause has not yet been definitely ascertained, but it would seem that in some mysterious way a watch is affected by the temperament of the wearer. The mere physical difference in gait and movement between different people is not sufficient to account for all the variations that have been observed.

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THE CHURCH AND THE PEOPLE

There is no use in denying what is every day being made clearer, the fact that the church is losing its hold upon the working classes, and the question of who is to blame for the existing state of things is variously answered. The working man himself will advance as his reason for non-attendance upon church ordinances, the plea that the church has gone away from him and settled down among the "respectable" portion of the community, to whom the religion of the Carpenter's son is sugar-coated in a way to flatter their self-love and draw the shekels from their pockets. True it is, he will say, that once in a while the "respectable" sinner gets a castigation from a preacher, but in such a gingerly, round-about fashion, that his congregation disperses, comforting themselves with the pharisaical reflection, "the present company always excepted." The workingman says, and not without reason, that very few preachers take any interest in what mostly concerns their social advancement and material prosperity; instead of encouraging and assisting them to resist the inroads of capital, instead of helping them to lessen their hours of toil, and therefore give more time for bodily and mental relaxation, they cry out against combination as dangerous to "peace and good will among men," and weary them with endless dissertations on the theme of "Servants obey your masters," conveniently forgetting the context. If parsons, they say, showed less appreciation of the money power and devoted their lives to the greatest good of the greatest number, the irregularity of attendance of the working classes at church would not be so apparent. That some professing Christians are becoming alarmed at this indifference, and what it leads to, is evidenced by a despatch from Kingston, which tells of a movement inaugurated to hold Sunday afternoon meetings for workmen during the winter months, at which what is called secular subjects are to be handled. This is a step in the right direction. So accustomed have workmen become to do anything rather than "go to meeting" on Sunday that it may be difficult for a time to secure their attendance, but once the fact becomes known that a public statement of their grievances will be accepted and remedies discussed, plenty of workmen will be found to come forward and tell just exactly what they suffer from and what they want. If the "rigidly righteous" of Montreal may not exactly view this as proper work for the "Lord's Day,"

there are others who may take it up, looking hopefully forward to what may follow. We may remind the former class that good results occasionally follow "holding a candle to the devil."

NATIONAL INSURANCE.

National insurance against the poverty of old age is just now being much spoken of and written about by the Tories of England and their allies, the Unionists, probably as an offset to the Gladstonian programme, as formulated at the Newcastle Conference. The latest to draw attention to the subject is Mr. Chamberlain, who declared at the Unionist Conference in Manchester that it was a question capable of solution by Tory legislators (of course). A series of reports from Her Majesty's representatives at various European Courts, respecting facilities given by foreign Governments to provision for old age among the industrial classes had been obtained, but these do not afford much assistance to those in search of a scheme which would enable the toiler to spend his declining years in comfort and independence unattended by anything savoring of pauperism. There is in Germany a scheme of old age insurance in existence, which, however works altogether differently from the way in which it is expressed on paper and is not giving very great satisfaction. The State and the employer are each supposed to contribute one-third of an employee's insurance and the insurer the remaining third, but in working out the problem it has been found that the employee contributes the whole, and in this way: The workman's share is deducted from his wages, and as the employer's third is raised by direct taxation upon articles largely consumed by the poorer classes he indirectly pays, in the shape of dearer bread and increased taxes, the proportion allotted to the employer and to the State respectively. The French experience and proposals in the matter of providing for the old age of workmen are particularly interesting. Among the grand principles laid down by the Constitution in 1848 was the right of the poor workman "to labor and to State assistance," and one of the schemes hastily evolved to carry the principle into operation was the "Caisse des Retraites," established under the law of 18th June, 1850, with the object of developing economy and saving among the poor. But it would appear that the experiment has not been very successful. Only about a twelfth of the persons working for hire are depositors; the average amount of the pensions does not exceed \$1.60 per month; and the number of spontaneous depositors among the classes it is desired to benefit has always been very small. What is now proposed is an "enormous development" of the system of providing for old age. Under the scheme submitted by the Government to the Chambers for the creation of a National "Caisse de Retraite Ouvrieres," it is proposed that a deduction of one cent or two cents per day shall be made from each salary; that a similar amount shall be put aside by the employer; and that at the end of thirty years' payments, the pension accruing, calculated at 4 per cent interest to amount to \$35.50 with one cent and \$71 with two cent contributions, shall be supplemented to the extent of two-thirds from Government funds. Payments are to begin at the age of 25, and the pension to become payable at 56; and the scheme includes a sliding scale of lower pensions which can be taken advantage of by persons between the age of 25 and 40 who have not made deposits. The effect of the bill, if it becomes law, will be that the man who begins to pay his two cents a day, counting 290 working days in the year, at his twenty-fifth birthday will be entitled to a pension of \$120 per annum when he reaches the age of 56. For the State, calculating the maximum number of persons who will avail

themselves of the "Caisse" at three millions, the scheme will entail a charge for pensions which is expected to increase in thirty-one years to \$17,531,850, with half a million more for life insurances, into which the contributors have the option of transforming their pensions. Several other countries are moving in the way of State provision for old age, and among these Denmark has passed a new law providing for old age relief for the deserving poor, under which, while securing assistance from State funds, those who do so are not deprived of electoral rights or subjected to other disabilities of a pauper class. In the British scheme it is proposed to include the best features of those now in existence, avoiding anything of a pauperizing tendency.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The appeal made by the Central Trades and Labor Council on behalf of the fund to enable the Widow Flynn to prosecute her case before the Privy Council has up to the present been very generously responded to, the result being that a considerable sum has been subscribed. The sum collected, however, still falls short of what is required, and to still further increase the fund the Council has determined upon a drawing, the prizes in which will be several useful and valuable articles, which have been kindly contributed. The tickets are placed at the nominal figure of twenty-five cents so as to be within the reach of all, and seeing the purpose for which the drawing has been got up there should be no difficulty in readily disposing of them.

Another "benevolent" scheme has entered into competition with honest labor. The Salvation Army of Kingston, Ont., has established a shoemakers' shop in connection with their Rescue Home, and convicts who have served their term in the penitentiary there will be taken charge of and work provided for them. Of course we do not mean to say that those who have once fallen should not be given a chance to redeem their character and at the same time earn an honest livelihood, but our experience is that institutions of this kind, largely supported through public or private charity, are taken advantage of by unscrupulous Capitalists to compete with honest labor. There are instances of it here in Montreal, where legitimate enterprise is handicapped by the competition of the criminal and pauper population. One has only to read the evidence given before the Royal Labor Commission some years ago by employing printers and journeymen, and by those of other trades to be convinced of this fact. Therefore we are justified in saying that the existence of all such institutions, unless restricted to legitimate competition, is a serious menace to the future of the particular trade they may be engaged in.

A second Daniel has come to judgment in the person of Police Magistrate Denison, of Toronto. In a case before him where an employee sued his employer for \$22 wages due, the latter was ordered to pay the amount or go to prison, and no one will question the justice of the sentence either. When a man has to invoke the aid of the law to obtain what he has earned by the sweat of his brow the party who is responsible should be made to sweat also.

The revelations made public in the dispute between Filteau and the Water Committee are calculated to make people open their eyes, and ask "what does it mean?" It appears that some years ago a resolution was passed by the Water Committee prohibiting the collection of water rates from Corporation employees except in the regular and legal way. Notwithstanding this resolution, certain employees of the city who, in their own minds, are very great people, decided to order Filteau to pay some of the laborers who had not

paid their water rates with a receipted bill, instead of cash. Filteau very properly refused to do this, as he well knew that a poor laborer earning the princely salary of \$1.25 a day could not purchase the necessities of life with a receipted water bill. This is one of the most outrageous propositions we have heard for many a day. Let the Corporation collect its water rates from civic employees in the same manner as it does from other people. Because a man is unfortunate enough to have to work for the Corporation it is no reason why he should be taken by the throat and bulldozed by either civic officials or anybody else.

News has been received from the Chaudiere that the mill hands are organizing and that about two thousand so far have joined the Knights of Labor. This movement has been rendered necessary by the conditions under which they have to labor for the paltry pittance allowed them, and now that the step has been taken we believe that by another season they will be in a much better position than they were to present their demand for better terms.

Once in a while we fall across a clergyman who, having convictions of his own is not afraid to give public expression to them. In the person of Rev. William Prall, of Detroit, another has been unearthed, and his outspoken language is sufficient indication that, having studied the social question carefully his convictions are of the deepest. Here is what he says: "The air is full of the spirit of discontent. This is more the case in Europe than in America, but it is on the rapid increase on this side of the Atlantic. There can be no doubt that the wage-earners, the manual laborers of the world, are not satisfied with the conditions of things as they are, and are clamoring for a change. Socialism is the remedy for the ills of the time. Its aim is justice. This is also the aim Christianity, and Socialism is in harmony with the teachings of Him who said that as ye would have men do unto you do ye also unto them *** The trouble is that many who profess to be and call themselves Christians have lost all touch and sympathy with the masses. The great captains of industry are as far removed from the laboring classes as is the Emperor of China from his humblest subject *** Compare the summer palaces of the rich at Newport and Lenox with the hovels of the poor in the slums. And yet the poor are compelled to pay a higher interest on the capital invested in their tenements than do the rich in their palaces. *** Socialism may be hostile to the church, but it is not hostile to Christians."

WILLIAMS PIANOS

Endorsed by the best authorities in the world.

5000 Sold in Montreal.

21 Styles to Choose from.

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FOR CENTRAL CANADA:

WILLIS & CO.
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(NEAR MCGILL STREET.)

Tuning and Repairs
done in an artistic manner
at reasonable rates.
Also Tuning by the year.

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In all the leading styles
All latest improvements
Guaranteed

Each garment is guaranteed perfectly waterproof, and ladies will find a pleasure in wearing these Cloaks, as they are free from the noxious odor that is found on inferior garments.

THE PRICES

are much lower than elsewhere, the reason being that they are bought direct from the manufacturers, and the middleman's profit is thereby saved.

Waterproofs for Misses and Ladies.
S. CARSLEY.

MANTLE DEPARTMENT.

SHAWLS

Extensive Stock to select from

All the new Makes

All the new Designs

In All-Wool Shawls for Travelling

Heavy Velvet Shawls

Heavy Camel's-Hair Shawls

Heavy Chudda Shawls

Heavy Himalayan Shawls

BREAKFAST SCARFS

Very handsome Plaid Designs.

Those articles are speedily taking the place of Knitted Shawls, being more elegant and retaining their appearance better after they are washed.

Scotch Plaids in great variety.

S. CARSLEY.

MANTLE DEPARTMENT.

CLOTHS

FOR COATS FOR ULSTERS

FOR RUSSIAN CIRCULARS

FOR MANTLES FOR DOLMANS

Cloths in All New Shades

Winter Weights

SEE THE NEW SPANISH BROWN

In Beaver Cloth

In Cheviot Tweed

Plaid Cloths Checked Cloths

Striped Cloths Figured Cloths

And Plain Colors

Navy Cloths, Tweeds and Serges

Black Cloths, Tweeds and Serges

Best Makes

S. CARSLEY.

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WIDE WIDTHS CLOSELY WOVEN

GREY ASTRACHANS

BROWN ASTRACHANS

BLACK ASTRACHANS

NAVY BLUE ASTRACHANS

Suitable for Making Long Coats or

For Trimming.

CURLY CLOTHS FOR INFANTS' CLOAKS

IN GREAT VARIETY.

SEALETTES

SILK SEALETTES MOHAIR SEALETTES

The goods that have been produced this season are far superior, not only in value, but in representing

REAL SEAL.

S. CARSLEY.

Lace Department.

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EVENING DRESS NETS AND LACES

Latest Specialties in

SEQUIN GAUZE

Black and Gold only.

Spot and Stripe Silk Nets

Spot and Stripe Gauzes

Spot and Strip Chantilly Nets

The "Bernhardt" Spotted Gauze

Latest Parisian Novelty.

Chantilly, Spanish, French, Escuriel, Sou-tache, Valenciennes, Oriental and other Laces.

In wide, medium and narrow widths.

S. CARSLEY.

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CHIFFONS

DOUBLE WIDTH CHIFFONS,

For Evening Dresses.

Most Perfect Draping Material.

EMBROIDERED CHIFFONS,

In all shades.

For Trimming Evening Dresses.

FRENCH GILETS.

Latest Parisian Novelty.

All Silk and Lace Goods.

Variety of shades.

Fichus for Evening Wear.

FANS.

Largest assortment of Fans in the city to select from.

S. CARSLEY.

BLACK GOODS!

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Is the best store in Montreal for all kinds of Black and

MOURNING GOODS

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1765, 1767, 1769, 1771, 1773, 1775, 1777, 1779

NOTRE DAME STREET, MONTREAL.

CARSLEY'S COLUMN.

THE REFERENDUM.

A System That Has Been Tried in Switzerland With Satisfactory Results.

The Cleveland Citizen says: There is no principle more important in democratic government than the referendum. It is the safeguard of the Swiss Republic, which, in the essential features of democratic government, is the most splendid monument to liberty and to the welfare of the citizen, that civilization has brought forth. It is no answer to say that Switzerland is poor and makes no appreciable showing among the nations of the earth. The fact still remains that Switzerland has preserved a pure and simple form of democratic government for six hundred years. The citizen has been protected in his rights, no classes have been favored by legislation, and the autonomy of the Constitution has been preserved by guarding it with fidelity and love. This has been done by the system of referring all legislative enactments to the people for sanction, which is known as the Referendum. Under our system of electing legislators, whether State or National, and delegating them certain powers, we have nothing to protect the people from the abuse of that power except in the person of the Governor or President. But even this safeguard is abortive when we consider that the legislation in Congress and State Legislatures generally reflect the opinions of the President and Governors, because it is legislation made by their parties. What protection did the people get from the President's veto when Grant was in the chair, and when the most infamous legislation that this country ever witnessed received his sanction? What protection did the people get from Ben Harrison's veto, when he sanctioned every foul subsidy and practical measure that passed the last Congress? You may say, "We won't re-elect the members of Congress who voted for class legislation or the President who sanctioned it." But what does that amount to? The evil has been done, and this would not reach or prevent it in the future. Succeeding Congresses could do what its predecessors had done. Of course there would be a certain amount of protection if the people elected men whom they could implicitly trust, but there would still be a doubt as to whether the majority of the people would sanction the legislation made by their legislators if they had the power to sanction or condemn it. But if, upon the application of a number of citizens, a law would be referred to the people for their approval or disapproval, and that if disapproved those legislators voting for it be compelled to appeal to their constituents for vindication or condemnation, the class laws and legislation that are marked features of all legislative assemblies would not be enacted. Just as far as the people can with convenience make an approval of the laws, the closer will legislation harmonize with their will, and the more will government become the instrument of the people's wishes.

This is no theoretical proposition that has been untried. It has been so successful in Switzerland that the man who would advocate its abolition would be looked upon as a fool. Consider what a godsend the Referendum would be in municipal affairs, if the granting of public franchises were subject to the approval of the people. Street railways, gas companies and electric light companies would probably have to pay well for their privileges. It is possible that enough revenue could be derived from public franchises to pay the expenses of a city government. But it will never be done unless we have the Referendum.

The London correspondent of the Gaulois states that Cardinal Manning, in an interview on the subject of the Socialists' demands, declared himself in favor of an eight hours day. His Eminence (adds the correspondent) says he was absolutely opposed to Socialism as such, but that he agreed with certain demands which he regarded as just.

THE GERMAN SOCIALISTS.

If the leaders of German social democracy hoped by the expulsion from the party of those members who were opposed to the leaders to silence opposition once and for all, they have been mistaken. On the contrary, that opposition, now relieved from the fetters of party discipline, is carried on with greater energy than ever. The members expelled have resolved upon the foundation of a new party, to be called the "Union of Independent Socialists," and at a meeting held recently the constitution of the party was decided upon. In the manifesto issued by the committee it is stated that the chief aim of the party will be the free development of individuality among its members. The mental horizon of the workman is to be enlarged by frequent discussions on public questions, but no conviction is to be forced upon him. It is evident that this principle is entirely in opposition to the axioms of Socialism. The manifesto further points out that the Social Democrats ought not to contribute anything towards the welfare and prosperity of States as they are now doing. The worse the state of public affairs, says the document, the nearer are the hopes of Social Democracy to their realization. The gulf between the different classes of the population is to be widened, and no negotiations or compromises are to be made with the bourgeoisie. It is hoped that the present co-operation of the Social Democrats in the work of legislation will thus become impossible. The manifesto continues:—We are in favor of thorough and free interchange of opinions, and this we no longer find in the party, expulsion hanging over the head of any one who has an opinion of his own, whatever tendency he advocates. For this reason we work outside the narrow frame of party organization. We summon all who do not agree with the party leaders, and strive for the free development of the organization, to form in common with us a union of independent Socialists. It will be the task of this union to go on working for the propagation of our views, which only know one object—the liberation of the proletariat from the bonds of slavery. The above programme is evidently nothing less than an advocacy of revolution, and as every improvement in the workmen's position makes them less inclined to risk their position it is improbable that the new party will make much headway among them.—Daily News.

LADY WORKERS AMONG GIRLS

A conference of Lady Workers among Girls sat recently in Liverpool. The first subject discussed was the labor question as it affected women. Mrs. Lindsay, of Glasgow, said there were special reasons for low wages paid to women, the chief being the competition of partially supported workers and girls at home, who only worked for pocket money. Besides the competition between men and women, the latter being willing to work for much lower wages, she held that combination alone could ameliorate the condition of women in this respect. The first union was formed in 1874 by Mrs. Patterson, and after various suggestions had been brought forward the first union was formed under the title of the Women's Trade Union Provident League. In 1888 a new type of union was formed, which had no provident side, but was formed only for trade purposes. The main objects attained by the Unionists had been the settling of and prevention of strikes, the securing of a rise in wages, and the prevention of reduction. There were, of course, problems to solve relating to sick funds, relation with men's unions, and outside help. Miss Beatrice Potter, of London, and Miss Margaret Lleylyn Davies read papers on co-operation among women, in which co-operative stores are recommended as helping to abolish the

sweating system. Reference was made to the Women's Co-operative Guild in London, to which women shareholders are eligible. The men's committee were warmly supporting the Guild. The work is very varied, and more help would be warmly welcomed. After Miss Davis' paper an interesting discussion followed, which concluded the morning sitting. The afternoon sitting opened with a paper devoted to the right of women to fill the office of Poor-law Guardians. Miss Clifford, of Bristol, asserted that though only one hundred at the present time filled the position of Poor-law Guardians, they had done much work which could only be done by women in supervising officers and nurses, and in caring for epileptics and weak minded paupers. A paper on pit brow women was read by Miss Parke, of Southport, in which she reviewed the unsuccessful efforts made since 1866 to exclude women from pit brow labor. Mrs. Parke, as Mayoress of Wigan for five years, said she had opportunities of studying these women, and concluded they were in their right place on the pit brow. This occupation had been followed by some families for generations, so that it had become a traditional occupation. The work made them them healthy and strong, being performed in the open air. There were at present so occupied in Great Britain 4,205 women, earning good wages. She demanded that those who opposed this class of labor should give valid reasons for its suppression. At present men simply demanded this class of work for themselves.

INSURING EMPLOYMENT.

We find another application of the insurance principal about to be undertaken in England, according to an announcement of the prospectus of the bankers', assurance, solicitors' and commercial clerks' provident association. The proposal is to insure clerks against money loss by being deprived of their situations by any causes beyond their control, and not their own fault. Such causes are enumerated thus, the first class being "general"; fire on the premises, lack of capital, dissolution of partnership, transfer of business, depression of trade, reduction in departments, bankruptcy, retirement from business, death of employer. The following "personal" causes are named: accident, sickness, old age, disagreements, unsuitability for one situation, though good for another. The prospectus emphasizes its own timeliness by saying that ten thousand clerks lose their situations annually in London. A subscription of 2s. 6d., or 1s. 6d. per month is to secure 20 and 10 shillings respectively per week when out of employment.—Independent.

NOT AT ALL EXTRAORDINARY.

The London Weekly Times and Echo tells of what it calls an extraordinary case. But to the observant and thoughtful the case is superlatively ordinary. At the Newcastle-on-Tyne police court John Bell, laborer, was charged with breaking into a shop and stolen clothing of the value of £5. During the trial the prisoner's wife complained that her rent had been raised. Police Superintendent Moss said that since the passing of the free education bill, rents had been increased. In reply to Alderman Hamond, prisoner's wife said their children went to a board school. Alderman Hamond: "And the landlord charges you the same fee you used to pay for the children's education? Very nice, indeed." Superintendent Moss: "It is going on over the whole district." Alderman Hamond: "It is most extraordinary. If the landlords had paid the school fees, I could have understood it. It is most iniquitous; and this is legislation! It is grandmotherly legislation."

The tendency of public benefits to increase rents, as shown in this case, is present in connection with all cases of public improvements, whether parks, railroads, schools, or what not.

ARTIFICIAL RAIN.

The efforts at artificial rain making are extending, but so far the results obtained are more than doubtful. The experiments made in India are reported an utter failure, and from the contradictory statements regarding those made in Texas there is room to doubt if any success has been achieved. Professor Simon is a disbeliever in the method, and says that a thousand detonations could produce no more effect upon the air or upon the water vapor in it than a thousand rebounds of a small boy's rubber ball would produce upon a stone wall. Scientific opinions are generally against the theory on which the experiments are based and their multiplication in different parts of the world will soon set the question at rest.

JOHN MURPHY & CO'S ADVERTISEMENT.

WINDFALLS!

There is an old proverb to the effect that "it is an ill wind that blows nobody good." Windfalls are not sometimes unmixed blessings, although the "Ancient Saw" gives wise expression to the great law of compensation that runs like a silver thread through the warp and woof of evil. Boreas has been asserting himself, and "the cave of the winds," wherever that may be, has unlocked its treasures in the interests of Hygiene the goddess of health. So far, so good! But the windfalls to which we refer are not dependent upon Meteorological conditions, whatever influence

The "Trade" Winds

may have had in their production. At present they are scattered in abundance throughout the various Departments of our establishment. They are genuine BONA FIDE "windfalls," which the ladies of the city are quick to appreciate. For the week, they are particularly worthy of attention in the underlined lines.

JOHN MURPHY & CO.

LADIES' JERSEYS.

We have still an assortment of the Colored Jerseys to sacrifice at the following startling reductions:—

\$2.00	for	\$1.00
2.50	for	1.25
3.00	for	1.50
3.25	for	1.75
3.50	for	1.95
4.00	for	2.00
4.50	for	2.50
6.00	for	3.50

LADIES' BLACK JERSEYS.

Plain and Beaded.

CHILDREN'S DRESSES.

All Sizes and Prices.

The Leading Makes

In Domestic and European CORSETS.

BOYS' TWEED SUITS.

\$1.20, \$1.30, \$1.40, \$1.50 up to \$10.00.

BOYS' SERGE SUITS.

In Navy and Black, at 75c, \$1.00, \$1.25 up to \$9.00.

BOYS' VELVET SUITS.

\$3.65, \$4.00, \$4.25 up to \$10.75.

BOYS' OVERCOATS.

At \$1.25, \$1.50, \$3.75, \$4.00 up to \$10.00.

Boys' Military Overcoats.

Boys' Blanket Coats.

MELISSA PROOFED GARMENTS.

JOHN MURPHY & CO.,

1781, 1783

Notre Dame street, cor. St. Peter
Terms Cash and Only One Price.

McRae & Poulin,

MERCHANT TAILORS.

Highland Costumes,

Ladies' Mantles

A SPECIALTY.

Our Garments are Artistically Cut
In the Latest Styles.

PERFECT FIT GUARANTEED.

2242 Notre Dame Street,
MONTREAL.

GEORGE R. HEASLEY, NEW YEARS.
2087 St. Catherine Street,
Near Bleury. Montreal.
Pictures Framed, Photo Frames, Photo
Albums, Plush Goods, all kinds, Plated
Glass Mirrors, Plated Silverware,
Essels, Music Racks, Wall Pockets, Etc.,
At Wholesale Prices.

FOR THE SCHOOL BOYS

Now on hand a CHEAP LINE of BOOTS AND SHOES guaranteed to stand extra tear and wear. Just the thing for boys going back to school.

Misses, Girls and Children's Boots in great variety of Style and Price.

The above goods have only to be seen to be appreciated and they cannot be matched elsewhere for quality and cheapness.

Try a sample pair and we are sure of a continuance of your custom.

J. CHURCH,
30 Chaboillez Square.

PRESSWORK

TO THE TRADE.

Publishers and Patent Medicine Dealers.

You don't require to put your money out on a big press, send it to HENRY OWEN, who will do it for you BETTER and CHEAPER than if you had a big press of your own.

SEE!

Facilities for Printing Newspapers, Pamphlets, etc., to the extent of 120 reams per day.

FOLDING AND BINDING

DONE ON THE PREMISES.

769 CRAIG STREET.

\$7,500.00

STOCK OF

BOOTS AND SHOES

— AND —

RUBBERS.

Bought at 65c on the \$.

Must be Sold in 15 days

CALL EARLY

AND GET A BARGAIN AT

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ST. CATHERINE ST.

The Cheapest Sale ever held in the East End.

S. H. PARKER,

THE BARGAIN MAKER.

Every Workingman SHOULD READ

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A BRIGHT, NEWSY, ENTERTAINING WEEKLY.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

ONLY \$1.00 A YEAR.

Job * Printing!

— FOR —

SOCIETIES,

LODGES,

ASSEMBLIES

— AT —

REASONABLE PRICES.

ECHOES OF THE WEEK

European.

The Swedish expedition to the North Pole, headed by Dr. Nansen, has been postponed until 1893. The ship cannot be ready before then.

Information has been received of another cruel massacre of European and native Christians, this time at the Belgian mission station at Tekon, China. Full particulars have not been received, as few, if any, of the intended victims succeeded in escaping. The mission held several Europeans connected with mission work and about one hundred native converts. The assailants showed no mercy.

Rain-making experiments have been made at Bezwada, in the Madras presidency, India, where the scarcity of water is having a very serious effect upon the crops. The result, however, was not encouraging. Twenty bags, each containing ten pounds of roborite, a high explosive, were exploded on the hills of Bezwada at an altitude of 600 feet. The concussions caused by the explosions were terrific, but not a drop of rain fell and the experimenters gave up their task as an utter failure.

The Cologne Gazette has received from its St. Petersburg correspondent a well founded report which implicates Padlewski, who assassinated General Silverstov in Paris in 1890, in another great crime. The report states that it was Padlewski disguised as a cook and riding in the kitchen car who threw the bomb which caused the disaster to the Czar's train at Berkia a few years ago.

Herr Krapf von Liverhof, secretary of the Austrian legation at Washington, who has been away on leave, attempted suicide at Vienna on Tuesday by shooting himself with a revolver.

Two Englishmen, John Cooper and Walter Rundell, have been arrested at St. Etienne, France, for offering a bribe to the foreman of a small arms factory to produce a specimen of the new Russian rifle.

The Maharajah Halkar, the ruler of Indor, one of the Central Indian states, which pays tribute to the British, has announced his intention of contributing two regiments of cavalry to the Indian army.

American.

The Republican National Committee met at Washington on Monday and fixed June 6 next as the date and Minneapolis as the place for the next national Republican convention.

The Supreme Council of the Farmers' Alliance has determined to establish a legislative council or lobbying council of three at Washington, each member to draw a salary of \$2,000 a year. The most important action was a resolution pledging the Alliance to stand by this decision in the February Union. As it is a foregone conclusion that that conference will declare for independent political action the resolution practically pledges the support of the Alliance to the People's party. The measure was bitterly fought by Livingstone and other Southern leaders, but they were outgeneraled and outvoted.

Attorney General Hunt, of Chicago, on Tuesday filed petitions in the Circuit Court to wind up and dissolve the Chicago Mutual Life Benefit Association and the North American Mutual Benefit Association on the ground that they have been conducting their business in a fraudulent manner and chiefly to pay the salaries of their own employees. The Mutual Life has unpaid losses of \$123,063; the North American has liabilities of \$78,711 and assets of \$18,016.

At the request of the Governor of Michigan and the Board of Trade of Minnesota and on the recommendation of the Surgeon-General of the Marine Hospital service, Assistant Secretary Nettleton on Tuesday directed the assignment of medical inspectors at Detroit and Port Huron to board and inspect trains from Canada. This action is taken with a view to prevent smallpox.

An attempt was made at Patterson, N. J., on Tuesday night to blow up a tenement house occupied by Italians. The explosion is believed to have been caused by dynamite placed inside the front door, and the door, floor and walls near it were almost completely demolished. A number of the inmates of the house were stunned. There is no clue to the perpetrators of the crime.

Canadian.

Railroad work in Manitoba has been suspended for the season, frost having got too much hold of the ground. It was 18 below zero on Monday morning, which is the coldest of the season.

The Department of Marine on Monday received from the High Commissioner three bronze medals awarded by the Royal Humane Society to Canadians for saving lives. The parties to whom the awards have been made are Jessie O'Brien, of Green Bay, Ont., Grant Gibbons, of Morrisburg, and Ward Hanes, of Toronto.

The Baptist Ministerial Association at their meeting in Toronto on Monday, denounced Rev. Mr. Nelson, a preacher who

has created a scandal by leaving his wife and eloping with a young school teacher up in Elgin county. Steps were also taken to warn the churches of the danger of receiving ministers from other countries without unquestioned credentials of character and standing.

While the prisoners in the Quebec jail were at dinner the other day an altercation took place between two of them named Vermette from St. Sauveur and an American named Stoney, who was sent down from Montreal. The quarrel waxed warm, and before the guards could interfere the American stabbed Vermette in the arm with his knife, but fortunately not seriously. Stoney was locked up in his cell.

The first death on the Manitoba prairie this year is reported from Medicine Hat, a despatch from which place says: A sixteen year old son of L. B. Cochrane and a ten year old son of E. Walton, merchants of this place, whose ranches are just outside of town, were caught in Friday night's blizzard while looking for some cattle. The storm being so severe and so sudden, they were unable to find their way home that night, and searching parties organized the following morning found no trace of them until last night. The Cochrane boy was found sixteen miles from home frozen to death beside a haystack, his horse eating hay over his dead body.

Owing to the growth of French Canadian Catholics in North Plantagenet Township, Prescott County, a new separate school board has been formed in Curran Village and the new public school building, valued at \$4,000, purchased by them for \$5. A meeting was held at which there were present eighteen Roman Catholic ratepayers and six Protestants. The motion to sell was put by one party and by the other an amendment was offered not to sell. The latter was rejected. The resolution to sell was carried by the eighteen Roman Catholics to the six Protestants, and although a protest was served against the sale the house was actually sold to the Roman Catholics' new trustees for a separate school for \$5.

Horace Talbot, one of the so-called Ottawa "hoodlers," who is still in jail, being unable to procure bail, was taken before Judge Ross on Monday and asked how he elected to be tried, whether summarily or by a jury. He desired to be tried by jury, and was recommitted to jail, where it looks as if he would have to remain until the spring assizes, as nobody seems disposed to go bail for him. Ernest Dionne, who was accused of complicity with Talbot and Larose, but whom Police Magistrate O'Gara discharged for want of evidence, has not so far been reinstated in the Public Works Department, where he was a permanent clerk. He was suspended when the case first came up in the Public Accounts Committee during the session.

A new scheme has been set on foot in Kingston in view of the increasing disinclination of workmen towards church-going, viz., Sunday afternoon meetings for workmen. The first meeting was held on Sunday, at which Dr. Grant, Dr. Walkem, Mr. Donald Frazer, Mr. J. M. Machar, Q. C., and other prominent citizens interested in social reform took part, along with representatives of the workmen's societies. It was finally decided to hold their meetings regularly every Sunday afternoon during the winter at which it was unanimously agreed all secular subjects should be handled.

Daniel Mountenay, an old man, resident in Trenton, Ont., was arrested there on Tuesday night charged with killing a boy named Thomas Courtney. It is stated that on Sunday night, the 8th instant, Mountenay was walking on the street carrying a bag containing dishes when the boy kicked the bag and broke some of the crockery. Mountenay knocked the boy down and kicked him three times in the abdomen. The boy took to his bed on the following day and died on Tuesday night.

A private letter received at Quebec from the county of Bonaventure states that smallpox is very prevalent in that county, likewise in the county of Gaspé.

The Department of Marine received a telegram from the light keeper of South Point, Anticosti island, stating that the Norwegian barque Anna had gone ashore twenty miles west of that place. The crew of eleven had been safely landed and were being cared for at the Government expense.

Knowledge is Power.

Doctor—You notice a marked increase in your appetite?

Patient—Yes.

Doctor—Sleep longer and more heavily than usual?

Patient—Yes.

Doctor—Feel very fatigued after much exercise?

Patient—Yes.

Doctor—H'm! Very grave case. But the researches of science, sir, enable us to cope with your malady, and I think I can pull you through.

Joe McAniff thinks that Slavin could easily whip Corbett. He says the latter cannot hit hard enough to win.

THE SPORTING WORLD

FOOTBALL.

The champion teams of Ontario and Quebec Rugby football met together on the M. A. A. grounds last Saturday before between two and three thousand spectators to try for the championship of Canada. The representatives of Ontario (students of Osgoode Hall, Toronto,) are a likely looking lot of young fellows and before the game had well started showed their superiority in a marked degree over the Montreal team, who were their opponents. The passing and tackling of the visitors was more effective, but their play was marred by being very much offside, and the referee was decidedly at fault in not checking it and enforcing the penalty. But allowing for all this it was apparent that the Montreal boys could not play football alongside of the students, who also discounted them in argument when the referee had to be appealed to. There was one bad feature about the match, the endless squabbling and protesting of the visitors and the referee showed a decided weakness in giving in to so much of it. In the second half the Montrealsers played a much better game and hopes were entertained by their admirers that the score would be equalised, but fortune and the referee were against them, so, in spite of a gallant struggle on their part the game ended 21 to 10.

Teams from the C. P. E. offices and shops played a match on the Crescent grounds, the result being a win for the former. Score 1 to 0.

The great inter-collegiate match between Yale and Harvard caused great excitement. There were 25,000 people present who cheered the victors of a hard fought match. Yale showed her superiority all through; in fact her team played so well that their opponents could not gain a point and when time was called the score stood: Yale 10, Harvard 0.

Despite a driving hail-storm, between 3,000 and 4,000 people witnessed the annual football match between the Cornell and the University of Michigan teams at the Detroit Athletic Club grounds on Monday afternoon. The grounds were soft and slippery from a heavy rain, but brilliant runs were frequent. It was a decidedly clean game. The score was Cornell 58, Michigan 12.

The Canadian-American team at present touring England are showing up better than they did at the beginning of their tour, and when they close up their showing may not be so bad. It was perhaps unfortunate that at the first they had to encounter the cream of the football field before they had thoroughly settled down to the English style of play. On Monday last they scored another victory, their thirty-seventh match in these islands. Their opponents were the London Caledonians, a leading organization of the metropolitan district in the association game, and composed, as the names indicate, mainly of footballers from north of the Tweed. The visitors displayed a fine combination of their work. Their centre forward, "Watty" Thompson, was particularly brilliant. The Canadians had the ball all the way through and were returned the winners by the very good score of five goals to none.

SKATING.

The Newburgh Skating Association are preparing for their winter's work. The Donoghue boys are anxious to again measure steel with all comers. The champion, Joe Donoghue, announces that he is expecting Fredericksen, Panshin and Noreng to visit this country this winter. Joe says that he will not make a European trip this season. He has glory enough, having beaten all that Europe could produce on their own ice, and earned the title of champion of the world. In this connection, it may be stated that the Montreal and Canadian skaters generally are anxious to meet Donoghue, and a special effort will be made to induce him to come to Montreal during the coming winter. He cannot claim the championship of Canada until it is won. At the meeting of the Canadian Skating Association, held last week, this matter came up and the unanimous wish was that Donoghue would come on and skate here. Last winter he wanted a quarter of a mile track and excused himself from coming on that ground.

THE RING.

Articles of agreement for a prize ring encounter between Slavin and Jackson have been drawn up and signed by Slavin. The articles stipulate that the men shall fight for a purse of £2,000 and the championship, in the National sporting club of London, the loser to receive £150.

ATHLETIC.

A London dispatch says: Cyr's heavy lifting has been the admiration of all. Since February last an enterprising agent here, George Ware & Co., has been in correspondence with the Canadian Samson to induce him to cross the Atlantic and compete in London for the championship of the world. Negotiations had gone far enough to induce Cyr to sign a contract for an en-

agement with the proprietors of the South London Palace to appear in June last. But other engagements prevented him from attempting the journey till this date. The engagement began on Saturday, the 14th inst., and will probably last a whole month, when other engagements will follow, through the agency of Ware & Co., who entertain the highest expectations of his success over all competitors. The champion of Canada, if successful in carrying the championship, would give Canadians considerable credit in the sporting world as a vigorous and powerful race. A meeting of all the strong men in London is called at the Sporting Life office to arrange the conditions of the coming competition to come off in December. This event will be one of great excitement. It is calculated that the interest will be such that the gate money alone will amount to \$10,000 or \$15,000, besides the very large sums which will be staked on the several champions. If successful Cyr will be a rich man.

The M. G. A. tug-of-war team challenged the champion police team lately and Sergeant Loye, the father of athletic recreation on the police force, has accepted the challenge. It has been decided that the big pull is to come off on December 17. The only additional detail to be settled is that the pulls are to be on cleats. The pull will be for the championship of Canada. The M. G. A. are the holders of the military championship, which they wrested from the 5th Royal Scots at the Jubilee entertainment, which took place in the Victoria Rink in June, '87. The championship had in turn been taken by the Scots from the Queen's Own Rifles, of Toronto. The pull for the championship will take place at an entertainment to be given by the M. G. A., and one of the items on the programme will be an open tug-of-war, in which all the other local teams anxious for championship honors can take part.

A. F. Copland, the noted sprinter, hurdler, and jumper of the Manhattan A. C., has retired from competition. To a reporter he said:—"The fact is a man cannot compete in athletic games and at the same time pay proper attention to business, and I decided to abandon athletics. Again, amateur athletics are now charged with nearly every known offence, and a man's reputation is liable to suffer from unjust charges that fly around so thickly." Copland has had a long and brilliant career in athletics. His performances in the sprints, over the hurdles, and in the broad jump have been of the first order and attracted world-wide attention. Added to this, he is personally agreeable and very popular. His retirement will be a distinct loss to athletics.

MISCELLANEOUS.

By request the New York Athletic Club has just presented James S. Mitchell, its champion hammer thrower, with a beautiful brooch, set with twenty five diamonds, instead of giving him the eight medals to which he is entitled for breaking seven records and winning one standard during the year 1891. George Grey, who is to amateur shot putters what Mitchell is to amateur hammer throwers, gets a silver cup from his club instead of medals for the four record breaking feats he accomplished during the past twelve months.

Buffalo has a bicycle club composed exclusively of ladies. The club held a meeting recently and elected officers for the ensuing year.

Tommy Kelly, the famous "Harlem Spider," and Billy Plimmer, of England, are both in training for their skin-glove contest, which will occur in about five weeks. The battle will be for the 110-pound championship of the world. Kelly feels confident of winning.

Workingmen's Insurance in Germany.

The Bismarck socialistic scheme in vogue in Germany for the compulsory insurance of employees against accident, sickness, old age and infirmity, has a peculiar feature, considered as a benefit to workingmen. It requires every workman to pay from boyhood \$2.35 a year, while his wages are lowered by a like amount in order that the employer may meet his own assessment, and the employer's taxes are raised by a like amount in order that the public treasury may contribute its third.

As the employee pays his third out of his wages, and the employer's third is raised by direct taxation upon articles consumed by the poor, workingmen contribute at least two-thirds to the fund by which they are insured. The German secretary of finance has urged the needs of this fund as a reason for maintaining the tariff on grain in the face of threatened famine. Thus the insurance scheme compels the poor to pay a heavier bread tax to protected landlords, and Professor Geffokin's surmise is probably correct that this fact "led the landed aristocracy to support the insurance bills." When the woodpile of indirect taxation is examined, the concealed African usually proves to be some big landlord.—New York Standard.

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OBSCURE MARTYRS.

They have no place in storied page,
No rest in marble shrine;
They are passed and gone with a perished
age—
They died and made no sign,
But work that shall find its wages yet,
And deeds that their God did not forget,
Done for their love divine—
These were the mourners, and these shall be
The crowns of their immortality.

Oh, seek them not where sleep the dead—
Ye shall not find their trace;
No graven stone is at their head,
No green grass hides their face;
But sad and unseen is their silent grave—
It may be the sand, or deep sea wave,
Or lonely desert place;
For they needed no prayers and no mourn-
ing bell—
They were tumbled in true hearts that knew
them well.

They healed sick hearts till theirs was bro-
ken,
And dried sad eyes till theirs lost light;
We shall know at last by a certain token
How they fought and fell in the fight.
Salt tears of sorrow unhealed,
Passionate cries unchronicled,
And silent stripes for the right—
Angels shall court them, and earth shall
sigh
That she left her best children to battle and
die,
—Edwin Arnold.

PHUNNY ECHOES.

Johnnie, why did not the lions eat Dan-
iel? 'Cause they didn't know he was so
good.

No man can work a reform of any kind
without separating himself measurably from
his fellows.

Teacher—What creature has the longest
tail? Bright Boy—Please, sir, the snake.
It is all tail.

Get out o' this, you nasty tramp, or I'll
set the dog on you. Set away, ma'am. He'll
never hatch nothin'. I'm a bad egg.

Ah, Mees Hobartone, you climb ze Matthe-
horn? Zat was a foot to be proud off. Par-
don me, count, but you mean feat. O-o-o!
you climb it more zan once?

Hired boy (on a farm)—Kin I go fishin'
this afternoon? Farmer—No, but be a good
boy and work hard 'n' mebbe next week you
kin go to a funeral. Hired Boy—Kin I go
to your'n?

Howe—My wife has one virtue that makes
me overlook any possible faults. Dowe—
What is that? Howe—She never asks me
what I want for dinner just as I am getting
up from the breakfast table.

He—Can you keep a secret? She—Cer-
tainly I can. He—Then I'd like to tell you
that I want to get married. She—You
don't say so? He—Yes, and I don't want
anybody but you to know it.

Sunday School Teacher—Miss Fanny,
what are we to learn from the parable of the
wise and foolish virgins? Miss Fanny (aged
ten)—That we are always to be on the look-
out for the coming of the bridegroom.

Distressed Young Mother (with crying
babe in railway carriage)—Dear, dear! I
don't know whatever to do with this child.
Kind and Thoughtful Bachelor (on the op-
posite seat)—Shall I open the window for
you, madam?

Bill Guthrie—Say, mister, what's the
name of this yer town? Mr. Jackson
Parke—This is Chicago. Bill Guthrie—
Chicago yet? A man told me two days ago
I was in Chicago, and I've been drivin' right
along. Mr. Jackson Parke—That's right.

City Boy (his first sight of a cow)—An'
that thing with horns is what you get your
milk out of? Country Boy—O' course, stu-
pid; an' butter, an' cheese, too. City Boy
—Whew! If you could only get yer coffee
an' sugar from her, she'd be a regular walk-
ing grocery store.

Time is Precious.

Mrs. Polkadot—No, Bobby, you can't go
over to Willie Gargle's to play.

Bobby—I heard him say that his moth-
er's milliner was coming to-day.

Mrs. Polkadot—Then you can go over and
see what kind of a hat she gets, but don't be
gone long.

Wise Words.

I think I'll ask the boss to get this after-
noon off, said the youthful clerk.

Don't said the old cashier,
Why not?

You came into this establishment to try
and get on, didn't you?

Yes.
Well, don't be so often trying to get off or
you'll never get on.

The Courtship of a Clerk.

Briggs—Did you hear about Miss Gros-
grain? She has married a dry goods clerk.
They met, he woo'd and won her, and so
they were married.

Griggs—Why, when did this all happen?

Briggs—While she was waiting for the
change.

THE ECLIPSE OF THE MOON.

It Recalls an Historical Event of Con-
siderable Interest.

The recent eclipse of the moon was one of
unusual interest, not only because it afforded
astronomers extraordinary opportunities, but
because of its historical importance. Like
other eclipses, its recurrence can now be cal-
culated both for the future and the past with
absolute certainty, and in the past has often
been important, the most notable case being
that of which Columbus made use.

In the year 1504, he was driven upon the
island of Jamaica, where he and his crew were
in great distress for provisions, the natives
being unfriendly. Knowing what was at hand,
Columbus told the Indians that the gods were
angry with them, and that in token of it the
moon would on a certain night hide her face
and show the color of blood. The Indians
laughed at him, but on the night of March 1
the eclipse came, and thereafter all that the
Indians had was his to command. It is in-
teresting to know that this is the same moon
and was a recurrence of the same eclipse. Al-
so that it will come again in 1909.

The explanation of an eclipse is one of the
simplest problems in astronomy. As the sun
is much larger than the earth it follows that
the shadow of the earth runs out in a long
point. Now, if the moon moved around the
earth in an orbit on the same plane as that in
which the earth moves around the sun, there
would be an eclipse of the moon every time it
passed through the earth's shadow, but as the
two orbits form a slight angle it is only at in-
tervals that the shadow strikes the moon.
This gives astronomers their opportunity to
get exact measurements and other important
facts.

A MAN-WOMAN.

Belle Boyd, the Confederate Spy
Who Has Been Married Half a
Dozen Times.

Belle Boyd, the Confederate spy, is still
going about the country delivering lectures
under the auspices of the G. A. R. She con-
fesses to only 47 years, which would make her
but 17 when she was scurrying about West
Virginia collecting information for the Confed-
erates. She is a niece of Alexander Stephen-
son, once Speaker of the National House of
representatives and was brought up at Mar-
tinsburg, W. Va., where in 1861 she shot a
Federal soldier who was attacking her mother.
She accompanied the rebels who were following
Gen. Banks across the Potomac, returned with
them, and was taken prisoner at Fort Royal
by a Delaware regiment. She was confined in
the old Capitol building until September, 1863,
and then exchanged for Col. Corcoran. Hav-
ing received a commission as captain, she served
in several campaigns, carrying dispatches
between Hagerstown and Gettysburg during
the greatest battle of the War. After Lee's
retreat she returned to her home and was there
taken prisoner. Having been conveyed to
Washington, and was sentenced to be shot as
a spy, but was finally released through Mas-
sonic influence, she says, and exchanged, one
of the officers for whom she was exchanged
being Gen. Nathan Goff later for a time Sec-
retary of War. While conveying dispatches
to the English government she was captured
at sea, but Lieut. Harding, U. S. N., offered
to marry her and leave the service and proved
his sincerity by giving her his signal books,
which she managed to send to Richmond.
She was again sentenced to be shot, but the
sentence was commuted to banishment, and
she was taken to the Canadian border, whence
she sailed to England. She had been mar-
ried to a Confederate major a few hours before
he went with his brigade to Antietam, where
he was killed. In England she married, in
the presence of the Prince of Wales, Lieut.
Harding, who died there. After the War was
over she returned to America, entered the
dramatic profession, and married Col. Ham-
mond of the 17th Massachusetts Volunteers.
Upon his death she married Nathaniel R. High,
the son of a Toledo clergyman. She is a mem-
ber of Washington Lodge, Knights of Pythias,
of New Orleans, and of the Uniformed Rank
of the same Order, having been inducted in
the disguise of a man. At one time she
was an aide on the staff of Stonewall Jackson.
Such is her story as she tells it to a reporter
of the Providence Journal, but perhaps she
has strained it a point or two to add to its
picturesqueness.

Emigration and Poverty.

The Duke of Sutherland owns 1,176,454
acres of land; this is almost the entire county
of Sutherland, its total area being 1,297,846
acres, or about twice the size of Erie county,
New York.

Did you ever ask yourself why it was that
hundreds of thousands of emigrants leave
their native lands and flock to our shores?
What do you suppose would happen if Erie
county were to pass into the ownership of
one man? Would not all the improvements,
all the products of your labor soon become
the property of this man also? If not, why
not?

The lands of "his grace," the Duke of
Sutherland, are not in the market. You
may live in Sutherland on the terms "his
grace" dictates. And what are these terms?
That you pay him, for living on his earth-
all that your labor will produce, over and
above that pittance called "wages," or just
enough on which to subsist and reproduce
your kind. Do you wonder that these peo-
ple, after years of hopeless toil, seek relief
by coming to America where, they are told,
there is still hope for them to become pos-
sessed of a little land of their own?

Are you aware that the lands of this coun-
try are rapidly being concentrated in the
hands of a few? Do you know there are
aliens and natives who own whole counties
and more in the United States? Knowing
this, is it still a mystery to you that our
jails and almshouses are filled? Our streets
overrun with unemployed and women sell-
ing their souls? The country full of tramps,
misery and crime on the increase; men
grown frantic, seeking what they believe to
be redress through anarchism?

Now, don't find fault with "his grace" or
any other land monopolist. The remedy is
in your own hands. You have created laws
which permit the individual to monopolize.
Abolish such laws and require the indi-
vidual to pay to the community in full, the
exact value of the land he monopolizes, in
annual rent or tax. Remove the burden
from your own shoulders by exempting the
products of labor, all improvements from
taxation. Do this and monopoly will die a
natural death, emigration will cease, no
man will hold more land than he can profit-
ably make use of, and poverty with her
children, crime and misery, will leave us.
The "labor problem" will be solved.

Labor Organizations.

The scope of labor organizations is wide,
and for the benefit of our readers who are
not members we will mention a few:

1. They make labor respected by making
men respect themselves.
2. They educate and stimulate men and
women in the exercise of existence they
shall lead.
3. They protect the home by protecting
the mother and child from the demand of
the manufacturer for the cheapest possible
labor.
4. They prepare the way for further ad-
vance of social evolution, in whatever direc-
tion the wishes of men may desire and di-
rect.
5. They increase the market for manufac-
tured products by increasing the wages, and
thus indirectly benefit all engaged in pro-
duction.
6. They protect the widow and orphan
from want, bury the dead and teach
the graces and fraternities of mutual belief
and assistance to the living.
7. They offer the manufacturer the med-
ium for the orderly settlement of all dis-
putes as to wages and conditions of labor,
and make arbitration and conciliation pos-
sible by substituting discipline for mob.
8. They confer a benefit by the mere fact
of bringing workmen together, softening
their prejudices, getting them better ac-
quainted with one another, teaching them
to sacrifice, if need be, immediate individual
interest for the good of the majority.
9. They place in the hands of the work-
ingmen a greater power, a power generally
for good, rarely for ill, which may be used
in the legitimate effort to obtain for the
laborer the full market price for his labor and
greater leisure in which to enjoy the fruits
of his toil.

The Necessity of Organization.

That it has become an actual necessity for
labor to organize is shown by the fact that
capital is in many instances thoroughly or-
ganized, and organizations of both are being
perfected every day. It is a source of sat-
isfaction to know that labor is being organ-
ized more thoroughly now than ever before,
and it is indeed very pleasant to learn that
wherever labor has been organized it
has resulted beneficially alike to employer
and employee. Take the trade union for
instance. It requires a man to serve a cer-
tain time and be a journeyman at his trade
before he is admitted to membership. It
also investigates his character when he
wishes to join it. None are admitted who
are not journeymen and of good character.
This is sufficient proof, then, and it is con-
ceded to be a fact by the large majority of
employers, that the best workmen are to be
found in the union. Employers of union
men know that "the best is the cheapest,"
that it is economy in running any kind of
business to have the best workmen and get
the best work done. It gives the employer
or firm a better reputation for turning out
good work instead of cheap, shoddy work,
and the success of any work lies in the
workmanship. Although the union work-
man may get better pay for his work than
the non union workman, his work will bring
a better price when placed on the market,
and consequently employers of union work-
men are fully repaid by having their work
done by the best men—union men.

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OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by the Boarders.

"In all civilized countries," said Brown, "Governments have provided a medium which is commonly called money, to enable the people to exchange the products of their labor with each other. Not only have we in Canada such a medium of exchange called a dollar, but we actually have two kinds of dollars, one the rich man's dollar and the other the poor man's dollar."

"This is certainly news to me," said Sinnett, "and I have lived in this country, man and boy, for upwards of forty years."

"It's a fact, for all that," replied Brown, "as I will prove to your satisfaction before I am done with you. Take, for instance, our last loan; it was floated at 95 cents on the dollar. That means that \$950 of the rich man was equal to \$1,000 of the money which you receive. The interest on these bonds, if I remember rightly, was four per cent., which, in plain English, means that the rich man actually bought one hundred and four cents of your money for ninety-five cents, or a difference in his favor of a little over nine cents on every dollar. If the security of the bond was not as good as that of my dollar, which is nothing more than a bond, I wouldn't say anything about it, but it is. Behind both of these promises to pay stands the Government and the people of Canada; why, then, should the rich be allowed to buy an interest-bearing dollar for ninety-five cents and the poor compelled to accept a non-interest-bearing one for a hundred. Why should interest-bearing bonds be issued at all? If the government can't redeem its greenback dollar it can't redeem its bond, and both become useless; on the other hand, if it can redeem its bond what is to prevent it redeeming its greenback dollar, and thus save both discount and interest to the country?"

"Another thing," said Garlick, "which is against the interests of the people is the adoption of gold as the base value of the dollar. This act of our lawmakers makes the medium of exchange an article of trade, for gold is not only a limited quantity but is not even found in paying quantities in Canada at all. The minute that you allow your medium of exchange to be made an article of trade its utility as a measure of value is gone, because by making it scarce or plentiful you increase or decrease the value of your dollar. As Canada does not produce gold we are actually at the mercy of those who control it, and in case of emergency could be made bankrupt in spite of all our natural wealth by men who never saw Canada and have no interest in the welfare of its people. The very fact of this Dominion promising to redeem its money with something that Canada does not produce stamps our whole currency system as a fraud and a delusion. If you want to give honest money you must appreciate gold and give both, because Canada has neither the one nor the other. It is time to reduce your currency to the products of Canada, the only thing which we really can

curity but also pay interest. Now, I maintain that, inasmuch as money was created to facilitate exchange and that it cannot in equity be turned into an article of trade, it becomes the duty of the Government to issue it direct to the people without the intervention of private banks. As it has been created for the benefit of the people and not for the enrichment of the Government or its friends it should be issued on security without the payment of interest, and thus, by circulating freely among the people, fulfil its mission. To see a large city like Montreal hawking its debentures around the world and be glad to finally sell them at 84 cents on the dollar must convince every thinking man that there is something radically wrong in our currency system; and when you consider that this difference between the face value and selling price, together with the interest on the whole of this federal, provincial and municipal money, must eventually be paid by those who earn their bread by the sweat of their brow, you will realize the importance of money reform and its connection with the labor question. In Canada and the United States there are thousands of abandoned farms. Some people say this is the result of protection, while others claim that it is want of energy, or downright laziness on the part of our farmers. The first is as wide of the mark as the second is a libel and a slander upon industrious men. The real cause of these farms being abandoned is that the interest on capital has increased at a greater rate than the productiveness of the country; in other words, interest has foolishly swallowed the seed corn of the farmer instead of waiting until he had raised a crop. But give us a free, honest dollar and your abandoned farms will again be cultivated, your industries thrive and your people become prosperous. As in our individual, so in our national existence, we will find honesty the best policy."

BILL BLADES.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

To the Editor of THE ECHO.

DEAR SIR,—I would ask you to kindly publish the following in answer to the letter which appeared in your paper of Saturday last, signed "Subscriber."

It would have been well had "Subscriber" ascertained the facts before making statements that were not true concerning myself. I may state that the \$750 advance of salary given to the Superintendent was done before I took my seat on the "Board"; further, I did not know of it until I saw a letter in the Herald of the 19th inst., and was as much surprised as any other man at the enormous increase; and would undoubtedly have opposed the same had it come before the "Board" while I was sitting.

"Subscriber" misjudges my motive when he states that I merely opposed the advance of salary to well paid officials in the city's employ because the press would give it publicity. It is much against my own wishes that the press is excluded from "Board" meetings of the "School Commissioners" and hope that in the near future it will be admitted.

Yours truly,

EDWIN THOMPSON.

STREET SCAVENGING AND THE ELECTRIC RAILWAY.

To the Editor of THE ECHO.

SIR,—Your correspondent, "W. D." in last week's issue outlined a combination scheme for utilizing the proposed electric railway for scavenging purposes which is worthy the consideration of our city fathers. I believe the idea could be advantageously worked with advantage to the city, but, at the same time, I think the talk about the city doing its own scavenging will all end in talk, notwithstanding their recent resolution on the subject. In this city the interests of contractors have to be looked at first, the city's is a secondary consideration. You will notice that an estimate of the first cost of the plant necessary to carry on the scheme has just been published, the figures of which are intended to frighten the taxpayers; this is opportunely accompanied by the statement that the present contractor, Mr. [Name], has put in a reduced offer to do the work. Of course all this is done to

pave the way for a reconsideration of the question, so that the old order of things may continue.

Yours &c.,
WIDE AWAKE.

SATURDAY EVENING CONCERTS.

To the Editor of THE ECHO.

SIR,—I have often wondered why, in a large city like Montreal where there is so much good amateur musical talent, that no effort has ever been made to establish Saturday evening concerts where workingmen could spend a couple of hours in a rational way, free from the debasing influence of liquor. In most cities of Scotland these concerts are a regular feature of the winter months and their success has been remarkable. What is to hinder some of our benefit societies from attempting the experiment here during the coming winter? I am satisfied myself that, provided a good selection of talent is made, the largest hall in the city would be packed every Saturday evening. The charge for admission should not, to make the entertainments popular, exceed ten cents, and that should be uniform, which would clear all expenses and leave a surplus for the treasury of the society undertaking the experiment. At present there is no form of amusement whatever, outside of the theatres and these are too expensive for the pockets of the average workingman to patronise, if he takes his wife and family along with him, which he ought to do. You see, Mr. Editor, I could not with any respect to my wife ask her to sit among the "gods," so that at the least it would cost me one dollar, what I am not able to afford; but I would willingly take her to a Saturday evening concert, along with one of the children, if I could do it for a quarter. If this should meet with the approval of any of your readers who belong to the Odd-fellows or other benefit order let them broach the matter at the first lodge meeting and try to get them to act in the matter.

Yours,

A WORKINGMAN.

K. OF L.

There has lately been a steady increase in the membership of the K. of L. Maple Leaf Assembly admitted eight new members last Wednesday evening.

At the last meeting of Dominion Assembly, 2436, it was decided to hold a gala night on Friday next. Several new members will be admitted. A fine programme of songs, readings, etc., has been prepared, and everything is expected to pass off pleasantly. A cordial invitation is extended to members of sister Assemblies.

The Marbleworkers' Assembly is doing good work, and now that the cold weather has set in, expect a large attendance at their meetings and, as a result, greater interest and progress.

The River Front Assembly, notwithstanding the set-back received last fall, continues to hold the fort. The members who have remained faithful to the Assembly intend to do considerable hustling this winter, being determined that 7623 will recover its prestige and power in the spring.

The banner Assembly of the Order, Black Diamond, has just ended a most successful season. From a membership of 25 or 30 in the spring, its good standing roll now goes up to between 350 and 400. This is undoubtedly the best Assembly in the city. Its members take an active interest in the affairs of their local, its officers are painstaking and active, and there is every possibility of a brilliant future for 1711.

MONTREAL NEWS.

We beg to acknowledge receipt of \$1 from "J. H." for the Widow Flynn fund.

The wharves have now a deserted look about them and workmen are engaged in clearing up the ramps. The shipping sheds are also being removed.

The collapse of a large stone building in course of construction, corner of Inspector and Notre Dame streets, has given rise to much speculation as to the cause. The Building Inspector is of opinion that a defective iron pillar had to do with it. Fortunately the walls fell during the night and was unaccompanied by loss of life.

The little four-year-old son of Joseph Charbonneau, joiner, of 48 Couvillier street, was so fearfully burned on Thursday afternoon that he afterwards died. It appears that while playing along with several children older than himself on a vacant lot some of them lighted a fire and amused themselves by seeing how near they could go to it. The little fellow emulated the example of his companions, and, getting too near, his clothes caught fire with the result as stated.

Another public meeting will be held in the Knights of Labor Hall, Chabouillet street, on Tuesday evening next, at eight o'clock, for the purpose of discussing the City Council's neglect of the Water Tax question. The meeting will be conducted by the special committee of the Central Trades and Labor Council, and will be addressed by a number of prominent labor speakers.

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