

# THE LANCET

We Demand also the Reform that Justice can ask for, and all the Justice that Reform can give.

Vol 1—No. 15.

TORONTO, CANADA, APRIL 3 1891

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### THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE

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Reserve — — — \$800,000  
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Interest in each year deposited at the principal at the rate of 4 per cent.  
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## WORK AND WAGES.

### LABOR NOTES AND NEWS FROM ALL QUARTERS

Interesting Items, Facts and Figures—A Bird's-Eye View of the World of Industry

**NEW HAWKERS, USA.**  
A new hawkery factory has been opened in St. Roch, Quebec. Some fifty girls have found employment there.

The Grand Trunk Rwy. way Company is building eighteen new freight locomotives as well as a number of passenger cars in Montreal.

The Ship Laborers Union, at St. John, N. Br., has notified the arrangement entered into by the committee with shippers in respect to the rate of pay for this year. The pay is to be \$3 and \$1 for the nine-hour day on sailing ships and steamers respectively.

The Maritime Provinces Stone Foundry Association in session at Moncton last week decided not to advance the price of stone before the next meeting in July. An offer from a syndicate of American capitalists to purchase all the foundries in the Maritime Provinces was discussed. It was decided not to sell to any syndicate.

The Quebec ship carpenters making a union for shorter hours and more pay. Dock men and ship owners say their industry is in a very depressed condition and they themselves can do nothing for their portridge. They are naturally a little sore over the matter. The men have been getting \$1.50 per day for ten hours. They now want eight hours and \$2 per day.

The large machine shop of the Edison Company, at Peterborough, is now ready for roofing. The building is 500 ft. long, two stories high, with annex. The plans provide for two other buildings the same size, a warehouse 400 ft. long, and several smaller buildings. There will be fifteen buildings in all, valued at about half a million dollars. The first series of plans and contracts is expected here the first of May.

**THE BRICKLAYERS' UNION.**  
Meets every Wednesday evening at 7.30 o'clock, in Central Labor Hall, off of Yonge Street.  
JAS. C. LUGAS, President.  
J. MARSH, Sec'y. 114 West St.

**TORONTO BUILDERS**  
Ladies' Infr. No. 2.  
CENTRAL LABOR HALL  
Meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m.

G. T. BEALES, President, 145 Wellesley Street.  
C. H. LUNNEY, Sec. Secretary, 90 St. Street.

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AGENCY FOR PATENTS.  
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57 King St., West, — TORONTO.

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COUGH DROPS

In the best of the world for the Throat and Chest and for the Lungs. UNPARALLELED. R. G. W. Watson on each drop.

## INTER-STATES.

The engineers on the Knoxville Southern Railroad are on strike.

The Lochiel Iron Works at Harrisburg, Pa. have shut down indefinitely.

The Lehigh Iron Company, in Allentown, Pa., reduced the wages of its employees 10 per cent.

The Wisconsin House of Representatives have passed a bill making September 1st a holiday, to be known as Arcturian Day.

SEVERAL large teams on the Cananville coke region began work on Thursday last week at a 10 per cent. reduction in wages.

The 1,000 girls and men employed by Armstrong, Pittsburg & Co., cork manufacturers at Pittsburg, Pa., were locked out the first of May.

One hundred and thirty ribbon weavers in the Pioneer Silk Mill at Paterson, N. J., went on strike Monday last because the company refused to give a 10 per cent. raise in wages.

The difference between the management of the Pacific Division of the Union Pacific Railroad and its conductors and both sides have been amicably arranged. Both sides have made concessions.

A CALL has been issued for a convention of coal miners and operators in Pittsburg on April 21st, to consider and determine on the scale of prices to be paid for mining coal during the ensuing year from May 1st.

The Lake Sturgeon Benevolent Association of Chicago have resolved to demand \$2 a day from the operators, and will hold the coal if the weather soars. Rates will be fixed later on for the last month of the season. The vessel owners are contending to reduce the rate to \$1.50.

A CIRCULAR, issued by Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, has been addressed to the trade unionists of the United States, and urges the necessity of immediate action in the collection and contribution of funds for the 150,000 coal miners who are struggling for their lives.

LINA oil is being used successfully in a number of Pittsburg mills and factories. Rolling mills, open factories, etc. It is being used in the iron and steel industry.

It is thought that a strike will soon be suppressed by it. The oil is supplied from the wells of the Texas coast, and is now in use on foot to build a pipe line to Pittsburg.

STRIKERS to the number of nearly 1,000 attacked Fred C. Duke Works at Morewood, Pa., on the morning of the 30th ult. They destroyed some coke ovens and railway tracks and broke windows in several houses. Several of the strikers were arrested. Riots are also reported at Leisenring and Leith, and considerable property was destroyed.

A BILL providing for semi-monthly payments of miners' wages and the establishment of time check-way of paying employees has been introduced in the House. It is thought that this sort of thing is just what Senates are for.

A SUIT under the eight-hour law has been brought by John Grissell, who says that he was engaged by a flour and feed company May 27, 1890, to work at \$1.25 per day, and that he was not paid for the extra hours he worked in 1891, during all this time working eleven hours a day. He sued for pay for extra work each day, making in all 720 hours. The acts of 1889 declare that eight hours shall constitute a legal day's work for all classes of mechanics, workmen and laborers, except in agricultural and domestic labor.

The Delaware House passed yesterday the Senate bill to amend the Federal Trade Labor Bill, and the same only awaits the Speaker's signature to become a law. It provides that all vagrants and loafers shall be committed to the State of Delaware may be arrested and set to work for sixty days breaking stone for mending roads, or for other public works, or for any other public work, or for any other public work, or for any other public work.

SIN MERRICK BRIDGES and Sir John Lubbock will represent the Government on the Labor Commission. John Morley has declined to serve. Messrs. Fowler and Mandell are still considering whether to serve or not. Otherwise the list of members is complete.

A DEPRIVATION from Bradford, Yorkshire, of the right to sell and consume the principal articles of England, says that seventeen of the leading wool combing engaged in the worsted trade have combined to raise the price of their combing to control Italy [The increase in price commensurate].

and that there had always been perfect accord between him and his employees.

EUROPEAN AND GENERAL.

Swiss municipal authorities have decided that all employers must share profits with the laborers.

The French Labor Commission will establish a Labor Bureau and an Arbitration Board.

A DEPARTMENT from Montreal, Quebec, says the Government has adopted measures to prevent rioting, and has arrested twenty prominent unionists for conspiracy.

In a series of minutes in seven departments of France, meeting in congress at Commeny, after holding eight sittings, of which two were public, they adopted the following resolutions: (1) A working day of eight hours; (2) day of rest once a week; (3) increase in salary of mining delegates in 20 per cent; (4) freedom of deduction from wages; (5) full pay to the sick; (7) increase of 30 per cent. on all wages; (8) a general minimum wage; (9) national federation of French miners; (10) international federation at next Paris Congress. The principle of a general strike was also adopted.

## Local News.

ENERGY ASSEMBLY No. 712 K of L., at a meeting last Wednesday, unanimously considered the following resolutions: To assess rates in any order in three years, as a measure in favor of land speculators and against the public.

The next regular meeting of the Eight Hour League will be held in Room 6, Richmond Hall, on Tuesday the 7th inst., at eight o'clock p.m. It is hoped there will be a good attendance as important business will be up, including the election of the executive committee.

At a meeting of District Assembly No. 122 K of L., held Friday last, 26th ult., the following resolution was unanimously carried:—Resolved, that this District Assembly do enter its emphatic protest against the proposed change to have assessments of land value made triennially instead of annually at present, as such change will undoubtedly discriminate in favor of the land speculator at the expense of the general taxpayer.

MR. A. F. JURY, representing District Assembly 125, Knights of Labor, and Mr. D. J. O'DONOGHUE, secretary of the Legislative Committee of the Trades and Labor Council, interviewed Mr. Wood, M.P. for Brant, on Tuesday with regard to his bill to obligate owners for damages to put up security for costs. Mr. Wood consented to exempt from his provisions of the act all cases arising out of the Workmen's Compensation Act, the Ontario Factories Act, and all suits for workmen's wages to attain to just Individualism. Up to the present, man has been, to a certain extent, the slave of machinery. This is because the machine is private property, and it is the right of property that man is to own the machine. The organization of machinery would cut to stars, and no man ever makes the product of the machine, which is much more than he really produces. The machine is the property of all, every one would benefit by it. There is no doubt at all that the future of man is in the hands of the machine. For man will be heaped or amused himself, or enjoys cultivated leisure, or makes beautiful things, or reads beautiful books, or admires the works of art, or the world with admiration and delight. The fact is, that civilization requires slaves. Slavery is the very essence of modernizing. On mechanical slavery, on the slavery of the machine, the future of the world depends. The organization of machinery will supply Humanity with all useful things, and leave him leisure to pursue the beautiful. This is Utopian, for it is not possible to have a world that does not include Utopia, nor without glancing at it. It is the one country at which Humanity is always Individualism.

We must pass through Socialism to attain to just Individualism. Up to the present, man has been, to a certain extent, the slave of machinery. This is because the machine is private property, and it is the right of property that man is to own the machine. The organization of machinery would cut to stars, and no man ever makes the product of the machine, which is much more than he really produces. The machine is the property of all, every one would benefit by it. There is no doubt at all that the future of man is in the hands of the machine. For man will be heaped or amused himself, or enjoys cultivated leisure, or makes beautiful things, or reads beautiful books, or admires the works of art, or the world with admiration and delight. The fact is, that civilization requires slaves. Slavery is the very essence of modernizing. On mechanical slavery, on the slavery of the machine, the future of the world depends. The organization of machinery will supply Humanity with all useful things, and leave him leisure to pursue the beautiful. This is Utopian, for it is not possible to have a world that does not include Utopia, nor without glancing at it. It is the one country at which Humanity is always Individualism.

A MEETING of Telegraphers was held on Saturday evening for the purpose of organizing Central Division No. 123, Order Railway Telegraphers. A large number of operators from various parts of the Dominion were in attendance. After organization and general business, two delegates were appointed to attend the annual general convention to be held in St. Louis, Mo., in June next. The objects of the order, which now numbers about 10,000 members, are to raise the standard of the profession, furnish better service to the railway companies, and co-operate for mutual protection.

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The fourth annual concert and dances of Westhead Assembly (Lakers) No. 3493 K. of L. was held in Ontario Hall, Monday evening, Mr. H. E. Trent presiding. The entertainment included songs by Mrs. W. E. Ross, Mr. Itay Park, Miss F. Wright, and Mr. G. V. Hamilton, duets by Misses Parson and Orr and Messrs. W. Balles and G. Claxton, piano solo by Mrs. Chestnut, recitations by Mr. T. Johnston, readings by Mr. J. Johnson, a whistling and mouth-orgue duet by the Morton Brothers, and an exhibition of club swinging by Misses F. Wright and A. Bendison. The entertainment was voted by all present a great success.

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At the usual weekly meeting of the Single Tax Association last Friday, President Wood in the chair, an invitation was called to the members and endorsement of City Council to make the assessment law to be more favorable than at present to land speculators by substituting triennial for annual assessments on land. A resolution was appointed to wait on the Council and ask that their action be rescinded. Resolutions were passed approving the proposal of the city council that all railroad tracks in the city should be under municipal control and leased to any railroad desiring to use them, and condemning the action of the people of the Island of Lewis to make room for them. A discussion concerning timber regulations was participated in by several members.

## THE SOUL OF MAN UNDER SOCIALISM.

OSCAR WILDA has come out straight and strong, for Socialism. In a contribution to the *Fortnightly Review* for February, he says:

It is the chief advantage that would result from the establishment of Socialism is undoubtedly the fact that Socialism would release us from the cruel necessity of living for others, which in the present condition of things, presses so heavily upon almost everybody. In fact, scarcely any one is free.

Now and then in the course of the century a great man of science, like Darwin, a great poet, like Keats, a fine critic, like Mill, a great artist, like Flaubert, has been able to isolate himself, to keep himself free from the crowd of the clamorous claims of others, to stand "under the shelter of his wall," as Plato puts it, and so realize the perfection which in the city should be under municipal control and leased to any railroad desiring to use them, and condemning the action of the people of the Island of Lewis to make room for them. A discussion concerning timber regulations was participated in by several members.

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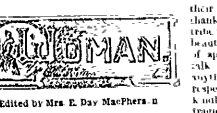
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# THE LABOR ADVOCATE

(A WEEKLY)

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TORONTO, CANADA, APRIL 3, 1891.

## NO MORE MUNICIPAL MONOPOLIES.

The application of the Toronto Telephone Company for a franchise enabling them to use the streets of the city in establishing a telephone system in opposition to that of the Bell Telephone Company ought to be rejected. A municipal consideration of the matter from the standpoint of public interest, ought to make it clear to the mind of the dullest alderman that competition in the telephone business would be a serious injury and nuisance.

The people have no more use for a district telephone system, covering the same territory, than for two postoffices and two separate street railway services. The establishment of a superfluous telephone system would simply cause increased expense and much confusion.

It is asserted that the new company mean to supply the citizens with a telephone service at a cheaper rate than that now charged. Suppose they do; and cost to the business man who wishes to be in communication with as many telephone users as possible will be increased, as he will have to become a subscriber to both companies instead of one. The unnecessary cost of covering the same territory with two sets of wires will have, in the end, to be met by the public. His, of course, possible that at first the two rival companies will fight each other and cut rates—so to the great satisfaction of their customers.

But, as has been repeatedly shown by experience, competition between monopolies is never of long duration. Either one will drive out the other and remain in possession, of the field, or they will conclude to unite their interests and an amalgamation under one shape or other will follow, when prices will be put up to a figure sufficient to cover all the losses of the competition period with interest.

Everybody with a grain of sense ought to know by this time that it is utterly folly to expect permanent cheapness or improvement in public services as a result of competition. All such enterprises as the telephone ought to be under city management. That is at present attainable, so far as the telephone system is concerned, but the next best thing in the interests of the people is rigidly to abstain from granting any more franchises, and while excluding all competition, hold the monopolists now in possession to the strict terms of their bargain.

## SPENCER ON SOCIALISM

The most noteworthy article in the current number of the *Free Press* is a Monthly by Herbert Spencer entitled "From Freedom to Bondage." It was originally published as the introduction to "A Plea for Liberty," a recently issued English volume, written as a protest against the Socialistic legislation. Anything Mr. Spencer writes is of course worth reading, and it would be impossible for anyone to present the arguments against government control of industries more clearly and logically than he does. It is well that the declining cause of Individualism possesses so redoubtable a champion for when the admitted skill and reasoning power of one of the ablest of living scientists can make no better showing than Mr. Spencer has done in his recent anti-Socialist utterances, it is sufficient to demonstrate the weakness of his cause.

Mr. Spencer undertakes to show that in widening the sphere of government and entrusting many duties and enterprises to the state, which, in his opinion, ought to be left to private enterprise, society is nursing the germ of a new system of slavery. He holds that when the system of universal state management is brought about, as he clearly foresees that it will be, should the present tendencies continue, the officeholders will become a distinct caste, and reduce the workers to a state of serfdom more intolerable than their present condition. The reasoning by which he reaches this conclusion is very plausible but he ignores several considerations which strongly tell against it. In the first place he, like most Individualists, writes from the standpoint of the comfortable well-to-do classes. It may readily be granted that to the man who possesses an assured income, with plenty of opportunities for leisure and enjoyment, the prospect of an industrial commonwealth, where every man will be compelled to do some useful work in return for his living, offers from the selfish standpoint, no attractions. If the question of Socialism vs. Individualism is to be argued from the point of view of the comfortably situated few who alone really can be said to have any individual freedom, there is really nothing to discuss. But unfortunately to the great majority of mankind in civilized countries this so-called "individualism" is merely an empty name. They are hampered and fettered in every direction by the exigencies of competition, and are only parts of an immense industrial machine. It is absurd to imagine that those who have been already reduced to practical serfdom by monopoly will be in the least alarmed by the picture which Mr. Spencer draws of the slavery of Socialism. They will argue that while it may be better for them it cannot possibly be worse.

Mr. Spencer presents his case as though it were a choice between Socialism and genuine Individualism. This is disingenuous. Individualism in the true sense of the word is rapidly becoming a thing of the past. Modern industrial conditions are destroying it. The alternative lies not between the "bondage" of Socialism, and the freedom of Individualism, but between Socialism and the iron rule of monopoly. For government under existing conditions to refuse to govern is simply to substitute a form of concentrated capitalism, to let society and industry be ruled by railroad, money and factory kings. They, if permitted to exercise their power without state interference, are far more powerful than the nominal rulers—the government that does not govern. A handful of millionaires whose fat can throw hundreds of thousands of men out of employment, paralyze traffic, depress commerce, regulate prices and in all respect absolutely control the most vital interests of the public, are the government to all intents and purposes, and so long as they possess such powers the social ruler king, president or premier is merely a gilded slave.

It is strange that Herbert Spencer should be so much under the influence of traditional phrases that this very obvious view of the matter has escaped him. The people are called on to decide between asserting their rights to vote and throw this at present irresponsible Council deliberators at the expense of the public interest, creating matters of difficulty and allowing capitalism to rule from the city treasury to the pocket of the monopolists a sum estimated at not less than \$300,000 per year. The annual increase of taxation owing to the growth of such values. We hope that the strong protests made against this particularly objectionable piece of legislation will secure its rejection by the Legislature. In any event those aldermen who lent their sanction should be strictly held to account by their constituents.

## TRIENNIAL ASSESSMENTS.

The more the proposal to substitute triennial for annual assessments is considered, the greater will be the injustice to the public of a measure conceived solely in the interest of speculators and land monopolists appear. There has been no popular demand for such legislation. If it had been subjected to discussion on its merits it would have forth general condemnation on the ground of its flagrant unfairness to other classes of property owners and tax payers. The clique of real estate gamblers specially interested in shifting their taxes upon the rest of the public did not dare to have the amendment fairly canvassed, so by wire-pulling and sinister influences they had the measure suddenly sprung upon the Council and rushed through before the press and the great body of citizens had any opportunity to pronounce upon it. It was a most discreditable dodge, and it is sufficient to suggest the iniquitous character of the proposal.

As everybody knows, land in this city has of late years increased very rapidly in value. Lately an attempt has been made to effect something like a proportionate increase in the assessments, with the result that the glaring discrepancies formerly observable between the real selling value of real estate and the figure marked on the assessment roll have been considerably lessened. The speculators and the numerous class who hold land as an investment without doing anything to add to its value in the expectation of profiting by the growth of the city, have for some time been very reticent under the levelling up process by which a portion of the unearned increment goes into the public treasury. Not desiring to oppose it openly, they have brought influence to bear upon the aldermen and induced the latter to father the scheme by which assessed land values will remain at a standstill for three years, no matter how great the actual increase may be during that term.

The provision to the effect that improvements made during the interval between assessments must be taxed just as usual, emphasizes the unjust nature of the measure. It puts a premium upon allowing land to be idle. The man who builds a house or a store must be assessed for the additional value imparted to the property by his own enterprise. His neighbor, who simply holds his land for a rise in value, and benefits by the improvement of adjoining property, pays no additional tax though his land may double or triple in value owing to the demand thereby created. The merchant who pushes his business and increases his stock, the manufacturer who develops his trade and gets in more machinery, the clerk or mechanic who by diligence earns increased pay, all have their taxes increased year by year. But the land owner, who does nothing but hold on and wait till the needs of a growing community forest up the value of his lots—the alone of all classes is to have the benefit of special legislation, shifting a large proportion of his taxes upon the shoulders of his industrious neighbors.

The proposed legislation is in contravention of all progressive and intelligent principles of taxation. Its only effect, should it be sanctioned by the Legislature, will be to encourage an evil which, instead of being fostered, ought to be repressed. Land speculation is the curse of all growing communities, enriching a set of idlers, and discouraging industry by the imposition upon labor of burdens imposed by the land mon-

opolist. Yet will, at these evils and abuses in plain sight, the Toronto City Council deliberators favor the special power and regulate matters of so much importance and compare to divert their attention to the pocket of the monopolists a sum estimated at not less than \$300,000 per year. The annual increase of taxation owing to the growth of such values.

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## GOODNESS AND GAIN.

It is quite possible for an individual or a society to possess a great deal of religion of the fashionable orthodox kind and yet have very little sense of justice or fair play. This is illustrated by an incident which recently occurred in connection with the Employing Printers' Association. Many of the members of that body fully realize that the wages now paid to compositors are inadequate, and are quite willing to consent to an increase, provided that it be general, as it would of course be unreasonable in these days of close competition to expect a few employers to give the increase on their own account, while their competitors continued to pay the lower rate. The question came up before the Employing Printers' Association, and a large number expressed themselves favorably to the increase, but it was strongly opposed by Messrs. William Briggs, manager of the Miel's Book and Publishing House and in consequence of his opposition fall through. The Publishing House is one of the official schemes of the Methodist Church and supported by the entire denomination. When such an institution arrays itself in a spirit of bitter hostility against the just claims of organized labor, it is a wonder that religion of such a type has lost its hold on the working classes.

## DON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH

The *Pittsburg Trades Journal* says: The effective manner in which labor has forced its claims on the British Parliament is shown in the fact that a royal commission has been appointed to investigate everything connected with the present condition of the working classes in that country. Heretofore the English law-making body has been accustomed to treat labor measures just as they were treated on this side of the water, that was to lay them on the table to stay there. However, things on both sides of the Atlantic are changing somewhat.

There is altogether too much of this sort of premature exultation over what is going to be done for labor by the English politicians—especially in view of Lord Salisbury's unstatesmanlike conduct in telling an audience of capitalists that the only result of the commission would be to expose the delusions cherished by the working classes. The English machine politicians, Tory or Labor, they will not do anything to help by the fear of losing votes. The commission is merely a dodge to secure decay and give the Government an excuse for postponing all action until the report is presented.

The only way in which working men can get any legislation worth having from capitalist parliaments is to make it abundantly clear to the politicians that the latter have no other way to hope from the labor vote, than from the influence of capitalism. Once enforce that lesson thoroughly and the politicians will be

the obsequious servants of the people who they now are of the plutocracy. But it can't be done so long as a government are divided by party rivalry and religion, and all sorts of petty miserable side issues, which politicians—though they pretend to fight each other over such questions—do all differences and stand together in solid phalanx whenever their privileges are threatened.

We direct attention to a letter from Mr. Charles Durand, which appears elsewhere, from which we get the impression that that gentleman does not like the LABOR ADVOCATE. This is satisfactory, bearing in mind that the public are apt to judge a newspaper by the kind of enemies it makes. We are also glad to have Mr. Durand's assurance that he did not take up arms in 1837. It is somewhat of a relief to know this, as it is always saddening to anyone of finer feeling to see any man, in his better days did good service for humanity, lapsing into Toryism and sycophancy in his old age. Accepting Mr. Durand's statement, we unreservedly admit that it would have been a great mistake to have hanged him in '37 along with Lount and Matthews.

Such a death would have been an undeserved honor and would have secured him an immortality in the grateful remembrance of all lovers of liberty to which he is in no way entitled.

We hope that those of our readers who have occasion to buy thread will bear in mind the boycott issued by the American Federation of Labor and the K. of L. against Clark's O. N. T. cotton—an article which ordinarily has gotten a large sale in this city. Clark's thread mills at Newark, N. J., have been the scene of a protracted strike owing to oppression exercised by the firm towards their employees, and on several occasions the strikers have been brutally and without provocation clubbed by the police, and arrests made under color of law, but in flagrant violation of every principle of justice. The employees, most of them women, are making a brave fight, and are sustained by every Labor Reformer, and the most effective way to help them just now is by carrying out the boycott.

The present City Council is making a bad record for itself. The feeling that the majority of its members are the servilest tools of the wealthy classes, aroused by the ready assent given to the iniquitous triennial assessment scheme, will be strengthened by the throwing out of the business tax by a very large majority at the meeting on Tuesday afternoon. The present system is most unjust to the wage earners and small property owners who are assessed for every cent, while the wealthier class are let off much more easily. The business tax is by no means a perfect system, but it would be a great improvement on existing methods. Evidently, however, the friends of progressive measures have little to hope for from this Council.

The principles of Nationalism are making more rapid progress in England than on this continent. Postmaster General Raikes has forbidden the establishment of a corps of messenger boys in London, on the ground that the delivery of short-distance letters is a function rightfully belonging to Government, which private individuals have no right to undertake. He also stated in this connection that he is maturing a scheme for a messenger call and telephone service on a much greater scale than that contemplated. It is evident that public opinion in England is not in accord with Herbert Spencer's reactionary individualist notions, as the tendency to extend the scope of government action is stronger than ever.

The English people are much more advanced on the question of women's enfranchisement than we are on this continent. A bill is now before the Imperial Parliament making women

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Countess of... Women's Liberal... Mr. Gladstone... Mr. Gladstone... Mr. Gladstone...

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