

Reasons for

Resisting the
Renewed Attack on the
Day of Rest in
Toronto.



THE ANTI SUNDAY CAR POSITION

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AND FOR

Preserving Permanently the Rest and Quiet of the Lord's Day Throughout Ontario.

As the citizens of Toronto are called upon to vote on the 19th of this month for or against Sunday Cars, the Citizens' Anti Sunday Car Association make the following statement of their position:

Ever since the Toronto Railway Company secured the franchise from the City Council permitting them to operate street cars in Toronto on six days of the week, they have been endeavoring to secure the right to run cars on Sunday by persistent efforts at the City Council and the Legislature, and by continuous agitation of the public mind. Twice already they have failed to convince the citizens, and now they make a third appeal. In view of this unceasing agitation and the present vote, we affirm our position:—

CHANGED CONDITIONS.

1. The changed conditions of modern life as to the increase and congestion of population in Toronto, show no marked alteration since previous votes, and afford no adequate reason for Sunday cars. On the contrary, the changed conditions of modern life in the rush, pressure, and strain on muscle and nerve, especially in our cities, make the weekly rest all the more imperative and valuable.

NOT ASKED FOR BY WORKING MEN.

2. It is pretended that Sunday cars are required to carry the working men and their families to the open air of the country or the parks. We are sure the workmen of Toronto want no paternalistic advice. This temporary gust of interest is in their votes rather than in their abiding welfare. It is a fact beyond dispute that it is not the working men who are agitating for the change, that is

lower votes they gave majorities against it, and that Sunday cars in cities where they do run are so valuable relied to the crowded centres.

EMPLOYERS NOT PROTECTED.

3. The protection afforded to the street car employees in the agreement executed between the Street Railway Company and the City Council is defective. It may be as adequate as it can be made legally, but it is difficult of enforcement, easily evaded, and practically non-effective. It is manifest that no other day but Sunday can be a day of enjoyable rest or of religious worship. If the street car employees cannot rest when all other citizens rest, their Sabbath is shattered. The right of every working man in Toronto is to enjoy rest and the opportunity for worship on the first day of each week, together with his family, his friends, and the rest of the community. It is proposed to take away this right from the employees of the Street Railway Company, and the substitute offered to them is a day of idleness, while everyone else is at work. The real question at issue is whether one whole class of the community shall be compelled to work on Sunday in order to minister to the convenience and pleasure of other classes.

NO HELP TO SUNDAY SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES.

4. That a Sunday car service will add to the influence and usefulness of the Churches and Sunday Schools by conveying worshippers to distant sanctuaries and thus serving their individual preferences, is a delusion and a snare. The Churches throughout the city have all the better distribution of strength because of the absence of street cars, as it leads most people to attend Churches near at hand, and no doubt the street cars would lure more from the Churches than they would lead to them.

MORAL EFFECTS.

5. The effect on the moral tone of the city will be bad. Whatever certain worthy individual citizens may be doing at, it is not doubted that the Street Railway Company are doing at a large addition to their profits, as is evidenced by the large amount of money spent by them at the previous voting, and they will take the steps necessary to make the Sunday cars the means of Sunday recreations and pastimes and refreshments in parks controlled by them or others. This course of events has been unmistakable in other cities.

GROUNDLESS COMPLAINT.

6. We are charged with taking an arbitrary position in imposing our views on a large minority. This, when analyzed, we consider to be simply a complaint against the law of the land. We have had

over fifty years of prosperous life in Ontario under the Lord's Day Act, and we consider it unnecessary for any citizens of Toronto to complain when it is only the law of the land that stands in the way of their preferences. They support the law which forbids other crafts and callings from making sales or prosecuting ordinary work on Sunday, and the Toronto Railway Company should be an exception.

SATURDAY HALF-HOLIDAY.

7. To make Sunday a day of amusement will impose what has been already secured in the way of a Saturday half-holiday. Beyond doubt the settled policy of organized labor is, and that of the whole community ought to be—Saturday afternoon for recreation, and Sunday for rest and worship.

WIDER VIEW.

8. We wish, finally, to make it clear to those conceiving their franchise for the first time, and to the citizens at large, that the whole Province is interested in and watchful of this issue, and that friends of moral and social reform everywhere are hopeful that Toronto will maintain her present position, so well known throughout the world. The law of Sabbath Rest, which is a law altogether for man's welfare, is written not only in the Bible, but in nature, in the human constitution, and on the pages of history, and is binding on corporations and communities as well as individuals.

APPEAL.

FOR THE RIGHTS OF WORKING MEN AND WORKING WOMEN, FOR THE REST OF ALL CLASSES OF THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE MORAL AND MATERIAL WELFARE OF THE CITY, AND FOR THE NATIONAL PEACE AND PROSPERITY, WE ASK THE CITIZENS OF TORONTO, BY THEIR VOTES ON THE 15th INSTANT, NOT ONLY TO DEFEAT THE SUNDAY CARS, BUT TO RECORD THEIR VERDICT BY SUCH A MAJORITY AS WILL RELIEVE THE CITY OF THE AGITATION, EXPENSE AND PERIODIC TURMOIL, TO WHICH IT HAS BEEN SUBJECTED.

Sunday labor is Slavery.

**Do not impose Sunday Work on 600 of
your Fellow-citizens.**

Do not destroy their only Home-Day.