

Ontario Workman

THE EQUALIZATION OF ALL ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY IN THE SOCIAL SCALE SHOULD BE THE TRUE AIM OF CIVILIZATION.

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Labor Notes.

A proposal to federate the various trades' councils of England has recently been made.

An attempt has lately been made to bring about an amalgamation of several unions in the coachmaking trade in England—with, it is stated, little or no success.

A new association of the engineers who are employed at the many collieries in the vicinity of Leeds and Wakefield has been formed, and includes part of the South Yorkshire district.

Mr. Macdonald stated the other day, at a meeting of miners at Kilwinning, that of the 45,000 miners in Scotland, some 35,000 were now in union.

The strike of the window-glass blowers at PITTSBURG, Pa., which has been going on for some time, is now at an end.

The journeymen letterpress printers at Huddersfield are out on strike, having been refused a demand for 30s. per week. Their present wages are 27s. per week and 8d. per hour for overtime.

The wide frame hands of Nottingham having given the masters a month's notice for an advance of ten per cent, a conference was held last week between a deputation of men and masters, but the latter determined that they could not give the advance at present.

The Pottsville, Pa., *Daily Standard* says there is no longer any doubt of the fact that there is a general suspension of mining operations in this region, and unless the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company recedes from the firm stand it has taken the cessation of labor will be protracted and will be costly alike to the community, operators and miners.

A meeting of workmen, convened by the Bristol Direct Representation of Labor Committee, was held on Wednesday evening Dec. 24th, for the purpose of taking steps for securing the return of a working class representative at the next general election for that city. It is intended to make an effort to obtain from the working classes of the city subscriptions to pay the expenses of the candidate selected to contest the representation, and should he be elected further efforts will be made to obtain funds to support him, while in Parliament. A number of resolutions endorsing the programme of the League were adopted.

At a general meeting of the Sheffield Trades Council, held on Wednesday night Dec. 24th, it was resolved by 19 votes to one that the resolution passed by the Executive meeting, being desirous of a thoroughly Radical representative of the borough in Parliament as a colleague for Mr. Mundella, M. P., does hereby respectfully invite Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, of Birmingham, to become a candidate for the next vacancy or election; and in the event of his consenting to do so, we pledge ourselves to the utmost of our power to secure his election.

Mr. James Hardaker, stonemason, workingman's candidate for Bradford, addressed a large meeting of electors on Saturday Dec. 27th. He stated that he was in favor of assimilation of county to borough franchise, redistribution of seats, admission of women to Parliamentary franchise, payment of returning officers' expenses at election, out of borough rates, Nine Hours Bill, Disestablishment of the English Church, and a national system of education. He was also in favor of the Permissive Bill, Home Rule for Ireland, and alterations in the Master and Servant Act and Criminal Laws Amendment Act. After Mr. Hardaker had answered several questions, a resolution of confidence in him as the workingman's candidate was carried unanimously.

THE LONDON MASONS.—A general meeting of the operative masons was held on Wednesday evening Dec. 24th, at the Lambeth baths, Mr. Murphy in the chair, the object being to present the accident provision of £50 in accordance with the rules of the Masons' union, to the widow of the late Samuel Deane, a member of the

union, who was recently accidentally killed while employed at the Phoenix gasworks upon some new buildings. The money having been handed over to the widow, followed by some remarks from the chairman, Mr. Dyer (the general secretary of the union), Mr. Broadhurst, and others addressed the meeting on the advantages of trades' unionism, and the great saving to the poor rates of the country by the large sums they distributed amongst their members from their accident, funeral, sick, and out-of-work funds.

A number of representatives, selected from both employers and ironworkers connected with the North of England and Midland iron trades, was held in Birmingham on Friday Dec. 26th, for the purpose, if possible, of adjusting a rate of wages for the next few months, and, further, to establish a scheme by which for the future the wages of the ironworkers of the kingdom shall be regulated. The iron trades of the north of England, South Staffordshire Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Shropshire were duly represented. Mr. Dale, of Stockton presided. After a long discussion, it was resolved that the wages of the ironworkers in South Staffordshire and the north of England be regulated in the following manner:—That from the 1st of January till April 4, 1874, the prices for puddling shall be 12s. 6d. per ton, and mill rates in proportion; that Messrs. Barker, Williams, Rodey, Dale, Whitwell, Capper, Ancutt, Trow, Holden, Huster, and the secretaries be appointed a committee to endeavor to recommend a self-adjusting system for regulating wages after April 4, 1874, with a maximum of 12s. 6d. for puddling, and mill rates in proportion.

LOCK-OUT OF ENGINEERS.—On Wednesday night Dec. 24, a general meeting of delegates from the various engineering branches was held at the Imperial hotel, Southwark, to receive the reports of the delegates from the shops as to the progress of the advance of wages movement. Mr. Canham occupied the chair. A delegate from Mr. Blyth's Marine works, of Limehouse, stated that that night they were all locked out. The matter had taken them a little by surprise, because they had given their employers a fair week's notice, and would have worked on till January 1st. The masters said they could not give the advance, and as it would not pay them to open their shops for a short time during the holidays, they had determined to lock them all out that night. The men unanimously expressed their determination to abide by the resolution expressed at the East-end hall, and so that night had come out in a body. The number was about eighty. The Chairman said that no doubt they were coming now to the commencement of a struggle. The masters were doubtless forming a strong association, but he thought they would find the men equally strong. He said he had received an intimation that that night Messrs. Stewart, of the Isle of Dogs, had given a favorable reply to the memorial of their men, and that in all probability they would help the committee to support the men who were out.

The latest engineering proposal is one for tunnelling under the Sound, and so obtaining land communication between Denmark and Sweden. As the Sound is only about four miles broad, there seems no reason why this proposal should not be carried out.

Mlle. Albani, the Canadian prima donna, has won the greatest success in Moscow. On the night of her debut as "Somnambula," she was called before the footlights forty times.

The emigration returns for the port of Hamilton during the past year showed the arrival of all nationalities to have been 51,153, against 50,585 of the preceding twelvemonth. Of these 18,310 remained in Canada and 37,833 went into the States.

An effort is to be made to introduce hippophagy, or the practice of eating horse flesh in Boston. In Paris last year over 1,700 horses, mules, and asses were consumed as food furnishing 600,000 pounds of edible meat. There are in Paris forty slaughter houses, for horses, which are regularly inspected by Government veterinary surgeons.

LABOR PORTRAITS.

"Men who, in advance of law and in opposition to prevailing opinion, have forced into national recognition the hitherto disregarded rights of labor."

HENRY R. SLATTER.

SECRETARY OF THE PROVINCIAL TYPOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

Mr. Slatter was born in Cheltenham on October 13th, 1830, where his father was at that time in business as a baker. While he was yet very young, his parents removed to Birmingham, where they gave their oldest son (the subject of our sketch) as good an education as their means would allow, and at the age of fourteen apprenticed him to the printing. During the period of his apprenticeship, his natural taste for reading was fostered by his connection with a mutual improvement society held in New Meeting street School-room, where a large portion of his leisure hours was spent in attending classes for the improvement of the members in literature, history, politics, and other subjects.

On the completion of his apprenticeship, he was employed in Birmingham and neighborhood till 1854, when he removed to Manchester, and obtained a situation on one of the daily papers which he continued to hold till his appointment to his present office. He had not been long in Manchester before he took an active part in trade matters, and was more than once on the committee of the Manchester Typographical Society. That society forms the strongest branch of the Provincial Typographical Association, and when the seat of government was removed to Sheffield, in which town it was first established, to Manchester, Mr. Slatter was elected one of the executive council. This was in 1865, and Mr. Henry Roberts was at that time appointed to the secretaryship. From this position he retired in 1869, and Mr. Slatter was unanimously elected to fill the vacancy. He has also been re-elected in each succeeding year; and the association having, at a delegate meeting held in December last, altered the mode of election by placing it in the hands of all the branches instead of one in which the seat of management is fixed, he has also had the satisfaction of being unanimously elected under the new system.

Mr. Slatter has never been an active political partizan, but has devoted a considerable portion of his leisure to promoting the progress of co-operation. He was one of the founders of the North of England Co-operative Printing Society, one of the most successful examples of productive co-operation. He has held the office of President of that society from the time of its commencing operations. He has also for the past three years been a member of the Central Board, to the north-western section of which he is honorable secretary.

As the nature and constitution of the Provincial Typographical Association are comparatively unknown to many of our readers, and as it is desirable that all who are working for the advancement of unionism should be familiar with what each trade has accomplished, we subjoin a few details of its origin and constitution:—

Printers have for a long period recognized the value of association in their respective towns, and in 1840 an effort was made to extend these advantages by a federation of societies into a national organization, on a somewhat similar plan to that adopted by other trades, but limited in its operation to purely trade objects. During the twenty-four years which have elapsed since that time, the Provincial Typographical Association, which was the title given to the new federation, has steadily grown in power and influence, and at the present time comprises 3,300 members, and has nearly all the chief provincial towns enrolled as branches. It has also materially assisted its members in obtaining what were felt to be just and necessary improvements in their position in the matter of wages and hours of labour; and it may fairly be claimed that its members occupy a higher position than that of other members in the provinces, and that their improved position is mainly attributable to their connection with the association. Briefly stated, the main objects which the association aims at are the maintenance of a fair standard of wages, the limitation of working hours to reasonable bounds, the prevention of encroachments on the privileges of the profession, the honest and fair working of the piece system, and the restriction of the number of apprentices.

As a means of providing for the less fortun-

ate members, it has also been recently decided to establish an out-of-work fund, from which unemployed members, desirous to remain in their respective towns, can receive eight shillings per week for six weeks in any quarter when out of work. A funeral fund has likewise been instituted, which will make provision of the payment of about £6 10s. on the death of a member, the amount being raised by a levy of one halfpenny per member for each death.

The constitution of the association is based on the broadest foundation, all the rules being adopted by the vote of the members, or their elected representatives at delegate meetings. Its business is conducted by an executive council, which is elected by the member of the branch to whom the other branches decide to entrust that duty; and, except in such matters as are involved in the association rules, each branch has the unquestioned control of its own local business and the disposal of its funds. In carrying out its principles, the association has always endeavored, by exhausting all the resources of argument and conciliation, to avoid coming into collision with employers, knowing that no greater evil can befall the association than to have the area of labour for its members contracted; but where these agencies fail, and members are compelled to sacrifice their situations, they are entitled to £1 per week for twenty weeks, or £10 if they desire to emigrate.

Connected with the Provincial Typographical Association is the Mileage Relief Association, established in 1861 for the purpose of regulating the relief to travellers, and securing to its members one penny per mile while proceeding from town to town in search of employment; at the same time making provisions for regulating and controlling the conduct of such members, in the interest of the employer as well as employed. Members will thus have the choice of either travelling or remaining at home, substantial assistance being secured to them in each case.

The subscription to the two associations is 3d. per week. The parent society—the Provincial Typographical Association—now numbers 54 branches in England and Wales, to which its operations are limited. The Mileage Relief Association has, in addition to these 54 branches, 23 societies, unconnected with the Provincial Typographical Association, some of which are in Ireland. London, which has an independent society of 3,700 members is not allied with the Provincial Typographical Society, neither is the important provincial town of Leeds. The Scottish Typographical Societies have a federation of their own, and there are also several other societies in England and Ireland (including Dublin) which are not affiliated with the association.

THE COACHMAKERS.

An attempt has lately been made to bring about an amalgamation of several unions in the coachmaking trade. Within the last twelve months the United Kingdom Society of Coachmakers have altered their travelling relief to a more liberal sum, and have adopted a rule which gives all free members a limited amount of stationary relief when unemployed, this, partly through a general inclination of the members and partly through an advice of the London branch, to the effect that such a change might bring about an amalgamation of the London local societies with this one. In the Executive Committee's report for the present quarter they tell the members that they have failed. But they give no details as to what terms the London local societies wanted or would give. There appears no justification for this course, since 6,800 heads are better than 7, especially when that 7 has no power to make concession or alterations, which the body of members all have. The affair has not been taken up in a proper spirit to be successful, because the Executive Committee write as follows: "As all attempts at amalgamating any of the societies in a body with ours have failed, we have come to the conclusion that we should gain individual members whenever it is possible." The Executive Committee propose to let members of other societies transfer into theirs by paying a member's share of the funds (about £1 15s.) to be at once entitled to all the benefit of a free member, and all the time or membership in the previous society to count in this. If

this is compared with the conditions offered to members re-entering, it will be seen that a member re-entering is not entitled to any benefit for twelve months, pays about £2 5s., and loses all his previous membership—a most serious thing, because length of membership is one of the society's greatest gauges.—*Bee-Hive*.

A VALUABLE POSSESSION.

We never hear of an instance of presence of mind without thinking of a story once heard. Two gentlemen, neither of whom could swim, went on a fishing expedition together; on the boat were, besides themselves, two essential things; a box of cigars and a case of brandy. Time passed away in a very harmless manner to the little fishes; but at last something occurred; owing to the influence of the—well, probably cigars—one gentleman lost his balance and attempted to fall overboard; whereupon the other lustily shouted, "A shark! a shark!" The intelligence was so unexpected to the terrified listener, that by a superhuman effort of strength he fell inside the craft instead of outside. Instantly realizing the situation, and not being devoid of wit, he said gravely,

"Well done, Jones; your presence of mind saved my absence of body." That's very good isn't it—for a story? However, there is no doubt that many people are peculiarly gifted with this invaluable quality called presence of mind—a quality which should be assiduously cultivated by all. Were parents and teachers accustomed to show their young ones how self-command in some unexpected emergency, as in an outbreak of fire at midnight, would not only save themselves, but rescue a whole company of friends or pupils, were the various the various means of escape shown, and the necessity of instant decision enforced, many a valuable life (to say nothing of property) would be saved. So intelligent a community as ours ought not, in this advanced period of thought, to be so easily overwhelmed by calamity, when one woman's prompt and resolute aid would stop the stream at its fountain head. By constant training, the nerves may be brought under perfect control, and self-command under dangerous circumstances be more readily retained than lost; and surely such a result is worth striving for. Maria Edgeworth tells a story bearing on his subject: In the house of her great grandmother, powder was stored in the upper rooms of the mansion, according to the then prevalent custom. One day a stupid servant-girl was sent to procure something in the garret; when the maid came back and was asked for her candle, which she had carried without any candlestick, she answered "It was sticking in the cask of black dirt up there." Not a moment was to be lost. Mrs. Edgeworth flew upstairs, dashed the candle upon the floor, and fell herself, overcome by nervous excitement. She had saved the house and all within its walls. Remarkable courage of this kind was displayed by Eli Broom. A railroad bridge had just been destroyed by fire. An express train was approaching. Eli was determined to hazard his life to save others. He ran to meet the advancing engine, spread his little arms as widely as possible, and succeeded in gaining the engineer's attention—who stopped the train just in time to prevent a terrible disaster. Another story, and we have done: An English family was taking tea in the garden back of their bungalow, one sultry eve, in upper India. Suddenly a great Bengal tiger made one of the company. The gentleman, even an army officer, seemed paralyzed with fear. One woman alone was master of the occasion. She sprung upon a large sun-umbrella right in the face of the beast, who resented so unusual a reception by leaping over the green edge and making for the thicket, where he had been hiding. Would not this same genius at improvising means have made this lady perfectly invaluable in shipwreck, in midnight conflagration, in all those situations of peculiar peril where the danger is intensified by an utter lack of calmness and presence of mind.

Four garroters were flogged at Liverpool, this being the first occasion of the cat being used in that town, under the existing Act of Parliament for the punishment of robbery accompanied by violence. Three of the men bore their twenty lashes each in silence; but the fourth howled dismally, and made desperate struggles to get free.

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