

NOTICE.

We shall be pleased to receive contributions of interest pertaining to Trade Societies from all parts of the Dominion or publication. Officers of Trades Unions, Secretaries of Leagues, etc., are invited to send us news relating to their organizations, condition of trade, etc.

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We wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of correspondents.

Our columns are open for the discussion of all questions affecting the working classes. All communications must be accompanied by the names of the writers, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

WILLIAMS, SLEETH & MACMILLAN.

Trades Assembly Hall.

Meetings are held in the following order:—

- Machinists and Blacksmiths, every Monday.
- Painters, 1st and 3rd Monday.
- Coachmakers, 2nd and 4th Monday.
- Crispins, (159), 1st and 3rd Tuesday.
- K.O.S.C. Lodge 356, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
- Tinsmiths, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
- Cigar Makers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
- Iron Moulders, every Thursday.
- Plasterers, 1st and 3rd Thursday.
- Trades' Assembly, 1st and 3rd Friday.
- Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Friday.
- Coopers, 2nd and 4th Friday.
- Printers, 1st Saturday.
- Bakers, every 2nd Saturday.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1873.

THE BALLOT.

It may appear somewhat singular that, while very many in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec are watching with the greatest interest the bearing of present legislation on the subject of the Ballot, and looking eagerly for the time when that system of voting shall have become a fixed fact, in the belief that it will afford over the system of open voting, greater liberty of action to many, as well as tend to promote purity of elections—we say, it may be somewhat singular, that under these circumstances a bill has been adopted by the Local Legislature of Nova Scotia to repeal the Ballot Act of 1870. This action on the part of the Nova Scotia Legislature is certainly most surprising, for to our mind, in the debate on the question, there were not sufficient reasons advanced for the repeal of the bill. In fact, it was admitted by many of the members that they had never given the subject much thought, and they hardly knew how to vote; whilst others confessed that they voted against the ballot because the sentiment of the House appeared to be against it, though they themselves had seen no reason to abolish it. The general arguments used against the ballot were the hackneyed objections that have been in use and done service for many years, with the additional statement thrown in, that there has been more bribery and intimidation under the Ballot Act than there was previously under the system of open voting—a most extraordinary assertion, which was not even attempted to be sustained by "stubborn facts" by those members who advanced it. It would be passing strange, indeed, if the experience of Nova Scotia in this respect should prove an exception to the general rule, that the ballot, where it has received a fair trial, has demonstrated the fact that under its system not only have elections been conducted more quietly and with greater facility, but with far less bribery and corruption. This has been the result in those Provinces of Australia, where the ballot has been tried for some years, and such has also been the general result in

its operations, so far as experienced in England.

We do not, however, suppose that the action of the Nova Scotia Legislature will have much influence in retarding the progress of the introduction of the system in our Legislature. The bill, which has received its first and second readings in the House of Commons, appears to be explicit and comprehensive. Its principle features are as follows:—

Ballot cards are to be provided, on which the names of the several candidates are to be printed in strict alphabetical or dictionary order, and in separate or distinct colors. Ballotting compartments are to be provided at each polling place for the convenience of voters, and these voting places are to be so constructed that each voter may mark his ballot card alone and secretly without any interference or interruption.

Each polling place will be supplied with a ballot box, the key of which shall be in the custody of the Deputy Returning Officer.

Ballot cards, previously initiated by the deputy returning officer, will be delivered to persons entitled to vote, and the number of such voter on the voter's list marked thereon. Each voter, immediately upon receiving the card, shall retire alone to one of the balloting compartments and strike out the name or names of those for whom he does not intend to vote. The card will then be folded and delivered to the returning officer, who shall, without unfolding the same, or in any way disclosing the names of the candidates or the crosses made, verify his initials on the back thereof and forthwith deposit the same in the ballot box, publicly, in the presence of all persons entitled to be present.

No person will be allowed in any balloting compartment with any voter. In case of voters who are blind, or physically incapacitated from marking the card, it shall be the duty of the deputy returning officer to accompany him to one of the compartments, and there assist in striking off the names of those for whom he does not desire to cast his vote, folding up the ballot card as before directed.

Ballot cards containing a greater number of names unmarked than the number of persons for whom each voter is legally entitled to vote, or which are so marked as to render it uncertain which name the voter intended to strike out, or which is not duly initialed as provided, shall be rejected at the close of the poll.

When the poll has been declared closed, the ballot-box shall be opened and the cards counted in presence of witnesses, and a written statement prepared of the number of votes cast for each candidate. The ballot cards are then to be sealed up, and with the statement and voter's list transmitted to the returning officer.

Persons charged with personation may be taken into custody and dealt with as the law directs.

This Act shall commence and take effect from the date of the passing thereof.

With reference to the numbering of the ballots, we are rather of opinion that it will prove a defect. The object in so doing, we presume, is to give an opportunity for scrutiny in case of contested elections—but its defect is this, that it will also afford an opportunity for finding out how men have voted; and it is just possible that contested elections may possibly be carried on by the opponents of the ballot, for the purpose of bringing it into disrepute. It may be remembered that it was this feature of the English ballot which consoled the Peers in passing it at the last—it was not quite secret after all. However, the future progress of the bill will be earnestly watched by those who are in favor of the ballot system of voting.

THE UNIVERSITY RACE.

The race between the Oxford and Cambridge boat crews took place on Saturday. The race took place over the usual Thames course from Putney to Mortlake, a distance of four miles and two furlongs. The start was made at 31 minutes past 2 o'clock. Cambridge took the lead immediately at a very rapid stroke, and were a fair distance ahead of their competitors at Bishop's Creek, 3 furlongs from the starting point. Here the Oxford boat spurred vigorously and drew up, passing the Cantabs at the Soap works, a mile and four furlongs from the Aqueduct bridge. The steady stroke of the Cantabs soon after began to tell on their opponents, and in a few moments Cambridge had resumed the lead. The race was practically over at Corney Reach, Cambridge thereafter maintaining the lead and winning easy by three lengths. The Oxford crew rowed from 39 to 43 strokes per minute, and the Cantabs from 38 to 42 strokes. The time of the race was 20 minutes and 35 seconds.

In the House on Tuesday, Mr. Witton moved a resolution: "That in the opinion of this House, the principle of voting by ballot at Parliamentary elections should be adopted."

NEW TRUTHS.

The South Wales colliers have unconsciously announced a great truth. We are fast approaching the time when the world will recognise the right of the manual laborer to be better paid than the so-called middle class, which will be called upon also to see the difference between labor and industry. Labor is industry, but it does not therefore follow that industry is labor. The collier who digs coal, the puddler who makes iron, the pavior who gives us streets, and the bricklayer who constructs our sewers, will have to be paid for their work in proportion to the disagreeableness of the labor. We can see this broad distinction between the distributor and the producer—that up to the extreme point the producer is creating new wealth, and that, beyond the point of absolute necessity, the distributor, by enhancing the price of commodities so produced, absorbs the new wealth to the extent of the excess. No one will pretend to say that we need all the shops that we have, or all the clerks or the warehousemen—to say nothing of the indiscriminate and nondescript additions which are all to be found in the lower ranks of the middle class, who call themselves commission agents or salesmen, or hangers-on and "waiters upon Providence." The severe task-work of the world is, in fact, handed over to a section of mankind, who have to sustain the curse of labor as it was pronounced of old. The real pressure of the social question arises where industry and labor meet each other and struggle for a partition of the profits to be extracted from the consumer. Any one who will watch a ton of coal from the pit-mouth to the fire-grate of the consumer, will be able to detect that coal is used as an excuse for the industry of an excessive number of persons, who contrive to make a living by dealing with the article. So it is with all our great producing industries. It is the existence of this class which makes all the mischief; but it never happens that the people who boast of their intelligence are willing to pass to the work of manual laborers. We have had strikes amongst engine drivers, and engine driving is not a work beyond the capacity of an intelligent man, but it is disagreeable and toilsome, and therefore we do not see engine drivers deprived of the work by the competition of middle-class men. We often hear the expression, "Men who have the courage of their opinion," but we have yet to realize what men are who have the courage of labor. Labor, which calls for all the muscular power of a man, which asks him to work in a polluted atmosphere for a number of hours continuously, in some instances at the risk of his life, is one thing. Industry, which asks a man to get to an office or a market at nine in the morning, to leave at half-past five, and to go home dressed in broadcloth, is a comparatively pleasant occupation. It is no answer to say that the middle-class man has great anxieties about his industry. So he may have, for he is always in a false position; but the manual producer has exactly the same anxieties to sustain in connexion with disagreeable manual labor.

We want a man of the order of the prophet to trumpet forth this great truth, so that the people may get back to labor. The sham public opinion which is now created by a false and selfish social system, the fierce battle of unsound economical ideas, and the pernicious hatred of manual labor which has generated the idea of labor being degrading, out of which we get verdicts of conspiracy and sentences of imprisonment pronounced by the middle class, has reached the point at which humanity calls for its extinction. Humanity is, after all, the great law which ought to regulate the transactions of mankind with each other. It unfortunately happens that the laws of humanity are exactly the last which are thought of by "Society." Society, the society of broadcloth, makes the laws, and dictates to the people below the salt what they shall do, how they shall obey, and how they shall be paid. It is the tyranny of this layer of social order which seeks to degrade labor, and Society never hesitates to put the laborer in prison, if he is not obedient to the interests of broadcloth. The man who is wanted to play the part of Liberator must have genius, the tongue of fire which can produce "the thoughts that breathe and words that burn," so that the icy slabs of custom may melt in presence of the truth. Such men have been produced, and they can be produced again. O'Connell touched the harp of Ireland, and made himself master of the strings. When he spoke the nation rose like one man. John Bright, before he went to Court and put on the plush, showed us how the great tribune could appeal to the people in their hearts. Garibaldi and Mazzini made a nation, and left emperors, and kings, and statesmen to make the nation a kingdom. Washington fired the hearts of the colonists when they cried out against unconstitutional taxation, and called in existence one of the greatest nations of modern times. We want such a man now—a man of prescient sagacity, eloquence, and daring, to proclaim the eternal truth that labor is the great foundation of Society, and that the right to labor is only concurrent with the obligation on the part of all men to work. It by no means follows that all the disagreeable toil of the world is to be done by one section of men. It does not follow that the easier and more agreeable work of distribution should fall to the lot of another, a favored section. It is not even certain that in the day to come the employer will be permitted to go out and employ at his discretion a hundred men. There is no reason why bodies of men should not associate themselves together to sell their labor by contract, not at so much per day, or per hour, but by contract for the ton, or the yard, or the square foot. Such men may detail one or more of their number to do all the clerical work of the association, and they may then, in an age of education, be able to provide industry for the hapless victims of accident and constitutional infirmity. We may go further, and see the day not distant when co-operation in production will follow the splendid successes which have already flowed from co-operation in distribution. We are by no means at the end of the career of labor yet; as yet we are only on the threshold, and it needs only firmness and intelligence on the part of the working classes to order the advent of a new day. This is the time of preparation, but events are going so fast that there is no saying how soon it will be accomplished. It will be finally accomplished when the whole of the working class has resolved that manual labor shall be highly paid in proportion as it is disagreeable or toilsome and exhaustive. The collier is entitled to be paid in proportion to the disagreeable character of the work and the risk he runs. So is the puddler, the scavenger, and the men of the great army of labor who so nobly offer up their lives and limbs, in risk, to do the great work demanded by the national progress of the country. When they have done their duty they are entitled to be paid in proportion to the realized profits. Of course such a prospect is not pleasant to the idlers who now sponge upon the consumers, or to the distributors, who contrive by cunning to make a living between the producer and the consumer. But they have the remedy—they can go to work.

INTEMPERANCE.

Gentle reader, do not get mad and throw the Journal away, because we dare to put such a heading to an article; but keep cool, read what we have to say, and if our ideas are not correct, if we make misstatements, or if you are convinced we are encroaching on a subject that belongs to each member individually, and we have no right to touch on it, then sit you down, put your ideas on paper, send them to us, and we will give them vent through the Journal. We imagine we can hear you say—"That's fair!" so keep right on.

This season of the year, when man requires more of the necessities and more of the comforts of life, is in our opinion, the proper time to study out the cause of so many being in a condition

that prevents them from being able to secure any of the comforts and but few of the actual necessities. It has become a fixed fact in our trade that nine months or less than forty weeks, is the average time our members are employed during the year—from the first of January to the thirty-first of December. The wages of a mechanics in any trade should net at least \$1,000 per year; and our writers on political economy, the writers for the press, philanthropists, statesmen, all set that down as the lowest figure a man with a family can comfortably live on. In our trade, averaging, say, forty weeks work, it follows, of course, that to make \$1,000 we must get \$25 per week on an average; and as we only get about two-thirds of that amount, we are forced to content ourselves with \$666 per year, and are defrauded out of \$334—or else every statistician and supposed good authority on the subject has made a great mistake, and \$1,000 is too much. The cause of molders having only forty weeks' work in the year we do not propose to discuss; but the fact is, that under existing circumstances they can not have more. Another fact is, that their idle time is certain to be in the winter, when, as we before said, man requires more necessities and comforts of life; himself, wife, children, and other dependents, require more clothing, more heat, and more food. He is out of work; and the chances for their getting these necessities depend almost altogether on the fact of whether he received for his forty weeks' work enough wages to allow him to be prepared for his idle spell. If he did, all is well; if he did not—then, if his credit is good, he can perhaps pull through without actual suffering; but if he has neither money nor credit, then the condition can be better imagined than described.

Molders do not receive, on an average, \$1,000 per year, and, as a consequence, the majority are always pinched in winter, and always will be pinched, until the word we use as a heading for this article is thoroughly understood and appreciated—not by a hundred, not by a thousand, but by the whole ten thousand molders in the country.

Intemperance, in the common acceptance of the term, means a too free use of whiskey, which not only robs the purse, but robs the body of health and the brain of the wisdom which working-men especially should always exercise; but intemperance is not confined to whiskey or beer drinking. The man who, knowing exactly the amount of wages he will receive during the year, and makes no effort to prepare for his two or three months' idle time, is intemperate in the use of his money in a manner that works far more injury to the trade and to himself than he who drinks whiskey. We care not what use he puts it to, whether in fine clothes, extra feeding, balls, theatres, carriage-riding, or the thousand other ways of getting rid of money; the intemperance of such a man, even if he never touches strong drink, will work double the injury to the trade and to the Union than will the whiskey drinker. When such a man gets out of work, he will do almost anything before he will give up his style of living. He may have brought up a family in such a manner, that they expect and will demand that their style be kept up, work or no work; and the result is invariably a growler in the Union. He becomes a perfect slave to his cravings. If there is talk of reducing wages by the bosses on one side, and of resistance by the Union on the other, his impecunious condition forces him to take the employers side, and almost invariably makes a "scab" of him if he only imagines he will secure a week or two's work more than he otherwise would. This is the species of intemperance we have most to dread. Men must learn to live within their income, before they can ever hope to permanently increase that income. They must not in the middle of January or the first of February, be out of money and in debt—an easy prey for their employers; knowing that from two to three months' idle time is a foregone conclusion, they must be prepared for it; and he who has health both for himself and family; and yet, when the idle time comes, is