

Ontario Workman

THE EQUALIZATION OF ALL ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY IN THE SOCIAL SCALE IS A GOAL TO BE THE TRUE AIM OF CIVILIZATION.

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Notes.

The bricklayers of Newcastle have secured an advance of 3s. a week.

The paper collar manufacturers Troy, N. Y., employ over 2,000 girls, and are running full time.

The employers at Laborer Furnace are agitating the employees to establish a co-operative store, and seem to be moving in a way that promises success.

The Longshoremen of Philadelphia are on a strike against a reduction from 30 to 25 cents per hour.

The journeyman tailors of Boonington, are still on strike. They will consent to a reduction of ten per cent. in their wages, but twenty per cent. never.

The coal owners of Newcastle have decided not to accede to the renewed application of the miners of that district for an advance of 20 per cent. in their wages.

The Farmers Association of Wyalusing township, Barrington, Pa., evidently mean business. They are about to establish a co-operative store, and several thousand dollars' capital will be subscribed in a very short time. This is a step in the right direction.

An application was made to the L. & S. Rail and Company recently to make a reduction of ten per cent. in the wages of employees, but the Superintendent sent an answer that the men were receiving none too much now.

A demonstration to welcome William Osmond, a shepherd, who has been suffering six months imprisonment in Taunton Gaol, was held at Taunton on the morning of his liberation, Friday, January 2nd, 1874. A demonstration through the streets took place; after which a public meeting was held in the open market place to present him with a purse of gold.

The Grocers of San Francisco, have organized a cigar manufactory, to be carried on exclusively with white labor, and have already \$2,000 subscribed. Their officers are: J. Gibbreath, President; C. Goldbeck, Vice-President; J. Bullert, Secretary; their office is at No. 111 Kearney street. This is a good movement, and we hope that they will succeed.

The Amalgamated Society of Engineers (England), through its Executive Council, have determined to present Mr. Allan with a testimonial, as a mark of their esteem for his constant and indefatigable labors in connection with their association, as well as for his public services rendered to trades unionists for a period of more than thirty years, and for twenty five years as general secretary of this body.

The wages of coal-miners in Great Britain, averaged in 1871, \$1.22 per day; at the present time they receive \$2 per day. In 1871, the mine owners received a profit of fourteen cents per ton, now they receive a profit of eighty-seven cents per ton. Yet the coal-miner is responsible for the entire increased cost of coal in that country.

A society has been organized among the employees of the boiler department of the Baldwin Locomotive Works for the assistance of those in needy circumstances, who have been thrown out of employment. A weekly assessment is to be made on the employed men's wages, amounting from eighteen cents to one dollar, according to amount earned.

A special despatch from Pottsville, Pa., says, a stubborn feeling exists amongst the miners in that region. The proposition of the operators has been rejected, and work is suspended in Potsville District. Over nine thousand men are idle, and all coal operations have been stopped. The miners say they will not under any circumstances submit to the operators' proposals, if they are not materially changed; there will be a prolonged struggle. It is expected that the miners of Columbia and Northumberland will join the strikers.

At a meeting at Newport recently, in connection with the National Agricultural Laborers' union, one of the men discharged by the Queen's steward at Osborne appeared on the platform and stated that he had worked twenty-seven years on the estate, and he and six others were "sacked" by the steward simply because they asked for 2s. a week more wages. He believed that the matter never had been fairly stated to the Queen, and the meeting resolved to petition Her Majesty.

On Monday Dec. 22nd, 500 ironworkers held, with closed doors, a protracted meeting at Bilston, in South Staffordshire, to fix the terms to be proposed on their behalf at the ensuing meeting of North of England and Staffordshire ironmasters and men. The operative rejected the employers' offer, alike as to money and time. They demanded 13s. as a minimum and 10s. of a minimum for puddling and limited the terms of agreement to six months. It was announced that North Staffordshire and Shropshire would each be represented at the conjoint meeting.

On Thursday night Dec. 19th a meeting of delegates from shops of all branches in the engineering trade was held at the Imperial hotel, Southwark, when the chair was taken by Mr. Canham.—The following resolution was agreed to:—"That in view of the present coming struggle and the probability of large strikes in the engineering trade in the early part of next year, and remembering the laborers' manner in which the London men subscribed to the late Newcastle nine-hours movement, this meeting is of opinion that if necessary should appeal to the country for subscriptions immediately any large body of men come out in order to support them."

The strike in the Burnley district shows no signs of a termination. There are still about 1,000 men on strike, who are receiving support from the Amalgamated Association at the rate of £800 per week, the men receiving 12s. 6d. per week, and in the case of families an extra allowance of 1s. 3d. per week for each child being maintained. Comparatively very few of the Burnley men are leaving the district; but in the case of the Cornwall men brought into the neighborhood by the masters, the Agents of the Association are actively employed inducing them to return home, the necessary expense for this being defrayed by the Association out of a special fund.

The tin plate workers and japanners of Wolverhampton have been unable to induce their masters to come to a general arrangement with the demand for an increase of 10 per cent. Certain of the employers allege their reluctance to give a rise equal to ten per cent. on the average, but they decline to give it all round. The men, however, see difficulties in the way of individual action, and their motto is "Ten per cent. all round, and no surrender." They are now meeting to determine what shall be their future action. I have little doubt but that they will get a substantial rise, the more so as there seems to be every probability that in a very short time all this class of operative throughout the kingdom will have become incorporated in one union. Such men are in great demand throughout Birmingham in particular, and there are none of them without employment in the surrounding townships.

The Home Labour Market, in view of the Christmas holidays, is naturally slack in most branches; and, apart from the season, several industries are still only partially employed. At Belfast, a large number of flax spinners are on short time; and at Nottingham, the difficulties in the lace trade are not yet finally adjusted. In the Midlands there continues to be a dearth of artisans who have had experience in engineering and boiler work, and generally it may be remarked, that thorough tradesmen have no scarcity of work to complain of at the great centres of industry. In some instances, higher wages are still being asked, but the executive of the better organized Unions is not in all cases in favor of the claims put forward. In some parts of the mining districts an indisposition to admit raw labour to its share in the rapidly developed work, consequent on the high price of fuel, may be noticed; but the comparatively low wages of the agricultural laborers cannot fail to result in a large drafting off of their number to other fields of occupation.—*Labor News.*

THE LONDON TRADES' COUNCIL.

The annual meeting of the London Trades Council was held on Monday night at the Rose Tavern, Old Bailey; Mr. Walkinson in the chair.

Mr. Shipon, the secretary, read a lengthy report detailing the work performed by the council during the past year. Almost the first question taken in hand by the council was the employment of soldiers in the harvest fields by farmers who had locked out their laborers; for belonging to the union, and an assurance had been obtained from the War Office that such a course would not be all-well in future. On the conviction of the gas stokers for conspiracy, the council at once took measures for obtain-

ing a mitigation of the sentence on the men, including the holding a public meeting at Exeter Hall and the raising a fund for the support of the families of the men. On account of this fund £274 10s. 8d. was received by the council, and £255 0s. 5d. expended. The attention of the council was directed to the intention of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, the Master and Servant Act, and the unsatisfactory state of the Conspiracy Laws. To obtain the repeal and amendment of this class of legislation against trade unions, the council organized the successful demonstration of the London trades societies on Whit Monday last in Hyde Park, which, it is hoped will have its due influence on the Government. The other main question occupying the attention of the council was the Agricultural Laborers' Union movement. To aid in this movement the council have received subscriptions to the amount of £245 5s. 1d., which had been distributed amongst the various laborers' unions, and in defraying the expenses attending the formation of the Federal Union of Agricultural and General Laborers. The number of London trades societies affiliated to the Trades Council was 46, with an aggregate of about 23,000 members. The income of the Council for the year had been £33 1s. 6d., and the expenditure £62 11s. 9d., leaving a balance of £29 1s. 8d.

The council, according to the report, is composed of the representatives from the following trades:—Broom-makers, bookbinders, boot-makers, bicycle-makers, cabinet-makers, coppersmiths, gas meter-makers, gilders, ladies' shoe-makers, painters and decorators, tobacco pipe-makers, wire weavers, wool turners and zinc workers. Those are chosen from the delegates of the affiliated trades at the annual meeting. There are 38 distinct trade societies, representing 14,759 members in the London district, although there are many thousands more indirectly represented affiliated to the council.

REPRESENTATION OF LABOR.

GREAT MEETING AT EXETER.

On Monday evening, 15th December, 1873, the Temperance Hall, Exeter, was crowded by workmen, who assembled under the auspices of the Exeter branch of the Labor League, to consider their principles and the claims of the two candidates on their support. Mr. W. Skinner presided.

The chairman said that it was time for the workmen of England to see that they were properly represented in the House of Commons. It was said that the workmen had no capital, but he contended that he had, and that capital was his labor. (Cheers.) It was to their interest to see that men were sent to Parliament who would support the fair and just rights of labor. (Cheers.) They might fairly claim to have some few members of their own class in the legislature, and then they would have some chance of the legislation affecting them being properly shaped.

Mr. Broadhurst said the League felt that men who had passed the early years of their life in the work-shop, the factory or the mine, were the men to satisfactorily represent the laboring classes. And if from local circumstances it was found impossible to return one of their own class, then the policy of the League was to support the next best man in the field—the candidate who came nearest to their requirements and wants. (Cheers.) Some people started at the proposal to send a workman into the House of Commons—that assembly which was largely composed of the sons of noblemen and rich men who, if they had to trust to their brains—as the working men had—instead of the length of their purse, would live and die, but little would be known of them. He felt it unfair that the working class should be excluded from the legislature. But he was happy to say that their platform had greatly increased in popularity. Many of the most thoughtful and prominent men in the country had given their adhesion to the principles of the League, feeling that legislation satisfactory to all classes of the people would never be enacted unless it was guided by workmen in the House. Of late years their class had greatly increased in intelligence, and there were men who had to labor with their hands for their bread, who were as careful thinkers and as intelligent citizens as any who could be found in the upper classes. (Cheers.) There were abundant evidences that man of the members of the House of Commons had no practical knowledge of the customs and requirements of the class to whom the legislation was intended to apply; the Acts affecting shipping, the Criminal Laws bearing on Trades Unions,

the Masters and Servants' Act, were cases in point. (Tear, hear.) It was passing to mention that one who fully recognized the justice of the claims of the workmen but for whom was Sir John Coleridge, who very frankly admitted that he did not pretend to have a thorough knowledge of the workmen's wants and customs, and in legislation bearing on the laboring classes he felt that it would be of the greatest advantage if practical workmen were in the House to advise. Nine and ten times the army and navy, the church, and other similar interests, had their numerous direct representatives, and it was absolutely for the interest of the country that labor should assert its rights, and men from their class, who by self-denial and their own exertions, deserved respect, would be returned in the next Parliament. (Cheers.)

Mr. George Potter said that the time had arrived when workmen should be directly represented in Parliament. Persons connected with trades should be sent to Parliament to express the wants and wishes of those trades throughout the country. (Cheers.) The necessity for direct representation was obvious. Whilst the electors were some popular members in Parliament who were friends of the working class, yet they were only theoretically acquainted with their wants and were not able to give practical expression to the wants and necessities of the trades. (Hear, hear.) There were about thirteen millions of work people in England, and it was evident that they ought to have their interests represented in the House of Commons. (Hear, hear.) All other interests were represented in short, the interests of the few were represented, whilst the interests of the many were not. The League had been formed to obtain a recognition of the rights of workmen, and to bring their claims before the country; they wished to get every workman to join in and be able at some future time to return workmen to Parliament for various cities. (Hear, hear.) There were matters vitally concerning them. Wages greatly concerned them. Labor was the workman's capital. He was sorry to see that many people did not fully recognize this—they looked on money and land as the only capital. But with out labor all the money and land in the country would be of no real use. (Hear, hear.) If wages were so important to the working class, they had a right to combine to protect their labor, and get as much as they could for it. (Cheers.) In the House of Commons labor was always being discussed—but only one side of the question was put forward—that of the capitalist. (Hear, hear.) Now they demanded direct representation of labor, in order that the rights of the workingman might be put forward, protected and consolidated on a legitimate basis. (Cheers.) Another thing requiring attention was the homes of the poor. He had been in some places in Devonshire where he found the laborers living in dwellings that would be a disgrace to any country. The question of the agricultural laborers was often brought before Parliament, but very little was done; now they wanted to send to Parliament a direct representative of farm labor. (Cheers.) Next, they claimed the right of citizenship for all, and would send to Parliament men who would extend the franchise to the counties. To press these things forward they must send to Parliament men of their own class. There were difficulties in the way—the expense of elections among other things. But they would, if possible, have some representatives in at the next election, and when the workmen had got the thin edge of the wedge in there would be plenty to come forward and drive it home. (Loud applause.)

The following resolution was then carried unanimously:—

That this meeting of workmen of Exeter and district, having heard the explanation of the object and aims of the Labor Representation League, pledges itself to support the Exeter branch, both by moral and material assistance.—*Bee Hive.*

A famine prevails in five districts of the Russian province of Samara, on the left bank of the Volga.

The working colliers in the employ of Messrs. Barber, Walker & Co., have subscribed £50 as a Christmas donation to the funds of the Nottingham General Hospital.

The wharf laborers and members of the trade organizations in Cuba demand their pay in gold or its equivalent, and threaten to strike unless their terms are complied with.

AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF TAILORS.

The Greenwich branch of this society held their first anniversary dinner at the Three Kings, London-street, Greenwich, on Tuesday, Nov. 5th. Mr. J. H. Longmaid occupied the chair. On the removal of the cloth he addressed the members on the importance of such meetings, and proposed "Success to the Amalgamated Tailors and their Executive Council."

Mr. McDoald said he felt pleased to observe the progress made in the branch during the short period they had been in existence, and he was encouraged to say that the future for the trade wore an aspect of brightness. The amalgamation now numbered about 20,000 members. Though the men of London numbered about 16,000, and were of the better paid class of the trade, at present only 1,400 had become identified with the union. Still there was a great hope of an immense number falling in to their ranks from the influence of the united action of the country. The next toast of the evening was "The Progress of the Greenwich Branch, coupled with the name of the Secretary, Mr. Wm. Stent," who said it was a pleasing duty to him to inform the visitors and members that during the twelve months the branch had been in existence they had made a steady and gradual increase, both numerically and financially, starting as they did with eighteen members, they now numbered nearly 60 members with a capital of £30 after paying all expenses.

THE LONDON TRADES AND THE FEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS.

A meeting of delegates from the trades' societies affiliated to the London Trades' Council was held on Friday evening at the Rose Inn, Old Bailey; Mr. Edwin Coulson, of the Bricklayers' society, occupying the chair. The Chairman fully admitted the right of employers to unite together in federation, and said all that they, as trades' unionists, had to do was to take such measures as would protect their unions from any aggressive act being attempted. By a singular coincidence one of the main objects of the present meetings was to consider a scheme for the federation of all trades' councils throughout the United Kingdom, suggested in a circular from Mr. Prior, the secretary of the Sheffield Trades' Council. Mr. G. Odger said that as a member of the Trades' Parliamentary committee, he was desirous before the general discussion commenced, of stating to the meeting that a full meeting of the Parliamentary committee would be at once held, when the gross misstatements made to Mr. Lowe by the employers' deputation would be considered, and a reply drawn up and published respecting the assertions so recklessly made. After a long discussion the following resolution was carried:—"That the delegates to be sent to represent this council at the Sheffield Trades' Congress, be instructed to advocate the principle of a federation of trades' councils."

WHIMSICAL.

Eyes, mouth, chin and nose all contribute to indicate the character of their owners, and now somebody finds that the hair has a similar use. Straight, lank, stringy-looking hair indicates weakness and cowardice. Curly hair denotes a quick temper. Frizzy hair, set on one's head as if each individual hair were ready to fight its own neighbor, denotes coarseness. Black hair indicates personal courage, especially when one is cornered, with a wonderful degree of pertinacity and a disposition to hang on until whatever is under taken is accomplished. Also, a strong predisposition to revenge wrongs and insults, real or fancied. Brown hair denotes a fondness for life, a friendly disposition, ambition, earnestness of purpose, capacity for business, and reliability in friendship, in proportion as the hair is fine. Very fine hair indicates an even disposition, a readiness to forgive, with a desire to add to the happiness of others. Persons with fine light-brown or auburn hair, inclined to curl or frizz, are quick tempered, and are given to resentment and revenge. Light brown hair, inclined to redness with a freckled skin, is a certain indication of deceit, treachery, and a disposition to do something mean by a friend, when that friend can no longer be used to advantage. By removing these items, quite an amusing parlor game of fortune-telling may be instituted.