

Ontario Workman.

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

VOL. II.—NO. 9.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 1873

NO. 61

Labor Notes.

The strike of the Rhode Island factory operatives is over.

The strike of New Jersey horse-shoers still continues.

Three hundred stonemasons have just struck in Oldham.

The majority of the operative bricklayers of Wallsall are still on strike for an advance of wages from 6½d to 7d per hour.

The hod carriers, or bricklayers' laborers as they are more commonly called, are on strike in London, Ont., for an increase of wages. They demanded \$1.50 per day, and have been receiving \$1.37½.

The strike of the "clickers" or cutters out connected with the Leicester boot and shoe trade continues to spread, about 100 more men being locked out by the masters, who positively refuse the increase asked of 15 per cent.

On Saturday the committee conducting the joiners' strike at Liverpool paid to the non-strike men who are out 2s a day for the time in which they have been unemployed.

At a conference held at Burnley, on Tuesday, representing 30,000 weavers, it was unanimously resolved to bring out all the lowest paid firms in Burnley, unless they adopt the Blackburn rates of wages before June 4, in order that their notices may expire on June 11.

The riveters and finishers of Stafford have turned out there for an advance varying from 15 to 20 per cent. They also ask that only three classes of work, viz., firsts, seconds, and thirds, shall be made, instead of five as at present.

The London carpenters and joiners have held their third public meeting in furtherance of the nine hours' movement, and the advance of one penny per hour on the first Saturday in June. They announce their intention of upholding their demands by all fair means, and they count on the certainty of being pecuniarily supported in their action by the whole of the trade.

The strike which recently took place among the masons at York, for an advance equal to 1s 8d per week, has been brought to a termination, the employers having agreed to the terms, and the men having made some concession with regard to the hour of commencing work in the morning outside the city.

It is stated that a number of laborers on the Queen's estate at Osborne recently sent a memorial to her Majesty asking for sixpence a day more wages and one hour less time. Other demands were made by the men, who signed the memorial in a "round robin." The Queen, through Sir Thomas Biddulph, sent the memorial to the steward, who has discharged seven of the men and cautioned the others. The present wage of laborers on the Osborne estate is 14s weekly, with many advantages.

The bricklayers of St. Helens are now out on strike, having terminated their work on Saturday. At the commencement of April they sent a circular to the employers giving a month's notice of their intention to demand an advance in wages 3s per week, or from 33s to 36s. At the same time, a scale of working hours was proposed. The masters met on the 30th April, and then made an offer of 8d an hour. This the men rejected, and the strike has resulted.

The *Labor News*, of May 21st, says:—This week the home labor-market must be reported unsettled in several directions. The extensive strike of the ironstone miners in Cleveland, at the same time as that of the Woardale quarrymen, has caused a deadlock in the iron trade; and a widespread strike of miners in Scotland is also threatened. A large body of carpenters and joiners in Liverpool and Birkenhead are also unable to come to terms with the masters, and in many other quarters a keen contest between the employers and the employed has been entered on.

A few weeks ago the committee of the

plumbers and painters of Broomsgrove, Eng., addressed a circular to the masters, asking that the rate of pay in future shall be not less than 5d per hour with a limitation of the hours of working and the allowance for walking time to and from distant jobs. The masters having taken this circular into consideration, have conceded the demands of the men, with the exception of the allowance for walking time, which was not pressed, and has not been granted.

The Miners' National Association Conference, was resumed in Glasgow on the 22nd ult. The president, Mr. Alex. McDonald, delivered an address commenting on the benefits of union, and urging on the delegates to advocate co-operative works in their respective districts. Resolutions were passed condemning the Criminal Law Amendment Act and Law of Conspiracy, and a committee was appointed to take action for the modification of the Master and Servant Act, and to get a new Truck Act. The delegates generally expressed themselves in favor of Mr. Plimssoll's appeal on behalf of sailors, to which some of the districts had largely subscribed.

Evidently the Scotch miners are to lose no time in carrying out practically the declaration they made before the Home Secretary last week—that unless the new "special rules" were altered a great strike would take place. Mr. Macdonald, their President, stated that 40,000 of the men would cease to work, and in this way strive to get the obnoxious rules altered. What may prove to be only the first batch of this number came out on strike on Wednesday. We are informed that in consequence of the new rules under the Regulation Act the Fifeshire miners on Wednesday struck. It is estimated that 2,800 men have come out, but we are not aware whether this represents all the miners employed in this county. At all events, it may be supposed to be not far from the full number. This strike cannot fail to affect the price of coal in this quarter, as considerable quantities of the Fife coal are used in the Dundee works.

A difficulty has arisen between the operative marble masons of Liverpool and their employers. It seems that a short time ago the journeymen marble masons presented a memorial to their employers asking for an advance of wages. Up to last year, when the men obtained a diminution of hours to 54, they had been in the habit of working 57 or 59 hours per week. Though the hours were reduced last year, the men, it is said, have not had an advance of wages for eight years. They decided to ask for an advance. The present wages are—Masons, 30s; polishers, 24s; sanders, 20s; and the advance asked for was 3s per week for the two former branches, and 2s per week for the latter. The masters refused this, and the men came out on strike on Monday morning. There are nine firms in the trade in Liverpool, who employ about 80 men. The representatives of the men suggested that the matters in dispute should be submitted to arbitration; but the chairman said the masters could not consent.

A Bill has been issued lately, bearing the names of Sir J. Lubbock, Mr. T. Hughes, Mr. Morley, and Mr. Mundella, which proposes to apply the Workshop Act to shops for the sale of goods. Premises licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquors, shops in which articles of food are sold for consumption on the premises, and bakehouses are exempted from the provisions of the Act. The Bill also proposes to amend the workshop Act by providing that no child, young person, or woman shall be employed in any workshop or shop on Good Friday or Christmas Day, and that, exclusive of those days, each person shall have not less than four whole holidays or eight half-holidays in every year. Other modifications of the Workshop Act proposed are that the weekly half-holiday may be altered from Saturday to any day in the week, and that the Secretary of State may give permission to any shop or class of shops to employ young persons or women on one day of the

week, for fifteen hours, provided that they are not so employed except between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. Scotland is not exempted under the Bill.

THE IRONFOUNDERS' SOCIETY.

The monthly report of this society contains an important case that has occurred under the Criminal Law Amendment Act, which we reprint:

"Most of our members are aware that there has been a dispute existing in the Middlesboro' branch between one of the firms and their molders. The foreman of the works was sent to Scotland to try and obtain men to fill the places of those who were out. After a good deal of research he was enabled to obtain the services of three. He brought them to Middlesboro', and when they arrived at the station one of our members happened to be there, and seeing these men coming with the foreman, he asked them whether they were aware that there was a strike in the town? They seemed quite aware that such was the case, and they asked our member to take them to see the branch secretary. He at once led the three men to our Society House, and left them there, and saw no more of them until he saw one of them in the witness box as the prosecutor in a trial for intimidation. It appears the three men had gone away to Newcastle, when spoken to by our member at the Society House; but this one, having spent all his money, returned to Middlesboro' with the determination, as he says, to fulfil the contract he had made with the foreman, who, when he found that his man had returned, immediately got out a warrant for the member who had spoken to the men at the station, charging him with intimidation and violence, and swearing that our member had pulled the man down on his knees in front of the station—a thing not very likely to take place, seeing there were the three men who had come from Scotland, as well as the foreman, on the one hand, while, on the other hand, the member charged was by himself, and not in the very best of health. The member was taken into custody on the Saturday, and was bailed out by two of the Town Councillors until the Monday, when not being prepared, through want of time, a remand was asked for until the following Friday, which was granted. A respectable solicitor, Mr. Dale, of York, was employed, and though the evidence of the foreman was rebutted by disinterested witnesses, yet the magistrates considered the charge proven, and sentenced the member to fourteen days' imprisonment for, in reality, only speaking to the men he had met at the station. Such is the working of the Criminal Amendment Act in its present form, and it will rest entirely with the workmen whether such a law shall continue to disgrace the statute book of this country. But though the great unpaid had, as far as they could, carried out the wishes of the prosecutors, we could not quietly sit down and see an innocent member sent to prison, to herd among the scum and outcasts of society at large. Our council was instructed to appeal against the sentence. He did so, and the case has been remanded to the quarter sessions, where a jury will have to decide the case, independent of the presiding judge or justices."

THE LONDON TRADES DEMONSTRATION.

A large meeting of delegates of the London trades societies was held lately at the Bell, Old Bailey, in furtherance of the proposed Whit-Monday demonstration of the London trades against the Criminal Law Amendment Act, Mr. Grant occupying the chair. Several new delegates handed in credentials, including those from the steam-engine makers, the farriers, the paviors, the gardeners, metal workers, French polishers, &c.

Mr. Shipton, the Secretary, read the correspondence that had passed between himself and Mr. Ayrton, the Commissioners of

Works, as to the erection of a platform for speakers and reporters in Hyde Park. He also reported the result of an interview of a deputation from the Demonstration Committee with Colonel Henderson, the Commissioner of Police, in relation to the regulation of the traffic during the route of the procession, and said Colonel Henderson had promised the co-operation of the police authorities in preserving order for the trades on the route. The Commissioner had also suggested a slight alteration in the proposed route which the delegates would have to consider as to its acceptance. He further stated that deputations had waited upon several of the large trade societies who had promised their co-operation in making the demonstration a success. The committeemen were in communication with the Farriers' Society whom they wished should occupy the same post of honor as in the Trades Reform Demonstration of 1866, and head the procession on horseback. (Hear.) District meetings had been arranged for at Burdett Hall, Limchouse, for the shipwrights, and other trades in the eastern district, and also at Bernondsey-square, for the leather men and other trades in that district. Meetings would be held in other places during the ensuing week.

A resolution was then unanimously adopted approving the action of the committee.

The deviation on the route of the procession as suggested by Col. Henderson was then taken into consideration, and, after some discussion, was agreed to with ten dissentients. The route as now fixed will be that the procession will leave the Thames Embankment by way of Parliament street, Charing-cross, Cockspur street, Pall Mall, St. James' street, Picadilly, and enter the park at Apsley Gate.

A letter was read from the Executive Council of the London Amalgamated Carpenters' Society stated that they had passed a unanimous resolution calling on their members to take part in the demonstration.

A delegate from the bookbinders asked if the Committee could give the delegates any estimate as to the amount of the general expenses of the demonstration.

The Secretary said the Committee estimated the cost at from £250 to £300, as it would be an affair of great magnitude. It was considered that about one-third of the above sum would be realized by the sale of the demonstration cards, one of which, every man who took part in the proceedings would purchase. The balance would have to be made up by the societies in such a way as the delegates might determine.

A delegate proposed that each society taking part in the demonstration should contribute 2d. or 3d. per member to meet the general expenses.

A delegate from the bricklayers objected to any fixed sum being asked for. The amount required distributed amongst the societies would be small. He moved:—

That the Committee be empowered to issue a circular to the societies requesting them to make a voluntary grant of subscription, as their rules would allow, to meet the general expenses.

He believed this would produce a larger sum than by fixing a hard-and-fast line.

A delegate from the painters seconded the resolution, which, after some discussion, was carried by a considerable majority.

The remainder of the sitting was devoted to routine business.

THE IRONWORKS OF THE PHAROAHS.

An Englishman travelling in those parts (near Sinai), was struck with the small blue stones he discovered in the dried-up water-courses which in the rainy season convey the thousand streams that hurry to the sea, and having the curiosity to bring some home, he soon discovered that they were turquoises of no common order. This determined him to make further researches. Eventually he has built a house near the junction of the Wady Kenuch, the Wady Megham. Here, aided by the friendly tribes he has taken into his pay, he has

discovered the old turquois mines of the ancient Egyptians, the rocks that they worked for the stones, the very tools they used, and their polishing and grinding places. Being a man of much energy, he has brought to bear upon this fortunate discovery the advanced knowledge of our times, and he is obtaining and sending over to this country some of the finest specimens of turquoises that exist. In such a lonely spot, he naturally has not confined his attention to this subject only, but has traced out the system of fortification by which the Pharaohs protected their works and workmen, and, what is still more wonderful, has come upon the remains of vast ironworks, so vast, indeed, that many thousand people must have been employed upon them, unless the plant used was on quite as grand a scale as that of our largest furnaces in the north of England. These works stand adjacent to the mines, on some hills at a place called Surabit-el-Khadin, and were evidently conducted on the Catalan system (in the opinion of their discoverer). The ore was very imperfectly extracted—slag brought over to this country, from the immense heaps that, like mountains, are piled around, contained as much as 53 per cent. of iron. This district has remained unexplored, probably, on account of its being out of the beaten track; and in an unknown country there is no temptation to stray, particularly as the guides and dragomen discourage any explorations which may add to the risk of the journey. It is, however, much to be desired that now that attention is directed to the locality, and moreover, since the thorough investigation of its sites is likely to prove exceedingly profitable, that the enterprise and desire for knowledge of our scientific explorers may find help from the ready hand of some of our commercial magnates, and thus, that a past book in the world's history may, by English perseverance, be re-opened.

CAPTAIN JACK.

As Captain Jack is now prominently before the public, the following sketch from the *Portland Herald* may not be uninteresting:—

Our reporter has obtained from Mrs. Joseph Knott, an old lady living in this city, and nearly seventy years of age, the following account of Captain Jack:

In the year 1851, while living at Canonville, Douglas county, an Indian boy came to their house, and, speaking the jargon, desired to live with them. He was one of the Rouge River Indians, and belonged to the tribe then located on Cow Creek. She noticed that he appeared to be an active, keen, shrewd looking boy, and with the consent of her husband took him to raise, with whom he remained for several years. As soon as the boy was assured that they intended to keep him, he insisted on having a "Boston" name, as he called it, and wished to be named after the best looking of Mrs. Knott's children. This being appreciated by the mother, she decided to name him after her son—their ages, apparently, being about the same—and this son was J. Knott, being better known as Jack Knott, of saloon fame. The boys grew up together and many were the days they spent in the sports of the chase. On one occasion, after he had been with them some time, he became offended because he was told to leave the room, and loaded his rifle with the intention of shooting Levi Knott, but was discovered in season to prevent his designs. This circumstance led to his expulsion from the family, and from that until the present time he has not been seen by them, except in 1855, the year in which he murdered Mrs. Harris, after which Jack went to the Goose Lake country. His mother was a full sister to Rouge River John, who attempted to seize the steamer Columbia while she lay at anchor in the harbor of Crescent City, and also a half sister to the war chief Sam, of the same tribe, and Chief Joe, who got his appellation from having fought General Joe Lane. All of these facts and many others which we have no space to mention were recently confirmed by Judge Prim, of Eastern Oregon, who communicated these particulars to Mrs. Knott, stating that the great Modoc Chief, Captain Jack, was the boy she took to raise in 1851.