

NOTICE.

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

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

INVARIABLE IN ADVANCE.)

Per Annum	\$2 00
Six Months	1 00
Single copies	5c
Contract Advertisements at the following rates—	
One column, for one year	\$150 00
Half "	75 00
Quarter "	35 00
One column, for 6 months	80 00
Half "	40 00
Quarter "	20 00
One column, for 3 months	50 00
Half "	25 00
Quarter "	12 00

All communications should be addressed to the Editor, 124 Bay Street, or to Post Office Box 1025.

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,
124 BAY STREET.

Meetings of Unions.

TORONTO.

Meetings are held in the Trades' Assembly Hall, King street west, in the following order:—

Machinists and Blacksmiths, 1st and 3rd Mondays.
Painters, 1st and 3rd Monday.
Tailors, 2nd and 4th Monday.
Carpenters, (159), every Tuesday.
Amalgamated Carpenters, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
Laborers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
Iron Moulders, every 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 Amalgamated Society of Engineers, &c., meets in Foy's Hall, corner of York and Richmond sts., on the 2nd and 4th Friday.

The Friendly Society of Carpenters and Joiners meets in the Temperance Hall, Temperance street, on the 1st Friday.

K. O. S. C., No. 315, meets in the Temperance Hall every alternate Tuesday.

OTTAWA.

Meetings are held in the Mechanics' Hall, (Roué's Block,) Rideau street, in the following order:—

Free-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Tuesday.
Lime-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Wednesday.
Masons and Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Thursday.
Trades' Council, 1st Friday.
Printers, 1st Saturday.
Tailors, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
Harnessmakers, 4th Monday.

ST. CATHARINES.

Meetings are held in the Temperance Hall, in the following order:—

K. O. S. C., 1st Monday.
Tailors, 2nd Monday.
Coopers, 4th Tuesday.

Messrs. LANCEFIELD BROTHERS, Newsdealers, No. 6 Market square, Hamilton, are agents for the WORKMAN in that vicinity.

Mr. D. W. TERNANT, Niagara Street, St. Catharines, will receive subscriptions and give receipts for the WORKMAN. Parties calling on Mr. Ternant will please state if they wish the paper continued.

TO CITY SUBSCRIBERS.

City subscribers not receiving their papers regularly, will oblige the proprietors by giving notice of such irregularity at the Office, 124 Bay street.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, OCT. 9, 1873.

JOSEPH ARCH.

The workingmen of Hamilton can boast the proud distinction of being the first body of men in Canada who have given practical expression of the feelings of sympathy and good-will which, we think, must actuate all men who are interested in the elevation of workingmen in the social scale, towards Mr. Joseph Arch, who has undoubtedly done more than any one man to bring about a much-needed change for the better in regard to the social position of that hitherto neglected class—the English agricultural laborer. We cannot but congratulate the Union men of Hamilton in that they have thus taken

the initiative in expressing their sympathy for the man and his work, by publicly welcoming and doing honor to him to whom honor belongs.

We do not think it will be necessary for us here to allude to the particulars of the work that for some time past has engaged the undivided attention of Mr. Joseph Arch and others of his stamp. His labors and their results are well known to our readers; but has followed his efforts, yet, perhaps, but few, if any, can form any adequate conception of the difficulties which he had to encounter from the time of the holding of the first Agricultural Laborers' meeting under the great chestnut tree at Wellesbourne, in Warwickshire, where Joseph Arch proposed his scheme of forming Agricultural Unions as a means towards ameliorating the wretched condition of the laborers, and was elected leader of the movement, till the time when, through continued agitations, and counsellings, and advicings, he was enabled to witness the rapid formation of Unions in almost all the agricultural districts of England. We know, however, that the movement aroused the most inveterate hatred and bitter hostility of the landlords, farmers and many of the "nobility," and this hostility was shown in many places by those who had joined the Union being turned off from their labor, and evicted from their dwellings.

But while much good has already resulted from the spread of the movement, the complete remedy for the evils which were so apparent was not easily to be obtained. Better wages to the laborer has been secured through the means of combination; but this was not all that was sought. Mr. Arch's design in urging unionism was not merely to obtain better wages for the class of which he is the recognized leader, but also to permanently elevate them socially, morally and politically. Many means will necessarily have to be used to bring about this end. At the best progress will be slow, and many a fierce struggle will ensue before success is achieved,—and in order to hasten its accomplishment, Mr. Arch proposes the emigration of large numbers of the laborers.

The speech delivered by Mr. Arch, in Hamilton, has the true ring about it, and it is to be hoped that all facilities will be afforded him by the government, and his reasonable demands met, to the end that the country may reap the full advantages that would accrue from the settlement among us of so desirable an element of material prosperity.

THE TAILORS' STRIKE.

So far as we are aware nothing has yet been done to bring about an adjustment of the existing difficulties between the merchant and operative tailors. The former admit that the bill of prices paid at St. Catharines are better than those paid in Toronto, but argue that it was not the original amount asked by the tailors of that city, but is the result of a compromise between a committee of the men and their employers. In this, the merchant tailors of the town of Saints have proved themselves wiser than those of this city, for had they been willing to meet with a committee of the operative tailors, there is little doubt but an amicable adjustment might have been made, because the men stated that they were willing to make some changes in the details of the bill submitted. The merchant tailors here, also objected to the new "log" on the grounds that their paying it would involve others in various parts of the Dominion, and this they could not think of doing. This certainly shows a very fine sense of honor; but, we might ask, how was it that the action of the merchant tailors of St. Catharines was not followed by such a result? Over five months ago, a bill was mutually arranged between employer and employed, that gave to the latter even "better terms" than those now sought by their fellow-craftsmen in this city, and yet we do not find that it has in any way influenced other centres of industry. Evidently,

however, the main objection was to paying large weekly wages. It was stated the men already earned from \$16 to \$25 per week, and the new bill would increase that amount. This assertion was refuted by the men, who admitted that though under unusual circumstances occasionally the wages might appear large, yet the average wages were shown to be less than \$9 per week all the year round. But admitting for a moment that such large wages were for a moment taken into consideration. Had their day's labor consisted of nine hours per day, it would have been an impossibility to make such wages as have provoked the jealousy of the employers. But, we suppose, we shall be told that this is one of the instances in which it is not possible to make, as the *Globe* would say, a "cast-iron rule" in the hours of labor. The "necessities of the trade," we may be told, at certain seasons, demands such excessive long hours; and allowing such to be the case, consideration should be had for the extra task thus imposed. But too often employers merely regard the amount of wages paid, without, as we have before said, considering at what cost of health and comfort they have been earned. Would, then, a refusal on the part of the men to work over time remedy the evil? We suppose we shall be immediately met with the objection, "But the orders must be filled, and in no other way can it be done." We are not so sure, however, that this objection is altogether a valid one. It has been urged before, under similar circumstances, in connection with other branches of industry, and in such connection, regular hours of labor have remedied the evil, nor has the requirements of the trade been interfered with.

The merchant tailors, in their wisdom, have announced their intention to send their orders for execution to Europe. Whether such a course will prove satisfactory to themselves and their customers we are not prepared to say; but considering that the "new log" has been based upon old country "time log," and in addition freight, duty, and other expenses will have to be borne, such a proceeding seems very much like "biting off one's nose to spite one's face." The most reasonable course would have been for the difficulty to have been submitted to arbitration in order that an amicable arrangement might have been arrived at. We believe we are correct in saying the men were, from the first, willing to so submit their case for settlement; but where only one party is willing to do this, arbitration becomes an impossibility.

LABOR BUREAU.

At the recent Congress of the Canadian Labor Union, the question of the establishment of a Labor Bureau was discussed. The object of a Labor Bureau is to furnish information which, through its influence upon popular opinion, would assist in the adjustment of the relation between capital and labor. Hitherto these relations have been left to adjust themselves; and that no harmonious co-operation has resulted is sufficiently evident from the discontent that prevails among the working classes. Thus important questions are raised which can only be answered by a thorough investigation into the condition of labor. Is the law of supply and demand sufficient of itself for the regulation of the rate of wages? How does the reduction of the hours of labor effect the rate of production? How is capital itself affected by the elevation or degradation of the conditions? To what extent is the welfare of the community affected by the disregard of sanitary moral considerations as connected with these conditions? How far does the educational status of the laborer affect production? These questions it is competent for the Labor Commission to answer. Any unusual interference of government is not contemplated as the result of such an inquiry; it is simply the education of

popular opinion that is aimed at. In some instances the interference of government is called for; for example, where cruelty is involved, as in the systematic overworking of children, or where fraud is practiced, as in the compulsion by various means of the dealing of laborers at stores kept in the interest of employers, or where sanitary considerations are disregarded. But here there is no interference, but simply an exercise by government of its primal function—the execution of justice. But it is only through investigation that the need of such action is exposed.

In England Parliamentary investigations into the condition of labor have been of early and frequent use, and have led to important reforms. When it became generally known how infamous was the oppression of factory children, public indignation led to its suppression. It was during the excitement following the investigation of this subject that Mrs. Browning published her "*Cry of the Children*." More recent investigations have, in like manner, exposed the systems by which in the English brick-yards and in agricultural works of various kinds, hecatombs of children have been yearly sacrificed. In these cases it was shown that while the law of supply and demand might satisfy the political economist, it did not meet the requirements of a Christian civilization. The factory reforms led to an increase of intelligence among the operatives through evening schools and other means of intellectual improvement.

The system of legislation and inspection which Parliament put into operation to satisfy the demands of the outraged morality of the people of England has, without question, been productive of great social advantages to that country. It has prevented the factories from remaining the physical and moral pest-houses which the unrestricted greed of gain had made them, and has also stimulated the public conscience, and increased the sympathetic interest between the various classes of society, and led them to the recognition of their interdependence. At the same time it has awakened a spirit which is not satisfied merely with palliative measures in such special cases as may be brought prominently into notice, but which seeks to investigate scientifically the causes of poverty and social degradation, and render them impossible, by a higher form of social and industrial organization. The most hopeful feature of this movement is the fact that labor itself is so impressed with the necessity of its own improvement that the agricultural laborers, the lowest substratum of the social series, caught the inspiration of the new spirit of the time, have moved in their own behalf, and with a terrible earnestness have refused to work a wages which mean only slow starvation.

The agricultural, the mechanical, the marine, and the mining interests have each of them in turn been officially examined by Parliament, and in each of them abuses analogous to those described in the factory system have been found, and to each of them legislative remedies have been applied with greater or less success.

Turning to the United States, we find that for some years past the necessity for the establishment of Labor Bureaus has been felt and expressed; and some eight years since a Labor Bureau was established by the Massachusetts Legislature. Pennsylvania followed the example more recently, and the question is still agitated in many of the other States.

The Massachusetts Bureau addressed two circulars to employers and one to the employed. As evidencing the character of the information which might be expected from a Labor Commission, we have thought it not uninteresting to reproduce the questions that were asked through them. The first circular addressed to employers contained forty-one questions—relating to the name and situation of the establishment; whether corporate or not, and the amount of its capital, and how divided; the number of persons, adult and children, employed; what propos-

tion of these could read and write, and of the children what proportion attended school according to the law of 1869; the number of hours of labor; the time allowed for dinner; the salaries and the wages paid; the residence of the employees, and their distance from the factory; together with the number of occupants of the houses, with other similar questions. The second circular addressed to employers contained eighty-one questions on the following points: whether any of the employees owned stock in the enterprise, and how much; the par value of the shares, and the average profits for the past five years; whether, within the personal experience of the person addressed, operatives, and how many, had ever earned a competence or were enabled to retire at fifty years of age upon moneys earned as wage laborers; whether stores for the domestic supplies of the operatives were owned by the establishment, or were in any way connected with it, and whether the operatives were compelled by the rules, or by any combination of circumstances, to deal at such stores, and what percentage of profits was made on the sales from such stores; whether the employees were paid in cash or in orders upon the stores, and how often such settlements were made; whether interest was allowed the employees on their wages earned before the pay-day, and in the hands of the employers; whether there had been a strike among the employees during the past five years, how long it lasted, whether its object was increased pay or shorter time, and what was its result, with the cost of such strike in diminishing production, or its effect upon the stock of the establishment; have you ever divided among your employees any percentage of your profits over and above their regular wages; has any introduction you may have made of improved machinery rendered skilled labor in your employ less valuable or dispensed with it entirely; how are your rooms heated and lighted; when your establishment discontinues work from any cause beyond the control of yourself or your employees, do you stop all wages, or does the pay of those employed on a salary continue, while that of the employees on wages stops; when wages are reduced, are the salaries reduced also; are there any associations among your employees for mutual benefit in case of sickness or accident; is the membership of them voluntary or compulsory; are the assessments paid personally, or the amount deducted by you from the pay of the members; if the pay is deducted, do you allow interest upon the money of the association retained in your hands; does your establishment contribute to such associations; are there any associations among your employees for their moral or intellectual improvement, or for recreation in the way of lectures, concert, social reunions, etc., and do you bear a portion of the expense of such provision; is there a library connected with your establishment for the free use of the employees; do you provide for the systematic instruction of young persons entering your employment, so that they shall become experts in the business; how long, on the average, will an employee last without breaking down, working continuously twelve hours a day; how long eleven; how long ten; can you give an average of the length of an operative's life, or how long it would last, commencing work at ten years of age, and working ten hours a day; what is your opinion of a reduction of the hours of labor? etc.

The third circular, addressed to the employed contained one hundred and thirty-seven questions concerning the recipient's wages; how paid; his savings; hours of work; size of his family; lodgings, their sanitary condition; his recreation; whether the establishment for which he worked provided any arrangements for the mental or moral culture of their employed; the influence upon himself or his companions of shortening hours of labor; his experience of co-operative associations; whether the establishment had ever divided a portion of its profits among those it employed; the provisions made in the establishment in which he worked for ventilation, es-