

NOTICE.

We shall be pleased to receive some 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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All communications should be addressed to the Office, 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.

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.
Tinmiths, 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, MARCH 27, 1873.

THE ORILLIA TRADE DISPUTE.

We alluded last week to the fact that a difficulty had occurred in Orillia, between four Knights of St. Crispin and an employer. The facts of the case, so far as we can learn, are simply these:—Some time ago, a lodge of the K. O. S. C. was established in that village. A bill of wages was drawn up, which was submitted to the employers, and without any hesitation adopted by them, each employer signing the bill. All went on satisfactorily till a week or two ago, when one of the employers—Fitzgerald by name—took exception to some portion of the bill (although having up to that time paid it without demur), and refused to pay it. The men employed, considering that faith had been broken with them, refused to work, and "struck" the shop. Ultimately, communication was had between employer and employed, and the result was that the men were to resume work under the old bill of wages. This was considered satisfactory; but when the men went to work Mr. Fitzgerald discharged one of them, and, under the circumstances, the others, considering that the man discharged was being made the victim, refused to go to work unless all were placed just as they had been before the dispute. This the employer refused, and again the men left the shop. After a few days, two of the men violated their obligations by "going back" upon the lodge; and went to work for Mr. Fitzgerald. The men who had left work tried, by persuasion and arguments, to bring the defaulters back, and convince them of the error of their ways, but without effect. A few days passed, when four members of the order, named J. McFedries, J. W. Wellband, J. McGinn, and W. J. H. Dudley, were arrested on a charge of conspiracy against Fitzgerald. Only one of the four men summoned had worked for Fitzgerald, but, we presume, being prominent men of the K. O. S. C. Lodge, that was sufficient to mark them out for prosecution. The four men appeared with counsel, and after the case had been heard and adjourned three times, the men were honorably acquitted, the counsel for the

prosecution withdrawing the charge as against Wellband and McFedries. In deed, we are informed there was not the slightest evidence produced in court to support the prosecution.

We have already frequently alluded to the operations of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, and to the large amount of money that has been expended in the mother country to defend actions that had been taken under its provisions, and of the strenuous and long continued efforts on the part of unionists to have this obnoxious act repealed. Now, we wish to notice that in the present instance the Act of 1872 was the one which was quoted for the action; and what is meant by the term "Act of 1872," must be understood, not the Trades' Union Act itself, but that "unnecessary incumbrance which kills its power for good," the Criminal Amendment Act. There is not the slightest doubt but that the Trades' Union Bill which repeals all the old doctrines about restraint of combinations, and all that kind of thing, has been found to be perfectly effectual to answer the purposes for which it was introduced, and is, in all respects to be regarded as a substantial, good and honest bill, and is a complete charter legalizing Trades' Unions; but so long as it is encumbered with the second part—the Criminal Law Amendment Act—it will never accomplish the purposes designed by its introduction. If the Criminal Law required amendment, it certainly should have been amended; but it should have been done by an Act which had not reference to Trades' Unions alone.

We are glad to know that action is being taken by the labor organizations of this Dominion, having in view the repeal of this objectionable Amendment Act; and the Toronto Trades' Assembly, Ottawa Trades' Council, Hamilton Canadian Labor Unity, Provincial Grand Lodge, K. O. S. C., and other associations that may be moving in this matter, may take this first action under the "Act of 1872"—so far as Canada is concerned—as an occasion to "point a moral," if not to "adorn a tale."

If men render themselves amenable to the laws of the land, it is right that the honor and dignity of the law should be maintained; but it is high time that it should be put out of the power of any man, in a spirit of spite and petty revenge, to take men from their occupations into a court of law, and bring a charge of "conspiracy" against them, without the slightest title of evidence to substantiate that charge beyond the fact that the Amendment Act declares it a criminal action to "coerce;" and if a man who happens to be a trade unionist but speak to another under the circumstances we have named, it may be at once inferred that he is using "coercion;" and, in defending himself against such a charge, not only is the man's time lost to him, but legal expenses have to be incurred; and a statute so confused and so undefined, entrusted to the definitions of unprofessional magistrates, renders it quite possible, and more than probable, that innocent men, besides being placed at the mercy of vindictive employers, may be punished for a crime they never even contemplated.

MINISTERIAL CRISIS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The crisis in Great Britain has ended in the return of Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues to power. The Conservative party being in a minority in the House, Mr. Disraeli declined to assume the responsibility of forming a ministry of that complexion, because the party would thus be exposed to great humiliations, which would tend more than almost anything else, to strengthen its opponents.

PROHIBITION.

The Dominion Parliament has appointed a Special Committee, to whom are to be referred the petitions praying for the passage of a prohibitory liquor law. The Committee consists of Messrs. Mackenzie, Richards, Bowell, Burpee, Casgrain, Charlton, Chisholm, Wilkes, Forbes, Killam, Palmer, Gibbs, Ross Rymal and Bodwell.

TO BE OR NOT TO BE.

A Hamilton correspondent writes to the Mail as follows:—

I will add, as the result of my own enquiries, that there is every prospect of a very large building business being done in Hamilton the incoming season, if we were only sure of one thing, namely, that we are to have no strikes this spring. If we have no strike, a great deal of money will be laid out on building this season, employment will be active, money will be in plentiful circulation, and retailers will do a full and profitable business. But if there is to be a big strike, as is talked of in some quarters, then look out for hard times, closing of shops, and stoppage of business. I venture to say that in all this I am by no means exaggerating either the apprehension in the public mind here with regard to a general strike, or the disastrous consequences in Hamilton should it take place.

We should imagine the answer to the above query rests a good deal with the employers. We do not know what the request of the men of Hamilton in the building trade is likely to be. If the request be reasonable it should be granted; if otherwise, let steps be taken to convince them of their wrong position. Let not false pride on the part of either employers or men prevent recourse to every reasonable means to adjust their difference.

CENTRE TORONTO.

On Friday last, Mr. Edgar objected to the reception of a petition complaining of the undue return of Mr. Wilkes, the member for Centre Toronto, on the grounds that the time specified for the reception of petitions had expired. The question was debated *pro* and *con*, and at a general request of the members the matter was allowed to stand over till Monday. The debate was resumed on Monday night, and the question well ventilated. The Speaker ruled that the petition should be received, as in his opinion the fourteen days provided in which to receive petitions meant the fourteen days succeeding the correct Parliamentary opening of the Legislature. The House then divided on the reception of the petition, and resulted as follows: for its reception, 72; against it, 76.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of the Loyal Orange Association for Eastern Ontario, which held its session in Ottawa last week, elected the following grand officers:—Bro. H. S. Macdonald, M.P.P. Brockville, Right Worshipful Grand Master; Bros. S. S. Peek, Windsor, and A. Broder, West Winchester, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Masters; Rev. Bro. J. Norris, Omence, Grand Chaplain; Bro. J. S. Wood, Belleville, Grand Treasurer; Bro. A. VanIngen, Keene, Grand Secretary; Bro. D. Ewing, Dartford, Deputy Grand Secretary; Bro. J. Holmes, Kingston, Grand Lecturer; Bro. Wm. Henderson, Port Granby, Grand Director of Ceremonies. The next annual session will be held in Port Hope.

THE BALLOT.

Mr. Young, Member for Waterloo, on Wednesday of last week introduced a bill to provide for taking the votes at elections for members of the Commons, by ballot. The bill was introduced and read a first time. We are not yet in a position to give the particulars of the bill, but hope to do so at an early date.

The Tailors' Protective Union, of St. Catharines, have presented to their employers a revised bill of wages, and the employers are to give an answer next week.

JOHN KELZ, MERCHANT TAILOR.—We beg to refer to this gentleman's card in another column. It will be noticed that he has received his Spring stock of goods for ordered work. We can confidently recommend workmen to share their patronage with Mr. Kelz, as he is governed by the motto of "small profits and quick returns."

For first-class Job Printing go to the WORKMAN Office.

THE DIGNITY OF LABOR.

Assuming it for fact that the working classes stand in need of elevation, where-in does it consist? or what is the true elevation they ought to aspire after? By the elevation of the working classes we do not mean that the laborer is to be raised above the need of labor. We cannot expect a series of improvements, wonderful as they have been during the past years, to release him from his daily work. Still more, we can have no desire to dismiss him from his workshop and farm, to take the spade and axe from his hand, and to make his life a long holiday. Surely we would not change, if we could, our subjection to physical laws, our exposure to hunger and cold, and the necessity of constant conflicts with the material world. We would not, if we could, so temper the elements that they should infuse into us only grateful sensations, that they should make vegetation so exuberant as to anticipate every want, and the minerals so ductile as to offer no resistance to our strength or skill. Such a world would make a contemptible race. Manual labor is a school, in which men are placed to get energy of purpose and character, a vastly more important endowment than all the learning of all other schools. The laborer is placed, indeed, under hard masters, physical sufferings and wants, the power of fearful elements, and the vicissitudes of all human things; but these stern teachers do a work which no compassionate, intelligent friend could do for us, and true wisdom will bless Providence for this sharp ministry. Work we all must, with hand or head, if we mean to bring out and perfect our nature.

But more: labor has great dignity. It is not merely the grand instrument by which the earth is overspread with fruitfulness and beauty, and the ocean subdued and matter wrought into innumerable forms for comfort and ornament. It has a far higher function, which is to give force to the will, efficiency, courage, the capacity of endurance, and of persevering devotion to far-reaching plans. Alas for the man or woman who has not learned to work! They are poor creatures indeed. They know not themselves. They depend on others, with no capacity of making returns for the support they give. And let them not fancy that they have a monopoly of enjoyment. Ease, rest, owes its deliciousness to toil, and no toil is so burdensome as the rest of him who has nothing to task and quicken his powers. Hence we are warranted to say that manual labor is a great good; but in so saying we must be understood to speak of labor in its just proportions. In excess it does great harm. It is not good when made the sole work of life. It must be joined with higher means of improvement, or it degrades instead of exalting. Man has a various nature, which requires a variety of occupation and discipline for its growth. Study, meditation, society, and relaxation should be mixed up with physical toils. The meanest laborer has intellect, heart, imagination, taste, as well as bones and muscles, and he is grievously wronged when compelled to exclusive drudgery for bodily subsistence. Unhappily, our present civilization is far from realizing this idea. It tends to increase the amount of manual toil at the very time that it renders this toil less favorable to the culture of the mind.

The division of labor which distinguishes civilized from savage life, and to which we owe chiefly the perfection of the arts, tends to dwarf the intellectual powers, by confining the activity of the individual to a narrow range, to a few details—perhaps to the heading of pins, the pointing of nails, or the tying together of broken strings—so that, while the savage has his faculties sharpened by various occupations and by exposure to various perils, the civilized man treads a monotonous stupifying round of unthinking toil. This cannot, must not always be. Variety of action, corresponding to the variety of human powers, and fitted to develop all, is the most important element of human civilization. In proportion as Christianity shall spread the spirit of brotherhood,

there will and must be a more equal distribution of toils and means of improvement. That system of labor which saps the health, and shortens life, and famishes intellect, needs, and must receive, groat modification; still labor in due proportion is an important part of our present toil. It is the condition of all outward comforts and improvements, whilst at the same time it conspires with higher means and influences in ministering to the vigor and growth of the mind. It is, then, no part of philanthropy which would elevate the laboring class to exempt them from manual labor. In truth, a wise philanthropy would, if possible, persuade all men of all conditions to mix up a measure of this toil with their other pursuits. The body as well as the mind needs vigorous exertion, and even the studious would be happier were they trained to labor as well as to think. Let us learn to regard manual toil as the true discipline of a man. Not a few of the wisest, grandest spirits have toiled at the work bench and the plough.—*People's Journal*

WORK AND PLAY.

Men differ in their opinions as to what is work and what is play. He who through a long summer's day swings a sledge, pushes a plane, or follows a plow, naturally enough imagines that having nothing to do is a blissful state of affairs, and that play is a state of rest or idleness; on the other hand, and able-bodied man, possessed of an active brain, finds doing nothing the hardest kind of work. In those latter years there is no small amount of attention paid to muscle. Brain feels the need of brawn—vigorous physical exercise—even though it be for the time fatiguing, is not necessarily an unpleasant excitement, and the reward it brings, in red blood, digestion, and sleep, is well worth having. A great deal of our play is work of the roughest kind. This is true of rowing, swimming, ball-playing, and a hundred of other delightful exercises. He who follows a trout stream all day may call the sport by what ever name he chooses, but it is work nevertheless.

Of all work, brain labor is the most fatiguing. One can drop the implements of his trade and the day's work is ended, but the cares of the office and the business cross the threshold of home, and frighten away sleep, or at least haunt one's dreams.

Work is agreeable and enjoyable very much in proportion as the object sought is desirable and attainable. It is not very much to be wondered at that men work with increasing earnestness as they achieve notable success in life, for man is so constituted that he loves power, and money gives him this. The more money the more power.

Habits of economy are very important in the relation they bear to the happiness of the individual. He who gains and holds has an encouragement to go on gaining, whereas if one's gains slip through his fingers, so that he finds himself as poor at the end of the year as when he began, he naturally grows discouraged and work becomes irksome.

The love of money may be, and without a question is, the root of much evil, but it is also the germ of much good. Wherever it exists there are cities, commerce, manufactures, agriculture, education, art; where it does not exist, there is barbarism. The right thing for every man to do is to try to get on in life. Considered by itself, a cottage and a narrow lot of land is a small thing to have in possession. But the man who earns a home by day's work, finds toil sweetened by the prospect of possession, and coming to it at length, even though it be humble, he is prepared to go on and accomplish far better things in the future.—*American Builder*.

A Scissorsmakers' Co-operative Society is spoken of at Sheffield.

The National Laborers' Union is said to be increasing its numbers at the rate of 500 a week.

Four hundred hands have resumed work, at Holt's Foundry, Bury, many at advanced wages.