

Ontario Workman.

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

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Communications.

THE ELECTION IN WESTERN TORONTO.

To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.

SIR,—I wish to say a few words respecting the candidature of Mr. J. A. McLellan.

It cannot be denied that he has attained a high position in an educational point of view. By necessary hard work only can this be attained, and all honor to a man who through difficulties has raised himself to the position he now holds.

But his education has not improved his judgment pertaining to matters of moment at the present time. His speech though a masterly effort of rhetoric and declamation, shows that he has not yet learned the beautiful lesson of power and prudence coupled with benevolence as contained in Bulwer's writings, "The pen is mightier than the sword." It would not be to the advantage of our nation to engage in a war with either a great or small power, it does not improve humanity or advance brotherly love, nor yet would it encourage the arts or sciences, (except the science of the destruction of human life) nor yet would it advance the great social reforms necessary to the happiness of the people. Who can contemplate the idea without emotion of leaving his bones to whiten on a field of battle,—nay, not this only, but perhaps a father or mother now helpless and gray, or perhaps a loved wife and innocent babes, left uncared for, to the tender mercies of a selfish world. We say down with the sword, "nations can be saved without it."

By the ratification of the Washington treaty, it is acknowledged throughout the length and breadth of the land, that war is now placed beyond the possibility of a doubt, though previous to the treaty, war was not only possible but very probable, and this would have been the slaughterpen of thousands of our "brave sons." Sir John A. Macdonald with "the pen" averted the calamity of "the sword." Mutual concessions were necessary to accomplish this, yet any intelligent man can judge for himself that concessions by us were fully compensated by concessions gained.

Mr. McLellan also advocated that we should demand an acknowledgment from the United States of their culpability in allowing the Fenian hordes to drill and prepare for their raid into this country, and that they (the Fenians) still are drilling under the eyes of the American government. Does Mr. McLellan know the facts? Does he know under what circumstances this drilling is carried on? If not, I will tell him. The Fenians are members of the United States militia, and are State Guards, dressed in the militia uniform, and professing loyalty to the United States. The authorities on the other side are not in a position to stop the drilling without entirely stopping their whole system of militia training. That Fenians drill in this way I freely acknowledge, but that any other drilling is carried on I have yet to learn, and after some years residence in their very midst, I think I am in a position to judge.

Yours Respectfully,
J. W. LEVESLEY.

TORONTO, Aug. 14, 1872.

The workmen of Brantford held a rousing meeting last week. Amongst others of the speakers was Mr. Buchanan, a man who has the esteem and respect of his fellow-workers, and in a most able and elaborate speech, he advocated the cause of the workingman's candidate.

In the Melbourne *Argus* we read:—"It was stated in several of the London papers received by the last mail that the Melbourne police have in their possession a warrant for the apprehension of Arthur Orton, on the charge of "murder committed in the bush near Melbourne." The police here, however, no nothing of the matter, and no such warrant has ever come into their hands."

GREAT TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION IN HAMILTON.

Since Hamilton has been Hamilton, there has not been a sight seen within its limits equal to that of last night! The workingmen friendly to the return of Messrs. Chisholm and Witton organized themselves into a procession, in four divisions, each headed by a band of music, and each individual carrying a lighted torch, elevated on a pole. They formed themselves into marching order on the Gore and proceeded down James street, on the way discharging rockets and Roman candles, &c. They cheered at the head quarters of their candidates, and groaned at the Mechanics' Hall opposite. And as the long trail of light displayed round the corner of King into James street, and came into line, the effect was most imposing. Similar sights are more frequent and got up on a larger scale in some continental cities in Europe perhaps; but for Hamilton we may say the display was really grand! However, they proceeded to the G. W. Ry. station, where they received and welcomed Sir John A. Macdonald and a number of workmen, who had come by special train from Toronto. Thus augmented, the procession re-formed themselves (by the way, what every Reformer ought to do himself), and returned up James, down King street East, up John, down James, and stopped at the *Spectator* office, where they cheered, discharged more fireworks and played several airs. By this time the numerical strength of the procession had trebled. They then marched into the Market Square, where preparations had been made for the speakers, but (we are sorry to say none for the 'press.' This great space was speedily filled, and from the windows of the City Hall, to the very tops of the houses on McNabb street, opposite in one direction, and from the windows and roofs of the houses on Market street, to the roofs of the meat and vegetable stalls on the other direction, upturned human faces disclosed themselves in the weird and flickering light of hundreds of flaming torches! To say that the sight was imposing is *tame*—it was (setting aside all political associations) as seen from the windows of the City Hall, no less than grand! The meeting was very quiet and orderly, until the meeting at the Mechanic's Hall broke up, when some of the opposite party mixed in the crowd and succeeded in raising considerable disturbance and interruption. Mr. McInnes was called to the chair and he called at once on Mr. Charlton, who spoke most enthusiastically of his friend Mr. Witton, and also of Mr. Chisholm. Mr. Hewitt next came forward and spoke eloquently on the cause of Union and Progress. Next came Mr. Witton, Mr. Chisholm and then Sir John A. Macdonald. On the Premier's appearance the cheering became absolutely deafening. Sir John remarked, that a certain thing that called itself a Colonel, "save the mark!" amongst the 'Grits,' had refused him, the Premier of Canada, the use of the Drill Shed to hold this meeting in! Well he was glad this self-styled Colonel (Skinner by name) had done so, as he had thereby driven them to the market square. He was glad of it because they could more accurately measure their strength as regarded both numbers and morale. He now called upon the electors to vote on Wednesday next for his friends Chisholm and Witton. The meeting then broke up after the usual formalities and cheering, and Sir John retired to the Royal Hotel. He returned to Toronto at one o'clock this morning.—*Standard, 13th.*

"The Green Isle of Erin" has become the property of a very limited number of individuals. Its entire area is owned by less than 20,000 persons, and nearly 6,000 of this number own less than 100 acres. One thousand four hundred and forty-three own one-seventh of the soil. It is no great wonder that the Island is fast being depopulated by the working classes, who can never become land proprietors, or in fact, the possessors of anything save a leasehold of a few acres of land and a thatch-roofed shanty.

SUMMARY AND AGGRESSIVE ACTION BY EMPLOYERS.

We learn from what appears to be perfectly reliable authority that on Monday morning last the men employed in a certain shoe manufactory in this city, were notified by the firm that no member of the Crispin organization would be allowed to work on their premises. The alternative of taking an obligation to withdraw from the K. O. S. C. or leave the shop was given the men, who, feeling that they had as good a right to belong to a secret organization for mutual improvement and protection as did their employers to belong to the Masons and Odd Fellows, quietly left the premises, preferring allegiance to their order rather than submit to such arbitrary and unjust dictation. One of the men, if we are correctly informed, was employed by the year, at a stipulated sum per week, and was a Crispin when he entered the service of the firm and continued so. He, with the rest, was commanded to renounce Crispinism or make himself scarce. This order was virtually a discharge from their employ, as the firm had no legal or moral right to enforce such an order upon the men. We learn that the man was ready and willing to fulfil his contract with the firm, but that they would not accept further service from him, except he complied with the unjust demand made by them. It is intimated that the matter is in the hands of a prominent and able lawyer of this county, and that the firm will be sued and their property attached for the amount of the man's salary for the unexpired term of his engagement—some five months. Agreeing to give men employment for a year and then summarily discharging them before the expiration of the term is by no means new in this city, and now the question whether the workingman has any rights which his employer is bound to respect is about to be tested.—*Little Giant.*

PROROGATION OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

LONDON, August 10.—Parliament was prorogued at two o'clock this afternoon; shortly before that hour the members of the House of Commons were summoned to the Chamber of Peers, where the Queen's Speech was read. The first subject touched upon by the Speech after the announcement of prorogation was the controversy over the American indirect claims, which the Queen rejoiced to inform Parliament had been settled by the spontaneous declaration of arbitrators, is entirely consistent with the views announced at the opening session of the Canadian Parliament, having passed the Act necessary to give effect to the Treaty of Washington within the Dominion, and all arrangements contemplated by that instrument are now in progress.

Her Majesty reflects with satisfaction that the subjects with which the Treaty deals offer no impediment to perfect concord between the two kindred nations. Formal ratification from France of the termination of the Commercial Treaty of 1860, is mentioned, together with the fact that the French Government indicated a desire for further correspondence on the subject. The conclusion of the Extradition Treaty with Germany was announced. The Queen declared Her intention of taking steps for dealing more effectually with the slave trade in Africa. The usual acknowledgments are rendered to the House of Commons for ample pecuniary means made to meet the exigencies for public service. The tranquility and prosperity of Ireland was adverted to.

I hope it will be borne in mind that periods of unusually rapid change in prices of commodities, and in the value of labor are likewise periods which more than ever call for the exercise of moderation and forethought. In bidding you farewell I ask you to join with me in acknowledging the abundant mercies of Almighty God, and imploring their continuance.

"Mamma," said a little boy who had been sent to dry a towel before the fire, "is it done when its brown?"

CONFERENCE OF WORKMEN'S CLUBS.

A conference of delegates from provincial and metropolitan workingmen's institutes was held on Saturday in the South Kensington Museum. Sir H. Johnston, M.P., presided. There were ten subjects for discussion, the first being "The best means of interchanging the advantages of club membership between the various affiliated clubs." This was proposed to be accomplished by the issue of union cards.—Mr. Pratt said he had received information that there were 15 London clubs and 17 country clubs willing to receive members of other clubs on production of their cards. The matter was referred to the Workingmen's clubs and a committee of the union, for them to arrange what should be done. It was thought necessary that a building fund for the erection of workmen's clubs should be established, and the question was sent up to the council. The means of rendering clubs self-supporting were discussed, and the proposals are to be laid before the council to choose the best. The conference terminated shortly after two o'clock. The delegates then paid a visit to the International Exhibition.

At half-past six o'clock the annual meeting of the union was held in the arena of the Royal Albert hall; Mr. Mundella, M.P., presiding. The report, which was of a satisfactory character, stated that the work of the union was no longer confined to the United Kingdom. It had been extended during the year to America, France, Belgium and other countries on the continent, from all of which prospects were held out of co-operation and support. During the past year 66 new clubs had come under the notice of the council. Of these 35 had availed themselves of the benefit of affiliation. Amongst the most important undertakings in the year the council pointed with gratification to the Grosvenor club, towards which the late Marquis of Westminster contributed £1,000, and which promised to be a model for other clubs. In the provinces the work had not progressed at the rate which the friends of the movement could desire. The Chairman expressed his opinion that these clubs were doing good by promoting amongst the people habits of temperance, intelligence, and thrift, and they ought to be encouraged by all who wish well for the future of the country. With regard to the introduction of beer, he thought it best that it should be allowed. Mr. Hughes, M.P., moved the adoption of the report. He agreed with Mr. Mundella that the members of clubs should be at liberty to drink what they please. Sir J. Parkington seconded the motion, which was adopted. Lord Lyttelton, who was re-elected president, presented an illuminated address to Miss E. Smith, the secretary of the union for several years, and thanked her for the efficient manner in which she had performed her duties. Miss Smith returned thanks in a short speech, which was loudly applauded. On the motion of Mr. H. Pread, seconded by Mr. Lond, the following resolution was adopted:—
That the work of this society is eminently calculated to promote the best interests of the artisans, and is deserving of the best support and co-operation of all classes." A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.—*English Paper.*

THE SUFFRAGE.

The right of suffrage is not a treasure to be buried, a commodity to be sold, a bauble to be given away, a toy to be played with, but a sacred trust that should be exercised after fair and full consideration. It is now in our political youth that we should be careful to preserve our institutions from the taint of corruption. If the springs are poisoned the stream that flows thence cannot be pure. If we allow corrupt influences to prevail now, the future of the country may well be a subject of anxiety to every patriot.—*St. John Telegraph.*

When is a rushlight like a tombstone? When it is set up for a late husband.

THE QUEEN AND THE WORKING CLASSES.

In dedicating to the Queen the "Life and Labours of Mr. Brassey," Mr. Arthur Helps writes as follows:—"To the Queen—Madam—I am very grateful for the permission given me to dedicate this work to your Majesty. I desired so to dedicate it, because I do not know of any one who has a deeper sympathy with the labouring classes than your Majesty, or any one who takes a more heartfelt interest in everything that concerns their habits, their general welfare. Moreover, this sympathy and this interest are not confined to those classes in your Majesty's dominions only, but are extended to them wherever they are to be found. I think also, that it cannot but be very gratifying to your Majesty to have full evidence that, in a special kind of labour of a very important character—namely, the construction of railways—your own subjects have hitherto borne the palm, and have introduced their excellent modes of working into various foreign countries. Your Majesty will find that the late Mr. Brassey was an employer of labour after your Majesty's own heart—always solicitous for the well-being of those who served under him—never keeping aloof from them, but using the powerful position of a master in such a manner as to win their affection and to diminish the distance which is often far too great between the employer and the employed. I venture, therefore, to think that the volume will be interesting to your Majesty on its own account; and that you will be disposed to view with favour the merits, if any, and to deal gently with the faults, of a work written by one who, with all respect, is over your Majesty's faithful and devoted subject and servant.—ARTHUR HELPS."—*Lloyds' Weekly.*

THE GENEVA ARBITRATION.

Mr. Cohen, the English barrister who drew up the report for the crown on the subject of the American claims for losses sustained by the mercantile marine of the United States, has been summoned to Geneva from London. This gives rise to the conjecture that a decision has been rendered by the Board upon the general question of England's responsibility for the direct losses claimed by America, and that Mr. Cohen is called in to assist the British counsel in arguing upon the amount of damages to be assessed by the Board. One of the many reports current here concerning the proceedings of the Board, and the present position of the Arbitration is, that after the cases of the two Governments were presented, the counsel on either side went into a lengthy discussion regarding England's responsibility, the argument turning mainly upon the questions whether the British authorities had exercised due diligence to prevent the Confederate cruisers from escaping out of their ports, and whether any such responsibility as America claims, followed upon permission to the said cruisers to take coal at British stations. Sir Roundell Palmer opened the discussion on these points. He spoke at great length in support of the positions taken in the British case. Waite, Evarts and Cushing replied; the latter closing the argument on behalf of the United States. In his summing up, Cushing strongly argued the point that the same diligence upon the part of the British authorities which afterwards served to detain the Confederate rams, would have been equally effectual in preventing the escape of the cruisers had it been exercised.

A HAPPY HOME.

"Six things," says Hamilton, "are requisite to create a 'home.' Integrity must be the architect, tidiness the upholsterer, it must be warmed by affection, and lighted up with cheerfulness, and industry must be the ventilation, renewing the atmosphere and bringing in fresh salubrity day by day; while over all, as a protecting glory and canopy, nothing will suffice except the blessing of God."