

THE

ONTARIO WORKMAN.

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

VOL. I.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1872.

NO. 1.

THE NINE-HOURS MOVEMENT.

Grand Demonstration on Monday.

GREAT PROCESSION OF WORKMEN.

Addresses in the Queen's Park.

OVER 10,000 PERSONS PRESENT!

On Monday last a grand mass meeting demonstration of the workmen of this city, called at the instance of the Toronto Trades' Assembly, was held, as an expression of sympathy for the printers and bookbinders, and in support of the Nine-hour Movement. Soon after twelve o'clock, the space in front of the Assembly Hall was densely crowded, and about one o'clock the work of forming the procession began, which was completed in the following order:—

Band of the 10th Royals,
The British Ensign,
Iron Moulders' Union,
Bricklayers' and Masons' Union,
Workingmen of no organization,
Band of Christian Brothers' Academy,
Cigar Makers' Union,
Coopers' Union,
Coach Makers' Union,
Blacksmiths' and Machinists' Union,
R. Hay & Co.'s Employees,
Bakers' Union,
Queen's Own Band,
Varnishers' and Polishers' Union,
Knights of St. Crispin,
Amalgamated Engineers' Union,
Young Irishmen's Band,
The Union Jack and Stars and Stripes entwined,
Typographical Union,
Bookbinders' Union,
Toronto Trades' Assembly.

The men marched four abreast, and the procession proved perhaps the largest ever held by the workmen of this city—it being estimated that it was composed of upwards of two thousand persons. The bands struck up their stirring strains, and the procession moved off along the following route:—Starting from the Trades' Assembly Hall on King street, it proceeded west to Brock street, thence to Queen street, along Queen street east to George street, from George street to King street as far as Yonge street, up Yonge street to the College Avenue to the Queen's Park.

All along the route thousands of spectators thronged the sidewalk, and the windows of the houses were also filled with ladies, who cheered the procession as it passed in a manner which evidently showed that their sympathies were with the workmen in their endeavour to obtain the object for which they were striving.

The processionists on passing THE LEADER Office cheered lustily, but on passing THE GLOBE Office a contemptuous silence was observed, with the exception of a few who could not refrain from giving vent to a groan.

On reaching the Queen's Park the procession was opened out into two lines, leaving an avenue up the centre, through which the Typographical and Bookbinders' Unions marched, headed by the band, and passing under the Union Jack and the American Stars and Stripes to the large platform which is erected there for the purpose of holding public meetings. This honour was given to the Typographical and Bookbinders' Unions on account of their being the leaders in the nine-hours movement. As the two Unions passed between the lines they were loudly cheered by their brother workmen.

As the procession neared the Park, a heavy snow storm came on, which had not, however, the least effect in dampening the ardour of the processionists, and on reaching the platform from which the speaking was to take place, there could not have been less than ten thousand persons massed on all sides of the platform. As the members of the Trades' Assembly—who escorted the procession on the occasion—ascended the platform, cheers long, loud, and hearty,

went up from the assembled thousands. So soon as silence could be obtained, Mr. Williams, President of the Trades' Assembly, addressed the audience in a few brief words, remarking that on account of the somewhat unpleasant state of the weather, and the number of gentlemen who were present for the purpose of addressing them, it was not his intention to detain them with any observations of his own, and asking a patient hearing for the speakers, introduced to the audience

Dr. Hall, who said that when the agitation of the nine hours system was commenced, his sympathies were not so much for the man who did the work as for those outside; but now he knew by the world's history that where the advancement of learning had been favoured, there also had the world's advancement been made. He contended that it was necessary for the working class to have a certain amount of time to devote to study, to instruct their families in the general ways of sobriety and order. It had been observed that the men who worked the hardest were the men who were best in preserving order. It had been written in the Scriptures that man should earn his bread by the sweat of his brow; that had been carried out to the letter. The workmen were the most useful and beneficial men to society. The great principle which induced him to say anything on the movement was the principle of Sabbath observance. A man working all the week from morning till night had no opportunity of putting on his best clothes and going out with his family, except on Sundays, on which day he (the workingman) did so, instead of going to church. If a man had a little more time for study or recreation on week days there would be no excuse for their non-observance of the Sabbath in a proper manner. Whether they set aside the question or not, it was well known that the workingman must have a certain amount of freedom and time for recreation, otherwise they would be mere machines, as though worked by a lever. He referred to the large amount of labour-saving machinery in use, and asked who was to be benefitted by it? Were the men to be benefitted or were the masters? The machines were invented by the workingmen, and were they not to receive some of the benefits arising therefrom? The question to be discussed was, whether they were to be an intelligent class of men, or were they to be merely machines to be worked at the will and pleasure of their employers. He could not say whether the men were receiving a proportionate amount of pay for their work; he could only speak of the movement in furtherance of civilization? He hoped when this great question was over that the working class would show that they recognised the God in heaven, and not give their enemies a chance of slandering them, but conduct themselves as a christian community would wish them to. (Cheers.)

Mr. E. K. Dodds said that never in the history of Toronto had a larger meeting of the citizens assembled than on that occasion. It was only the agitation of a great social question that could bring together 10,000 of the workmen of the city of Toronto. (Cheers.) He thought the hand-writing on the wall was plain. This was the commencement of an era, the precursor of a great and peaceful revolution. That revolution must be worked out on a broad basis. The champions of this nine hours movement had come forward in the light of day, and had said, "We are not ashamed; we are fighting for a principle which can bear the light; they may double our police force, and watch us upon the streets, but, as honest citizens, as true and honourable men, we care not for being watched, because our movements will stand inspection!" (Loud cheers.) This was no local cry, no sectional question, but the workingmen of Toronto were merely echoing the sentiments of the workmen of the whole universe over. They struck the key note in England, which was re-echoed in the United States, and this was not a mere American device or dodge, but the outspoken expression of the true working Canadians of this country. He found in one of the city newspapers that morning, an appeal strong and forcible in favour of the movement for an increase of wages among the workmen of Warwickshire in England. What did he find the mighty GLOBE saying? That the workingmen in Warwickshire had long been down-trodden, that they had not received the due reward of their labour, that granting them the increase demanded would better their condition and enable them to afford the money requisite to bring them out to this country. The same organ came out the open opponent of the nine hours system, "Stamp it out! Put it down! because it does not agree with our principles." The GLOBE said they hoped in the coming year there would be an influx of immigrants, that by coming to this country they would better their condition, and make for themselves comfortable homes, because labour here was

free, because here the workingman was respected, and was paid the value of his labour. But in the next column they found 160 names of the manufacturers of Toronto, men who had been pushed, induced, almost forced into giving their aid to crush the workingmen of this city. (Cheers.) They had not the throne here, but they had the people, and the people had the power. (Renewed cheering.) The wealth of this country had been increased by the energy, the perseverance, the united toil of the workmen of this country. They had no aristocracy here, but the aristocracy of labour, and the man who by the sweat of his brow made himself a position, stood the equal of any man in this country. This agitation had been conducted in a proper and Christian-like spirit, not pushed forward by the aid of brute force, but as a strong appeal to the reasoning powers of the people of this country. The workmen of Toronto said 54 hours a week was enough for any man to work. He asked those present, he asked every workingman of the city of Toronto, he went further, he asked the masters themselves if they could place their finger upon one solitary act whereby the men of this city had endeavoured to coerce the masters into any measure whatever. The workmen said—"You own the capital, and we own the capital too; our labour is our capital, and we say that 54 hours' capital is enough in a week." The masters would not give in, these men would go elsewhere, where not only muscle was valued, but intellectual capacity also. (Cheers.) There was no question which had so occupied the attention of workmen, and of the masses of the people, as this which they were now agitating. It had been agitated strongly but calmly, and recognizing the truth of the motto of the societies that "Union is Strength," it was only necessary for the workmen to back up the movement in order to insure success. He did not believe that political matters should be brought into this question, but he asked them, the workmen, representing the power of the country, why it was, when men came forward to represent their interests, that they did not select those who would go and fight the battle of the workmen in Parliament? They had the power; let them see that they used it. Let them take no uncertain reply from a candidate, but make him say, "I will advocate those principles in favour of the workmen of this country, because they are founded on justice and truth. They had a free country; they wanted laws broad and even, distributed justly over all sections of the people. The G. W. Railway Company at Hamilton had granted the nine hours principle. (Cheers.) That was a happy omen of their success, and showed an appreciation of the wants of his fellow-men on the part of the Managing Director of that Railway. The GLOBE stated, day after day, that trades' unions were detrimental to capitalists. He alleged that trades' union movements had been for the elevation and improvement of mankind in general. Workmen desired to give an honest return for the wages they received, but, when once they put down their foot on a principle, they would not swerve from it. Notwithstanding all the combinations of master printers, the power of the people must conquer, and that monster gathering was the precursor of the nine-hours movement. Mr. Dodds retired amidst prolonged and enthusiastic cheering.

D. Riddell said he wished it to be understood that he was there at the invitation of the Trades Assembly, from a call of duty, not as a factionist or conspirator, not as an advocate of class against class, but as an advocate of truth. He would tell his hearers that there was no idea prevailing and one which would prevail. He had no time to look at a paper for the past ten days, and had had no time to prepare his address. He had, indeed, just come from the small-pox hospital, and had only thought out a few remarks. He was a workingman himself and his heart was with workingmen. It was unfortunate that at the present time newspapers were directed by interested parties. There was at all times too much faith on newspapers, and it was a prevailing vice for people to run to look at the editorial in a paper, for truth. Editorials gave very little truth—more often untruth. They were only the exponent of the ideas of the readers, and not the father of thought but the child of the thought of others, and very often an illegitimate one. When the masses were struggling to obtain an object, then they were not supported by the papers; but, when there is a chance of success, then they congratulate them on their perseverance. Many papers, too, were behind the times; they supported tyranny and the doctrines of the sixteenth century, instead of those of the decadence of the nineteenth. He hoped his hearers would act upon the precept, "Forgive your enemies," and not act as conspirators or ruffians or bullies; but would go to their masters and state their cases impassionately, and they would not doubt be heard. He wished they would not strike as long as they could do otherwise. If they perse-

vered in this course they would certainly succeed. (Applause.)

Mr. Beaty, M.P., who on coming forward was received with loud and prolonged cheering, returned his sincere thanks to those who had invited him to the present meeting. He would say that he did not come prepared with notes, but simply to declare his true sentiments and without guarding his expressions. Before speaking upon the subject of the meeting, he would refer to the occasion which enabled the meeting to be held, viz: the recovery of the Prince of Wales. He knew the sympathy that had been felt through the country and British Dominion by every Christian, not only for the Prince but for his widowed mother during the illness of the Prince. No doubt every one of his hearers had offered up prayers for the Prince, and God had heard and answered them. They had no doubt not waited for the present occasion to offer up their thanks. With regard to the subject of the meeting, it was not a local one, but a question of humanity—one that all men were interested in—the question of labour interesting and influencing every one. (Hear, hear.) Much is said about the labouring man, but who is it that supports the do-nothing? The labourer; and it was absurd to suppose that he had no right to ask what he chose for his own. If he had 50 yards of cloth, who had a right to say that he should not demand what he chose for it—no one was obliged to take it if he did not choose. The labourer in this country did not stand in the same position as the European labourer. Here he was not a drug in the market, and therefore he ought to get the best price for his labour. As their representative in Parliament, his business would be to see that no statute, were passed in the behalf of the minority. He must say that all humanity owes a debt of gratitude to the printers. The mechanics owe it to them, that the movement is succeeding. They would certainly succeed if they tried. There was no occasion to be ashamed of labour. History had demonstrated that God sent man to labour, even before his fall. Labour is not the result of sin. He sympathized with the movement. He regretted to see, however, men leaving the country because they could not get full price for their labour here; but if men could get more money for their labour south of the line 45, it was only natural that they should go. The man who would attempt to drive the bone and sinew out, was a short-sighted one. He would say a word as to master printers. What were they? Many of them were men with whom his hearers would not trust a dollar. (Hear, hear.) It often happens that when a man made a few dollars more than his fellow workmen, he became one of the most tyrannical of his class. The labourer's is an honourable task, and the men who laboured with their own hands were the best of labourers. Christ laboured and so did his Apostles. Labour makes nature wealthy, and raised great men to their high positions. He saw before him men of intelligence, who were able to discriminate between right and wrong. (Cheers.) He was glad to see that the printers had decided to start an organ of their own. As a newspaper proprietor he was in no degree jealous, but as such he would do all he could to help it. All was not gospel in newspapers, but still they were not to be despised, and had done much for the public. This paper, for a small sum, would give fifty-two columns of contents, instructive and useful. People would at times say that union is injurious to humanity, but the man who says that forgets the example shown by the unity of former days—the union which brings us to love each other. He wished those men who talked so flippantly of unions to bear this in mind—that nothing could be done without union. Union would propagate the teaching of the Christian religion. Union was indeed strength. He hoped they would continue to be united, and would let neither nationality nor any other consideration divide them, but would show that their intelligence was equal to their cause, and they were determined to get what they desired in a legitimate manner. Doubtless the opposition would be most pleased to be able to record that this meeting broke up with a disturbance. It was no doubt true that all unions could not be looked upon as saints. There were some who would go wrong, but as a whole in our cause the unions were law-abiding. If they departed from that rule, or attempted, in consequence of their numbers, to accomplish what they ought not they would fail. They would show the country that their demands and their means of obtaining those demands were just. He could assure them that he should have the utmost pleasure in performing his duties in the Dominion House of Commons in sympathy with the wishes of the people. His power was delegated, and it would be dishonourable to use that delegated power to his own interests. They would do well to watch their representative as well as their newspapers and to ascertain their antecedents. We have a constitution emanating from the people, but we have come to be deeply thankful to Her Majesty for giving us the power of legislating. The charter given by the Queen was untouched in a letter, and we had the power of sending men to make our laws for us. We heard at times much said about the withdrawal of troops; but we must not be ungrateful. England would, as she has over done, protect her subjects, if necessary. It would now, however, be degrading to us to make a cry that the people of England did not maintain an army to protect the laws of Canada. An example might be drawn from the Corporation of Toronto. That Corporation made city laws, but England did not send policemen to patrol the streets. And so, when the Dominion makes laws she supports

them herself. Nor did he complain of the centralization of the troops either from military or economic views. If invaded, she could send a fleet that could blockade every port in the United States. She could also concentrate her troops quicker than the United States even could. England never abandoned her subjects. England asked nothing from us and let us not be ungrateful. England's sons permitted themselves to be taxed formerly to maintain an army to protect Canada for those yet to come. Let us not, therefore, be unjust to the memory of our forefathers. Now, in consequence, we had this great country with plenty of land for all. Let them persevere and they would get what they wanted, viz., a good day's pay for a fair day's labour. They had a right to ask what they chose for their labour. (Cheers.) A case in point was that of the brickmakers. Some years ago bricks were \$4 a thousand, now they were \$3 to \$10. Yet there was no cry against the brickmakers. It is a matter in their own hands, and the master printers had no more right to refuse than the master brickmakers. If their labour is wanted the article will sell as in the case of bricks. He would tell his hearers that long before ever a man asked him for the advance he had determined to give it. He was sure there would be no bitterness between the masters and men. If the employers don't want the labour they need not have it; but he trusted that his hearers would not, by any action, bring reproach upon themselves. He was, as he always had been, a friend of order. He concluded by impressing upon his hearers the divine doctrine to "do to others as they would be done by." (Loud and prolonged cheering.)

SECOND SET OF SPEECHES.

Soon after the speaking began, it being quite evident that in consequence of the immense concourse of people, and the utter impossibility of the speakers being heard by all present, it was deemed necessary to organize another meeting at the opposite side of the platform from which addresses were then being delivered. At the request of the President of the Assembly, Mr. Hewitt, Cor. Sec. of that body, with the assistance of several gentlemen undertook the conducting of such meeting, which was accordingly held. We regret we are unable to present the stirring speeches delivered to the length we should have wished, and we can only furnish the following synopsis:—

Mr. Hewitt, expressed his pleasure at the presence of so vast a crowd of tradesmen on that occasion, and stated that he felt certain of victory. He urged upon the various unions to be firm and respectful, to stand shoulder to shoulder, and if they did so, he felt satisfied that victory would crown their efforts. He considered it necessary to have the hours of labour shortened, in order that the workingmen might have an opportunity to improve themselves intellectually and physically; and he hoped, the good work already so auspiciously inaugurated would be carried on until the working men were entirely successful. He would not detain his audience upon this occasion as there were several gentlemen to follow him. He then introduced

Mr. Grant, a stonecutter, who, upon coming forward, was warmly received. He spoke of the good effects of the short-hour system in England, and urged upon his fellow-workmen of Toronto to be firm and firm in their demands, in order that if they could not have them acquiesced in they would be enabled to go elsewhere. He regretted that one of his own trade had gone home from this country, and misrepresented Canada. He referred to the statement made by the Hon. Mr. Lowe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, that the workingmen could not be entrusted with the franchise; but he was made to change his opinion when he saw 50,000 respectable men marching in procession in London. He was particularly severe upon the various masters in the city who had formed a union for the purpose of opposing the object which the workingmen had at heart; and maintained that it would be impossible to stem the tide of popular opinion in favour of the nine hours movement.

Mr. Andrew Scott next addressed the meeting, as follows:—

Fellow-workmen—Notwithstanding the cooling element that is now pouring down from the heavens above us, there is a beam of cheerfulness shining over the scene, and a manifesting of warmth and enthusiasm within, depicted on every countenance before me. The opportunity unexpectedly given to lift up my voice on this truly auspicious occasion is to me a source of very great pleasure. (Applause.) The demonstration we are now witnessing tells in unmistakable language that the workmen of Toronto have the nine hours movement at heart. (Cheers.) There cannot be many here who have not sympathy with the leaders of this great social reform. (Applause.) And we ought to feel proud of the fact that such a congregation of workmen should assemble together and conduct themselves throughout in such an orderly and praiseworthy manner to promote such a noble cause. (Cheers.) Many and varied have been the means adopted by those who are opposing this movement to prevent its growth and success; but all to little or no purpose; and the present occasion undoubtedly speaks volumes in favour of the movement. (Cheers.) Let us hope that this mass demonstration will soon be followed by many more of a similar character, and thus

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