

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

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.

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J. S. WILLIAMS,
SUPERINTENDENT.**

Meetings are held in the following order :—
Machinists and Blacksmiths, every Monday.
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Crispins, (159), 1st and 3rd Tuesday.
K. O. S. C. Lodge 356, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
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Cigar Makers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
Varnishers and Polishers, 1st and 3rd Wednesday.
Iron Moulders, every Thursday.
Plasterers, 1st and 3rd Thursday.
Trades' Assembly, 1st and 3rd Friday.
Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Friday.
Ceopers, 2nd and 4th Friday.
Printers, 1st Saturday.
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TORONTO, THURSDAY, AUG. 29, 1872

One of the questions that will undoubtedly be agitated in the not distant future—and a subject in which all the operative classes are directly interested, is that of the system of voting—and the system that is most likely to meet the wants and wishes of those classes will, we doubt not, prove to be that of the Ballot. “Vote by Ballot” is now English law, and the working of that system will be closely watched in all its operations, by all who feel interested in the gradual moulding of our institutions and the perfecting of our representative system; and should it work successfully, and give satisfaction to the working classes—as we have no doubt it will—that fact of itself will be a strong argument for its adoption in our Dominion.

It has, been urged against it, that the condition of this country does not need secret voting, that here we have no large landed proprietors, etc., and that in our centres of industry the working-men are left free to exercise their franchise as they choose, and therefore, with the many amendments obtained, and others still promised in our election laws, it is of but little consequence whether the system of open voting or the ballot be adopted. This may be true to some extent, but we submit there are tendencies throughout the country which demand, more potently perhaps than many people think, the early adoption of this principle in voting. There is, in the first place, a growing tendency to large estates. In almost every township may be found men with large means, and a great hunger for land—men who possess their hundreds of acres of land, and are continually on the look out for more. But this land must be cultivated, and tenants must be had for that purpose. Now, however free as yet tenants may be in “this Canada of ours,” to vote as they will, the probabilities are that in the course of time, the coercion that has prevailed in the Id world would also obtain here, and,

then, the ballot would be needed. Then, again, another tendency that is developing itself is towards large establishments, in which a very large number of employees are engaged. It cannot be denied that even now a good deal of corrupt influence is used in relation to the voting of workmen; and very often men are compelled to exercise their franchise in a manner that gives no scope to their own free will, or to abstain from its exercise altogether, simply because on following the *wishes* of their employers depends their bread and butter. It may be that it is only in a case here and there this is done at the present time, but, unfortunately, it is not an evil that will correct itself in course of time under the open system of voting, but rather, on the contrary, will tend to increase and spread. The ballot would largely cure, or, better, prevent this, because few would think it worth while either to bribe or threaten a man, if, after all, it could not be told whether the man had voted according to the bribe, or in obedience to the threat.

In the old world curious speculations arise concerning the results of vote by ballot in both parliamentary and municipal elections. The constituencies—especially the large constituencies—will act under quite new conditions; for in the smaller ones, where everybody knows everybody and what everybody says or does, there will prove to be but little secrecy. But in the large ones the elections will be really in the dark. The system of voting by ballot will interpose an impenetrable screen between candidates and electors, and between electors and electors. In constituencies of 8,000 or 10,000 votes, what candidate will be able to assure himself, with any approach to accuracy, of the probability of his coming out of the ballot box a member of parliament? Even with open voting, under the extended franchise, it has been seen how little the appearance of popularity, or the employment of agents and canvassers, can be relied upon. How often has it been seen that after months of active organization, and incessant speaking and canvassing, with abundant promises of success up to the eleventh hour, at the twelfth end in miserable disappointment. These things being so when men's pledges and votes were known, what may be expected when there will be no means of knowing how any considerable number of men have voted—no means of comparing votes with promises—no fear, no hope from the influence of public opinion on the individual voter? Each elector, on entering the polling place, will virtually put on the fabled invisible cap, and although he will do the deed, what deed he has done it will be almost impossible to know. This will secure his emancipation from all intimidation and undue pressure and influence; but it will also effectually prevent any certain forecast of the result of the election.

The Plumbers, Brassfinishors, and Steamfitters of this city, intend holding a pic-nic and augur-shoot, at the West Lodge Gardens, on Saturday next. Every effort has been made by the committee to render the occasion one of interest, and we doubt not their efforts will be duly appreciated. Two new features in connection with the games will be the augur-shoot and velocipede races, and will, no doubt, prove a source of attraction.

The employees of this road will hold their first annual pic-nic on Saturday next, at the pretty village of Woodbridge. A large and efficient committee have been hard at work to render this first annual pic-nic a time to be remembered. An elaborate programme of games and dances has been prepared, and the band of the Grand Trunk Brigade will furnish music. Every possible care has been taken to provide for the comfort and entertainment of those who may be present, and we trust the efforts of the committee will be crowned with the greatest possible success.

A few days ago we conversed with one of the most influential and enterprising manufacturers of the great west. We found him, as far as circumstances permitted us to judge, honorable, candid, and whole souled—a man whose sympathies and best wishes were with the sons of toil, and from the earnest manner in which his sentiments were expressed we have no reason to doubt the sincerity of his feelings. Said he: "I am convinced *the* question of the future is the amicable adjustment of the relations between capital and labor. Does it not seem a suicidal policy for workingmen, every time they have a grievance, real or supposed, to *strike* until their demands are complied with; perhaps to cause their employers to lose thousands of dollars thereby—when a friendly notification of their grievances would have been listened to attentively, and all cause of complaint removed? Nine out of ten of our manufacturers will listen to a request when they will absolutely refuse a demand. They are not such hard-hearted wretches as they are supposed to be. They will be guided by reason when they will laugh at a threat. Can no means be devised to bring employer and employe into closer contact, to convince both that their interests are identical? Why, you can't take up a paper without seeing an account of a strike here or there; the consequence is, factories and furnaces are stopped, mines are idle, capitalists are losing money, workingmen are walking the streets, and manufacturing interests threaten to go to the devil generally, all for the want of a mutual understanding. Look at the past, three months—strikes here, strikes there, strikes everywhere. Why, striking seems to be the normal condition of the workingmen all over the country. This is all wrong, and must be stopped by some means, but how to stop it is the question."

Words bravely said—all *wrong*—all *wrong*—and we are glad to know that a spirit of inquiry, "how to stop it," is beginning to develop itself among employers. The old adage, "Where there's a will there's a way," will surely be verified if this feeling is fostered and developed. Let it once be made manifest that employers are willing to meet their workmen half way—*willing* to listen to their grievances, and redress them when possible, and when they cannot, convince them—at least try to convince them—and mutual confidence and good feeling will soon take the place of strikes and lock-outs.

We do not believe there is a national or international labor organization in the country which has not, time and again, deprecated a resort to strikes, except as a last alternative; which has not declared its willingness to accept arbitration as a substitute, and we have yet to learn of the first acceptance of these propositions by any organized body of manufacturers.

Let us look over the field for a few moments. We find dissatisfaction on every hand—in New York and New England, in Pennsylvania and Ohio, in Virginia and Illinois; and, moreover, we find this dissatisfaction on the increase. We find employers becoming more arbitrary and exacting in their demands, and their eyes becoming more and more unwilling to submit to them—the rules and regulations of our factories becoming more stringent, and our trades unions assuming a more formidable and positive character.

Now, suppose at the next meeting of the Iron Manufacturers or Stove Moulders' Association—representing two of the most wealthy and influential bodies of employers in the country—a resolution is passed indorsing and recommending the principles of arbitration, announcing a willingness to submit all questions in dispute to a disinterested board, and of course we do not refer to petty disturbances in this or that establishment, what will be the result? Simply that ninety-nine out of every hundred of our mechanics will say *amen*, second such endeavors, and be governed by such decision. Of course we do not refer to every petty squabble

which occurs in this or that workshop. We refer to the settlement of those questions which periodically throw thousands of our workmen out of employment, close our factories, and bring ruin alike on employer and employee. Let our manufacturers then accept of the olive branch held out, and peace, contentment and confidence will take the place of suspicion, bickerings and idleness. The end to be accomplished is certainly worth the trial.

[The above able remarks, from the "Workingman's Advocate," Chicago, are equally applicable to this Dominion; and certain we are, should the principle of arbitration be acted upon, the most beneficial results would follow, both to employers and employed.]

The cause of woman's suffrage is in a much more hopeful and flourishing condition in England than in America, a fact which will be rejoiced over or regretted, according to the diverse views taken of the subject by different people. Those who wish well to it will be glad that it has fallen into good hands; those who do not wish well to it will regret that it has this advantage. That it is an advantage, and a very great one, there can be no doubt. Without entering into any discussion of the merits of the question, one thing is very obvious—that much of its unpopularity in the United States, and one great difficulty in the way of its receiving a candid hearing, is the bad management of its advocates. Certain persons have put themselves forward as leaders who, not being of good reputation in other relations of life, have only brought obliquy upon this movement, and the impression has become general that the measures advocated by such persons might be fairly estimated by their characters. Whether this is abstractly just or not, it is inevitable, and those who seek to have the right of suffrage given to women may be quite sure that they will find it the more difficult to gain the longer they permit themselves to be led by persons whose opportunity and disposition to do mischief are quite dangerous enough without giving them political power.

In England the progress of the movement is marked, and it is represented by quite another class of persons. A meeting of the National Society was held a few days since in London, at which Mr. Jacob Bright, M.P., presided, and addresses were made by persons of the highest respectability. Mr. Bright, in the course of a speech, congratulated the members of the society that women had already secured the right to vote in school boards and municipal elections; that they were chosen to seats on school boards, and that he believed one hundred and fifty members of Parliament were in favor of giving women the right to vote in Parliamentary elections. Across the lines there has been no such progress. Except in a single western territory, there is, if we remember aright, not a single gain to be shown for many years of agitation. It is to be accounted for only in one way—the difference in the character of the advocates in the two countries.

The war between France and Germany is not at an end. There has been no peace, only an adjournment of hostilities. No fact is more evident than this. The one idea that controls the French mind is "the settlement of accounts with Germany." Although little is said about it in the papers, and there have been discreet reservations in the debates, the Government has been making strenuous efforts to bring the army to its fullest capacity. There have been large purchases of horses in Hungary, England and Germany. The workshops for the manufacture of artillery and firearms are in full blast. There are more cannon now than there was before the war, and more small arms. Paris is being strengthened by new lines of forts. Great quantities of provisions have been introduced into the city of Paris, enough for two years consumption in case of a siege. When the new works are completed, a successful

siege of Paris will require the investment of a line of circumvallation ninety miles in extent—a feat not within the resources of any army. The soldiers are under constant and severe discipline. They are kept in camp, away from Paris and the large cities. You see fewer soldiers in Paris than in London—a group here and there, at the invalides and public buildings for instance, but no more. Whatever difference there may be as to dynasties and parties, in this work of reorganizing the army and strengthening the resources of France everyone is interested. The French army to-day is said to be the strongest army in Europe, except that of Germany, and it may be questioned whether in a little while it will not exceed that of Germany. Beyond and above all there is a public spirit, a sense of industry and self-denial, a desire for information and study, that are a wholesome evidence of improvement. It may be, and it would not be surprising if history so recorded it, that the appalling disasters that fell upon France have served to show the strength and weakness of the country, and to teach that strength that comes from a true knowledge of weakness and a resolution to overcome it.

The G. T. Employees Pic-Nic to Bowmanville, on Saturday, was a most complete success. The cars started from this city at about half-past seven, with some 900 excursionists on board, and reached Bowmanville shortly after ten. The main body then adjourned to the pic-nic resort, a beautiful pine grove some short distance south of the station, and in full view of the limpid waters of Ontario. It was one of the choicest spots we have visited in which to hold pic-nics, and all present seemed to appreciate the beauty of the scene. The excursionists entered into the sports and games of the day with right good will, evidently determined to make the most of the occasion. Thanks to the care and foresight of the efficient committee, nothing was wanting to add to the happiness of those present. The games and sports were well contested, and the successful competitors were highly pleased with the prizes awarded. During the day the magnificent band of the G. T. Brigade discoursed sweet music; and large numbers engaged in tripping "the light fantastic toe." The party reached Toronto shortly after ten in the evening, evidently well satisfied with the day's pleasure. The committee may well take pride at the success of the pic-nic, for it was generally acknowledged to have been one of the best arranged affairs of the season. It was our intention to publish the prize list, but we have not received it in time.

Our English neighbors do not lack shrewdness, it seems. A new plan of dealing is being introduced into their retail grocery trade to induce cash payments for groceries, and also to make new customers, and is said to be a decided success. It is styled the "bonus system for cash payments for groceries," and consists in allowing a bonus of two and one-half per cent., payable at the end of each six months, on all purchases made during that time. At the time of each cash purchase, a metal check is given, showing the amount of the purchase. These are preserved by the buyer, and when the time of redemption arrives—twice a year—the checks show the amount on which the holder is entitled to two and one-half per cent., and is paid in goods. The firm originating this innovation made their first semi-annual redemption on the fourteenth of this month, and state that it has proved a great success. Many of their customers who hitherto had been taking credit for periods of one to three months, now willingly pay cash, and their trade has been greatly increased at the same time. The success of the firm has induced others to adopt the same plan. Any enterprising firm adopting the same plan here would doubtless find it a "good hit."

MAR has recently opened a first-class house on Yonge Street, near the Avenue, and is always happy to see his friends. An obliging host, attentive waiters and pleasant surroundings, make the house attractive.