

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

The opening night of the New Academy of Music, Colborne street, was a perfect success. The hall was literally crammed to the doors, and many were unable to gain admittance. The various acts, songs, dances, etc., were executed in a most artistic manner, and the entire performance gave the highest satisfaction to all present.

Communications.

THE PROGRESS OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—I will endeavor briefly to call the attention of your readers and my co-laborers to the progress of the labor movement in this country. In the early history of this land, like all new countries, movements known as labor movements were unknown, simply because the laws that govern civilized social life had not time to produce their inevitable result—that of centralizing the accumulated productions of labor. Society existed in its normal condition, none very rich and none very poor—and the only noticeable difference existing through the providence or the improvidence of the settler; but by and by that robber system of civilized life, known as the monetary system, began centralizing the accumulated productions of the labor of the people in the hands of the few, and the pressure long since felt by the toilers in older lands is beginning to be felt by us. But the growing intelligence of the age we live in is not slow in observing the effects of the workings of unjust systems of distribution, and hence the movements that have and are being inaugurated, and be assured that the effects that are at present seen, felt by, and engaging the attention of the most intelligent of earth's producers in all lands, will be traced back to the very source of their cause, and all the crudities of the present robber systems laid bare, by which one portion of the community are enabled to revel in luxury and splendor on the unremitting toil, misery and rags of another portion of the same flesh and blood as they are themselves, without in any sense fulfilling the divine injunction by contributing to the world's happiness or welfare, living lumberers of the ground—and dying debtors to their fellow-man for their subsistence, though worth millions of yellow gold. The result of the investigations of that portion of society formerly serfs, now known as laborers or servants, are leading them to attack some of the most oppressive causes of the injustice that the producers of the world labor under, the first of which might be called the parent of monopolies—that of land; the second, the most unscrupulous of tyrants, money on a gold and usurious basis, accumulating two and three times as much for its use as the combined labor of the land are able to produce after satisfying its daily wants, thereby continually narrowing and centralizing the surplus wealth of the nation in the hands of the few; and thirdly, the existence of that expensive and unnecessary institution of master or middle-man. We have already seen the dawn of the day of Co-operation, and its noon-day glory is not such a Utopian idea as many suppose. A growing and more general intelligence, or, in other words, the natural selfishness of man, properly educated, will want and see that it receives the whole fruit of its labor and nothing less. In a word, Mr. Editor, the progress of the labor movement can have but one result, namely, justice and equal rights to all men.

Yours for even-handed justice, nothing more,

JOHN HEWITT.

Toronto, Feb. 25, 1873.

STRAY THOUGHTS ON TRADES' UNIONS.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—In the first number of your valuable paper, issued on the 18th April, 1872, while the agitation for shorter hours of labor was at its white heat, and when strikes were threatened, and, indeed, in one trade carried into effect, the leaders of the movement paying the penalty of arrest for the crime of conspiring to better their position, in an able article on the "Progressive tendency of Workingmen," you said that "The self-education of the working classes is one of the brightest hopes of our young and prosperous country. It is clear that the term 'Workingman' is rapidly acquiring a higher and more national significance than it ever bore before; and it is doubtless destined to grow into yet greater respectableness and 'universality of meaning.'"

So far, although it is hardly twelve months, your expectation shows every probability of becoming a fact not to be ignored. That the elevation of the working classes must be accomplished by their own efforts, none can now doubt. They have

begun the good work; they must also carry it on to a glorious completion. The events of the past year show conclusively that little, if anything, is to be expected from the so-called reformers, patriots and philanthropists; while, at the same time, they do most clearly shadow forth that which may be accomplished by the united efforts of the operative classes themselves.

The question which thinking minds interested in this great and good cause find most difficult to solve is—how best to secure unity among workingmen? This has always been the great desideratum. The want of unions has led to the failure of strikes nine times out of ten, and not the power of the employer, for he of himself or his money either has no power, only so far as labor is foolish and criminal enough to allow itself to be chained and gagged by it. Union, then, is the power with which we can remove the oppression which is bearing us down into the dust, and enable us to breathe the free air of heaven, laboring a fair share of the day for fair wages, and having some part of God's light at our own disposal, and feeling that, although our bank account is small, we are made of as good material as the millionaire. Now we will not discuss at this time the reason why strikes may have failed last year, but, which will amount to the same thing, try to find a remedy for the future. Strikes are, as all unionists freely admit, the last resource, the great weapon of defence; and this sometimes fails us in the time of need, as before remarked, through the treachery of those in whom we had placed confidence; members of trades unions so far forgetting their manhood, their sense of honor, their obligation to their fellows, as to take the mess of pottage offered them. When it becomes evident that the fight will be lost to us, is it not best to secure the best means of retreat left open to us, always keeping in view the respect due to ourselves as unionists? Watch the weak-kneed ones, encourage them on and keep them out of the hands of the enemy; they may not, apparently, be of much use to the Union, but will prove of immense advantage to the other side, where they will be paraded to the world as proof of victory. Conclude a peace as soon as practicable, always on such terms as will secure the integrity of the Union, which fact will, of itself, be a guarantee of offensive operations in the future. To reclaim backsliders, policy must also be used. Perhaps a prominent renegade finds himself in such a position that he must, perforce, apply to the Union for re-admission. Don't hurry to ease his pain, neither give him a decided rebuff. The bare fact of his being compelled to sue for grace will strike terror into hearts already faint. After reasonable time, and on his paying such penalty as will be somewhat commensurate with his offence and standing in the opinion of his fellow workmen, re-admit him. If he be refused re-admission, it may only make others more determined, feeling that their case is desperate; while his acceptance will produce a feeling of reconciliation on all sides, and thus paving the way for a full recognition of the power of the Union and the benefits which it confers.

W. J.

Toronto, Feb. 25, 1873.

OTTAWA.

The second annual supper of the Journeymen Free-stone Cutters' Association of Ottawa took place on Thursday, the 20th inst., at L. R. Clisby's. Some 46 people sat down, among whom we noticed as guests, James Mathews, William Farquhar, Wm. Watson, David Harrow, Fred. Toms, and others.

A novel feature in this supper was the inviting of the apprentices to partake of the festivities; and it is needless to say they responded to the call unanimously. The supper was got up in splendid style, and reflects credit on Mr. Clisby's larder. The chair was occupied by Mr. Alex. D. McGregor, President of the Association, the Vice-chairs by Mr. Dan. Forbes & Alex. Sinclair.

The cloth having been removed, the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given and received with the accustomed enthusiasm; that of the Governor-General of Canada being coupled with the following sentiment:—

"The health proposed is one we'll drink With all the honors that we can; Let each one here prepare a cheer, And drain his wine-glass to the man Whose name to all is so well known, In the hamlet, village and in town, For the right good fellowship he has shown: That rattling boy from the County Down."

Song, by Jno. Lemon, "The Irish School-master." Toast, "The Contractors of Ottawa," responded to by Mr. James Mathews, Wm. Farquhar, D. Harrow, and F. Jones. Song by Robert Poustie, "The Antelope." Songs were also sung by Messrs. John Morris and William Gall. Toast, "Our Guests," responded to by Messrs. Watson

and Toms. Song by Mr. J. Mathews; also by Messrs. Lemon, Sinclair, Robertson and Fairweather. Toast, "The Apprentices," responded to by John White, on behalf of the rest of the boys. Song, by Iva Valiquette, "The Fisherman's Daughter." Song and dance by Con Dewan; Irish Jig by Pat. Hurly, and Thomas Morrissey. Mr. Wm. Farquhar, on behalf of the other guests, in a few appropriate remarks, proposed the "Stonecutters' Association," coupling with it the name of Mr. Donald Robertson. Mr. Robertson responded in an able and effective speech, in the course of which he defended the principles of Trades Unions, and denounced strongly those who seek to place Trade Unionism on a par with Communism. He resumed his seat amid loud applause. Song by Dan. Forbes, "The Slaver;" songs were also sung by Messrs. Mathews, Lemon, Hynes, Morris, Sinclair, and Gall; also a recitation by Mr. Robertson. Toast, "The Ladies," responded to by Dan. Forbes. Songs by Messrs. Poustie and Lemon. "The Press," replied to by Mr. A. Robertson, of the Times and Mr. Nicholls of the Free Press. Mr. Donald Robertson responded on behalf of the ONTARIO WORKMAN. Apologizing for assuming to reply for the Press, he regretted that the popular and energetic editor of the workingmen's organ was not there to reply for himself, and urged upon all workingmen to support that journal, and use its columns as a means of conveying to the public whatever views they may hold on all questions affecting their interest. Then followed the toast, "Our Host and Hostess," replied to by Mr. Clisby. After some more songs and speeches the entertainment was brought to a close by the company singing "Auld Lang Syne" and "God save the Queen."

The whole affair was a grand success and reflects credit on the committee who got it up, Messrs. Casey, Tomlinson, and Kelly, and who were very attentive to the guests during the whole evening. Every one present went home well pleased, and wishing that they might have such an entertainment again soon. [Com.]

MONTREAL.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

Seldom have the faces of the hackmen worn so miserable an expression as during the past week, this on account of the numerous "soft days" they have had to contend against. In vain did they put on their politest manner, and offer their services to the weary pedestrian, but very few, unless compelled by business, would care to be driven over something, trifle worse than mud. But since the snow fall on Friday last, all is changed; miserable looks have given place to happy ones, and the jocular remarks of "cabby" tell of the rich harvest he is reaping. Now is the time for a drive round the Two Mountains and home by Lachine. Setting aside its exhilarating effect, it is almost worth the time spent to witness the numerous "spills" occasioned by too impetuous drivers.

Another favorite drive is to the Back River, a few miles out of the city, on these bright moonlight nights. The road to that place is thronged with sleighing parties, who appear anxious to spend as much time at their destination as possible, judging from the speed they drive at. The young men of Montreal have their failings, as well as those of the Queen City; therefore, as usual, the most frequented places on the road are the taverns, where during the evening and often till the small hours of morning dancing and billiards are indulged in, and many who started with the intention of seeking innocent pleasure by a drive find themselves in too many instances before the Recorder the next morning. But you will say these are no uncommon incidents. That, unfortunately, is true, but it is a matter of regret to know that the same amusements are indulged in on Sundays also.

A friend of mine arrived in this country last Sunday, and on the way to his destination passed one of the taverns I have referred to. On hearing the sound of music issuing from the building, he enquired what it all meant. He was told that dancing and billiards were common here on Sundays. "Dancing and billiards on Sundays?" as he gazed with amazement at his informant. "And this in Christian Canada!" Well might he feel astounded as he remembered that Montreal is the metropolis of the Dominion, and here is a specimen of the noble example she sets before her sister cities. This is the manner in which the requirements of her young men are allowed to be catered for, and which are so eagerly embraced. Well may the Temperance and Prohibitory League declare there is a great work, and it will be a grand success if they are successful in drawing the attention of the proper authorities to this great evil, and causing all such hell-holes to be closed, at least on the Lord's Day.

The departure of Lord and Lady Dufferin from the city is felt very much. The citizens are loud in their praises of His Excellency and his amiable lady. No matter the institution he was requested to visit, or to what entertainment he was invited to attend, so long as it was to further a good cause, his presence could be relied on, and he seemed equally at home speaking cheering words to the little ones at the blind school as he was while present among the elite of society at the skating carnival.

Owing to several severe fires which took place in December some of the citizens are adopting precautions to secure themselves against its ravages. The large building, corner of St. Francois Xavier and Craig streets, has been fitted with a novel appliance so far as this city is concerned. It consists of a four-inch iron pipe running from the basement through the five stories and out at the roof. On each flat there is a joint of three or four inches in length to which is screwed a length of hose, with a nozzle attached similar to those used by the fire department. On the alarm of fire being raised, the water can at once be turned on and directed to the spot desired. The idea is simple, though I think it will prove very efficacious; and it is quite possible that insurance companies will lessen the premium on buildings thus fitted.

The *Witness* libel suit is still attracting much attention in the city, and the result is looked forward to with anxiety, as some seem to think the liberty of the press is being infringed on. Already the various temperance societies are passing resolutions of sympathy with the proprietors of that paper, in its present contest.

Yours,

ALBION.

A FEW FIGURES.

It is stated by Sir John Sinclair in his history of the Revenue, that the annual amount of taxes raised during one hundred years from the Conquest, that is from 1066 to 1166, was £200,000. From that time during another hundred years it only amounted to £150,000 per annum. For another century—namely, up to 1366—it had fallen to £130,000, whilst during the next hundred years to 1466, it had still gone back to the comparatively small sum of £100,000. Taking the value of money during this period at thirty times what it is now, this would make the annual taxation just £3,000,000 a year, a sum not worth thinking about with our present means. But supposing that our present population is four times what it then was, and that it therefore requires four times as much governing, the gross cost should be 12 millions sterling, as against the 70 millions, which is now the annual cost.

This brings us to the time of the great "Queen Bess," during whose reign, including the Armada business, England did not count for nothing among the nations of Europe; and if the truth be told possessed statesmen quite as well worth their salt as the men of the present day. Passing on for another hundred years, however, we come to the "Restoration," that happy and ever-to-be-applauded event in history—we find our taxes increased to £1,800,000. This was the commencement or nearly so of our indirect imposts, and it was from this period that the resources of the nation were drawn so liberally from the pockets of the people for the purpose of sparing the purses of our aristocracy, who, up to this time had to pay nearly the whole of the expenses of the Government, as a proper return for the lands held by them from the conqueror. How and why the increase of taxation has taken place since 1666 is a long story, and requires a good deal of telling; and though the arguments and inferences might be questioned, there can be no doubt of the fact of the frightful increase. In addition to this we must not forget that we owe a debt of £800,000,000 of money, which fifty-eight years ago was £900,000,000, so that we have been paying off at the rate of somewhere near two millions a year. But according to J. B. Smith, M.P. for Stockport, we have been doing nothing worth mentioning in this way for the last forty years. We may take it for granted, therefore, that we shall be a good while rubbing off this long score, and that a tolerable balance will be unpaid, when, as Mr. Campbell says in his "Last Man,"—

Earth's cities have no sound or tread,
And ships are drifting with the dead,
To shores where all is dumb.

Of course our readers know how our system of taxation was changed about the middle of the seventeenth century, and how the land, which previously bore nearly the whole of the State burdens, was almost entirely released from a tribute which the people, by means of custom, and excise duties, had to pay. William III., however, being sorely pressed for money, imposed a land tax of four shillings in the pound of full annual value. This tax in

the aggregate supplied considerably more than one-fourth of the nation's revenues. But, a way was found out by our aristocratic rulers to alter this disagreeable state of things. They wanted to spend more than they could raise per year, and so they went largely into the habits of desperate spendthrifts, and borrowed without stint or limit, and thus cunningly shuffled the cards, so that the land tax now only amounts to a sixty-fourth part of the nation's revenues.

How these things came to pass will perhaps be some day inquired into. If we go on increasing our expenditure we shall certainly have an ugly pull up some day, even before our coals are exhausted. At any rate, before that time comes, there will be accounts to settle with our wealthy landholders, which though deferred have not been entirely overlooked. The nation has been defrauded in the past, and it would be not only interesting but profitable to know how, and by whom.

THE AGRICULTURAL LABORER.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive Council of the National Agricultural Laborers' Union, held at Leamington on Monday last, the Secretary (Mr. H. Taylor), reported numerous lock-outs in different parts of the country, and Mr. Joseph Arch, the president, laid before the meeting an offer received by him from the local representative of the Brazilian Government to take all the married men locked-out, and set them up in business as freehold farmers on 100 acres in the State colonies, several thousand pounds having been voted by the Government for that purpose. 150 were to sail on Wednesday under the arrangement, and Mr. Yeats, the union delegate in Gloucestershire, is about to take out 200 families. Over 1,000 have gone to Canawa colony, whence the reports received are most satisfactory. Brazil is eight times larger than England, with a third of our population, and a commerce of forty millions. Under Don Pedro II., and a Liberal Government, the Empire is making rapid advances, and the "Union" colonies in Paulo and Parana promise to become flourishing settlements. There the English land-serf obtains an independence in a few years. The climate is Italian, the forest land is a rich loam, the scenery most romantic, the wild fruits and game abundant, and the natives very kind.—*Bee Hive*.

WHITE HART, corner of Yonge and Elm streets, is conducted on the good old English principle by Bell Belmont, late of London, England, who has gained the reputation, by strict adherence to business, of keeping the best conducted saloon in this city. The bar is pronounced by the press to be the "prince of bars," and is under the entire management of Mr. Emma Belmont, whose whole study is to make the numerous patrons of this well-known resort comfortable. Visitors to this city will not regret walking any distance to see this—the handsomest bar in the Dominion. Adv.

TRAVELLERS' GUIDE—TORONTO TIME.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.			
FROM THE EAST.		FROM THE WEST.	
Belleville Train—9.37 a.m.	Night Express—5.15 a.m.	Mixed from Berlin—10.45 a.m.	
Express—11.07 a.m.		Express—6.30 p.m.	
Mixed—6.57 p.m.		Express—11.07 p.m.	
Express—11.07 p.m.			
GOING EAST.		GOING WEST.	
Express—5.37 a.m.	Express—7.30 a.m.		
Mixed—12.05 a.m.	Express—11.45 a.m.		
Belleville Train—5.37 p.m.	Mixed—3.45 p.m.		
Express—7.07 p.m.	Mixed—5.50 p.m.		
	Express—12.05 a.m.		
GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.			
GOING WEST.		FROM THE WEST.	
Express—7.00 a.m.	Accommodation—11.00 a.m.		
Do. 11.00 a.m.	Express 1.15 p.m.		
Accommodation—4.00 p.m.	Mixed—5.30 p.m.		
Express—8.03 p.m.	Accommodation—9.30 p.m.		
TORONTO AND NIPISSING RAILWAY.			
GOING NORTH.		TO THE NORTH.	
Mail—8.00 a.m.	Mail—1.05 a.m.		
Mail—3.50 p.m.	Mail—5.30 p.m.		
Connects with Midland Railway for Lindsay, Beaverton, Peterborough, &c.			
TORONTO, GREY & BRUCE RAILWAY.			
GOING WEST.		FROM THE WEST.	
Mail—7.30 a.m.	Mail—11.30 a.m.		
Do. 8.45 p.m.	Do. 8.50 p.m.		

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