

NOTICE.

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

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

(INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.)

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

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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, 124 BAY STREET.

Meetings of Unions.

TORONTO.

Meetings are held in the Trades' Assembly Hall, King street west, in the following order:—

- Machinists and Blacksmiths, 1st and 3rd Mondays.
- Painters, 1st and 3rd Monday.
- Amalgamated Carpenters, 2nd and 4th Monday.
- Coachmakers, 2nd and 4th Monday.
- Crispins, (159), every Tuesday.
- Tinsmiths, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
- Laborers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
- Iron Moulders, every 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 Amalgamated Society of Engineers, &c., meets in Foy's Hall, corner of York and Richmond sts., on the 2nd and 4th Friday.

The Friendly Society of Carpenters and Joiners meets in the Temperance Hall, Temperance street, on the 1st Friday.

K. O. S. C., No. 315, meets in the Temperance Hall every alternate Tuesday.

OTTAWA.

Meetings are held in the Mechanics' Hall, (Rowe's Block,) Rideau street, in the following order:—

- Free-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Tuesday.
- Lime-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Wednesday.
- Masons and Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Thursday.
- Trades' Council, 1st Friday.
- Printers, 1st Saturday.
- Tailors, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
- Harnessmakers, 4th Monday.

ST. CATHARINES.

Meetings are held in the Temperance Hall, in the following order:—

- K. O. S. C., 1st Monday.
- Tailors, 2nd Monday.
- Coopers, 4rd Tuesday.

Messrs. LANCEFIELD BROTHERS, Newsdealers, No. 6 Market square, Hamilton, are agents for the WORKMAN in that vicinity.

Mr. D. W. TERNANT, Niagara Street, St. Catharines, will receive subscriptions and give receipts for the WORKMAN. Parties calling on Mr. Ternant will please state if they wish the paper continued.

TO CITY SUBSCRIBERS.

City subscribers not receiving their papers regularly, will oblige the proprietors by giving notice of such irregularity at the Office, 124 Bay street.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, SEPT. 25, 1873.

THE CANADIAN LABOR CONGRESS.

The Labor Congress opened its sessions in the Trades Assembly Hall at 2 p.m., on the 23rd inst., with 43 delegates present from all parts of the country, and we are proud to be able to say that it would be hard to collect a finer or more intelligent body of men from any class of society.

We have every confidence in saying that the interest of the labor of this country is in safe hands, and that this first Labor Congress will result in the adoption of such ways and means as will place all classes of labor in a position to make themselves both heard and their

influence felt in the community. Too long have the bone and sinew of this country been submissive subjects to the classes who have used them, but to abuse them by framing all the enactments of this young country in the interests of the masses, and as a result to-day, what do we see? wealth being centralized in the hands of the few. Manufacturing nothing that we can get supplied conveniently elsewhere, and even the little that is left is to do, for the want of a proper tariff, if it is not done submissively upon the terms that capital may be pleased to dictate, the money of the people is used to import cheap labor to take the place of those "insolent" workmen. The labor of this country is beginning to have its eyes opened as evidenced by the present movement, which must go on gaining strength with the progress of intelligence among the working classes, and year after year will see the Canadian Labor League growing stronger until the just demands of labor must be heard by our legislators and full justice done the industrial classes. A full report of the proceedings will be given in our next issue.

THE OTTAWA FREE PRESS AND TRADES UNIONS.

Behold the Ottawa Free Press has spoken! and spoken in language that commands the serious attention of every faithful Canadian subject, who wishes well for the peace and prosperity of his country. Attend, then, ye Trades Unionists—who seek to sow the seeds of discord upon the fair and fertile soil of Canadian society—and mark the solemn and awful warning voice, which has been so seasonably uplifted by this mighty organ, in behalf of a class of innocent and inoffensive men—the Ottawa Capitalists. The harbinger of peace has gone forth. Hang down your heads with very shame, ye disseminators of strife, ye who delight in disarranging the delicate fabric of society, and allow the good news to be heralded abroad throughout the length and breadth of the land. Lay down the weapons of war—"The lion and the wolf shall feed together." Burst assunder the unhallowed bands that bind man to man in those evil and destructive organizations—designated Trades Unions. Be it known that the objects of such combinations are "unreasonable," and can never be realized in this happy country "where there is ample work and fair wages for all industrious artizans"—hence the folly of this combined effort on the part of workingmen is becoming every day more and more apparent as shown by the irrefragable testimony of the Ottawa Free Press—hear his oracular language:—

"We have had occasion frequently of late to write on the evil effects of Strikes, and of Trades Unions as at present constituted, with special relation to the Printer's Strike here. The principles we enunciated were applicable to the history of strikes everywhere. We showed how strikes crippled trade, were destructive in their influence on every industrial interest and commercial relation of a nation, induced poverty with all its attendant miseries, and ruined the prospects of working men even more hopelessly than those of the capitalist. With the lessons of the social and commercial history of England before us, it is madness and folly to import into this new country, where there is ample work and fair wages for all industrious artizans, the old animosities between labor and capital, to nurture hateful class feelings, to rise up interests antagonistic to harmony of operation between employer and employed, and to pursue courses of action that will bring to our fair young country, instead of our healthful and prosperous industries, stagnation of trade and the curse of unnecessary poverty."

If rumors be true, Joseph Arch has stepped within our borders, and is said to be engaged surveying our fruitful fields and waving forests, with a view to the transplanting from England to Canada those of his followers who have "organized" and entered upon the "war path," to liberate the enslaved and raise the downtrodden. He will better read this Ottawa "Oracle," and ponder well the path of his feet; let him know that it is madness and folly to import into this new country the

old animosities between capital and labor, to nurture hateful class feelings, &c." Who does not know what Mr. Joseph Arch has accomplished in England through the agency of Trades Unions? and who so dull as not to comprehend the nature of his mission to the American continent. Notwithstanding the trumpet of alarm that is sounding so loud from Ottawa, we venture to think that the man is not to be found in Canada, who would refuse to help in extending a friendly welcome to this same Mr. Arch, with all his Trades Unions notoriety, and ontreat him to view with favor the flattering inducements afforded by natural grandeur of our country to him and his co-workers that might lead them to settle down in our midst, full prints of their labor in a land where there is "bread and work for all."

Our contemporary further informs us that England is falling lower in the commercial world, and that she can no longer compete with other nations—especially America—in the labor market, a result attributable to strikes alone. We are told that

"Her workmen are having their wives and children pinched and starved and they are standing by in criminal idleness and neglect; standing out in perpetual strikes while their trade is leaving their districts, their cities and their shores, and being transferred to other lands. When trade was good, and everything indicated a long run of prosperity—when iron, and engines, and railway plant and other articles were in large demand for Canada, the United States and elsewhere, the workmen of England must needs bring misery to their happy homes, and ruin to their trade and nation, by suicidal strikes."

This is information for which we in Canada were ill prepared. We always believe ourselves to be well informed upon the real state of the labor market and the condition of the laboring men there; and our knowledge gave us, and gives us still to believe that such a representation as is given by this Ottawa paper is not at all in accordance with facts, but is utterly false. We would ask any one who has got a fair portion of that most important department of human wisdom, usually denominated common sense, to look into and impartially consider the present condition of the industrial classes in Britain, with the extensive network of trades organizations that now encircles the masses, and unites them into one common brotherhood; and contract it with their condition a century ago, when trades unions, comparatively speaking, were altogether unknown, and if the conclusion arrived at is not to the effect that the social condition of the workers is immeasurably improved, their influence extended and courted, and the value of their labor greatly enhanced, then we will be prepared to swallow the medicine prescribed by the Ottawa Free Press and other kindred papers, and believe that the work of Trades Unions "is now bearing its miserable fruits in the old country, and the worst we fear has not yet come," and ask ourselves the question, "why should not reason prevail, and an amicable adjustment of differences always sought in harmony with the exigencies of circumstances and the possibilities of accomplishment; and not that irrational resort to threats of strikes, which mean threats of ruin to employer and employee, and the disastrous paralysis of the trade of the country." A question which we are at all times disposed to ask, provided that with the word "strikes" is coupled that of "lock-outs."

We have only to converse with those disappointed immigrants, so many of whom have lately landed on our shores, not a few having again returned to the land from which they came. They tell us that labor in almost every department, and especially in the iron trades, was never in greater demand. Trades Unions never more prosperous, and harmony between employer and employed never more prevalent than at the present day. The working hours are far shorter and the comforts of the working classes far beyond what is to be found even in Canada.

Mr. JOSEPH ARCH is expected to arrive in Toronto on the evening of the 25th.

THE FINANCIAL CRISIS.

With the progress of mankind in all that is good, ennobling, and elevating, is also incorporated a superior cunning which is used by a designing class to retard progress, rob, degrade and keep in a state of semi-slavery the masses of the people. This class can be called, in a word, the capitalists, those who manipulate the monetary system of nations so as to rob the producer most effectually by a system which is becoming more and more apparent every day, to be nothing more or less than a huge system of legalized gambling. At best, the banking system is a cunningly devised scheme, founded upon a gold standard, with usurious interest, to absorb the the productions of labor without rendering an equivalent, making money kings of a few bankers and brokers, while the thousands who toiled to produce this result may still toil on, the only noticeable alteration in their situation being that their betters are becoming stronger as the wealth they create is centralized.

But what is considered a legitimate banking business, or money trade, that will gather 6 or 7 per cent for the use of a convenience, which, united with the productive energies of the nation, has been instrumental in advancing the national wealth 3 per cent in advance of its living requirements, is not enough for our fast money rings—or gamblers—now a days. Their thirst not only for all their productions is insatiable. They care not who may suffer so long as they may become rich in from a day to a year upon the exercise of their wits. Now, this reckless, unscrupulous, uncharitable and unchristian feeling that actuates the money world of the present day has long been a cause of deep thought and study to us, and we feel that this feeling has been shared with us by every intelligent and thoughtful workman in the country, and this prying into the causes that produce the most miserable effects upon our social system by the great army of labor, as they rise in the scale of intelligence so as to be able to comprehend them, cannot be long without its fruits. A higher tone of social life among the Anglo-Saxon race has long ago placed under the ban of law the more apparent or unrefined styles of gambling, and we hope to live to see the day when the many respectable and legalized modes of obtaining the fruits of the sweat of the face without rendering a just equivalent will be shook over the outskirts of civilization. Sooner or later this has got to come. We have only to open the peoples' eyes to the enormity of even a legitimate banking business and it must fall before the just indignation of the masses, whose substance, energies—life itself—is mortgaged to those great wealth centralizing corporations. As the natural result of this system, less than five per cent of the population of America to-day own half the wealth of the continent and it cannot be otherwise under our present system.

Then let the people generally give this subject more thought; let them try and devise ways and means to dispense with an institution, the fruits of which can only be extremes of poverty and extremes of wealth, by taking to itself, for the use of the medium of exchange, all the surplus production of the nation, along with four or five per cent that should go to feed and clothe the producer and his family. To be plain, labor pays 7 per cent for the convenience of money, a tool as it were that he uses in producing a surplus above living rates of three per cent, so it will be seen at a glance that the laborer has to cut down his living expenses actually 4 or 5 per cent, to pay capital for the use of the convenience. The only remedy we see at present is that the public should demand of their legislators that they be protected from the usurious demands of Bankers and brokers, and as soon as the people are ready for the change, to do away with private money corporations altogether, for the public have no right to be subjected to private rapacity. For a great public convenience government retains the power to make and regulate the power of money and they should also control the issue of it in the peo-

ple's interest and have the people pay just sufficient for its use to pay for the expense connected with its manufacture and issue. Only by some such means can those constantly recurring panics in what is called the money market be avoided. A change is necessary, and though it should prove a failure it cannot be worse than our present system which is constantly probing and making paupers of the industrious, and enriching a set of designing tricksters.

THE ELEVATION OF LABOR.

God helps those who help themselves.—This practical adage is one of those tersely stated truths which time in all its changing phases leaves still the same. It is the simple definition of Providence; it was true from the beginning, and will be true always. It is the watchword of success and progress, and who so neglects it, gives up his future to barren chance.

The application, however, may fall far short of that which an elevated intelligence would require. If properly applied, in the aggregate desire for general benefit, the result would be like the genial dews of heaven to vegetation, imparting bloom and fragrance to desolate humanity.

The poor worker, toiling day after day for the pittance of life to his little ones, which scantily keeps his poor frame in working order, when seeking his meagre home at night, looks into his stunted mind—stunted for want of thought and development—yet heedful of his stiffened muscle and weary joints, thinks he has fully acquitted himself of all the duties he owes, not only to himself, but to the coming generation, of which his own offspring must be active portions in some capacity.

And thus it is that one generation of drudges consigns the next to the same dull routine, perhaps worse, all because of mental indolence.

The grand principle underlying free government—that, in fact, upon which it is based—is contained in the pithy expression: *The most good to the greatest number.* Strangely enough, although our own government, beyond all others on earth, affords the best facilities for carrying out this elevated popular doctrine, it remains to a lamentable extent a dead letter. The greatest number seem, rather unaccountably, to forget the great injunction to active self-reliance: "Seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you." When we find those who should be most deeply, vitally interested, neglecting this truly divine warning, and fail, either to seek or to knock—when their rights are ignored or trampled, pray who are to blame?

Labor is both natural and necessary: upon it all civilization is founded and maintained; but we must not forget that: *"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."*

The gloomy absorption of the faculties in the joyless struggle for bare existence degrades the human creature down to that depth of mental debasement and blank stupidity where merit is forgotten and loathsome vice finds ready access, making his condition, in one word—slavery!

It is but a few years ago since the sympathies of a benevolent world were invoked against black slavery, and hundreds of thousands of useful lives were sacrificed in a protracted war for its extirpation—although the white man will scarcely permit himself to be transferred directly as a chattel, if the condition be arrived at indirectly, and he is socially shackled by usurping avarice, until freedom and independence are to him illusory shadows, is not the object effected just the same?

The profit and usefulness of the man, through possession of his corporeal labor, be he black or white, is all that is looked for; and to get these on the very lowest terms, is all that is wanted.

Whether you call the person who appropriates the labor of his fellow-man without equivalent, slave-owner or capitalist, makes little difference, the names are substantially interchangeable.

These evils, however, so far as they exist in America, are pre-induced by the