

## NOTICE.

We shall be pleased to receive copies of interest pertaining to Trade Societies from all parts of the Dominion for publication. Officers of Trades Unions, Secretaries of Lodges, 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.

Each insertion, ten cents per line.

Contract Advertisements at the following rates:	
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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 &amp; MacMILLAN.

## Trades Assembly Hall.

Meetings are held in the following order:—

Machinists and Blacksmiths, every Monday.  
Painters, 1st and 3rd Monday.  
Coachmakers, 2nd and 4th Monday.  
Crispins, (159), 1st and 3rd Tuesday.  
K.O.S.C. Lodge 356, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.  
Tinsmiths, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.  
Cigar Makers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.  
Iron Moulders, every Thursday.  
Plasterers, 1st and 3rd Thursday.  
Trades' Assembly, 1st and 3rd Friday.  
Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Friday.  
Geopers, 2nd and 4th Friday.  
Printers, 1st Saturday.  
Bakers, every 2nd Saturday.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

MOULDER, HAMILTON.—Communication did not arrive till our forms were ready for press. Will appear next week.

HEATHER JOCK.—Also received too late for insertion this week. Will appear in our next.

## The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1873.

## THE CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ACT.

One of the most difficult and important questions ventilated at the recent Leeds Congress, was the Criminal Law Amendment Act. It is well known to many of our readers that when this Act was brought forward, and before it was passed, the probable results were pointed out. Again and again it was shown by prominent trade unionists that that law did not protect the innocent; that its clauses were too vague and badly expressed; that it made many actions criminal which were perfectly legitimate and justifiable; that it would include some actions which were morally right. It made actions criminal when done by workmen which were not criminal when done by other people; and the bill was, upon the face of it, open to misconception, and liable to be abused. Its terms were undefined—it was a most complicated law. It was ably urged upon the Government that such a law ought not to be entrusted to unprofessional magistrates for interpretation or administration. But reason and protest seemed alike in vain. Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bruce refused to alter their bill, nor, when requested, did they condescend to define what they meant by the word "coerce." Their argument was that the fears of the workmen were ill grounded, and that what they feared could not possibly occur. But hardly had the echo of the words died away when the Bolton affair occurred, and men were convicted under this act, of standing in the streets and doing nothing. So flagrant was this outrage upon justice, that even Mr. Bruce declared "the original decision by the Bolton Magistrates was absurd, and quite contrary to the spirit of the law." But still there was no alteration of the law. Many other cases have occurred, equally as flagrant as that at Bolton; but nothing

has been done; Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bruce all the while calmly saying, "we must have experience of the working of the act."

It is evident, however, that the constant agitation of the matter, by the leading unionists in Great Britain must produce good results, and it is altogether likely that the motion for the repeal of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, to be moved by Mr. Mundella, and seconded by Mr. S. Morley, will receive the attention its importance merits.

We think it is time that the trade unionists in Canada were "up and doing" in reference to this matter. It has been found that the workings of the bill in the mother country have been evil only; that under its operations injustice of the most flagrant description has been perpetrated. Like causes will produce like results. The argument that the law in Canada has never been acted upon, and that, therefore, we have nothing directly to complain of, is not the point—the fact remains that the act is on the statute books, and efforts should be made to have it removed. It is to be regretted that it ever found a place there. But the circumstances under which the two bills were passed must be borne in mind. It was urgent that the Trades' Union Bill should be introduced without delay; and coming as they did at the close of the session, serious opposition to one part might have defeated the other. However, Sir John A. Macdonald has repeated that he will be pleased to consider any communication on this subject the workmen may bring before him, and, therefore we think it the duty of the various trade organizations to at once take measures to have their views properly presented, so that action may be taken at the present session of the Dominion Parliament.

## CONSCIENTIOUS SCRUPLES.

The Manchester *Examiner* says that the following is the reply of a firm at Rotherham, to a union deputation, which solicited an advance of wages:—

"In the carrying on of our works we acknowledge the principles laid down in God's Word, which recognises most fully the two classes, viz., masters and servants, and lengthily goes into the duties, obligations and responsibilities of each, and, as far as we know it, we carry out those principles—imperfectly, it may be—but we do not find in that word the slightest reference to any intermediate class between masters and servants; in fact, to do so, in effect, would be to destroy the relationship between the two. We therefore respectfully must decline to allow any person or persons to step between us and our workmen."

Dear me! what tender consciences that firm at Rotherham must possess! It is good to learn that there are some firms who are endeavoring to carry out the principles of the "Good Book" that enjoins upon all the golden rule, "do unto others as you would that others should do unto you," and we should imagine that under such circumstances the relation existing between employer and employed would be of the happiest kind. But the "Good Book" also declares the "laborer is worthy of his hire," and there seems to be an idea in the minds of the employed that they are not receiving a fair compensation for labor expended; and so very naturally, they desire an advance of wages. Very naturally, too, a deputation is appointed by them, to confer with the employers—but they politely say, "I pray you, have us excused." We have heard of many reasons advanced by employers to refuse a conference with their workpeople; but it is left for this firm at Rotherham to cap the climax, by refusing, on the ground that they do not find in "that Word the slightest reference to any intermediate class between masters and servants!"

## TINNERS' UNION.

At the last regular meeting of the Tinners' Union of this city, the following officers were elected for the ensuing term:—President, W. H. Richards; Vice-President, B. Fletcher; Recording and Financial Secretary, Wm. Leith; Treasurer, R. D. Ringham.

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

The 17th of March was celebrated with the usual *clat* in this city. In the morning Mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. Father Jamot, V.G., in the St. Michael's Cathedral, the sacred edifice being almost uncomfortably crowded by the immense concourse. Mass being concluded, the Very Rev. Vicar General Rooney preached a sermon suitable to the occasion. At the conclusion, the various societies united under their banners, and to the sound of national strains a large procession took its way through our principal streets. Arriving at the De La Salle Institute, addresses were delivered from many of the prominent men. In the evening the Christian Brothers gave a musical entertainment in their hall, which, it is needless to say, was crowded to the doors. A dramatic entertainment, by the boys of the institute, gave variety to the evening's entertainment.

It is gratifying to know that, with one or two very slight exceptions, the day passed off in harmony and perfect order—a fact which will be a source of congratulation to members of all phases of religious belief amongst Irishmen here and the community generally.

## THE SOUTH WALES STRIKE.

The happy results of importing courtesy, conciliation, and firmness into a dispute like the South Wales strike, have been shown by the Messrs. Brogden, in their recent meeting with the delegates of their workmen. They were resolute; they told their men they did not intend to yield to intimidation; and at the same time they announced themselves ready to receive the workmen's proposals, to discuss them, and to endeavor, in concert with the men, to arrive at an equitable settlement of the strike that was desolating South Wales. The end of the conference, conducted with manliness on both sides, was that the masters accepted the men's proposals. A tariff was agreed upon, to last over four or five months. At the expiration of the present understanding, both masters and men have agreed to hold another conference, at which the rate of future wages shall be amicably adjusted.

Here is a happy precedent worth cherishing. It is, indeed, the full recognition of the principle on which the French *Prud'hommes* act. In Paris (to give an instance) the paper stainers, masters and men, meet annually, and, before their Court of Conciliation, agree to a binding tariff for every pattern to be printed within the year. Is it quite impossible to establish such a court and such procedure in industrial England or Canada.

## TRADE DIFFICULTY IN ORILLIA.

A trade dispute has occurred in Orillia, in connection with the Knights of St. Crispin, which resulted in the prosecution of four of the men belonging to that order. We have, unfortunately, received the particulars at too late an hour to enable us to publish them this week, but shall do so in our next issue.

## GEORGE R. GREGG.

Many of our readers will learn with the deepest regret of the death of Mr. George Gregg, so long and favorable known in connection with the press of Canada, which occurred in Ottawa, on Tuesday morning last, from inflammatory rheumatism. He commenced his career with his foot upon the lowest round of the ladder, and by the force of his abilities and perseverance steadily mounted from carrying the route, to case, on to local, proof reader, reporter, step by step, till he arrived at the position of associate editor.

The funeral of the deceased will take place on Friday, when, amongst the many who will pay their last tribute of respect to his memory, the members of the Toronto Typographical Union—of which the deceased was for many years an honorary member—will follow his remains to their last resting place.

THE ST. LAWRENCE BANK.—We beg to remind our readers that the above-named new Bank has commenced operations in Toronto under favorable auspices. See notice in another column.

## A LIVELY DEBATE.

In the Ontario Legislature, on Thursday night, there was a lively debate on the Supplies. The debate developed the fact that \$124 were paid for champagne and whisky glasses, dishes, etc., and \$224 for chromos and pictures for the Speaker's room. We well remember the hue and cry that was raised by the then Opposition, when it was proposed to provide a billiard table for the Lieut. Governor's residence, and erect a ball room, etc., and when they assumed office it was at least expected that economy would be the watch-word of the Reform party; but the little bills of account produced by Mr. Rykert during the debate, prove that the business of the country is not being carried on with the strictest economy. If the present Government wishes to retain the confidence of the country, they will have to see to it that their professions and practices in respect to economy are not so widely at variance.

## TRADES' UNION LEGISLATION.

A meeting of the parliamentary committee appointed by the late Trades' congress held at Leeds was held recently at the offices, Buckingham street, Strand; Mr. D. Guile in the chair. Mr. George Howell, the secretary, brought up the report, defining the course of parliamentary action to be taken during the present session. Mr. Mundella and Mr. S. Morley will move and second a motion for the repeal of the Criminal Law Amendment act. Mr. Vernon Harcourt and Mr. Henry James have undertaken to raise a debate upon the subject of the Masters' and servants' act and law of conspiracy. When this debate has taken place, and the views of the Government upon the subject has been ascertained, the committee contemplate further parliamentary action, which will be in time duly made known. The committee wish also to state that other questions are under its consideration—namely, that of the summary jurisdiction of magistrates, and admission of workmen to discharge the duties of jurymen; and that intend to take action upon the bill introduced by the Attorney-general to alter the constitution of the jury system, and will take care that the workmen's side of the question shall be put before the House of Commons and the country. The committee calls upon the trades' societies and upon workmen in general for united action at this important time, and urges upon them the pressing necessity of not letting the opportunity pass without making vigorous effort to secure their complete emancipation from unjust laws and from class legislation. The first public meeting in support of the repeal of all penal laws specially affecting workmen will be held in a few days at the town hall Shoreditch.

## CONVICT LABOR.

Now that the legislatures of most of the states are in session, would it not be advisable for our workmen in the various states to get up petitions for the modification or the abolishment of the contract system in the several penitentiaries of the union. Under the present system much injustice is done to the outside mechanic, against whose labor the cheap labor of the convict is brought into competition. This is a subject that legislators cannot afford to sneer at, for the day is not far distant when, if the system is not so modified as to approximate somewhat to the value of outside labor, a cry will go up from the people demanding its entire abolition.

This question of convict labor is now occupying the attention of nearly all our trades' unions, and is being very generally discussed by men whether of trade union proclivities or not; for men of all trades are beginning to see that it is not so much the education and reformation of the convict that is the moving principle as it is the cupidity and avarice of mean and unscrupulous employers of labor. This utter disregard of the interests of the working people is beginning to raise a storm of indignation that, when once aroused, will not be easily assuaged. The working people of this continent are slow to move, they

prefer to suffer the wrongs that be, while there is a shadow or a hope of reformation. But those in power should remember that there is a point at which forbearance ceases to be a virtue, and when that point is reached a people become, as it were, seized with a frenzy and hurl from power those who have refused to listen to their appeals.

We are not of those who counsel rash or unwise measures, but we would be false to our teachings were we to refuse to listen to the logic of events. Our industrial classes, both mechanical and agricultural, are groaning under the weight of federal and state taxation. The farmer is not compensated for his crops, nor the mechanic for his labor, and yet when we look over the list of frauds carried on in our state prisons we find they embrace the most lucrative of our industries, and when we add to this that hundreds of convicts are in comfortable quarters in the state penitentiaries, and clothed and fed at the expense of the state, while as many of its citizens are compelled to go idle while their families are in want, we cannot refrain from expressing our fears for the future. Similar causes gave birth to communism and anarchy in other lands. Let the legislatures take heed in time, and so far as they are concerned remove all cause for a resort to communistic or aggrarian principles.

The present system of convict labor is a grievance of greater magnitude than is generally supposed by those in power, and as it affects the bread and butter of many a man's family, may at any moment raise a tide of popular indignation that would sweep from its path all opposition. We say, let us be wise in time.—*Workingman's Advocate*.

## THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

Crowded houses have been the order of the day in connection with this popular place of amusement. Quilter and Goldrich are immensely popular in their inimitable songs and dances. The applause that greets Mr. Hughes in his champion club exercises does not abate in the slightest degree. The evolutions of Miss Annie Hughes and La Petite Ella in their various dances are most graceful; while the mirth provoking qualities of Harry and Miss Fanny Woods are perfectly irresistible. New stars are announced for next week.

PERSONAL.—Mr. Saffron, President of Moulders' International Union, was in this city on Tuesday and Wednesday on matters connected with the union. He was received by a deputation from Moulders Union No. 28, and was warmly greeted by the members of that organization.

L. O. Lodge No. 275 had a very pleasant re-union on Tuesday evening last, when occasion was taken to present Bro. F. H. Medcalf, P. W. M. of the lodge, with a handsomely illuminated address and a gold headed cane, as a testimonial of the respect and esteem in which he is held by the members. Bro. Medcalf replied in suitable and touching terms, and at the close of the presentation speeches, toasts and songs were indulged in, till the wee sma' hours. The company separated highly delighted with the entire proceedings.

H. J. SAUNDERS.—In another column will be found the advertisement of this gentleman, whose place of business—"The Queen City Clothing Store"—is at 332 Queen street west. Workingmen in the western part of the city will find it to their advantage to give Mr. Saunders a share of their custom, as he is a first-class tailor and cutter, and his prices low.

WORKINGMEN'S WIVES will find at Eaton & Co.'s most beautiful Spring Prints.

At a late temperance meeting in Ottawa the Chairman said the medical fraternity of the city were becoming alive to the disastrous effects resulting from the use of alcoholic liquors. He had much pleasure in reading to them the following document, signed by all the medical men of the city, with the exception of two:—"We, the undersigned members of the medical profession of the city of Ottawa, are of opinion that a large proportion of human misery, poverty, disease, and crime, is annually produced by the abuse of alcoholic liquors as ordinary beverages or otherwise. That abstinence from intoxicating liquors, whether fermented or distilled, is consistent with the highest degree of physical and mental vigor and health. That abstinence from all intoxicating liquor would greatly promote the health, morality, and happiness of large numbers of the human race."