THE STRIKE.

Mr. Hickson's Views on the Subject—The Agreement Arrived at.

(Montreal Gazette of Saturday.)

An interview with Mr. Hickson was evening developed the fact that all existing difficulties between the company and the men have been settled. This was practically the case a few days ago, but yesterday afternoon a deputation of the men from all western points except Port Huron spent some five hours in conference with Mr. Hickson in arranging details of agreement and left at the expiration of that time fully satisfied with the arrangement arrived at. The men tried in their own way to justify their recent acts in the west on the ground that they thought they were going to be harshly treated. In the matter of Mr. Hickson's address given by Mr. Drinkwater, "Joe. Hickson, New York," Mr. Hickson explained that they need not have imagined that there were so many Hicksons in New York, as all the telegrams sent with that address were understood to be for him, and were at once forwarded to his house by the telegraph company officers, who were aware that the messages were intended for the Manager of the Grand Trunk railway. The agreement entered into, and upon which the men resume work, is practically upon a basis embraced in the memorandum, and is, in effect, that all discharged men who have been guilty of no improprietor and of violence be taken back into the Company's service; that the work be divided equally among all the employees; that in regard to these conditions it will be remembered that the Company had, a few days before the strike, issued orders all along the line—as stated in the *Gazette* at the time—for the re-employment of a large number of the men who had left its service; that a letter was issued owing to the increase in the bulk of through traffic, much of which had been discontinued on account of the very low rates obtained thereon, the Company, in fact, having concluded to give up the through freight altogether. The increase in the rates had afterwards been such as to make it an object for the Company to continue it and develope more largely that department of its business. Another condition in the settlement is that some of the lower grades be abolished and the classification be made more simple; also, that the men who had left the Company's service should resume work before the final settlement is made as to the details, and that no man who has been guilty of any improper act of violence is to be re-engaged.

Mr. Hickson also mentioned that a disposition was manifested by the men of the higher class to make some sacrifice for the benefit of those of lower class—that is to share equally the burden of this call made upon them for the reduction.

Mr. Hickson drew attention to some of the very harsh criticisms of the Western newspapers, notably the *Globe*, which he inferred that he had been unwilling to make just concessions to the men, and had called the determination to carry out the views entertained by him in regard to the strikers. With regard to that the management had simply that the Government of the country had proved unable to preserve law and order, and for any company or corporation to depend on such a business singlehanded, it must be evident to any one of common sense the loss of revenue consequent upon such a struggle would prove enormous—would be certainly sufficient to swamp any ordinary corporation. No manager of the Grand Trunk railway would ever have supposed that a few men discharged from the company would be allowed to take the law into their own hands, and by threats and actions defy the running of the company's trains.

As to the remarks made in the same article to effect that the next time employees or volunteers he would find it a difficult matter to get them, he could only say that he had already found it a difficult matter to get them in the first instance as it was, and that when the assistance did come it was wholly inefficient. He considered that it certainly was not to the credit either of the Dominion or municipal Government to allow the idea that it took all the title from Saturday morning until Tuesday night to get a sufficient force together at Belleville to cope with a couple of hundred rioters, while the efforts to get a similar force at Strathroy and Belleville were altogether unsuccessful. Probably it had never occurred to those who made the statement contained in the Globe article, that even had these points been protected there was nothing in the world to keep these rioters from proceeding to other points along the line—beyond the jurisdiction of the Belleville authorities, and where the municipal authorities of those points had not adequate force—and stopping the trains when proceeding, as they had done at Belleville. When the Government were applied to for protection they had referred the company to the municipal authorities, just as they have done between Port Sarnia and Quebec some twenty or thirty months since. The Government application had been made for protection against some two or three hundred men in the municipality, all they had to do was to send a sufficient force had been raised to quell them was to move further along the line to another point. This seemed, at the time, to thought, the difficulties of the situation.

THE FINAL INTERVIEW.

MONTREAL, 11 A.—Another interview between Mr. Wallis, the Mechanical Superintendant, and a deputation of engineers headed by Mr. Jenkins took place this morning at which the best of feeling prevailed, and the recent misunderstanding was smoothed over. Matters of detail were not discussed, and the arrangements entered into upon the basis of the agreement of 1871, save the classes of engineers and firemen are to be reduced to two classes respectively. Previously the engineers were divided into three classes and the firemen into two. The result of this modification will be that promotion takes place in both the engine and the engineer and firemen at the end of one year's service. The rates of drivers going temporarily out of commission from lack of work, or slightly reduced. All the men who have been discharged are to be taken back, except in the case of those who have used personal violence, and the company will withdraw all prosecutions for leaving their engines. The interview with the circulator of Mr. Hickson announcing the reduction of 20 per cent. of the pay, service, and a subsequent reduction of the number of engineers and firemen, it is now expected that this will not be carried out as the termination of the railroad war has decided the company to accept all through freight offered to it.

EYE-GLASSES.—But in "general it happens people do not know precisely the time when spectacles become necessary. They perceive some imagine there is a certain period of the human life when eye-glasses are required, which has given rise to that popular notion, of many self-styled opticians to prepare spectacles for every age, which they generously dispose of to the ignorant and inexperienced. As soon as a man of fifty years of age, for example, has, through sore experience, forced his sight for a few days, he begins to imagine he must have spectacles. These he obtain, asking for and being told they are the best for his particular age; and after a short time he probably arrives at the conclusion that he can see better without them." The fact is that some men of seventy, or even eighty years of age, can read with sight as well as at any period of their lives, while their children and perhaps grandchildren, cannot do it without glasses. The time when this beneficent and blessed invention of the great Roger Bacon, which so called "dark ages" it needed, depends not only on the special conformation of the eyes, but on the care that has been taken of it—the proper use, or the abuse—the neglect of nice attention in washing, &c., or the contortion of compulsory work during too many hours, over very minute or shining objects, and with injurious lights. The simplest rules for ascertaining the need of eye-glasses are, firstly, to note if you are obliged to remove small print or small objects farther than usual from your eyes, in order to see them distinctly; secondly, if you find yourself involuntarily moving nearer to the light than was usual in days gone, in order to read a letter or book; thirdly, if very small objects appear confused after you have looked at them for any length of time; fourthly, if the eyes, after a little close attention to anything, become so fatigued that you are obliged to lean back to give them relaxation; and, lastly, if the sight, on first waking in the morning, does not recover its customary degree of force until some time after. As for the choice of eye-glasses, here are a few plain rules to begin with: "In the first place, good glasses ought never to magnify the objects very much, but merely to show them to as clear, simple, and exactly such as they are. Even in the exceptional cases where short sight or magnifiers are needed, the proof when they are too strong will be when you are obliged to bring the object much closer to the eye than a sound sight requires"—in brief, "every person ought, generally speaking, to be able to read convenient with his spectacles at the same distance that he was accustomed to while his visual powers were perfect." All eye-glasses should be formed of pure glass. There should be no specs, rays, globules, or other imperfections. "There is a common prejudice," says Mr. White Cooper, "in favour of *pebbles*, and they certainly possess two advantageous qualities—extreme hardness, rendering it difficult to scratch or break them, and clearness, never becoming dull from moisture." Surely these are important advantages, and they are also considered to be cooler than other glass. The only thing against them is that they cost so very much more than all other glasses. But good and true eyeglasses should be in all their parts of an equal thickness, in proportion to their convexity, as well as of an equal density, and other test of true eye-glasses is by holding them obliquely over print, all the letters of which will preserve their true character if the glasses are correct." It must never be forgotten that the *frame*, in which eye-glasses set must be exactly suited to the wearer, because the breadth or narrowness of the upper part of the nose—in fact, the space between the two eye—differs so much with different people, that the centres of the glasses and the centre of the eyes are not sure to agree unless perfectly adjusted. For this reason, if there were no other reason, it is best to have spectacles made expressly for you by a qualified optician. With the vendors of cheap spectacles "do unit all sights" this is never considered, because the wholesale manufacturer makes them to a common standard to suit all noses, and not the nose of any "particular fellow." Frames that maintain their position by pinching the nose should not be used.—*Fraser's Magazine.*

A large water wheel in Nicklin's mill, Acton, burst suddenly in pieces the other day.

CANADIAN.

The population of Mitchell is 2,379, or a gain of 56 over last year.

Durham bakers have increased the price of bread from 12 to 14 cents per 4lb. loaf.

The Mitchell market fees for 1877 were sold to Mr. James McLaherty for $1,060.

Over 200 invited guests were present at the wedding of Miss Sergeant, of Carafraxa, on Thursday, the 25th December.

"Our farmers have never before complained so much of hard times as at present." So says the Brussels *Post*.

There are 269 scholars between the ages of five and twenty-one in the Brucebridge school section—most of them under sixteen.

The Brussels brass band serenaded the principal residents of the town on New Year's day, and received the sum of $120 from the different persons thus honoured.

For the quarter ending December 12th there were in the County of Huron thirty-six convictions for drunkenness, and thirty-one convictions for violation of the License Act.

The hens in the Township of Albion are dying by the wholesale—Darwin still with a complaint called the epizootic. The unfortunate egg-layers take sick one day and are dead the next.

A woman named Shaver, at Port Dalhousie, on Thursday, Dec. 28th, was playing with a revolver, and received the bullet in her side. The aim was not good, the missile passing near the surface to do her much harm.

The sporting men of Sarnia and Port Huron are to have a pigeon-shooting match next Tuesday, 9th inst., for $500 a side, each member being privileged to name a substitute. Invitations have been extended to all the crack shots in the west to be present.

Mr. Thomas West, of Winnipeg, Manitoba, is now in Brantford, on a visit to his friends and relatives. He gives a glowing account of the rapid progress the Province is making, and also of his adopted city's tremendous strides in the matters of wealth and population.

Mr. George Wright, who went to England recently with a number of horses for the English market, returned on Saturday, 23rd ult. We were pleased to hear that on the whole his venture was a successful one, though he lost three horses immediately after landing. One of the colts, "Bay Charley," got loose on the voyage, and, being kept apart from the rest, he muttered, "I will ever avenge my unfortunate brother." A clean done at last. I must see what Janet's got to say!" and he pulled the bell-rope.

"Tell Mistress Janet I'm wanting her," he said to the maid-servant who appeared in answer to the call.

Mistress Janet was the housekeeper, a thriftly body, who had lived for forty years at Brackenwaul, in the same place, the house laird was born, and without whom lately it would have been a hard matter to have made both ends meet; for the fortunes of the house had been on the decline for many years, and the encumbered estate which came to Rankail on the death of his father had not been improved by his having spent a few years in a cavalry regiment, during which he had acquired with much ease a habit of throwing his money about, the result of which was not sufficient to prevent the savage brute from tearing the boy, and the stock had to be brought to bear on a Highland Fling. Time, 2 min. 30 sec. Distance, 2 miles. Ground, with as lives again; Sky blue, and developed yellow. In the dainty Amuse.

Spectator, London. B. P.

THE LAIRD'S RELIEF.

(IN TWO PARTS.)

PART I.

Ranald M'Lean, the young Laird of Brackenlaugh, was evidently in trouble. As he stood by the window with his fingers in his pockets, and his eyes fixed on the ceiling, he looked as uneasy in his mind as he looked uneasy in his mind. Outside, the clouds hung heavily, and every now and again a gust of wind would ripple the surface of the water in the bay, and the gentle ripple on the water that meant a breeze, and the breeze that meant a storm at sea; and as he looked down on the brawling river Bracken that rushed along in its dark-coloured fulness between the fishermen, and saw the heavy splash of some old stagers that lay under the alders in his favourite pool, he gave an occasional impatience. Turning to the table on which lay the morning letters, and with his eyes glancing from one to the other, as if they spoke to the reader, he muttered, "I wish ever anything is unfortunate, I'm clean done at last. I must see what Janet's got to say!" and he pulled the bell-rope.

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