

THE EQUALIZATION OF ALL ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY IN THE SOCIAL SCALE SHOULD BE THE TRUE AIM OF CIVILIZATION.

VOL. I.

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NO. 9

Labor Notes.

The strike of bricklayers at Sheffield has terminated, the masters having granted the demands of the men.

The dispute in the Sheffield razor trade has been referred to a conference of masters and men.

A general meeting of the coopers of Leith and Edinburgh was held in Cockburn street Hall on Friday week, when it was unanimously agreed to petition their employers for a reduction of the hours of labour from 57 to 51 hours per week.

The master masons in Cupar-Fife and neighborhood have declined to comply with the demands of the operatives for an advance of pay from 5d to 5½d per hour. Consequently, a number of the men gave up work on Saturday.

On Monday, the builders' labourers at Leamington struck for an advance of 2s 4d per week. The masters afterwards met and granted the advance. The labourers formerly received 18s 10d, and will now get £1 1s 2d per week.

WASHERWOMEN ON THE STRIKE.—A good deal of amusement was caused at Teignmouth on Monday by the town crier announcing a strike of the washerwomen and laundresses, and declaring their resolution not to work henceforth for less than 1s 6d a day.—*Western Morning News.*

The strike of floorecloth workers at Kirkcaldy was brought to a close by a compromise stipulating that the 54 hours come into operation forthwith, and that an advance of wages also take place.

The farm labourers in the county of Surrey, stimulated by strikes of agricultural labourers in other districts, are holding out for an increase of remuneration, and good mowers and field labourers have obtained an advance of wages.

During last week several large and enthusiastic open-air meetings were held in North Warwickshire, and in and near Banbury, in Oxfordshire, and about a dozen branches of the union formed. The Warwickshire Union has now 50 branches, and nearly 6,000 members. A party of labourers (about 30) left Banbury for Brazil last week, and next week a farmer at Napton, Warwickshire, takes out 60 men to the same country.

The employes of the steamboat companies plying on the River Thames have submitted a memorial requesting that their wages may remain the same in the winter as in the summer, and that they may have one day's holiday every fortnight. The Citizen Steamboat Company have refused the request, and a strike is threatened. The average wages of the men are said to be 25s for seven days labour of 14 hours per day.

A public meeting of the Forfar factory workers has resolved to petition in favour of the bill introduced by Mr. Mundella for shortening the hours of labour, and also to raise a penny subscription from all factory workers in Forfar—male and female—for the purpose of defraying the necessary expenses of promoting the objects of the meeting in question.

On Tuesday, a large meeting of joiners and carpenters of London was held in St. James' Hall. All the speakers were artisans, and advocated the nine hours limit and an increase of pay from 8d to 9d an hour. Remarks made on a code of rules just drawn up against piece-work were loudly cheered. A resolution was passed expressing regret at the refusal of the masters to receive a deputation of men, and deciding that on 1st June the men should cease work in such shops as delegates think fit.

The horse-shoers of Boston and vicinity have agreed to demand the following increased wages: First-class firemen, \$21 a week; second-class firemen, \$19; first-class drivers, \$19; second-class drivers, \$17. Members of the Horse-shoers' Association out of employment in consequence of the strike are to receive \$6 a week for three

weeks, at the end of which period they may seek situations in the country.

HORSEWHIPPING A LABOURER.—The attention of the Home Secretary has been called to the assault committed upon a labourer, named Bodfish, at Tedmarton. Mr. Charles Garrett, a farmer, had accused Bodfish of making the men dissatisfied with their condition, and of having attended a union meeting. According to his own statement, Bodfish was at work in a field, when Garrett went up to him, told him he had come to give him a good thrashing, and then began belabouring him with his riding whip, continuing to do so until the man was quite exhausted. The matter was brought under the notice of Mr. Norris, one of the magistrates for the county, who, at first, said he could not grant a summons without seeing Garrett, and afterwards suggested that the case should be settled for £4. A large meeting of labourers was held at Bloxham, near Banbury, when a demand was made that Mr. Norris should be disqualified from acting any longer as magistrate. Subscription lists have since been opened for the prosecution of Garrett.

ARBITRATION IN THE BUILDING TRADE.—Some time ago the three branches of the building trade of Birmingham, represented by the carpenters and joiners, the plasterers, and the labourers, gave notice in accordance with the rules agreed on between masters and men four years ago, that they claimed a reduction of the working time from 56½ hours per week to 50½ hours per week. The masters declined to accede to the claim, and the matter was accordingly referred to a board of arbitration. The arbitrator has just given his award. In it he says that he had to consider not only the desires of the parties before him, but the combined interest of both, so as not to disturb their trade and check the demand for building. He had come to the conclusion that though customers might be disposed to accept the results of the nine hours' movement, they would not at present willingly enter into bargains based upon still shorter hours. He, therefore, as much in the interest of the workmen as the employer, decided that an average of nine hours per day, that was 54 hours, be the working week. This does not apply to the three winter months.

A meeting of the male factory workers of Coupar-Angus was held in the Masons' Hall on Saturday evening to consider Mr. Mundella's Bill. A working man presided. The meeting was addressed by the chairman and several members of a deputation from Blairgowrie, who spoke in praise of the bill, and read a letter from Mr. Parkre, M.P., received that afternoon, which said: "I like not to pledge myself till I hear both sides of the question; but I think Mr. Mundella knows what he is about, and it looks to me like a good bill. Even if wages were to fall a little in consequence of the hours being shortened, and the work turned out less, still there would be a gain in health and happiness. It would be sad if the increased power of doing work by machinery is not in the end to give more leisure, as well as more comforts to the working classes." The letter was received with applause, and a committee was appointed to obtain signatures to a petition in support of the bill. The meeting was very enthusiastic and unanimous.

A NEW STYLE OF CIGAR.—The most inveterate and copious inventor of the nineteenth century has just received a patent for a new-fangled cigar. The "improvement consists in a chemically prepared wrapper and a corn stalk mouthpiece attachment—absorbing the nicotine developed by smoking, and permitting the entire consumption of the cigar, thus saving to the smoker that portion of the cigar usually wasted by reason of being placed in the mouth. A saving of thirty-three per cent. is claimed for this cigar over the one now in use. The other is that the smoker has a fresh, new and agreeable 'holder' with each cigar."

That the spirit of toleration is making favorable progress in Japan is proved by an Imperial decree having just been issued abolishing all edicts against Christianity.

CABLE NEWS.

MADRID, June 7.—The Senate has adopted a resolution approving the conduct of Marshal Serrano in Navarre, which is declared as wise as it was merciful. Senor Castellar made a speech in the Cortes yesterday, in the course of which he defended the Commune and International Society.

LONDON, June 8.—The *Daily Telegraph* this morning says, it has reason to believe the negotiations with the United States Government relative to a definite settlement of the consequential damages controversy, are progressing satisfactorily.

BOMBAY, June 8.—The steamer has arrived from Zanzibar with news which puts the safety of Dr. Livingstone beyond a doubt. Couriers had reached Zanzibar from the interior with positive intelligence that Dr. Livingstone had arrived at Unyamwebe. Stanley the *Herald* explorer had left that place with letters from the great explorer, and was near the coast.

FLORENCE, June 9.—The inundation on the shores of the Po has rendered 22,000 persons homeless in the Province of Ferrara alone. The destruction and suffering in the neighboring river Provinces are not so general, but are extensive and severe.

THE CARLIST RISING.—In spite of the rumours to the contrary, the insurrection is still alarming, bad news having been received from Taragona.

LONDON, June 10.—Earl Granville will make a statement to-morrow in the House of Lords with regard to negotiations for the amendment of the Treaty of Washington.

THE BALLOT BILL.—The Ballot Bill passed the second reading in the House of Lords, by a vote of 56 against 36.

LONDON, June 11.—Captain Cameron is gazetted as surveyor of the boundary line between the United States and the Dominion of Canada, through the lakes, forests and Rocky Mountains.

PARIS, June 10.—The National Assembly this evening, there was an animated discussion over an amendment to the Army Bill, reducing the term of military service from five to four years. President Thiers emphatically declined further responsibility for the army if the amendment was adopted, and it was finally rejected by a vote of 59 to 945.

BERLIN, June 11.—The Prussian *Cross Gazette* announces that the Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria will visit Berlin next September.

FOREIGN.

It is said by those who have the means of forming a good judgment, that the profits of the coal-masters was never before, in memory of man, so large as they are at present.

A gentleman recently married in Chicago presented his bride at the wedding with the original transcript of one of the first despatches ever sent over the first telegraph line, from Baltimore to Washington. It was the announcement to the lady's grandmother of her birth, and read, "Only a girl."

The iron shipbuilding yard of Messrs. Davison and Stokoe, of Sunderland, has been burnt down, the whole of the buildings, with the valuable machinery, which were only erected a few months ago, being totally destroyed, and the damage is estimated at several thousand pounds, which is covered by insurance.

A wife with some "dash" about her has just been "brought to the hammer" at Exeter. According to a Western paper, the lady was formerly the spouse of an Exeter man, but she was of too "showy" a nature, it appears for his liking. A Plymouth gentleman, of more exalted taste, saw the fair creature, and was charmed. Negotiations were opened, and the woman was "knocked down" to the Plymouth gentleman for £50.

The steamer *Boyne*, which arrived at Southampton the other night with the Brazil mail, when off Cape Finisterre, found her speed suddenly diminish, although her steam power was kept up. After some time the diminished speed was discovered to be owing to a huge whale which the cutter of the ship had struck and penetrated in the centre, and was driving along. The

whale must have been floating on the surface dead or asleep when the ship struck it. The passengers wanted the monster to be hauled on board, but the captain could not afford the time to do so. He, therefore, backed the ship for some distance, and the leviathan became disengaged and sunk.

THE UPRISING OF LABOR IN N. Y.

On Thursday last the movement assumed a serious aspect, in consequence of one of the men who remained in work being shot in the mouth by a carpenter during a scuffle. The wound was not fatal. The wounded man was attended to, and the other immediately arrested.

The outrage on Thursday was the subject of much unfavourable comment on Friday, the men feeling that through the mistake of one hot-headed striker much has been done to turn public opinion from them, and to retrieve their good name seems to be the purpose of each and every one.

A meeting of the employees of the gas-works, to the number of 2,000, was held and a demand for the eight hours made. The Company have acceded.

The operatives in Singer's sewing machine factory were "locked out."

The wood-working machinists held a meeting, and passed resolutions joining in with the eight-hour reformers.

The wood-turners resolved to strike on Monday.

The iron-workers held a meeting, at which over 5,000 were present, and it was decided to demand eight hours on Thursday. Eight firms in Brooklyn and twelve in New York have promised to accede to the demand.

The demonstration on Monday in favor of the Eight Hour Movement was a grand success. An imposing procession, numbering in its ranks over 20,000 of the workmen of New York paraded the streets with bands playing, banners flying, marshals arrayed in their best, galloping to and fro, the spectators shouting and cheering, the whole army of workmen marching through the streets amid the waving of handkerchiefs and deafening shouts of "Vivat" and "Hurrah"—making the spectacle well worth witnessing. The workmen, realizing the power of their numbers, were cheerful and buoyant as they marched on under the cheering of the multitude. Amongst the numerous mottoes displayed were the following: "No compromise: Eight Hours is our Motto," "Those who would be free themselves must strike the blow," "Long live the Republic." During the course of the procession Mr. Myer Firm handed the grand marshal \$100, "for the purpose of improving the condition of the mechanic and the workmen."

The Aldermen have granted the petition of the Eight Hour League, and ordered that the fire bells be sounded at 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., the hours for beginning and discontinuing labor under the eight hour law.

ENGLISH CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

Some very interesting statistics were brought out at the recent Co-operative Convention at Bolton, England. The number of co-operative stores in the counties of England, Ireland, and Scotland at present is 1,500, possessing over 400,000 members. The largest and most prosperous of these number from 1,000 to more than 4,000 members. There are thirty societies which have from 2,000 to 3,000 members. Four hundred societies have a total of 177,263 members. The productive societies are mainly situated in Lancashire, Yorkshire, Glasgow, Nottinghamshire, Paisley, Newcastle, Durham, and Stafford. The distributive stores embrace almost every varieties of articles in use by the working classes. There is a wholesale society in the north of England, in the co-operative district, which supplies 398 societies with goods, and has no less than 235 societies in federation. Its net profit last year was nearly \$40,000, and its total sales during twelve months up to April 1, 1872, amounted to more than \$3,793,820. This society has agents in all the great markets, and proposes to send agents here to buy bacon, cheese and other American

products. One Scottish wholesale society has ninety-seven retail stores in federation, and an annual trade of \$1,000,000. All its surplus capital is invested exclusively in co-operation. Of the retail co-operative societies in England, those at Oldham, Rochdale and Halifax are the most prosperous. That at Oldham has 8,000 members, a capital of \$2,550,000, and its receipts during the past year were \$1,500,000. The Congress which sat at Bolton declared itself in favor of the establishment of co-operative banks. It wound up with a grand banquet given to all the delegates by the Hon. Auber-ton Herbert.

THE LABORER'S HOPE.

All our sympathies are with the laborer. His toils, cares, trials, wants, hopes, and hardships, we thoroughly understand. Anything and everything that can be done to lighten his burden and improve his lot should receive instant attention and advocacy. We have not a particle of patience with the rich and comfortable classes who look down with indifference upon the great mass of workers, and when asked to lighten their burdens or increase their pay, or improve their conditions, repeat worn-out platitudes about self-help and conquering a success. Such a temper is tyrannical, and such talk is impertinence. What the laborer needs is simply justice. All that he can reasonably ask is a fair field and pay for the work he does. All that he insists upon is the common right to his manhood, and the respect and privileges due him as an American citizen. To withhold these is not only to increase his difficulties and embitter his spirit, but to put the severest possible check upon material progress and social welfare, and dry up the springs of enterprise out of which a great prosperity is to come. The more capital identifies itself with labor, the better for both. The more employers blend their interests with those of their employes, the more harmonious and profitable their relations will be.

Indeed, the popular distinction between labor and capital is generally arbitrary and superficial. The hardest working men in America to-day are capitalists and merchants, and manufacturers. Every man who drives a plane or swings an axe, or uses a trowel is a capitalist to the extent of his industrial ability and skill. To all practical purposes in this country the two classes are one.

We all stand together on common ground. And the interest and hope of the laborer consist very largely in his recognition of the fact that work is not war but concord. All the great avenues of life are open to him. All the common privileges of society are his rights. The schools are for his children. The newspaper is his library. The debating club is his college. The polls are his Congress. And it only needs for him to see that by the largest and wisest possible use of his opportunities he will rise in dignity, and win respect, and become a more important factor in the sphere to which he belongs. His hope consists in the increase of his usefulness. Multiply his productive ability or improve the quality of his work, and he enriches and grows rich. The more he identifies his interest with that of his employer, and the more brain and heart he puts into what he does, the handsomer will be his returns and the happier his lot.

The standing complaint of American workmanship is its inferior quality. It wants more skill and patience, and a finer and more careful habit, to bring it up to the highest standard. It takes something more than fingers to do anything well. The hope of the laborer is in putting more thought and more love into his doing. His work wears because it wants the lubricating oil of a nobler mood to prevent the friction of his faculties. It is the fact that he is not a machine, but a soul that vindicates itself continually when a man consents to be a mere drudge for pay. It is the heart that gives dignity and cunning to the hand and what it does, and heart-work never tires, and is always fine. It is not fewer hours of work, but more of this recognition of the identity of classes and interest, and more thought and thrift and love, that are the laborer's hope. And eight hours of honest, hearty, whole-souled work will be better and more profitable for the employer than ten or twelve hours of heartless droning.—*Golden Age.*