

Communications.

THE WATER COMMISSIONERS.

To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.

SIR,—I, too, like others of your working readers, feel deeply interested in the approaching election of Water Commissioners, which deservedly claims all the attention that the working class can possibly afford, it being a question in which the interests of the working community are specially involved, but who are, unfortunately, denied the time necessary to give it the mature consideration its great importance demands.

Whatever may be the motives that have prompted the "powers that be," to usher with such a velocity upon the ratepayers of the city, the discharging of a duty fraught with so much responsibility as is the election of men in every way capable of filling the onerous position of Water Commissioners, I cannot refrain from expressing my firm belief that a great bulk of the ratepayers have neither got the time nor the opportunity to obtain an knowledge of the abilities or attainments of the host of candidates who are aspiring to a seat on that important Board. Every person surely knows that to thoroughly arouse public opinion upon any great question, is a work of time; it is an arduous work, demanding incessant, unremitting labor. That labor almost invariably falling upon the few, who in their zeal for what they believe to be a good cause, manfully contend with ignorance, obstinacy, scorn, and misrepresentations; and if ever there was a case in which misrepresentations had to be combatted with, it strikes me very forcibly the coming election is one. We have that delightful organ of the Grits, that precious friend of the working classes, spewing forth its usual spleen upon a gentleman who, of all others in the field, least merits such contemptuous abuse; and, even although his character and past conduct deserved such an attack, it ill becomes the famous editor of the *Globe* to take such a case in hand; and the spontaneous voice of the working classes will be lifted up in administering the soothing admonition to that peculiarly popular friend of the people, to direct his scrutinizing powers in the way of endeavoring to take the "beam out of his own eye, so that he may see clearly to take the mote out of his brother's."

The working portion of the ratepayers have lately acquired too much knowledge of the sort of material that composes that newspaper board, to be easily led by its misrepresentations; and the very fact that Alderman Bell has met with hot opposition from that quarter, will go far to strengthen his position in the estimation of the working men; and short as the time now is for investigating into the merits of the various candidates, let the ratepayers at once rouse themselves to a sense of their duty, and register their votes in favor of those men whose practical, mechanical and business experience gives them a claim to the important office which none of the wealthy aristocrats that flourish on the celebrated Union Ticket can be expected to possess.

In the person of Mr. Medcalf we have a candidate fully qualified for the duties of Commissioner, if practical, mechanical and engineering skill, combined with an age of business experience, can be considered requisite qualifications. It is to be hoped that the workingmen will show their appreciation of the unassuming manner in which Mr. Medcalf has placed his valuable services at their disposal, as well as manifest their gratitude for one who has so long and so honorably been closely identified with working class interests by placing him at the top of the poll on the day of election.

Mr. Capreol, being a gentleman who is allowed by all to be possessed of rare talent and good sound judgment, who never failed to bring his abilities into operation for the benefit of the public, and having devoted a lifetime, not only to the interests of the city of Toronto, but to the country at large, his appearance in the field must be hailed with universal satisfaction; and his close adherence to the best interests of the working classes must render his chance of election beyond a doubt. It is possible enough that some of the candidates appearing on the "Union Ticket" may be men in many ways capable of filling the position, but their alliance with the Editor of the *Globe* cannot fail to arouse within the breasts of the many interested, feelings of grave suspicion, which will lead to the conviction that it will be better to sail clear of those artificers altogether, and secure the services of those gentlemen who have shown themselves to be worthy of confidence.

It is highly expedient that the workingmen muster in full force on the testing day, and show that they are determined to use the trust confided to them to their own advantage, by being early at the poll, and otherwise exerting themselves to throw out those men who, according to the advocacy of the *Globe*, have nothing but their riches

to recommend them, not to say anything as to the manner in which that boasted wealth has been acquired. Save us from being placed in the unenviable position of having our public money passing through the hands of those aristocratic millionaires.—I am, faithfully yours,

ANDREW SCOTT.

Toronto, June 24, 1872.

IS IT A CRIME TO BE POOR?

To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.

SIR,—I take the liberty of asking the privilege of a small portion of your space, while I make a few remarks on an article that appeared in last Friday's *Globe*, entitled "The Water Commissioners," in which the necessity of this new and important municipal undertaking is acknowledged. After doing all in its power to defeat the measure while pending, in the article four gentlemen are named whom the *Globe* is pleased to call a "Union Ticket" for Water Commissioners. I have no intention—in writing this letter—of saying one word against the gentlemen referred to by the *Globe*; but my province shall be to deal with the uncalled for and venal attack made upon one of two gentlemen whom that sheet opposes, namely, Mr. Bell. Now, after reading that portion of the article carefully which attacks the gentleman in question, I can only arrive at one conclusion, and it is, that Mr. Bell is guilty of the crime of being poor in the sight of the lucre-worshipping manager of the *Globe*. Mr. Bell has served the city for twelve years in the capacity of Alderman, and according to the *Globe's* statement, has failed to become rich. I will say nothing of the gentleman's abilities, for I know nothing of him, but will leave him in the hands of the class most interested in his district, namely, the industrial class who will have to do the work or provide the funds from the fruits of their productions. What we want is honest, practical men, and these qualifications are by no means solely the possessions of those who are possessed of a competency, and the assertion or inference made by the *Globe* to that effect is a direct slur upon the industrial classes of this city, among whom are men in every sense as well qualified to fill any position requiring trust and ability as any of their more wealthy fellow-citizens. If anything, the chances are in their favor. Though there are many men very dishonest who are unfortunate enough to remain poor, but on the other hand be careful of the man who acquires a very large fortune in a very short time. Although it may be got within the bounds of legality, the probability is that every principle of justice has been lost sight of, and, therefore, morally wrong.

JOHN HEWITT.

Toronto, June 29, 1872.

HAMILTON CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.

SIR,—As we have been for some time deprived of the influence of the press through the backsliding of the *Hamilton Evening Standard*, we have been unable to refute several groundless statements that have appeared both in the *Standard*, and the other papers of the city, this has allowed a false impression to have been made upon the public for the time being; but as it is the duty of every man who loves truth and justice to combat falsehood and injustice wherever they appear, without regard to what position in society their propagators and supporters may occupy. I feel called upon at this time to crave a portion of your space in order to place before the public an unqualified denial of a statement which appeared in the *Hamilton Evening Times* of the 24th inst. Of this article it may be truly said,

Where ignorance is bliss,
'Tis folly to be wise.

"The organs announce that Sir John A. Macdonald is to traverse Ontario in a short time on an electioneering tour. His object is to impart courage by his presence to his despairing followers in the Province. But his name and presence have lost all their old talismanic influence and power, and though the office-holders may throw around to be-slaver him with their sycophantic and fulsome eulogies, his reception by the masses will be lacking in that hearty enthusiasm with which he was greeted at the last general elections. He was never less popular in Ontario than he is to-day. He feels that his power is rapidly declining, and it was in consequence of this that he established his organ, the *Toronto Mail*, generally known now as the *Black Mail* organ. It cannot save him. Its coarse attacks upon the best men of the country have disgusted even respectable Tories themselves. No journal conducted on such principles can ever wield a commanding influence."

Now, sir, if Sir John A. Macdonald comes to Ontario either before or after the elections, he will always find a numerous party who have duly valued his abilities as a statesman; and moreover, if Sir J. A. comes at any time in the near future, he will find a vast increase in the mass who will meet to do him the honor which is due

to the statesman who had nerve enough to brave the wrath of *Claverhouse the Second*, and in defiance of the great nondescript (who fancied that Ontario only lived and moved in him); blot from the statute book of Canada laws, which Sir J. A. characterized as the relics of a barbarous age. Yes, sir, the masses of Ontario will meet in tens of thousands to honor the statesman who made them equal before the law with the heaviest purse in the Dominion.

Let Sir John come, only let him give fair notice of his approach; and those who fancy that this fair province of ours is the preserve of any worn-out, heartless, brainless party, and both he and they will learn that the man whom the masses "delighteth to honor" must be one who not only possesses abilities, but is also one who can use those abilities for his country's advancement amongst the nations of this earth.

Let me repeat once more that at no time in the history of this province, have the public men of it been upon a more searching trial of their principles and practice. Let them count well the cost, for most assuredly we, the masses of Ontario, will render honor only unto those to whom honor is due.—I remain, dear sir, yours,

ONE OF THE MASS.

Hamilton, June 25th, 1872.

DREADFUL CALAMITY.

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT ON THE GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

The most serious and shocking accident that ever occurred on the Grand Trunk Railway, since it has been in operation, took place on Saturday morning, a mile east of the Shannonville station, and a short distance west of the Salmon River bridge. The night express, which left Toronto at half-past seven on Friday night, reached Belleville station shortly before one o'clock. When it proceeded east it was twenty minutes late, and this time the driver, John Hibbert, a very steady and experienced man, determined to make up between Belleville and Kingston, the track being in excellent condition, and easily permitting rapid running. The train, besides the engine and tender, consisted of an express and baggage car, a second-class passenger car, a smoking and post-office car, two first-class passenger cars, a Pullman sleeping car—six cars altogether, four of which were well filled with passengers. After passing Shannonville, the train being on a down grade, one of the wheels on the bogie truck of the engine broke, and the result was at once terrible and fatal. The locomotive was thrown off the track, down an embankment about six feet high, and turning over on its side, plunged into the earth with fearful force. The tender was driven ahead, twisted around, and overturned on the same side of the track. The express and baggage car passed the engine and tender in safety, but was thrown diagonally across the rails and there remained. The second-class passenger car followed, but unfortunately it came in contact with the overturned engine, and tore away the safety valve, and thus gave vent to a dense body of steam, which immediately filled the car, scalding the poor creatures with which it was crowded. The smoking and post-office cars came upon the second-class car with terrific force, telescoping it almost from end to end, and reducing the greater part of it to splinters. The smoking car end was nearest to the engine, and it was completely filled with the debris of the second-class car. There were several passengers in it at the time, all of whom were more or less injured. In the post-office end of the car were Joseph Salter and Carruthers, the post-office clerks, who, by a miracle, escaped unhurt. The first-class car behind was thrown off the track, but remained uninjured except about the trucks. The next car was also forced off the rails, but only for a short distance, while the Pullman car remained on the track unharmed. In these three cars the passengers escaped with a few slight bruises and contusions. In the second-class and smoking cars, however, an awful scene was presented to those passengers who rushed forward as soon as they could get out of the cars. The engine-driver, terribly mangled, lay beside the engine; and the fireman, a man named Kidd, who had jumped off, was lying some distance away with one leg broken, and otherwise injured.

The cause of the accident, as near as can be ascertained, was, as stated, a wheel or axle of the locomotive suddenly breaking. This could not, of course, be foreseen, and the calamity must take its place amongst those which no amount of human forethought could have averted. The unfortunate driver, Hibbert, was one of the most prudent and capable men on the line, and the state of the track fully justified the rate at which he was travelling. After a very careful examination of all the circumstances connected with the catastrophe, and so far as can be discovered, there is nothing to justify a belief or suspicion that it was owing to any negligence, or want of proper precaution on the part of the officials, or any defect in the permanent way.

SHORT HOURS.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—Some of the Master Coachmakers are too shortsighted or so wilfully blind that they cannot see the noble example that Mr. Coghill has set them, in allowing his employees to quit work at half-past four on Saturdays. Good sized spectacles would be a benefit to them.

COACHMAKER.

Toronto, June 25, 1872.

EARL RUSSELL ON THE FENIAN CLAIMS.

Earl Russell concluded his speech in the House of Lords, on the 4th instant, upon the Treaty of Washington in the following words:—

"My lords, there is another and last topic to which, I wish to allude before I conclude what I have to say to your lordships, and that has reference to Canada. Your lordships are aware that many of the American citizens have complained that the ships of which they were owners had been seized, and that they had lost considerably in consequence. I do not believe that the *Alabama*, or any of these Confederate cruisers had any warlike action with these merchant ships; I do not think there was any bloodshed. It was not so, unhappily, in the case of Canada. (Hear, hear.) There was a raid into Canada, which Sir John Macdonald mentioned in a great speech of more than four hours' duration, which he lately made in the House of Commons of Canada. He stated that there was a raid made in Canada; that many Canadians lost their lives, and that there was a great destruction of property as well. He said he had been blamed for not obtaining reparation, because the American citizens who lost their property immediately went to our government and obtained redress. During the whole time I was Secretary of State I was constantly receiving from Mr. Adams demands for reparation in consequence of the loss of property sustained by American citizens. Well, Sir John Macdonald says that, knowing of these raids, that losses had been incurred, that lives had been lost, and knowing also that Canada could obtain no redress from the United States, he applied to the Government of Great Britain—to his own Government—and asked them to demand from the Government of the United States some indemnity for the losses incurred, some reparation for the families of the persons who had been killed or who suffered from wounds received in these hostilities. The American Government had listened favorably and faithfully to the demands of their own citizens. What did our Government do? Nothing whatever. (Hear, hear.) This statement comes with the authority of Sir John Macdonald, the Prime Minister of Canada. He said that he complained of it as a great injustice, and that a member of the Canadian bar, seeing the defect in the reference, had said to him—'You cannot get redress from the commissioners who are negotiating the Treaty, because the English Government has never referred this case as one requiring redress, and therefore you cannot press this claim. (Hear, hear.) It has been said—I know not upon what authority—that everything was settled except this claim with regard to the panic and loss caused by the Fenians, and that the British Government sent directions from Downing street to Washington not to press these claims. Sir John Macdonald's history of the transaction entirely disposed of that story. He says the reason he could not contend against, was that the American commissioners asserted 'This case has never been referred to us. The British Government have never been asked in a formal way for the consideration of these claims, and therefore you are shut out. You are out of court owing to the neglect of your own government in not making a claim for these losses.' My lords, I feel humiliated (hear, hear), for the great negligence which was shown in not urging these claims upon the negotiators. (Hear, hear.) I am of opinion, as Sir John Macdonald says, that we ought to consider Canada as the right arm of this country. Nothing can be more loyal and faithful than the conduct of the Canadians, and we ought to meet them with corresponding generosity (hear, hear.) I do not think it would be wise to show indifference to the great colonial position now called the Dominion (hear, hear.) We must keep the different parts of the empire together by behaving well to all of them (hear, hear), and we shall bind and unite them as one nation most effectually, not by strength of arms, but by steady and loyal affection to the Queen and the Government of this country. (cheers.) It is with these sentiments, and in the hope that by the interposition of this House the matter may be fully considered, and that we shall not upon this, or any other occasion, show that we are wanting in regard for the honor of the British Crown, that I submit this motion for an humble address to the Queen. (Cheers.)"

THE BOSTON JUBILEE.

Boston, June 21.—At the Coliseum this afternoon the audience were fully equal in numbers to that of yesterday. As the day was dedicated to Austria, the Kaiser overture, dedicated to the Emperor, Francis Joseph, was performed by the orchestra, and created great enthusiasm. Madame Peschka Leutner excelled all previous efforts. She first sang a cavatina, from the first act of Ernani, which was *encored*, when she gave Abt's beautiful "Good night, my dearest child," under Abt's direction. It was not without many acknowledgments that the lady was allowed to leave the platform. Mr. Strauss repeated his beautiful "Blue Danube," and on *encore* again gave his "Pizzicato polka," which set the entire audience dancing in their seats, as the great leader danced his time on the platform. The popular feature of the day was the performance of the English Grenadier Guards' band, which gave the overture to Semiramide and several other selections, the effect upon the vast chorus and audience being electrical. Madame Rudersdorf was led to the platform, when the applause subsided, and awaited a solo opportunity in "God save the Queen." The refrain was led by the gifted lady, accompanied by the Grenadier Band, chorus, orchestra, and cannon, and the solo was sung through with great effect, applause unbounded, and when the band added their allegro in repetition of the chorus, the audience insisted in joining. The grand organ followed, and for a few minutes the scene was beyond description. As the band marched up the long aisle, through the chorus seats, amid cheers and waving of handkerchiefs, Gilmore, on the spur of the moment, started "Auld Lang Syne," which was sung with an expression and warmth not witnessed since the festival began. The concert closed with the grand old Coronation hymn, in which the audience joined. The executive committee have decided upon another choral week, the prices to be reduced to \$3 and \$2, according to location.

On the 22nd the Coliseum audience was somewhat larger than any day of the week. The Freischütz overture, Keer's American Hymn, and the Strauss Concert Waltz, New Wein, was finely given. The finale of the third act of Ernani, was well sung by the operatic chorus with organ, orchestra, and the band; and Madame Peschka Leutner outdid her previous numbers in the Venzano Waltz, which she repeated on an *encore*. One of the principal features of the day was performed by the German band in Taunhauser's overture, which met with the warmest reception. Abt's familiar song, "When the Swallows Homeward Fly," was given by special request, led by the composer. The performance closed with the popular rendition, by the chorus and audience, of the "Morning Light is Breaking."

THE WASHINGTON TREATY.

NEW YORK, June 22.—A special to the *Herald* from Geneva, says:—"It has at last transpired that the question of indirect claims has been definitely settled, the American agent and counsel having been instructed by their Government to declare that the Government of the United States did not seek a money award for indirect losses, but only desired a settlement of the principle. Lord Tenterden on the part of his Government called the attention of the Court to the seventh article of the Treaty, which gives the arbitrators only authority to consider claims in relation to a money award, and submitted that since the United States Government declared they did not seek a money award for these classes of claims, they could not be properly entertained by the Court. The American counsel thereupon demanded judgment on this issue by the Court. The Court took time for its decision, but is known to have decided in favor of the point raised by Lord Tenterden, and against the admissibility of indirect claims. This judgment will be delivered, it is said, when the Court meets on the 26th instant, and is reported to be acceptable to the Government. All the members of the Court left for Chamounix. They intend returning on Monday or Tuesday next, when counsel on both sides will exchange the results of their latest instructions, and arrange the order in which business will proceed. During the interval Earl Granville will negotiate with Mr. Fish on the subject. It is believed that when the Arbitrators meet again the sittings will be public."

LONDON, June 22.—A special from Geneva to the *London Standard* says that the counsellors for the American Government before the Tribunal, have gone to Paris to return with their families to Geneva. The other gentlemen connected with the Board are at Chamounix. The *Standard* despatches say everything connected with the arbitration betokens the long stay of the English and American representatives at Geneva.