

NOTICE.

We shall be pleased to receive terms of interest pertaining 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.

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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. Tinmiths, 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, (Roue'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. Harnesmakers, 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, 4th Tuesday.

Messrs. LANCFIELD 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. 18, 1873.

VIENNA EXHIBITION.

The Canadian delegation to Vienna have left that city on their return trip. We understand the delegation have been well received by the British and civic officials. Some of the members of the delegation were present at the entertainment given by the Viennese Council to the foreign commissions and delegations to the exhibition, and were largely impressed with the hospitalities extended. In other ways courtesies were shown, and everything done, especially by the indefatigable and efficient Secretary of the British Commission, Mr. Owens, to render the visit of the delegation as pleasant as possible.

THE CANADIAN LABOR CONGRESS.

Before we again go to press the first Labor Congress will have convened in this city, and from present appearances it promises to be all that the promoters of the movement have wished for. There will be a very good representation from the organized labor of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec; the other provinces of the Dominion we hope to gather in at future sessions of the Canadian Labor League. The labor of all progressive countries is fast finding out that their interests are one, and year after year sees the bonds of union and fraternity becoming stronger and drawing into closer fellowship the long scattered elements of labor. The reason that such should be the case must be obvious to any thoughtful man in the ranks of labor. Too long have the masses of the people been, as it were, a shuttlecock in the hands of a designing aristocracy, that build themselves up and retain their exalted position at the expense of moral and intellectual ruin and degradation to the masses; but we would judge from the signs of the times not only in this country—for we are even behind many others in the movement—that the days of a pampered aristocracy rank, based upon worldly accumulations, and the untrammelled progress and greed of monopolists must come to an end. The intelligent and progressive producers are not going to be robbed indiscriminately of their labor with their eyes open. The rights of the masses must be guarded from the tyranny and greed of the monopolies and rings of the classes. This is what the labor movement of Britain says in a voice of thunder throughout that land; the Granges and Labor Congress of the U. S. re-echo the sentiment, and we trust that the voice of Canada will be heard next week with no uncertain tone in proclaiming the rights of labor in this rising nation, and go on from year to year gaining strength, until their reasonable demands cannot be overlooked by the powers that be. Let union be the motto among all classes of labor, and then the general weal of the masses will not be neglected.

The Delegates from the Toronto Unions will try to make their brother delegates from outside the city feel as much at home as possible. Delegates, upon arrival, will report themselves at the Trades' Assembly Hall, 74 King St. West, where the committee will be in waiting to receive them.

SELF HELP.

The necessity for an improvement in the social condition of our poor has long been acknowledged by all.

Various ways and means has been proposed for solving this most difficult problem. Some writers, evidently born with a silver spoon in their mouths, have thought they had found a royal road to riches for everyone, and their grand scheme has invariably been "spend less and save more." Though this plan may be good practice for some people, there are those who receive scarce enough to keep life within their bodies, and to tell these to spend less and save more is a most bitter insult.

Even if this saving advice was possible in all cases, we have grave doubts if it is the universal panacea it is vaunted to be. We will suppose for a moment that each man was to save one-fourth of his receipts, it is evident that one-fourth less business would be done than formerly. Of course this reduction in business would reduce the necessity of making the full compliment of goods that were used before. Former experience goes to prove that bad trade falls heaviest on the poverty-stricken people, the very class meant to be benefited. Again, the looking up of a vast quantity of small sums would seriously derange the money market, and the greatest sufferers from a tight money market would be persons in a small business; in fact, those who need a helping hand to live. This saving business looks very well in theory, and while practised by a portion of the human race only, will be a decided success to those who practice it, and may with judicious

management, place those individuals in opulence, but as an universal remedy for poverty, it cannot be a success.

The only way yet devised likely to accomplish a radical reform in this social question appears to be a really practical mode of co-operation. By this we do not mean trading as a joint-stock company, but a co-operation of production, accumulation and distribution, where, by joint effort, vast engineering, mechanical or productive schemes could be accomplished, wherein each would have a share in the benefits, and where the accumulation would be for the future benefit of all.

Paupers and drones would then be unknown, as also the rich, overfed and underworked aristocrat—each man would have his share of the work and his share of the good things his work had produced. The Shakers and other communities accomplish all this, but at a sacrifice of liberty and individuality. A plan to become popular must leave the present domestic relations untouched, and while securing to each their full rights in property, must not infringe on the rights of home.

That enormous organization, which has grown with such unparalleled rapidity, and known as the "Grangers," seems to be the nearest approach to a proper social system yet established, and we shall watch their progress with interest, reporting from time to time such facts as are likely to be interesting to our readers.

MONEY.

The various nations of the earth, at different times, have used many substances for money. Shells, beads, iron, copper, nickel, silver, gold and paper have each been a circulating medium. The metals have had a representative value attached to each nearly amounting to the labor necessary to mine, smelt and coin each kind.

Thus, metal money is a representative of labor devoted to its production, and this labor is given in exchange for other products of labor that may be needed.

The growth of trading pursuits demanded a greater amount of money than could possibly be put in circulation by a metal medium alone, and "promises to pay" at some future time were made and received between traders having confidence in each other's integrity. Corporate bodies were chartered who acted as a medium between those who had money to spare and those who had property and needed money for business transactions.

These chartered companies or banks issued "promises to pay" in lieu of money, and these bank notes have (so long as the bank had the confidence of the people) been used as representatives of metal money, or in other words, of stored up labor. For the use of these bank notes a certain price is demanded, and this demand must eventually be paid in the shape of labor. We have seen how paper became a medium of exchange.

Of late the Government have issued paper money, and of course whether they are borrowers or lenders so must they pay or receive interest for the use of this money.

Under the present system individuals become rich by trading in the necessities of the people, and this we believe to be one of the greatest mistakes or frauds of the age. Why cannot the Government take control of the entire amount of artificial money, and become the nation's bankers, having a ramification of branch establishments in every trading district in the Dominion. Then each manufacturer could obtain as much paper money as his real property would justify him in borrowing, and the interest would help to pay the nation's taxes, instead of enriching individual companies.

The people would own and could control the entire monetary system, and issue just as much and no more than the necessities of the community required. Those disastrous panics would become unknown, and the money market would know no ups and downs, but would continue at one level always. Those speculating gentlemen known as "bulls and bears" would cease to have an existence,

while the entire banking fraternity would be compelled to seek some more legitimate mode of getting an existence.

DEMAGOGUES AND THE PRESS.

The individual, who, examining into the present relations of capital and labor, and ascertaining beyond a doubt that, of all the products of labor and capital, labor receives but a bare subsistence; whilst capital, through several causes, takes to itself all above labor's mere daily subsistence,—and such individual being blessed with the ability and the opportunity to expose and denounce the system that permits such injustice, is at once made the target for all the venom of the independent press. "Demagogue," "agitator," "communist," "agrarian," etc., are hurled at him, with a whole vocabulary of adjectives. He may advance statistics to prove his position a correct one: his figures are answered by vituperation. He may advance arguments based upon the writings of the best thinkers on political economy: he will be answered with slurs on his want of education. He may advocate combination among workmen as a stepping stone to redress: he is accused of importing foreign institutions; and so on with every point advanced. Argument is never answered by argument. An appeal to the reason is answered by an appeal to the passions. Labor reformers claim that labor does not receive its just reward: that claim has never been denied,—the proof are so clear that argument thereon is out of question; and yet every effort to secure to labor its just reward is howled down by the "press." We do not claim that labor in its efforts is always right. We know by experience that brooding over its wrongs and seeing no honorable way to obtain redress, it has been literally driven into excesses which its best friends cannot help but deprecate; but that it has wrongs to redress, and that they must be redressed, may now be considered a certainty: for there has awakened a spirit of inquiry among workmen that will never be quieted or howled down until redress is beyond a question. If workmen devoted the same time and money to the labor press of the country that they now do to the political press,—if they studied their own interests to one-half the extent that they study the interest of party politics, a few years would find them prepared to demand and exact justice from those who now conjoin them into the belief that the present system, which gives every advantage to capital at labor's expense, is the only true system of national prosperity. Some of our so-called writers on political economy, to prove the general prosperity of the country, refer to the immense addition to the wealth thereof, as shown by the late census; but they fail to show that one-half the immense wealth is owned by five per cent. of the people, and they dare not analyze the condition of those whose muscles have made all the wealth. Discussion is not what they want; they dread it as men do a pestilence. But all their efforts will only put off the day of labor's triumph; not a triumph over capital, but a triumph over its own ignorance: for labor has only to know right from wrong, and then will that right take the place of wrong, and it is done.

The press of the country, which should be the great popular teacher, has, through the moneyed influence of those who desire the existing state of affairs to continue, become not only the apologist, but the advocate of the present system, and thereby causes that division between the thinking and unthinking portions of labor, to which may be ascribed all its ills. But a change is coming. The press sees it; they are more than disposed to temporize and conciliate. A portion of it now advocates certain concessions, not because the claim of labor is just—they dare not put it on that ground—but it is endeavoring to show its masters that small concessions must be made, or full justice will be exacted. While it is thus urging capital, it never lets up on its frantic yell about "demagogues," "communists," etc., as it is pleased to call those called by their fellows to take the lead in this war against ignorance.

A RULE THAT WORKS BUT ONE WAY.

In looking over the columns of a leading western paper lately, our eye caught the heading of an editorial, "The hours of work," and we eagerly ran through the article, expecting to find something that would more than ordinarily interest us, as we were familiar with the theories of the management, and knew that they were bigoted opponents of any reduction in the hours of labor. But in this instance we were doomed to an unexpected disappointment; we opened wide our eyes and read the article again and again. Was it possible that this one-sided, partisan, monopolist and capitalist lauding sheet really favored a reduction of the hours usually labored? Yes, such was the case. We looked again, and "still the wonder grew." The arguments advanced in support of the reduction were sound and convincing, and what is more wonderful and stranger still, the article came out flat-footed for 6 hours and not 8. It declared in favor of beginning the day's work at 10 a.m. and quit at 4 p.m., thus giving the weary toiler six hours before bed time "for social improvement, amusement and the reading and recreation that make life worth having, and prevent the business man from relapsing into a cold, dry, money-making mummy, whom his family only know through his appearance at meals." This is the language; these are the very words of the argument. No one can deny its pointed forcibleness. We admit the argument is not new but it is true, even if it was borrowed from some demagogical trade unionist. But observe, and mark well that this strong plea for more leisure is in the interest and for the benefit of business men only. Not one word for the physical toiler. Not a syllable in advocacy of the overburdened mechanic. The plea, the argument is for business and professional men alone. Six hours per day is all the time they should labor, and then merely with the brain, while the poor artist, mechanic or operative must toil with both brain and muscle for ten hours. The article goes on to say that the business men of New York city are a most youthful, healthy, fresh and happy looking set of fellows—all because they work but six hours per day. We believe this; we know it is true that all workmen would be youthful, healthy, fresh and happy looking if they had to labor but six hours per day. But the writer, not thinking his case sufficiently established, brings to his aid this ponderous physiological argument:

"The difference between the sanitary effect of a good dinner taken at leisure between five and six o'clock, with the day's work done, and a hasty meal bolted in half an hour or less, in the middle of the day with the mind of the eater in the midst of its day's cares and labor, amounts to a formidable thing when extended through a life of forty or fifty years."

How our heart bleeds when we think of those poor business men bolting a meal in half an hour at the most fashionable restaurant on the street. Of course many a poor mechanic has to often tumble out of bed and bolt his breakfast in ten minutes and then fairly run for a mile or more in order to be at his post before the whistle blows, but then these men are not business men—they are only workmen, and should be very thankful to have a mouthful to eat, and should not growl about the length of time they are given to masticate it.

Workmen eat their "cold bite" amidst the dust and dirt of the shops—they would rather, like to be compelled to bolt a good dinner in a fashionable dining hall, in half an hour. We hardly think they would growl at such a rigorous fate, such a terribly hard lot. We think they would be apt to cry for more of just such an evil. But here is another shade of the argument:

"Many of our professional and business men reside several miles from their work. They need time before and after business, to come and go between their offices and their homes. Just think of that you toilers and faultfinders. These poor business men, these