Communications.

HAVE LABOR REFORMERS MADE MISTARES

MONTREAL.

(To the Editor of the Outario Workman.) Sir,-In your issue of January 23rd, you Hamilton correspondent-" Workman"takes exception to your remarks in a previous number, to the effect that "Labor reformers may have made mistakes in their efforts," &c., and, in defence of his argument, advances the defeat of the employees of the Wanzer Sewing Machine Company. Hamilton, in their struggles for the ninhours. Situated at a distance from the scene of action to which he refers, I an unable to discuss that individual case, but will confine myself on commenting on the line of action pursued in this city by the Nine Hour League during their struggle last summer, believing that the same causes have produced like results in the Westdefeat.

That labor reformers have made mistakes, not in the principles which they advocate. but in the ways and means of obtaining their ends, the most ardent friends of labor will admit, and the sooner we set about correcting these mistakes, the sooner will success attend our efforts. The first mistake made was in being too precipitate. The nine hour agitation may be likened to the rapid flight of a meteor athwart the heavens; it made a fitful glare for a brief time. only to sink into oblivion. Leagues were hastily tormed, enthusiastic meetings were held, considerable speech-making was done, in which the speakers expressed their determination to conquer or die; funds were collected, and, a few months after found those bodies on strike, and what was the result? In almost every trade the strikers were defeated, and went back to work at the old time rate, worse than they were before, having lost their time, and being subjected to the sneers of those who were opposed to the movement. And why was this? Because in the first place the strikes were ill-timed, and in the second, because they were unprepared for a long and vigorous battle. Your correspondent tells us the employers prepared for the struggle; o did the employers here; but still the strike took place. What folly; what shortightedness was here displayed. Wouldn't one be inclined to ridicule the idea of an marmed mob attacking a fort filled with reterans, who had their guns loaded to the muzzle and the match burning, ready to open fire on the attacking party? Yet this s just what the Nine Hour League attemptd, only in a different sense. If, instead of being so precipitate, they had been content wait for a year, meanwhile keeping up he agitation and strengthening their supplies, there would have been a different tale o tell. When we consider what distress he loss of three or four week's work ocasions amongst our class, I hold that no ody of men should turn out on strike uness they are prepared to stand out six months at least, and, if needs be, give every nan his full week's wages during the proress of the strike. When we consider that imid-hearted men are to be found in every indistiments of employers. In our struges, as in military warfare, it is our duty make ourselves so powerful that our emies will be afraid to encounter us. his state of efficiency can only be attained y patient persevering labor, by making very provision for an emergency, and when he auspicious moment for action arrives. hen strike as one man, and if success is enied you then the leaders may blame the en; but until such is the case, labor reormers (I mean the leaders) cannot say hat they have not made mistakes.

Another error made was in relapsing into boody inactivity after the first rebuff, in lead of setting their tooth together, deternining to profit by the experiences of the ast, and to better the instruction they had eccived. But, I hear your correspondent ny, "If your followers desert you, what hen?" Bestir yourself like a man; try ad breathe into them some of the fire and dour which animates you; show them, y your unselfishness and your desire to enefit them, that you are worthy to be heir leader. History toems with instances there one man, by his bold, undaunted, ersevering spirit, has swayed the masses r his will, and he was aspires to be a leader the cause of labor reform must be posssod of these qualities.

But I have already taken up my allotted pace. I shall return to the subject again, nd if, in the meantime, my remarks clicit little criticism from my confreres, I shall ave succeeded in my desire to have the uestion of "Strikes, and the cause of their ilure," fully ventilated.—Yours, &c.,

Montreal, Feb. 4, 1873.

Ir our numerous readers want bargains in y Goods Eaton & Co.'s is he place to get

BRACEBRIDGE.

WINTER LIFE IN MUSKOKA COUNTY. (To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

DEAR SIR,-Things here are pretty dull at present. Winter has spread his snowy nantle over the scene-rock and stump and allen log all lie buried beneath the pure and spotless covering that wraps the landscape. The dark green foliage of the pine and hemlock refresh the eye, weary and dazzled by the gleaming snow, and seem to be a promise of the return of summer, without which the prospect would be drearyindeed, their wide umbrageous branches catch the falling snow till it bends them | in blast so long as he can get coal. Mr. downward, and they rise and fall with the wind like the foam-capped billows of the occan. Winter's icy chain, strong as it is, has failed to check the rushing speed or hush the deafening rour of the waterfall as it leaps madly over the precipice, dashing its spray on the snowy banks, and then disappearing suddenly under a broad steet of ice, glides quietly and silently along till it empties itself into the lake.

But gazing at waterfalls and snow-clad pines is all very well; they are very interesting for a week or two, at the end of a month they get rather stale, and before long one forgets to notice them or to consider them as anything out of the way, and to wish that "something would happen" to break the dull monotony.

A rather unusual event did occur the other day. All the farmers here are also hunters on a small scale: that is, they set traps and are well acquainted with the signs and habits of most wild animals. One of these amateur hunters having trapped a fine young bear weighing three hundred pounds. brought it into Bracebridge to have it sent through to Toronto; when there it was found that the box containing the bear was too large to fit the sleigh, and it was necessary to change it for a smaller one. A suitable box was procured, and they proceeded forthwith to persuade Bruin to change his quarters. But in this they had reckoned without their host, his bearership was not one whit inclined to submit to be hustled about at their good pleasure, so he firmly resolved to stay where he was. A crowd had by this time collected, and one man proposed that the small box should be placed at the entrance of the large one, in order to facilitate the transfer. This was done, and they commenced to hammer on the larger box with sticks, canes and stones, shouting at the same time. It was no wonder that Bruin felt rather surprised, and the smaller box sliding down, he protruded his head and shoulders out to see what it was all about. The cry was raised, "he's out, he's out," and in rather less than no time the conrageous villagers departed with more hante than dignity, leaving the bear and his owner "alone in their glory." -1 remain,

February 7th, 1873.

THOMAS SQUIRE'S STEAM DYE WORKS, 363 and 3631 Yonge street, has become one of the institutions of the city. Although only established three years in Toronto, Mr. Squire is over-run with business. The secret of his ommunity, it will be seen what a necessary success, is because he does his work in such a their worldly goods and follow them. recaution this is, to protect such from the manner as to give entire satisfaction. See his

> The Free-stone Cutters of Ottawa intend celebrating their second annual supper on the 24th of the present month, we believe in the Commercial House. A good time is expected.

The typos of Ottawa intend holding a Social in the Rink Music Hall, on the 14th | ficient central committee, with several inst. The boys are going to have a lively

The "Ottawa" Commpany, intend holding a grand ball in the St. Patrick's Hall, on the evening of the 25th. The Perth Fire Brigade have been invited as guests, and undoubtedly the ball will prove one of the most successful of the season.

Mr. Goodwin the contractor for the erection of the walls round the Parliament buildings, Ottawa, recently endeavored to force upon the men the system of monthly payment. The men very justly resisted such an encroachment, and suspended work. The matter, however, has finally been settled, the men receiving pay fortnightly as

MEARIN & Co.'s CHEAP DRY GOODS AND CLOTHING HOUSE, 207 Youge street, three dears much of the "Gran Bush" Porce, and directly opposite Albert street, is the place for mechanics to make their purchases, as the | teach them the required lesson, and now, goods offered are az good in quality as any in the market, and the prices asked unprecedently low. The laboring classes will find it decidedly to their advantage to patronize pound of flesh should ponder well upon the Mesers. Meakin & Co., as they will save glorious maxim written by one William money by so doing. The stock of goods at present on hand is large and varied. All kinds of clothing, ready-made or made to order. A first class cutter is kept on the premises. Job lats of clothing and dry goods for pedlars are offered very cheap. See advertisement.

Enbor Hotes.

The young married men of Rockland, Me., have organizad a co-operative housebuilding association.

The Nail Manufacturers' Association of United States met at Philadelphia on the 8th ult. Representatives of the national interest were present from nearly all the Atlantic States. It was announced that 3,000,000 kegs of nails had been manufactured in the country in 1872.

Mr. Crawshaw, of Cyfarthfa, has conceded the old rate of wages to his furnace men, with the view of keeping the furnaces Fothergill, M. P., has done the same. The furnace men at the Rhymney works, as well as the mechanics, have accepted the reduction and are at work. They number 300 out of 4,000 workmen. There is no change in the workings.

The National Bricklayers Convention at its session at Indianapolis passed a resolution calling upon the United States Senators and members of Congress to provide for the payment of the extra two hours performed by the bricklayers employed upon the various Government works throughout the country in violation of the eight-hour

A trades' union dispute has occurred at Blackburn. A brushmaking firm engaged a third apprentice, and the innovation was resisted to the extent of the men leaving their work. The other brushmaking arms, finding that their employees were in favor of the strike, discharged the whole of their men, and we are told that "the masters have agreed to employ in future none but non-society men."

The directors of the various railways and canal companies at Manchester, having refused to entertain the memorials sent in to them some weeks ago by the goods porters, platelayers, guards, shunters, and switch men, the Manchester district of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants have resolved to convene a great public meeting in the Corn Exchange on Saturday next. Several influential persons will be invited. The object of the meeting is so lay the grievances of the men before the public, and come to a definite decision as to the course which should be taken by them in order that decisive action may be adopted in the matter by the employes without further delay.

In consequence of the determination that the strike in the Welsh collieries should take place, the men have commenced to look out for work in other districts. Every train bears its freight of stalwart silent men, with shovel on shoulder, and no other luggage to speak of. There are streets in Morthyr but lately thronged at the dinner hour and evening by colliers and ironworkers, where none now dwell but the woman and children; the bread-winner being off "down the Rhondda Valley" and "Aberdare-way" in search of work. They are to come back again on Saturday night, and stay over Sunday, and presently, if the prospect of work "over the mountain' looks promising, the family will pack up

At a meeting of the London Working Men's Council for Church Defence, held recently at 26, Parliament-street, the report of the deputation, which had waited upon the executive committee of the Church Defence Institution, was presented. It appears that the working men, at a very small expense, have organized a very efbranches, have issued an appeal to their brothren of Great Britain, sent down deputations to several provincial towns, and devoted much time and energy to the work of Church defence generally. The Earl of Dartmouth has kindly consented to become their president, and the executive committee have assured them of their entire approval and warm co-operation in prosecuting to the utmost their good work.

The imprisoned gas-stokers are beginning to benefit by a revulsion of feeling. At the time London was suffering from an attack of semi-obscurity, the men on strike were all that was wicked and vile, now that our light is restored, we naturally see the rights of the matter more clearly. The men were wrong undoubtedly. The majesty of the law has been vindicated by the sentence passed upon them, the present duration of their punishment has been sufficient to unless they are released, they will be regarded as martyred innocents. This is just what should be avoided. Sticklers for the Shakespeare-"Oh! it is glorious to have a giant's strength; but it is tyrannous to use it as a giant."

ironstone pits at Bedworth, in North War- ish industry; emigration and unemployed

wickshire. It seems that the men and boys, five hundred in number, have hitherto been working nine hours per day, commencing at six in the morning, and leave at half-past four in the afternoon, with an interval of an hour and a half for meals. In the morning, when the men and lads employed at the pits in question went to work, they were informed that in future they would only be allowed three-quarters of an hour for meals, in return for which they would be allowed to leave work threequarters of an hour earlier in the afternoon. The men declined to assent to this, and were immediately told that unless they did so they would be locked out. Consequently they returned to their homes. The result is that the pits are now standing idle, and, although Bedworth is the centre of a large mining district, scarcely any coal can be obtained in the town.

All present danger of a rupture in the South Staffordshire iron trade ended with the resolution adopted at a mass meeting of the men, held at Walsall, for the purpose of considering the masters ultimatum. The meeting was addressed by Messrs. Capper, Ancott, Vaughan, and others, who urged generally that, in consideration of the men being unprepared for the strike, the masters' terms should be accepted, the men at the same time organizing themselves thoroughly and putting themselves in a position to press what they considered a just claim. Eventually it was agreed to accept the masters' terms under protest and continue work for three months at present prices, with the understanding that if by the end of that time a basis be not agreed upon to govern wages in future, the old method of 14 days' notice to terminate contracts should be resorted to. About \$25, 000 were involved in the question.

THE SHIP-CARPENTERS AND CAULKERS employed at Campbell & Owens dry docks, Chicago, have come out successful after a four week's strike. An attempt was made to reduce the wages of the men from \$3 to \$2.60 per day, while at the same time they were paying men they employed at Quebec, \$3 in gold, for the sole and only purpose of keeping the men in this city under their subjection. But they were not to be treated in that way. With the exception of those workmen who have always been scabs at heart, they refused to work on such terms. The boses again sent to Quebec for more men to whom they still offered to pay \$3 in gold, but the men of that city learning the facts, sent their agent back with a flea in his ear, after thoroughly warming his hide. So the strike ended, and the men retain their \$3 per day, while a few get 30 cents more, with a good prospect of an advance in spring. The spirit of unionism is still strong in many of the Ship carpenters and Caulkers of Detroit. Long may it flourish. We cannot too highly commend the manly independence of our Quebec friends, in refusing to sell their manhood. The next time dirty work is expected to be done, we rather guess they will get a wide berth. -- Workingman's Advocate.

PROGRAMME OF THE ANNUAL TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

The following is the programme of the above Congress, which met at Leeds on the 13th January:—

1. Examination of credentials, election of officers, and Chairman's opening address. Legislative Action.

2. Report of Parliamentary Committee on Mines Regulation Bill, Arbitration Bill, Compensation Bill, Truck Bill, Factory Nine Hours Bill, and the Criminal Law Amendment Act, and the Standing Orders for future Congresses.

Future Legislation.

3. Criminal Law Amendment Act, Truck Bill, Factory Hours Bill, Compensation Bill-H. Compton, London.

Questions for Papers and Discussion.

4. "Trade Societies, their Necessity, Objects, and Usefulness; Trades Councils, their Necessity and Utility"-Mr'R. Knight, Liverpool.

"The Advantages of Amalgamated Societics"-Mr. J. D. Prior, Manchester.

"Trades Unions Federation as it affects the Interest of Labor"-Mr. James Naylor,

"Trades Union Strikes and Productive Co-operation - Wr Andrew Boa, Glasgow. 'Trades Unions from a National Point of View"-Mr. George Potter, London.

"The Necessity for a Thorough Amalgamation on Federal Principles of Every Combination of Laborers, Whether Urban or Rural"-Mr. Wm. Banks, Boston.

5. Reduction of the hours of labor ; limitation of overtime; apprenticeships; piecework, as it affects workmen, employers, and the public-Mr. Hickes, Leeds.

A lock-out recently took place among the | 6. Foreign competition and the introducminers employed at several of the coal and | tion of foreign labor-their effects on Brit-

abor; convict labor, as it affects certain trades in this country.

7. Co-operation, and industrial partnerships-Mr. H. Slatter, Manchester.

8. Representation of Labor in Parliament -the best means to secure it-Mr. A. A.

Walton, Brecon. 9. How can the surplus funds of Trades Societies be best utilized for their general benefit; Trades Halls, their adaptability and advisibility for the purposes of Trades Societics

10. The application of arbitration and conciliation in trades disputes.

11. The necessity of providing a sufficient staff of effcient and practical inspectors to enforce the Factory and Workshops Regu-

12. Friendly Societies and probable legislation thereon, as a result of the Friendly Societies Commission.

13. The employment of women and children in agriculture, factories, and workshops ; and the employment of soldiers in industrial trades and agricultural labor.

TRAVELLERS GUIDE-TORONTO TIME.

PROM THE EAST. Belleville Tmin-9.37 a.m. Express-11 07 a.m. Mixed-6.57 p.m.

Mixed—6.67 p.m. Express—11.07 p.m.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY. FROM THE WEST. Night Express-5.15 a.m. Mixed from Berlin-10.45 Express-6.30 p.m.

COING WEST.

Mail—1. 5 p m GOING EAST. Express—5.37 a m. Mixed—12 05 a.m. Belleville Train—5.37 p.m. Express—7.07 p.m.

Express - 7.30 a.m.
Express - 11.45 a.m.
Mail - 3.45 p.m.
Mixed - 5.30 p.m.
Express - 12.05 a.m. GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

GOING WEST. Express — 7.00 a.m. Do. 11.50 a.m. Express ... 8.00 p.m.

Accommodation -11.00 a.m TORONTO AND NIPISSING RAILWAY.

GOING NORTH. PROM THE NORTH. Mait-10.45 a.m. Mail--5.35 p.m. Connects with Midland Railway for Lindsay, Beaven

TORONTO, GREY & BRUCE RAILWAY. WNION STATION.

GOING WEST.

Mail—11.30 a.m. Do 8.50 p.m.

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