

Ontario Workman.

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

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Labor Notes.

There are 116 less Iron Founders on donation than when Mr. Guile the secretary last reported.

The Papermakers of Maidstone are asking an advance of wages.

The number of miners represented at the National Miners' Association Conference at Leeds is stated to be 130,000.

The average reduction of wages in the mills and manufactories of Maine is twenty per cent.

The glass blowers throughout the United States are engaged in forming a national association.

The Phoenix Iron Works, at Phoenixville, Pa., have reduced the wages of their workmen from 5 to 25 per cent.

The Zanesville glass men are still holding out against a reduction. They desire to become a part of the proposed national organization.

A memorial hall to Mr. Thomas Hepburn and Martin Jude, former leaders of Trades' Unions in the North, is projected at Newcastle.

The secretary of the Amalgamated Tailors' Society reports the growth of 32 new branches 25 of which are in Ireland. The increase in numbers is 1,190 and in funds £610 6s 9d.

The Bristol Corn Porters and also the Pottery are organizing themselves in connection with the Amalgamated Union of Labourers.

It appears from the *Bakers' Record* that in the town of Burton some journeymen are getting no more than 7s per week and their board, for which they work from 5 o'clock in the morning until 8 or 9 o'clock at night.

The workmen in the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Rolling Mills have refused to accede to a demand for a reduction of 15 per cent. on their wages.

It is estimated that the mills and factories in and around Troy employ 12,000 hands when times are brisk. Over two-thirds of that number are now out of employment.

On Monday the master shoemakers at Stirling conceded an advance of wages to the operatives of about 2½ per cent on former prices.

Upwards of one hundred workmen in the file trade in Sheffield, received notice on Saturday to leave their employment, and the wages of many more are stinted as to amount.

The coopers employed in the various breweries in Alloa, Scotland, having been refused an advance of 2s per week on their wages, struck work on Monday. The wage at present is 25s per week.

The following new Unions in connection with the Machinists and Blacksmiths have been organized since last reported: No. 30 of N. Y., Port Jervis, by the President of the I. U.; No. 1 of Vt., Rutland, by Special Deputy Frank H. Brown, of No. 1 of Mo.

We have been informed that the machine moulders of Philadelphia, in connection with the members of several other trades, have formed a secret organization, for the purpose of resisting the reduction of their wages, and securing an advance to old rates when good times come.

The Midland Railway company have granted their engine-drivers and firemen an advance of 3s per week and a reduction of hours to 10 per day. The Monmouthshire company have decided to give their signal men extra pay for over 10 hours' work.

The miners employed at the Foxholes colliery, near Leeds, have been on strike this week. A deputation waited on the employers to point out several grievances which they allege press severely upon them, but were refused all explanation. The men declare their intention not to resume work until their requests are conceded.

The Chicago *Workingman's Advocate* says: A number of ladies of this city have formed an association to be known as the "Daughters of Union," and have obtained a certificate of organization from Springfield. The objects of the association are truly good and commendable, as far as the constitution and by-laws will permit. They are to promote the peace and happiness and temporal good of all their members, and make one's wants the wants of all.

The half-yearly meeting in connection with the Hawick Co-operative Store Company, was

held on Monday evening. The usual report showed that the profits for the past half-year amount to £2534 5s 9½d, compared with £2319 7s 7d for the corresponding period last year. The present membership is 1,078. It was agreed to make a trial of the ready-money system in the drapery branch.

At a meeting of the King's-cross branch of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, held on Monday night, Mr. W. Bowles stated that if the hours of labor were shortened on all the lines there would be fewer railway accidents. The block system and interlocking signals would be of little use so long as drivers worked 100 hours per week, and signal-men were compelled, from sheer fatigue to sleep in their boxes and trust to their being awakened by the telegraph bell or the engine whistle. He understood that Mr. Bass, M.P. for Derby, was framing a bill to secure compensation to railway servants injured in the performance of their duties. Resolutions pledging the meeting to support such a bill, and also to vigorously prosecute the agitation for shorter hours of labor, were passed.

This week the condition of the labor market in some important branches has improved. At Sheffield the ironworks are better employed, and on the Northern rivers shipbuilding is somewhat brisker. The chemical trades about Newcastle are also more active than when last reported. Colliers are generally well engaged though in many directions disputes of more or less importance may still be observed. Fresh hands are, however, entering this field of labor from all sides, and as a consequence, some parts of the Midland Counties are but poorly supplied with agricultural labourers. In Huntingdonshire, an attempt has been made to reduce the wages of farm-workers, but in view of rapidly increasing emigration, especially to the Australian colonies the price of farm-labour cannot fail to rise.—*Labor News*.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.

The *Bee Hive* tells a very interesting story of the formation and progress of a Sheffield co-operative society. The co-operators were file-makers, and as a matter of course they had their Union, out of which it had been the custom to pay weekly sums, or "scale" allowance, to such of their number as might be out of employment. The ordinary rate of wages was from 25s. to 30s. per week; but out of their receipts the workmen had to sacrifice as much as enabled the Union to pay 7s. a week for every man who might be out of work, as well as 2s. for his wife, and 1s. for each of his children under 14 years of age, and the amount expended in this way reached the large sum of £1,400 a year—a serious drain no doubt. At last, about eleven years ago, it occurred to some of the members that it might be possible to utilize all the expenditure in such a way that while the necessitous were relieved the relievers might themselves be benefited by their outlay; and the plan adopted was this: The amounts payable for "scale" allowances, instead of being distributed direct, were thrown into a capital fund, by which a Union file-makers' shop was established, and men who were out of employment were invited to come there and work their relief. The capital being limited, full employment could not be given, but piece-work being the rule, every man was allowed to earn 12s. a week, though the limit was extended to 15s. in case the workmen could not supplement that amount by earnings elsewhere. When the Union first went into business they were only able to employ six men, but in the course of a few years, so successful had proved the enterprise that as much as £1,100 or £1,200 a year were being paid in wages, and last year, so prosperous had trade become, that not a single man was employed in the shop on the scale terms, but fifty men were kept at work on full wages! The *Bee Hive* does not give us anything in the shape of a balance-sheet showing profit and loss, but as so many men were employed at good wages, we conclude that the establishment was yielding a fair return for the capital invested. Here then, is Co-operation and Trades-Unionism in their most legitimate, as well as their most wholesome and profitable, and we will add, their most powerful form.

Here we have the needy workmen, instead of receiving in idleness the charitable doles bestowed out of the hard-earned and ill-spared earnings of his fellows, honorably working for the wages of honest industry—escaping the demoralizing effect of a condition only one stage removed from pauperism, and preserving unaltered his character for independence and self-reliance. Like "the Village Blacksmith,"

"He earns what'er he can,
And feeds the whole world in the face,
For he owes not any man."

The Unionists, on the other hand, instead of throwing their money away in charity, turn it to profitable uses, so that every penny that they pay for the purpose of helping their necessitous fellow-workmen is returned to them with interest. But still we have something more to tell about the Sheffield Trades' Union Co-operative File Makers. Some time ago it became necessary that the society should either purchase the building in which they had established their workshops, or invested something like £2,000 in forges and fittings, or move elsewhere at a great sacrifice. To purchase the society had no means; to borrow they had but indifferent security. Nevertheless, they represented their case to the South Yorkshire Miners, to whom they had been attracted by their generous gift of £1,000 to the Pimms fund, and there they found the true friend in need. Not only did the Miners lend the File Makers the £3,500 at ordinary 5 per cent. to help them in their difficulties, but they did so with a grace that doubled the value of their generous assistance. A more touching story, and one which points so fine a moral, we have not read for many a long day, and we thank the *Bee Hive* for making us acquainted with it.

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

Hon. James F. Babcock, chief of the Connecticut Bureau of Labor Statistics, has forwarded to manufacturers and others blanks to be filled with such information concerning the condition of employees as is necessary to carry out the act of the Legislature passed at its last May session. Accompanying the blanks is the following circular:

To whom this Circular is Addressed:

The general assembly, at its May sessions of 1872, authorized the appointment of a bureau of labor statistics, declaring its duties to be "collect, assort, systematize and present, in annual reports to the general assembly, on or before the 20th day of May in each year, statistical details relating to all departments of labor in the State, especially in its relations to commercial, industrial and sanitary condition of the laboring classes." The bureau is empowered to "send for persons and papers, and to examine witnesses under oath, to take depositions and to cause them to be taken by others by law authorized to take depositions and said bureau may depute any indifferent person to serve subpoenas upon witnesses."

However new such an organization may be to Connecticut, it is a familiar institution in other States in the Union. These bureaus have performed a great amount of labor, and have given valuable information to the legislatures and people of the United States. In many of the monarchical governments of Europe this subject of labor and capital in their intimate and mutual relations and dependencies, has received great attention; and the results of their inquiring, as shown in the reports of the various labor commissions, have been read with deep interest all over the civilized world.

The capitalists and employers, who were at first sensitive and jealous of some invasion of their rights, through these institutions, have, with some exceptions, become satisfied that the investigations were reasonable and proper, and that instead of being unpleasant antagonisms between the employer and the employed, they have rather tended to the promotion of mutual confidence and good

Where abuses exist—and they are liable to exist anywhere—and where it appears that men are void of the instincts of our common humanity, and that they exercise a merciless dominion over the poor, the young and the otherwise dependent, it is designed by the bureau, kindly but thoroughly, to bring the evidence of such evils to the knowledge of the General Assembly and the people of the State, in order that the rightful remedies may be applied.

When the working men, the working women, and the working children feel that the commonwealth, around which their patriotic affections ought to cluster, is earnestly desirous of removing every needless obstacle to their success in life, and to promote so far as it legally and rightfully can do, their moral, intellectual and physical comfort and improvement, they must of necessity become more and more contented with their condition, whatever it may be—more hopeful of the future, and better and more reliable citizens.

The State appoints and encourages commissions for the supervision of banks, railroads, charitable and other institutions, and why should the greater interests of our laboring community be overlooked? Even such capitalists as give little heed to aught else than the rise and fall of stocks, may find that what they sneer at to-day in regard to the information which the labor bureau desires to obtain may be unexpectedly useful to them to-morrow.

In a wisely-conducted bureau of labor statistics no party considerations should for a moment be allowed to influence its motives, actions or opinions. Where any impropriety of this nature is tolerated, the best influence and real purpose of the institution is gone forever. The act establishing the bureau was passed with great unanimity through both branches of the general assembly, and it would be a gross breach of faith for the present or any future bureau to lend itself to the interests or purposes of any political party.

Some, perhaps many, of the questions propounded in various circulars and tables of classification, may be regarded, at first sight, as unimportant, and possibly others as somewhat impertinent. We believe that such impressions will wear off as the real purposes of these interrogatories become understood. We seek full and particular information, with a view to promote the best present and future welfare of all classes and condition of the people of our State.

With this explanation, though not as full and particular as we could wish, we earnestly request all, to whom our circulars and tablet of forms are sent, to make without hesitation, as full answers to our inquiries as they conveniently can, and to be assured that we do not intend to make any use of their names, but only the facts and statistics which they may present.

We are aware that the time is short for such labor as is imposed upon us by law to be thoroughly performed within the time limited, but we hope to give such indications of what is desired, that our facts and figures may be the basis of much more full and valuable reports from our successors in their delicate and responsible work.

We shall feel greatly obliged to receive replies within twenty days. If all the questions asked cannot be conveniently answered, please answer such as you can. Very respectfully,

JAMES F. BABCOCK, Chief.
CHARLES C. COMMERFORD, Deputy.

The *Owego Daily Palladium* alludes to the financial condition of the United States in the following style:—"Last month, the public debt showed an increase of over \$9,000,000. The Secretary of the Treasury announces that it will be increased as much more this month. \$18,000,000 in two months is not bad. The Government demands increase of taxation, and Congress will accede to the demand. Meantime Grant has his \$100,000 a year, and all Government officials are enjoying increased salaries. Tens of thousands of poor working-men and women throughout the land are suffering for bread, and the only encouragement held out to them by the best Government in the world is increase of taxes."

CURRENT EVENTS.

Grinnel, Ia., has a flourishing establishment for the manufacture of French kid gloves from domestic goat skins.

A vote of £5,000 for free emigration has been passed in the Assembly in Adelaide, South Australia, but there is a strong feeling generally against the extension of the free system.

In consequence of the rapid growth of the iron trade in Antrim, the correspondent of the *Iron and Coal Trades' Review* says it is expected, ere long, large smelting works will be established.

One-half of the supply of food in the Province of Bengal has been exhausted, and it is now believed that a famine cannot be averted. Thus far there has been no actual distress among the people.

An English paper reports that a strong detachment of the Royal Engineers will be sent from the School of Military Engineering during the next month to strengthen the companies already stationed in British North America.

The U. S. Government proposes the imposition of additional taxes on coffee, tobacco, etc., which, if adopted by Congress, may render necessary fresh legislation in Canada.

The King of Dahomey, it is said, has entered into an alliance with the King of Ashantee. Dahomey lies on the coast immediately east of Ashantee, and is a populous and fertile country, the people being if possible more barbarous and their institutions more bloody than those of Ashantee.

King Lunali, of the Sandwich Islands, has withdrawn his proposition for a reciprocity treaty with the United States. His ministers resigned, but at his earnest request withdrew their resignations. The natives of the Sandwich Islands seem to believe that reciprocity means annihilation.

Philadelphia newspapers are for the most part jubilant over the adoption of the new Constitution. The *Press* says: "The sovereign has resumed his scepter, and the only king we honor in this Republic, the King People, has come back, after a long lapse and a deep sleep, to look after his own." The *Age* adorns its columns with a spread-eagle and calls the result a new Declaration of Independence adorned by a peaceful revolution.

In Salt Lake City, Utah a foundry firm, having no money in bank, or elsewhere, and the men not being paid for two weeks, concluded the prospects were mighty slim for getting their pay, and notified the employer, "No money, no work." He then offered to pay them in checks on a bank in which he had no money, and when they demurred he got mad and discharged them all. Awful!

Lynching in Kentucky has sunk low enough to make a woman its victim, one Mrs. Stamper, whose conduct had been offensive to the people around Mount Sterling, where she lived. A few nights ago a gang of armed and masked persons, said to have included several women in men's dress, poured kerosene on Mrs. Stamper's house and lighted it. The tabooed woman ran out, and while trying to extinguish the fire was shot to death by one of the lynchers.

A Montreal paper says:—From the 1st July, 1872, to 1st July, of the present year, the number of emigrants sent out, principally by the French agent, who came to Montreal was 2,486; and from 1st July last to 1st December, 1,433, making in all 3,919 within the last 17 months. Of these 2,240 were French, 796 English, 54 German, 204 Irish, 59 Swiss, 112 Italian, 310 Scotch, and 214 Belgian. Among those who arrived up to 1st July last, 161 were laborers, 183 farmers, 151 clerks, 143 servants, 50 joiners, 65 carpenters, 23 bakers, 29 painters, 15 stone cutters, and a few of almost every trade.

A prize of £20, the gift of Sir Charles Taylor, Bart., is offered by the Council of the Amateur Mechanical Society for the best essay on The Development of the Powers of the Lath. The essays, which are to be sent in before 1st Jan. next, must be original and not have been previously published, they must be signed with a motto only, and a sealed envelope bearing the same motto on the outside, and containing the name and address of the author, must accompany the essay. The subject is one in which so large a number of mechanics are interested that it may fairly be hoped that the number of competitors will be very large.