

# TRUTH.

OLD SERIES.—21st YEAR.

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## WHAT TRUTH SAYS

Francis A. Walker whose criticism of Edward Bellamy's theory of an industrial army, as enunciated in "Looking Backward," attracted so much notice from those interested in the social questions of the day, has an interesting article in the June *Atlantic* on the eight-hour labor agitation. The spirit of the article is friendly towards the workmen, with whom Mr. Walker has evidently no quarrel. He recognizes their lot as being hard, and hopes for a time when a more satisfactory condition of things will exist. This does not prevent him, however, from carefully examining the remedies which would be reformers would cure the present social ills. After pointing out some of the untenable positions of economists on the one hand and labor agitators on the other—~~that under no circumstances is the state warranted in interfering in the contract for labor, and that inasmuch as a reduction from fifteen and eighteen hours to ten or eleven has not been followed by any appreciable decrease of production or diminution of wages, the reduction from ten to eight hours would follow the same rule—~~ Mr. Walker proceeds to state his objections to the present movement. Four difficulties present themselves in the way of the State interfering to adopt such a law: First, Mr. Walker is of the opinion that this is a matter which should be left to debate and decision between employers and laborers; the former retaining their right to grant or refuse the demand; the latter exercising their unquestioned right to refuse, individually or collectively, to work except upon terms agreeable to themselves. Second, the rights of the minority in such a matter demand consideration. If six hundred workmen are willing and desirous to secure greater leisure at the sacrifice of some part of their wages they have no moral right by a mere majority of votes to refuse to four hundred fellows the privilege of earning all the wages they can in a longer day of work, always within the limits of health. Third, conceding for the moment the desirableness of a further reduction in the hours of labor, it is a very grave mistake to undertake so long a step at once as that which is proposed from ten hours, or more to eight. Fourth, the uniform application to all trades and avocations of an eight hour law would be an injustice as between workman and workman. The several trades and avocations differ so widely among themselves, in the conditions under which they may be pursued as to make any single rule the height of injustice. It is evidently impossible to control the conditions under which labor is conducted as to make it compatible with political justice, or even with ordinary honesty between man and man, to prescribe the same number of hours per day for all.

In three of the Methodist Conferences which have recently been held at various points throughout the province, the Table of Precedence was discussed and emphatically condemned. Rev. Dr. Douglas, the old man eloquent, introduced the resolution into the Montreal and Toronto Conferences, and Rev.

Dr. Burns into the Niagara. The resolutions are substantially the same. Following is the text of Dr. Burns' motion:

(1) Whereas the British North America Act, under which the various provinces of the Dominion are united, recognizes the equality of all religions before the law, and whereas in the order of precedence at Dominion and provincial receptions, we have the following:—The Governor-General, Lieutenant-governor, archbishops, and bishops, members of the Cabinet, etc., thus ignoring the very existence of our own Church and the other non-episcopal Churches representing the majority of this Dominion, therefore, be it resolved that we, the ministers and laymen of the Niagara Conference, would hereby present our emphatic protest against such an offensive and unjust discrimination against more than one-half of the population of this Dominion who refuse to yield to any in loyalty to our beloved Queen and to the truest interests of our young Dominion. We would memorialize the General Conference to bring this unjust and offensive discrimination before the proper authorities, and to take such steps as may be necessary to its removal.

Trifling as the matter may appear to some, it involves a principle that is very repugnant to persons of democratic feelings and tendencies. Ours is a free land and a free people who recognize no hereditary distinction and who show no disposition to stand with uncovered head before a man simply because he has a title. There is no doubt but the *Globe* expresses the feelings of Canadians generally when it says: "The Royalty of Brains and the Patent of Industry for the real distinctions in this community. The man's the man for all that. It seems to us that there is reason in the protest of the Methodist Conference. An Archbishop ought not to have any right of precedence anywhere at any time over a Presbyterian moderator or a Methodist superintendent, or the chief of any other great Protestant body, nor would we give the heads of the Protestant denominations the right of precedence over the Roman Catholic archbishops. We would have all upon an equal footing, as becomes a democratic community and a free and spirited people."

The patrons of the Orphans' Home in this city have reason to be gratified at the good work that is being done by that humane and Christian institution. Since its establishment thirty-nine years ago, it has placed nearly 1600 children in Christian homes throughout the country. Last year there were received into the Home, which has at present one hundred and seventy-two inmates, seventy-eight children—forty three boys and thirty-five girls. These as to religious denominations were divided as follows: Lutheran, 3; Baptist, 4; Methodist, 11; Presbyterian, 24; Church of England, 36. The majority of the boys and girls came from the city, but there were a few from the province. Some were admitted who were born in England and Ireland, and one who was born in Germany. The children that have gone out from the home are very generally giving great satisfaction, and in many cases are a source of comfort and joy to their guardians. The expenses of the institution during last year were \$10,165 principally for maintenance. The institution is doing a philanthropic and Christian work and it is to be hoped that in the dispensing of their gifts the kind-hearted citi-

zens of Toronto will not forget the claims of the Orphans' Home.

According to Miss Willard, who was recently in Montreal attending the Annual Convention of the Dominion W.C.T.U., the world's petition project is steadily going forward. This, it may be mentioned, is a movement initiated by the W.C.T.U. of the United States, at the suggestion of Miss Willard, and designed to enlist the organized opposition of the womanhood of Christendom against the legalized sale of brain poisons, whether of alcohol or opium, and its oriental as well as occidental in its effect. It is the womanhood asking the manhood of the world to protect the physically weaker sex from the crimes resulting from liquor and the deterioration resulting from opium. It has received hundreds of thousands of signatures in Japan, China, India, South Africa, Britain, Canada, and the United States, and when two millions of signatures have been obtained it will be presented by deputations of leading women to every Government in the world. If these Governments will not make an exception and allow these petitions to be presented without being deposited in the archives, then they will be presented at monster mass meetings which the Government will be invited to attend. A World's W.C.T.U. Convention will be held at the time of the World's Fair, at which the petitions will be completed and arrangements made for laying them before the rulers of the world.

The statement of Mr. James Britton to the effect that the cattle kings of Western Canada would ship their live stock to Toronto if the City Council will provide accommodation, is one that is worth verifying. If it should be found that Mr. Britton is correct in his opinion as to the views and feelings of his fellow dealers, Toronto ought not to allow the opportunity to pass unimproved. That the city has rapidly developed during the last decade is no reason why advantage should not be taken of every legitimate influence to foster further growth and progress. And no doubt the establishment of such an industry would add thousands to the population. We have only to turn our eyes westward to see how a similar industry helped Chicago. Though inconsiderable at first it has swelled to wonderful proportions, and now gives employment to many thousands. There is no reason why Toronto should not become the successful rival of Chicago, or why her factories and cattle markets should not take a leading part in supplying the wants of the world. Considering the possibilities connected with the project, the council would be justified in devising liberal things by way of providing the accommodation required. It is an investment that would doubtless return a large dividend.

Sixty-six band concerts during the summer months is the programme which the committee of the Council, entrusted with this matter laid down at a recent meeting. Eight city bands, in the course their sweet music a lowly parks and gardens of the city are evidently of the kind that hath charms that is not like

will resent the gentle impeachment, seeing that they will have so many musical treats during the season. We can only hope now that the clerk of the weather will favor us with pleasant evenings, so that the pleasure may be unalloyed.

In a tent erected on the college green, under the shadow of the University ruins, and in the presence of a large gathering of the friends of the University and of higher education, the young men and women who have met the educational demands of the institution had, on the 10th inst., public acknowledgment made of the grueling labors through which they have passed. To this laureation ceremony, always an interesting exercise, was added the further enjoyment of listening to the Hon. Edward Blake, the esteemed Chancellor of the University, who with his characteristic eloquence and grace of diction, discoursed upon University matters. In his excellent address, special prominence was given to the recent disaster by which in a few hours the educational pride of Ontario was left a pile of ruins, and to the present needs of our provincial institution. Before passing to this part of his address Mr. Blake took occasion to remark upon the steady growth of the University, the public favor, as indicated by the increasing number of students from year to year, an increase which is due in considerable degree to the rapidly widening use which the young ladies of the province are making of the provision for female university education. He also congratulated the province upon the increased facilities for the study of law and medicine, as found in the new biological department of the University, and the new professorships in the branches of general jurisprudence and constitutional law. Coming to the main part of his address, the Chancellor first outlined the plan that has been adopted for the reconstruction of the university buildings. According to this plan the space formerly occupied by the museum, library and convocation hall, is to be devoted to the purpose of examination halls, occasional lectures and educational objects generally. A new home for the library and a convocation hall, consequently become necessities, to which Mr. Blake adds as another want of the institution, a well-equipped gymnasium.

The estimated cost according to the Chancellor's figures, of the books required to bring the library up to its old standing, the place to put them, the gymnasium, the convocation hall, is, in round numbers, \$175,000. Assuming that the city by-law which secures the University, and adding the improvement subscribed to the anchisement, be legislated by any means, the University. The leaders of the University are well-known citizens of Toronto.

endorsement as the University. Something like this is not like