THE LIEN LAW.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman,) Sin.-I shall feel favored by being privileged with space in your valuable paper, while I endeavor to notice briefly, certain measures, now in course of enactment by the Ontario Legislature, in which I, in common with the working men of the Province, feel a deep interest.

In the first place, a want has long been felt by the labor of this country of some cheap, sure, and expeditious mode of securing the representative of the real value they have rendered, not alone to the individual owning the land or property improved by actual labor, but to the material wealth of the nation. Recognising this principle, that the laborer should rather be secured by the intrinsic value he himself has created, than by personal security, many of the States of the Union have enacted liens upon actual property in favor of the actual laborer thereon, easily and quickly enforced, without complicated or unnecessary litigation.

And from the practical knowledge of such law, that many of the mechanics of this country have, and the losses though small, when viewed by the man in receipt of thousands, yet several felt by him whose daily labor represented his daily bread, that ever and anon occur dar more frequently than the public have any knowledge of. Such, for instance, as what occurred on the Free Church in the City of Ottawa, last summer, then in course of construction by an irresponsible contractor who drew his money for the contracts, and absconded, leaving masons, stone-cutters, brick-layers, carpenters and laborers unpaid for two weeks' hard labor. I need not say then that it was with a good deal of satisfaction and gratitude on the part of the reading mechanics of this country to the honorable member for West Toronto, when they read his notice of motion to establish liens in favor of mechanics, and also another motion that I shall allude to further on. The provisions of the Bill were patiently waited for, and imagine the surprise of the mechanic when he found that the operative was not included in its provisions at a'l.

Surely Reformers can not be guilty of class legislation, for if it is right to place a lien upon property for \$50 worth of material supplied, it certainly cannot be wrong to attach a lien for \$5 worth of labor performed, and place the judgment of claims under \$50 in the hand of the lawful magistrate of the Province. Such, however, are not the Provisions of the Bill. The operativo seems to have been intentionally excluded from its provisions and the Bill would be more properly entitled "A Bill to further secure against loss jobbers, contractors, suppliers of material," &c. The so-called old fosssilized Conservative leaders are left-to tell the Reformers that such in the community any undue advantage a lien law can be of no earthly beg the operative mechanic. When th Adam Crooks stated to the House. planation, that the are strongly fave some of whom has been in hundred tl Why, cer Crooks re his consti man worth sent syster more pressu the word from individually he extended the provision

operative, but for the conservative feeling of the house. Certainly this is very soothing to the operative, but the intelligent mechanic would much sooner have believed the hon, gentleman carnest if he had fram- ployces are by the very letter of the Bill ed his bill so as to give the conservative feeling of the House room to cut it down, instead of presenting a more conservative measure than the Conservatives themselves could possibly have done.

The next bill presented by the Hon. Mr. Crooks is an Act to facilitate the adjustments of disputes between masters and workmen, and so far as the workmen are concerned, it must ornament the statute books of the Province without being of any practical use whatever, simply because all its provisions are in the past tense. Masters and workmen, by availing themselves of the provisions of the Act become a lawfully constituted Board for the friendly sentiment of difference. The Board shall be constituted of an equal number of masters and workmen-not to be less than two or over ten of each—to be presided over by a chairman unconnected with trade; a banker or retired merchant. The award of this Board shall be enforced upon making application to the Judge of a County Court. But here is the point that renders such a Board powerless for good to the workman, viz:-"But nothing in this Act contained shall author-

wages, or price of labor, or workmanship, at which the workman shall in future be paid." It will at once be seen that the operative renders himself liable for everything without any prospective benefit; and as all difficulties, so far as workmen are concerned, have a prospective out-look, and as it is nearly always much the best way to forget the differences of the past altogether, the workmen can have no interest in a bill of this nature.

The uses of such a board would preponderate altogether in favor of the masters, for, as constituted by the proposed act, nothing could come before it but present or past grievances without reference to the future. For instance, a workman who considered that he had a grievance against his employer could lay it before the Board and ask its award, or an employer in like manner. For instance, suppose the printers of Toronto, masters and workmen, had availed themselves of the provisions of this Act, and the Hon. Geo. Brown should lay his grievance before the Board in this way, that the late strike in his establishment has injured him to the extent of \$10,000, and that he claimed such award from the Board. This would come within the jurisdiction of the Board, and should the Board make an award of \$5,000, the county judge is, in duty bound, to enforce such award against the parties complained of as striking in the said office; and, as there is no prescribed mode of collecting those awards in the proposed Act, it will be at the whim of the County Judge, and the offender, if he is worth anything, may have his little house and lot levied upon to help to satisfy the award.

Very much more could be said on this very loose measure, but, feeling I have trespassed on your space too far already, I will forbear. - Yours respectfully,

JOHN HEWITT, Toronto, February 3.

HAMILTON.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

DEAR SIR,-The present Ministry in Ontario have seen fit to introduce several Bills into the Legislative Assembly affecting the working classes of this Province. I shall not lose time in trying to divine the motives of the Ministry in thus bringing up, in an apparent hurry, such an amount of legislation before the House, without in any way consulting the parties to be immediately affected thereby. I refer more particularly in this to the Bill dealing with the existing relations between employers and employed; or, to use the words so hackneyed in those Bills, "masters and workmen."

Now, sir, I am fully authorized by my fellow-workmen in Hamilton to say that we, as a class, depreciate all legislation the tendency of which is to give one class er another; and this, we are sorry to , appears to be the sole aim and intenn of the Bill to be called "The Trades all | Arbitration Act, 1873."

We are informed in the preamble to the ct that "Her Majesty, by and with the rice and consent of the Legislative As- and Shamrock, Toronto. bly of the Province of Ontario enacts llows:"-and then follows a masterof modern legislation. Now would it e quite as well for our great men (who not always wise) to make themselves tly acquainted with what is actually nted by the community before they rush f in hot haste to advise Her Most Gracious Majesty to give Her consent to something exceedingly silly in conception and detail; for on a careful examination of the "Trades Arbitration Act" we discover not "mam." The answer is, "The Psalms of that the only possible sources of dispute David." and difference between employers and emplaced out of the reach of the Arbitrators.

It may well be called a gem of the first bogwater, after a thunder-shower in July, "clear as mud" "on the lines where beauty lingers."

Passing over the Registrar's fee, which is to be two dollars and no more, and also the least and greatest numbers that shall men should take place in releases to any constitute a Board, with the time given for the election of such Board and their time of continuing in office, we arrive at what I had almost said was the "heart" of the "Bill;" but unfortunately, it is a dead thing without as much as a shadow of

heart. Here we are :- "The Board shall have power to hear and determine all questions of disputes, and differences between the masters and workmen, but nothing in this Act contained shall authorize the said Board to establish a rate of wages or price of labour or workmanship, at which the workmen shall in future be paid." Now, sir, if this is not a gem in legislation we must dig deep to find one. Do not the bill was rather to establish a body which lawyers meet and arrange a scale of fees to be charged in future to their clients? simply by discussion. The bill, however, great lightness. A double opera-glass might ize the said Bourd to establish a rate of If not, what means the taxing of a bill of went further and provided that to some cx- be made of Zopissa paper, so light that the

city and town arranged during the present winter a new scale of visiting-charges? And special attention was given by them to visiting after six p.m.; and most justly were they entitled to do so. Again, take up any report of the proceedings of the various church courts in the Dominion, and is not the rate of pay made a prominent feature in all the denominations? Differ in what else they may, in this they all agree, that a body of men engaged in the same profession or calling are not only justified in so doing, but if they neglect to arrange a fixed scale of rates to be charged in all similar cases, they are deserving of blame.

But the last great effort of the "great circumlocution office" shows how not to do it even if you have a Board of twenty and an independent chairman. The framer of the Bill deserves the biggest bunch of red tape ever given from the "great circumlocution office."

I remain,

Yours, &c., Feb. 3rd, 1873. WORKMAN.

B. M. UNION, OTTAWA.

(To the Editor of THE WORKMAN,)

SIR,-Having the honor of being Corresponding Secretary to the "Ottawa Bricklayers' and Masons' Union," I deem it my duty, while sending you a return of our ast election of officers, to make a few brief remarks on the origin and progress of our Union. Early in the spring of last year it was found necessary to form a union for the protection of our trade, so a meeting was called and a union was formed on the 6th of April, 1872-which, to the credit of the Bribklavers and Masons of Ottawa, be it said that, ever since its formation it has had a continual run of success, the best proof of which is the steady increase both in members and capital, until at present we find ourselves far above the power of the few "Black sheep" who would if possible show their teeth. The following are the names of the members duly elected officers for the ensuing year :- President, W. Mc-Evale; Vice-President, B. Sears; Recording Secretary, Wm. Finch; Corresponding Secretory, J. E. McGuire; Fin. Secretary, A. MucLennan; Tyler, John Toy,

Yours &c., J. E. McGuire, Cor. Sec. B. & M. Union, Ottawa. Ottawa City, Jan. 30th, 1873.

CHARADE.

"Kate" sends us the following Charade, which we insert with pleasure, more especially as she says that those that have already appeared were more suited for "children" than

> Beside a church, behind a hill, My first may oft be seen ; My second often quoted is In Fashion's round, I ween; My whole is used I understand, By all the daughters of our land.

We have received further correct answers to the Charado "Joiner" from N. B., T. R. C.,

Correct answers to the Puzzle in last issue have been received from N. B., J. W., J. B. and W. C., Toronto, and S. M., Hamilton. The transposition is "One word." Correct answers to Charade were received from W. C., T. R. C., and J. B. Toronto. The answer from N. B. is not quite correct, as the sixth line should have been "palm" and not "helm." The answer from S. M., Hamilton, is also ingiven to the fifth and seventh lines. A. X. O. is correct all but the last line, which is "Eve,"

MASTERS AND WORKMEN.

In the House on Tuesday night, the Hen. Mr. Crooks moved the third reading of the bill to facilitate the adjustment of disputes. between masters and workmen.

Mr. Cameron said the bill provided that no adjustment be ween masters and workfuture increase of wages. Was there say real legitimate objection to their having wages in future?

Hon. Mr. Crooks said the limitation as to the powers of the board of arbitration provided for in the bill was contained in the English Act, of which his bill was a transcript. It appeared there was a reason for this limitation. The bill in its scope endeavored to accomplish two things,-in the first place, to allay any ill-blood that might arise between masters and workmen; and to facilitate their meeting to discuss questions of difference that might arise between them. The primary object of the should first endeavor to settle differences

costs? Have not the physicians in every | tent this body should be clothed with all | glass would be the heaviest part, so strong as the powers of a Board of Arbitration, its award having the same validity as awards of ordinary arbitrations. It would not appear to be within the reasonable scope of a bill to aid the settlement of disputes between masters and workmen that a body of this kind should have a right to settle by arbitration as to what should be the rate of wages in the future. It had therefore appeared to him desirable to retain in this bill the limitation of the English Act. The bill did not pretend to create a tribunal which should settle all differences, but merely to authorize the formation of boards where differences might be discussed with a view to amicable adjustment. That seemed to be the practical operation of the English boards, and from the report of the Nottingham board which he had read to the House the other day it would appear that most of the difficulties referred to had been settled, not by award, but simply because the parties had been drawn together and thus put in the way of amicably settling their disputes.

Mr. Cameron said the principle would be a good one if it were within the power of the board to compel a master to continue a person in employment at wages to be determined by the board and vice versa. He did not see, however, that that would be the effect of the bill. Take the case of a number of men employed in a printing office, for instance, who demanded that their wages should be increased a certain sum. The employer might refuse, and yet there might be reason on both sides. Now, perhaps a board composed both of masters and workmen might discuss the matter fairly and perhaps settle it by mutual concession. If that could be done, and strikes thus prevented, it would be much more beneficial than the provisions of the bill, which only enabled them to arbitrate upon matters that had occurred in the past.

Hon. Mr. Mowatt said it was difficult for lawyers like his hon, friend and himself to imagine courts which did not possess powers of execution. But experience had proved the utility of tribunals such as those proposed in the bill, by bringing parties together for the discussion of their disputes. This was not a new or untried Act. Courts of arbitration for the settlement of disputes between masters and workmen had been established in various parts of England and had effected far greater results than it was imagined such means would have produced.

Mr. Cameron pointed out that he had not offered any objection to the bill, but had only suggested whether it might not be made more comprehensive in its operation.

Hon. Mr. Mowat observed that the bill gave Boards of Arbitration the same powers that were given in England, and he thought it was better to stop there at present-

The motion was then carried, and the bill read a third time and passed.

A USEFUL DISCOVERY.

The material produced by Col. Szerelmy, and called by the Arabic-sounding name fof Yopissa, is a species of paint, varnish or glue, or rather, a substance combining the special qualities of each of these bodies with others peculiar to itself, It can be employed with the facility of paint. It is as preservative of surface and of lustre as the most successful varnish. It holds with a tenacity equal to the best marine glue, not only wood, paper and cloth, but stone, glass and iron. It is impervious to water. It is incombustible by fire. It is almost an absolute nor-conductor correct in some respects, as no answer was | of heat. While qualities such as these are enough to give a very high commercial value to a chemical product, the cost of production is said to be very low. We have not space to enter into the interesting details of the manner in which Col. Szerelmy was led to the discovery of this important material. He believes that it is the very secret that has imparted so imperishable durability to the sarcophagi, the mummy cloths, and the mural paintings of the ancient Ecuptians. There is, it is certain, a wonderfully Egyptian look about the panels, cloths, and piles, beams and sleepers, prepared by this process. Some of them have been for years under water. Some of them have been empesed to jets of flaming gas. They appear to have been little affected by either. Human life is not of adequate length to apply the test power to agree together for an increase of to which the inventor proposes to submit the timbers he has prepared. But when we say that not only a very large proportion of the newspaper press of the country has called attention to the results of the experiment, but that Dr. Faraday and Sir Roderick Murchison, in an official report which the Mouse of Commons ordered to be printed on the 16th of May, 1860, bear witness to the efficiency of Zopissa for arresting the decay of stone, it will be seen that we have reason for expressing surprise that the material has not been brought into universal use. Its value for maritime and military purposes appears to be extraordinary. Opticians and opera goers know the worth of the new material, aluminium, owing to the two qualities of non-exidization and

to be proof against any but intentional injury, and at a cost which would leave aluminium nowhere. Again, for pipes, cisterns, reservoirs of water, not only can these be made of this material at a third of the price of iron, but the chemical action that is always going on in metal containing water would be obviated, and the great trouble of the winter frosts in London and other large towns, the fracture of the water-pipes, would be rendered a thing of the past; owing not so much to the great strongth as to the non-conducting quality of pipes made of this chesp material. would fail to tell of the uses to which it may be satisfactorily applied. For vessels it may be made to combine the lightness of timber with the resistance of iron armor. For shoes it is at once light and durable. For cartridge cases it presents to the manufacturer of small arms, and indeed to the artillerist in any branch, exactly that of which he is in search.

—London Art Journal.

TRAVELLERS' GUIDE-TORONTO TIME. GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

FROM THE EAST. Belleville Train—9.37 a.m. Express-11.07 p.m.

FROM THE WEST. Night Express—5.15 a.m. Mixed from Berlin—10.45 a.m. Express—6.30 p.m. Mail—1.6 p.m.

GOING WEST

GOING EAST. Express = 5.37 a.m. Mixel = 12 05 a.m. Bellevillo Train = 5.37 p.m. Express = 7.07 p.m.

GOING WEST.

Express-7.30 a.m. Express-11.45 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. FROM THE WEST.

Express—7.00 a.m. Do. 11.50 a.m. Accommodation—11.00s.m Express 1.15 p.m. Mail—5.30 p.m. Accommodation—9.30 p.m Accommodation —4.00 p.m. TORONTO AND NIPISSING RAILWAY,

GOING NORTH. FROM THE NORTH. Mail-10.45 a.m. Mail-5.35 p.m. Connects with Midland Railway for Lindsay, Beaver ton, Peterborough, &c.

TORONTO, GREY & BRUCE RAILWAY. WHICH BTATION.

Mail—7.30 a.m. Do. 3.45 p.m.

FROM THE WEST Mail—11.30 a.m. Do 8.50 p.m.

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Kuyper and Houlman's Hollaud Gin: Bass's Palo Ale;
Guinness's and Blood's Dublin Stout; Montreal India
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