

TO THE ELECTORS

OF THE

Eastern Division of the City of Toronto.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to announce that I intend to be a Candidate for the House of Commons, in the above Division, at the coming General Election for the Dominion Parliament.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

JAMES BEATY.

Toronto, 24th June, 1872.

NOTICE.

We shall be pleased to receive items 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.

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.

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All communications should be addressed to the Office, 112 Bay Street, or to Post Office Box 1025.

J. S. WILLIAMS,
SUPERINTENDENT.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1872.

WATER WORKS COMMISSION.

The election of Water Commissioners took place on Friday last, and the result was just what was to have been expected—a stinging rebuke to those would-be autocrats who had so nicely cut and dried a Union Ticket which was to exclude all other candidates from competing, unless being charged with "presumption," or with the view of a desire "to recuperate their fortunes at the public expense." The state of the poll at the close was as follows:—

WESTERN DIVISION.

Worthington	830
Bell	862
Gzowski	550
McMurrich	470

EASTERN DIVISION:

Platt	774
Allan	691
Shon	478
Wright	399
Medcalf	325

Speaking of the result of the vote, the *Mail* says:—

"Before the polling had gone on for an hour it was evident that this election was to be the exponent of something more than the fitness of the candidates to superintend the construction of Water Works for the city of Toronto. Right or wrong a greater issue was underlying the struggle. 'The *Globe's* candidates far behind! Workingmen, vote for your friends!' was a placard including the principle that decided the contest at an early stage, and in the result may be seen one more instance of the folly of a wrong-headed opposition to a popular feeling. On a recent critical occasion the course pursued by the *Globe* alienated its friends and exasperated its enemies. Arrayed against the mighty engine of Labor the *Globe* was impotent. Its embrace was death, and never mind what the merits of a candidate might be, the support of the *Globe* has proved fatal to his chances."

The manner in which the Union candidates were put forward, whose certain election was considered a foregone conclusion by the *Globe* and *Mail*, and notably the unmerited abuse, on the part of the *Globe*, of one of the candidates who dared have the pre-

sumption to oppose the ticket, roused into activity the power that else might have lain dormant; and the result has proved that the electors—not the wire-pullers—have power in their hands and sufficient intelligence to use it.

Of course, the *Globe* could hardly be expected to express satisfaction at the result; and so takes its miserable petty revenge by endeavoring to make light of the proceedings that were had at the close of polling; and in the next morning's edition, while yielding as gracefully as possible to circumstances, and letting down very gently two of three successful candidates who were not on his ticket—Messrs. Worthington and Platt—as very amiable gentlemen, and all that, the *animus* of that journal was shown in the parting kick it gives to the obnoxious one in these words:

"Of all possible candidates Ald. Bell was perhaps the one whose election was least possible to be desired. He brings to the Board the weight of neither character nor ability, and he is a representative of the faction whose proceedings in connection with municipal affairs have always been corrupt and detrimental to the public interest."

Mr. Bell has served the people at the Council Board for over twelve years—and though the *Globe* has been ready enough with general charges and inuendoes, yet never one specific charge against Mr. Bell has been brought and proved;—all those long years—and it may be safely relied upon that it was not the will that was wanted but the power to do so; and the people—who are better judges of merit than even the Hon. George Brown—have shown the estimation in which they hold his fulminations, by electing to the very responsible position of Water Commissioner the man against whom such base charges are made without any attempt at establishing them. Of the same gentleman, the *Mail* speaks thus:—

"We have nothing to say against Mr. Bell, except that we shall think him wanting in good judgment if he assists in depriving the West end of a representative of the calibre of Mr. Gzowski."

"To the *Globe* and its rabid opposition to the workingmen he is indebted for his election; for 'the many' did not stop to consider more than that he was against the *Globe*. If Mr. Bell gives the Board the benefit of that good common sense which has inspired 862 citizens to vote for him as a Water Commissioner, and of that dogged integrity that has kept him a poor man in spite of any opportunities that may have arisen during his long connection with the Council, to profit by occasion, he will soon command the good opinion even of those who opposed him."

The Board of Commissioners being thus elected, we believe that, with perhaps the one exception, there will be every disposition to give it fair play. Of course, every act of the Commissioners will be subject to the closest scrutiny, and fair and honourable criticism. It could not be wished to be otherwise. They have a very grave and onerous task; but we have every confidence they will set about its accomplishment with that zeal and singleness of purpose, which will fully justify the electors in having placed it in their hands.

MR. JAMES BEATY, M.P.

Mr. Jas. Beaty, M.P., is again before the electors of the Eastern Division as a Candidate for the House of Commons, at the ensuing general election for the Dominion Parliament. Mr. Beaty will, undoubtedly, easily walk the course, but his friends must see to it that his certainty of success does not make them indifferent or negligent to use all the means at their command.

A GOOD JOKE.

The story is current that at one of the polling places, on Friday last, one of the "free and independent" forgot the names of the candidates for whom he was to vote. Being challenged, he hesitated, and finally got out of his dilemma by thrusting his hand into his coat-pocket, and drawing therefrom a dilapidated paper, and thereby getting his cue at once, cried out, "Allan and Wright."

THE COMING ELECTIONS.

In a very short time—we know not how soon—an election will take place for a new Parliament for the Dominion.

To a very large extent, the working classes hold a balance of power, and we think the time has now arrived when they should use that power to advance their own interests. It is, perhaps, too early a day to expect the Labor party to adopt a platform and put forth candidates of their own, but they can in many ways advance their best interests by supporting such candidates who may present themselves for their suffrages, as are willing to advance and support such measures as the operative classes may wish to see promoted. We shall take occasion at a future period to allude to some of these measures; but in the meantime we wish to impress upon the minds of working men the necessity of unity of action. This is a matter that should not be left till the last moment, but should occupy their serious attention at once.

The events of the past week prove conclusively that—if the workingmen are but prepared to take advantage of it—the opportunity has come whereby they can obtain a signal victory. Let them not be slow to thoroughly appreciate it.

PRESENTATION TO LADY MACDONALD.

For the past few days there has been on view, at Messrs. James E. Ellis & Co.'s, a solid gold jewel casket, which it is proposed to present to Lady Macdonald by the Trades' Unions of Toronto. The casket is four inches in length by three in width, is moulded on the sides, and is borne on foliated claws. On the top is a burnished oval on which is the inscription: "Presented by the International Workingmen's Union, to Lady Macdonald, as a testimonial of their respect for the wife of Canada's greatest statesman, July 1st, 1872." On the front is a shield on which are engraved Sir John A. Macdonald's crest—a hand in armour, supporting crossed crosslet fitch, and the motto, "Per mare per terras." The ornament is Arabesque. The work reflects great credit on Messrs. Ellis, by whom it has been executed. The idea of this presentation has sprung from a sense of gratitude by the Trades' Unions to Sir John Macdonald for the bill which he introduced allowing members of Trades' Unions to combine for all lawful purposes, and very properly removing obsolete and illiberal restrictions long ago wiped off the English Statute book.

BRASS FINISHERS, MONTREAL.

On Saturday last the brass shops of Montreal struck for the nine hour system. These shops include casters, finishers, plumbers, coppersmiths, silver-platers, and tinsmiths. We hope success may speedily crown the efforts that are now being put forth to establish the short time system in Montreal.

LABOR CONTEST IN IRELAND.

One of the most serious and ominous trials of strength between the power of Capital and the power of Labor which have ever been ventured on in the old country is now preceeding in Belfast. The laborers in the flax mills have struck for higher wages, and "lockouts" are following one another in quick succession. On Saturday last 11 factories had been closed, and 12,000 employees, who worked 180,000 spindles, thrown out of work on the spot. This week the "lockouts" have continued, and we believe that between twenty and thirty mills have now stopped work, and that 30,000 artisans are now idle. Some time ago the employers gave an advance of sixpence to a shilling a week to the women and children in their employment, but the present demand comes from the men—the "dressers" and the roughers—the former asking an increase of four shillings and the latter a shilling less. After a good deal of consideration, the masters offered to give an advance of two shillings, leaving the question whether it should be two shillings in perman-

ence or any sum from that to four, to be settled by arbitration. The masters renewed their offer to give two at once, and added that they would submit to arbitration the point of permanent advance as far as three shillings a week. But the men refused to accept this compromise, and hence the open rupture which now threatens with serious injury the staple manufacture of Belfast.

A NEW IDEA.

A writer in the *Shoe and Leather Record* makes this suggestion looking to a permanent removal of the disagreement between capital and labor. Let the manufacturers, representing capital, and the workmen, representing labor, instead of indulging in mutually irritating recriminations, organize a great national, or, perhaps, better still, international, capital and labor convention, to be held in, say New York, as the largest city of the United States, or in Washington, D. C., as the seat of the Federal Government, to devise the best means of effectually reconciling the interests of capital and labor, which viewed from a common sense standpoint, are, after all, identical. If the old wages system be weighed in the balance and found wanting, let it be abandoned and, some other system substituted more in accordance with the requirements and spirit of the age. It was certainly well enough adapted to the relations formerly existing between employers and employed. But the steam engine, and the marvellous improvements in labor-saving machinery which have followed in its wake, have introduced a new order of things, and it should not surprise us to find that the new system of work in factories, with its closely defined division of employments, calls for new industrial arrangements and for a revision of those laws which have hitherto regulated the mutual relations of labor and capital. It may be found, if the proper method of investigation be pursued, that the old bottles of our forefathers are not suitable for the new wine of to-day.

THE RELATIONS OF LABOR.

We hear a great deal from the lecturers and orators of the day about the "laboring classes," as if the people who do the work for society were a race quite distinct from those who are born to do nothing but enjoy the fruits of labor without contributing anything to the productive wealth of the country. And we find that as occasion offers there is a wide difference in the general estimate of those people whose avocation is toil. Some of the public teachers—for those who make talking a business are prone to claim the right to do the teaching in every department of knowledge, political, religious and moral—have much to say at times about "the dignity of labor," and are very eloquent in impressing the duty of labor upon all except themselves. They tell us continually that every man is born to labor, and that if he does not follow that order of nature he neither performs his duty nor fulfils his destiny. And it is astonishing what a difference there is, at times, in the relations which labor and its "dignity" bear to wealth and idleness. Just about the election period, the laborer figures largely as the hero of society, who holds in his hands the destinies of a nation and the fate of government. He is made to believe that not only is the government machine operated by his will, but that its work is exclusively for his benefit. At other times when workingmen, being convinced of the inadequacy of fine-drawn theories and flaunting rhetoric to their wants, proceed practically to take the management of their interests in their own hands, and to organize associations for self-protection, and, by combinations, endeavor to establish such rates of wages as will afford them a decent support, the "laboring classes" slide down in the scale of dignity, and are regarded as unreasonable, tyrannical and rebellious; the powerful arm of government is invoked to reduce them to submission, and legislative wisdom is urged to subject and restrain them. Then we are required to recant all our former opinions about what we owe to

labor, and to remember only what labor owes to capital.

The absurdity of these various and opposing ideas is apparent; but the reconciliation of interests, and the remedy for the constantly conflicting efforts of capital and labor to obtain the mastery, remain as far from adjustment as ever. The truth is, that a want of sincerity on the part of political economists, and the growing conviction among the people of the hypocritical character of their teachers, is the cause of the difficulty and the obstacle to a mutual understanding and an equitable settlement. Now, when the mercenary orator harangues the populace about "dignity," and impresses the necessity of "protection" to secure the interests of laboring people, it has become manifest that he is not really pleading the cause of labor, but only bolstering the rapacity of capitalists, who get the protection for themselves, and dole out about as much of the indirect "benefits" as they may think fit for their operatives. We must understand more thoroughly the hardships and privations of laboring people before we can fairly judge of their conduct when, under the stringent rule of poverty; and we should appreciate the services of those who relieve us from the burden of duties we are wont to "shirk" and happily escape, while they who toil daily, toil for their own support as well as for the support of their more fortunate neighbors. The miner who digs our coal, the scavenger who cleans our streets, have a daily task before them, from which most of us would shrink in horror, and consider ourselves most unjustly persecuted if we were obliged to perform; and yet, this is the business of their whole lives; for this they seem to have been born; they live by it, and still they live for it. Surely, this is virtually a condition of slavery, and perhaps the most intolerable kind of slavery, where poverty is the master, and capital the steward or overseer. Is it wonderful that the subjects of it claim and try to secure a fair remuneration for their labor?

Labor has a dignity far above the factitious importance which selfish politicians attribute to it, when votes are needed and money is running short. In proportion to its usefulness and the self-sacrifice involved in it, labor is indeed honorable. Therefore, it follows that those avocations commonly regarded the most menial are the most honorable; and society owes a debt of gratitude to all those who bear the burden of the hardest and most disagreeable work, which it can best reciprocate by a cheerful remuneration for the most toilsome and exacting employment.—*Western Workman.*

TRADES' ASSEMBLY PIC-NIC.

The pic-nic at Carleton Grove, under the auspices of the Trades' Assembly, though perhaps not so largely attended as on some previous occasions, was a very successful and enjoyable affair. Everything passed off agreeably and pleasantly. The various games were well contested. Notwithstanding that the weather was very warm, the lovers of dancing indulged to their heart's content, and the strains of the band were heard almost continuously. The party returned home at about eight o'clock, without the slightest unpleasantness having marred the harmony of the day. We subjoin the list of successful competitors:—

1. Quoit Match, 21 yards.—1st prize, value \$8, presented by W. Millichamp, Robert Ellison; 2nd, Tobacco Stand, L. Seivert, Frank McDonald; 3rd Felt Hat, W. & D. Dineen, Phillip McDonough.
2. Throwing Heavy Weight—1st prize, Pair Pants, \$5, presented by Potley & Dineen, J. J. Lappin; 2nd, Silk Hat, J. & J. Lugeiden, John Cooney; 3rd, Box of Cigars, Jame Burns, Wm. Lappin.
3. Flat Race, 200 yards.—1st prize, Silver Watch, presented by Charles Carnegie, John Lindsey; 2nd, Pair Sewed Gaiters, J. Cooper, John Barnes; 3rd, Vest, W. Finch, Royal Tiger, H. Lappin.
4. Three Quick Jumps—1st prize, pair of Sewed Gaiters, presented by Mr. John Smyth, P. McMahon; 2nd, Silk Hat, Coleman, "Hats that are Hats," John Hess; 3rd, Fancy Shirt, J. Cooper, G. E. Huson.