

# Ontario Workman.

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

VOL. II.—No. 35.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1873.

No. 87.

## Correspondence.

### THE CITY ELECTION.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR:—I was glad to see by your last paper that a workman has expressed the views of the working men of this City so far at least as I am aware they prevail amongst them. Mr. Moss may be a very nice young man, but I am of the opinion that we have too many of the law element in the House already. But that is not the only thing that we have against him. No Union men can forget the treatment they have received at the hands of Mr. Bickford, Manager of the *Globe*. Our memories are too fresh to let us forget the vindictive persecution that was shown to all of our way to the City, by the way he served the printers who stood up for their union principles. If he had been successful at that time in securing a verdict against the "prisoners at the bar," we know the character of the man too well to think that his crusade against the working men would have stopped there, but while his will was bitter enough to send the men to prison, the power was wanting to commit them, and he had to acknowledge the weakness of his case by dropping the prosecution, after bringing the men before the magistrate like common criminals. Yes, Mr. Editor, we remember all this, and we remember too the determination that was then expressed and has since been acted upon and will also in the present cause—and that is that any man whom George Brown supports, and who supports him in return, will receive the most uncompromising opposition at our hands. I look at the support we give to Mr. Bickford from this point, and I know there are hundreds who do the same, and I hope that the workmen of West Toronto will show on Monday that they do not forget the past. So far as Mr. Bickford is himself concerned I do not know much about him, nor do I know anything more about Mr. Moss. Mr. Moss is a lawyer, and Mr. Bickford, we are told, made his money by peddling trees and selling old scrap iron, and if he did, I do not see that there is any disgrace to be attached to that, anyhow he must have been pretty industrious in his occupation. But I have given my reasons for supporting Mr. Bickford, and I know they will find a response in the hearts of my fellows. Hoping that you will insert my letter,

I remain

Your's in fraternity,

T. J. S.

Toronto, Dec. 9th, 1873.

### THE TAILOR'S STRIKE.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR:—As the public press in our day is the medium of stating public grievances and as we, the operative tailors, comprise a portion of the public—an obscure one if you will, but a useful one now in the political order.—I notice a portion of the press of this city is very anxious indeed to publish public grievances, and hold up injustice and unfairness to the contempt it deserves, but not so anxious to expose grievances in the social order. Now Sir, as our grievance is in the social order, I believe it is my duty, and the duty of every friend of humanity, to make an effort to settle a grievance such as ours is, and to let the public know the facts. First during these ten weeks that our strike has lasted, the employers have not made the least effort to have a settlement. Nine weeks ago we sent them a respectful note inviting a settlement; but they repulsed us, and said they would not meet us as a Society, though heretofore they met us as a Society and mutually red our grievances. It is singular that they would not meet us this time half-way, as we were willing to meet them and concede on the demand we were making. About six weeks ago we joined the Trades' Assembly, and at our request they, on their part, sent three arbitrators to make a second effort to bring about an arbitration. Their effort was also repulsed. Such, Sir, are the plain facts of our case; and I think the public has a right to know them, that employers holding the position in society as they do, should treat their workmen, who have worked for them 20 years and over, with such contempt. Hoping, Sir, that you will allow me space in your widely circulated journal for this letter.

I remain respectfully yours,

JOSEPH BONDIDIER.

Toronto, Dec. 5, 1873.

### WORKING MEN IN PARLIAMENT.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR:—Under the above heading I am anxious to know why it is that so little is done by the working men, who are the largest number of voters, in not being directly represented, in the Local and Dominion Parliament, it cannot be, that their intelligence is at so low a standard that they do not recognise the necessity, or benefits that so desired an object would effect. Sir, I would prefer to think that it is their seeming indifference to principles and the interests that are at stake, and not that they as working men do not see the absolute necessity of being directly represented by their own men, where all the classes are so fully represented, the objection raised against this, is that in this country, which is so different from the old country, that all are working men, who at present sit in Parliament, Sir, this has been so often proved fallacious, that it is only wasting time and space to argue it. What I should like to see is this, that as the working men in the old country are now determined to be directly represented by their own order and selected from themselves, that the same feeling should arise in this country to effect and carry out the same object and principles. How should this be done is clear to all, agitation and discussion has proved, that where the class of the community is not represented, there is sure to follow bad and unjust Legislations. Towards that class which consists of the greatest numbers and the effects is that, which was stated in an address of a Candidate, during the late election up west, "That the rich were getting richer, and the poor poorer." Sir, I would ask my fellows to wake from this lethargy and be up and doing, and now that the opportunity is now open in one of the divisions of the City, to show by their actions in selecting one of their own order, and sending him by their votes to the House of Commons, as a direct Representative of Labor in Parliament.

I am, Sir,

Your's Fraternally,

R. FAIRBAIRN.

Toronto, Dec. 9th, 1873.

### OTTAWA CORRESPONDENCE.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR:—Perhaps a few lines from the Capitol will not be amiss at this time. Business generally is in *statu quo*. There is a stagnation in trade of every description such as has not occurred within the last five years. Skilled labor should give Ottawa a wide berth until spring at least. Politics is the all absorbing topic at present, varied in opinion as to the result of the issue in the next meeting of Parliament. Conservatives are sanguine of an upset of the present government while thorough Grits believe that the result of the elections, so far, indicate a long lease of power for the powers that be. Be the result as it may, we anticipate a lively time in an election to fill the seat of the Hon. R. W. Scott, who has resigned his position in the Ontario Legislature for the purpose of being appended to the tail-end of the Dominion Government. Many people here imagine that had Mr. Anglin waived his pet ideas Mr. Scott would have been left out in the cold. However, Mr. Anglin proving incorrigible, Mr. Scott was subservient, and, deserting his old chief, accepted a temporary appointment without portfolio, trusting to the retirement of James O'Reilly M.P. for Renfrew, on an appointment to a judgeship, as the price of the betrayal of his best friends—friends who placed him in a purchasable position—to enable the said R. W. Scott to secure a seat for a portfolio, well, knowing that in Ottawa he could not secure an endorsement of his desertion—so public opinion opines. The general opinion is that a thorough workman will be a candidate to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Scott and there is no reason why he should not be elected. The Conservatives—Lumberers, Merchants, and others—are quite willing to cast themselves in with the workingmen, to secure the election of one of their number to a seat in the Provincial Legislature, and in this step the conservative element is only carrying out the programme inaugurated in Hamilton—that of recognizing brain in

preference to money qualification. The militia law sets forth that every man being a British subject is amenable to carry a rifle for the protection of the country, and why not give him a voice in the framing of laws for its good government? Should a workingman be the chosen candidate I have no doubt but that the Liberal Conservative workmen of Ottawa will give a good account of their appreciation of the party who pledged themselves to give workingmen the repeal of the very obnoxious Criminal Law Amendment Act, Masters' and Servants' Act, as well as an equitable Election or Ballot Bill, together with the fact that the Liberal Conservatives are the only party, so far, who have deemed it politic to encourage the claims of workingmen to seats in Parliament either Local or Dominion. Neither House would suffer by the infusion of the practical ideas of men born with brain, but minus money. There is scarcely a doubt but had there been a practical workingman on the floor of the Local House during the session last spring the present travesty on an equitable lien law would never have been on the statute books. This measure, as it became law, is an insult to the intelligence of the working class and was repudiated by a meeting of workmen held in Toronto, in February last, but whose remonstrances went unheeded by the government of the day. The old adage of "He who would have a good servant must serve himself," will hold good in the present instance. In conclusion, I may say that the workingmen of Ottawa, being true to themselves, hold the balance of power and that the party who sustains their candidate certainly deserves their best support.

Your's, etc.,

OCCASIONAL.

Ottawa, Dec. 8th, 1873.

[Our correspondent is somewhat in error in reference to the lien law. The remonstrances of the workingmen in mass meetings were needed to some extent, but the law was not entirely omitted, but the mode of collection was unaltered, and that practically renders the bill of no effect to mechanics.—Ed. W.]

### Rally to the mass meeting of Workingmen on Saturday Evening.

#### MASS MEETING OF THE WORKINGMEN OF WEST TORONTO.

A mass meeting of workingmen in the interest of Mr. Bickford was called last night at Blake's Granary, Queen street. Long before the chair was taken a large number of men from the Central Prison and Messrs. Dickey, Neill & Co.'s shops, under the leadership of John Hellem, foreman of the Prison works, assisted by the notorious Terry Clarke, put in an appearance and stationed themselves near the platform, and it was evident from their blackguardly behaviour, that the proceedings were not to be allowed to pass off smoothly, and many of them openly acknowledged that they had been paid an extra day's wages to break up the meeting.

On motion of Mr. Carter, Mr. Boyle was elected chairman.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, claimed a fair hearing for all who might wish to address the electors on the subject of the approaching election of a representative to Parliament for the Western Division. He had a vote which he intended to record a favor of Mr. Bickford, whom he considered the most fitting person in every respect to represent them in Parliament. (Cheers.) He called upon Mr. Williams to address the meeting.

Mr. J. S. WILLIAMS, of the ONTARIO WORKMAN, on coming forward, was received with loud cheers. He had, however, scarcely commenced to speak, when a number of "Dickey's lads" and men from the Central Prison, made a rush for the platform, and taking the Conservative speakers by surprise, succeeded in driving them into the body of the room. The scene that ensued was most disgraceful, the greatest disorder and confusion prevailed, lamps were extinguished, a stove that stood near the platform pulled down and demolished and shouting, groaning, and noises of every description indulged in for about fifteen minutes. The instigators of the row appeared to be a man named Hellem, the foreman of the

Central Prison workmen and the notorious Terry Clarke. Some of the respectable workingmen who were present, and wished to see fair play, upon recovering from the surprise this shameful onslaught occurred, attempted to regain possession of the platform, and succeeded in ejecting Hellem and others of the rioters. It is probable that a general row and free fight would have ensued, had it not been for the opportune arrival of Sergeant-Major Hastings and another police officer, who managed to restore quiet for a few moments.

The chairman said that the conduct they had just witnessed was most disgraceful, and did not redound to the credit of Mr. Moss's supporters. The meeting had been called in the interest of the Conservative candidate, and his supporters should be granted fair play. If any of Mr. Moss's supporters wished to address the meeting, they would be allowed a hearing. He trusted that they would pay quiet attention to what Mr. Williams had to say.

Mr. Williams, who again attempted to address the meeting, said that he came there expecting to hear logical arguments, and not to have brute force employed against him. He thought it a most disgraceful proceeding on the part of those who had attempted to intimidate the Conservative speakers. All that the supporters of Mr. Bickford asked, was fair play for both sides, and they would leave it to the electors to decide whose views were correct. (Uproar.) He came there as a representative workingman to address his fellow-electors upon a question of vital importance affecting their interests. He considered it high time that they should have direct representatives of labor in Parliament. They all looked forward to the next election for the Local Legislature, when it was probable that they would have a workingman of their own to represent them. He believed Mr. Bickford would represent them fairly and honestly in the Dominion House. (Cheers and uproar.) Mr. Bickford had given his opinions upon questions affecting their liberties, and he need scarcely say that the Criminal Law Amendment Act was one of them. There were no doubt a good many Union men there that night, and he wishes them to understand that that law stood against them to deprive them of their liberty. They must agitate till it was repealed. Mr. Bickford had given assurances that at the earliest possible moment he and his Party would endeavor to have that law amended. (Uproar.) Mr. Blake had asked at the hustings who it was that put the law on the statute book? He would answer that question by asking another: Why was it put on the statute book? Simply because twenty-three printers were dragged to prison by George Brown for asserting their rights. (General confusion.) It was only at the end of the session that this Act to rescue these men from imprisonment could be introduced. And so it was passed with an addendum that had there been time to discuss it would never have been passed at all. He wished them to understand that Mr. Bickford and the Party he represented, and the journals of that Party had pledged themselves to lend their influence at the next election for the Local House towards securing the return of a representative workingman. This would be one of the greatest means of elevating their social position. He thought that Mr. Bickford should have their support.

Another unruly interruption was here caused by the behaviour of Mrs. Moss's supporters, and Mr. Williams was compelled to resume his seat.

Mr. GEO. EVANS, did not see that the workingmen had any grievance to complain of. (Oh, oh.) If any grievance existed it could be redressed by the mechanics combining in a body and petitioning the Legislature, who would not dare to oppose them. He asked if they could choose a finer man than a mechanic like Mr. Mackenzie to control the affairs of the country a man who with the chisel in his hand had worked himself up to his present proud position. (Laughter.) The cry about the mechanics, was only got up to "bamboozle" them. (Uproar.) Mr. Bickford called himself a workingman candidate, and yet he encouraged Canadian manufacturers by sending to England for his carriage. (A Voice: Talk politics.)

Mr. JOHN HEWITT said he asked fair play for all. He would personally have no objection to Mr. Edgar being permitted to speak, but, at least, on their side it had been determined that none but workingmen should speak. He alluded to the disgraceful conduct

of the Government officials present. Every person present knew his principles. He did not know either Mr. Bickford or Mr. Moss but great principles were at stake affecting the country, and had those principles been well defined by the present Ministry? (Mr. Hewitt had to allude here to the conduct of Clark, one of the rioters who was provoking a disturbance.) He was not for men but for measures. The principles so far announced by Mr. Mackenzie's Government were prejudicial to the country. He had alluded to the line to be pursued by the Government in the Pacific Railway question at Sarnia in a manner which proved the detrimental character of that policy. The American lines were to be employed over a portion of that route. If the policy sketched out by Mr. Mackenzie at Sarnia had been announced by the late Government that gentleman would have been the first to oppose it. Their policy was calculated to sap the foundation of our government. Mr. Hewitt then alluded to the conduct of the late Opposition with reference to the School Act of Mr. Costigan.

Mr. J. W. LEVINSLEY, of the Machanists and Blacksmiths, was the next speaker, and he claimed the right of a British subject to utter his thoughts on a public platform. He thought the coming election of a member of Parliament was of the greatest moment to the working classes, and it behooved them to select the man most likely to advance their own interests. It was his opinion that Mr. Bickford would do more to advance their interests and the interests of the country at large, than his opponent. Thousands of men were now walking the streets of the city, without employment, not knowing where to obtain next days meat. If such was not their fate, it was impossible to tell how soon it might be, nor how long they might remain in that condition. The cry was that money was scarce, but every thinking man knew that there is as much cash in existence now as six months ago. The trouble is a want of confidence in the stability of our finance and commerce. Sir John Macdonald had controlled the destinies of the country for many years, to the country's great advantage, and in his far seeing policy he had devised a scheme for the introduction of 30,000,000 of money into the country for railway purposes, and this large sum, if introduced and circulated throughout the country, at the present moment, would undoubtedly place the working classes in a far better condition than they were at the present time. The defeat of this scheme, owing to the factious opposition of the Grit party, and their chief organ had deprived the country of an enormous accession of wealth, and now the narrow policy of that party was displayed when they proposed to build the Pacific Railway with Canadian cash—that cash being acknowledged insufficient for the purpose of carrying on the present business of the country successfully. For these and other cogent reasons, he was strongly in favor of the Liberal Conservative candidate, as more likely to bring comfort to the homes of the people. On the accession of the Grit party to power in this Province, a number of prominent Grits were chartered as the Canada Car Company, and a contract entered upon with the Grit Government, in which the Government agreed to let over three hundred prisoners to the Car Company at 55c per day. The Government were unable to supply the requisite number, and the company hired the workmen, the people paying the difference in wages from the taxes. And this was Grit party and economy.

The concluding portion of Mr. Levinsley's address was inaudible, and the mob once more made an attempt to obtain possession of the platform. After a hard contest, aided by the police, the party held their own, and Mr. Carter, who had succeeded to the post originally held by Mr. Boyle, held his post manfully to the last in spite of every effort to dislodge him by the herd of rowdy present. The respectable portion of the audience in obedience to the call of Mr. Carter, gave three hearty cheers for the Queen, the Governor-General, Mr. Bickford, and others, and the meeting was declared at an end.

An amateur farmer wonders "why on all this fair earth the ground is spread bottom-side up, so that it must be turned over with a plow before crops can be raised."

An Irishman was asked if Lala Montes ever smoked. "Yes sir, she did," he exclaimed, "and so does every volcano. Perhaps you'll show me the lovely water that don't smoke!"