

Ontario Workman.

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

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Labor Notes.

A bricklayers' strike for \$2.50 per day is impending at London, Ont.

The Belfast tailors' strike continues. The masters offer 5½d. per hour; the men demanded 6d.

The joiners of Kirkcaldy, Scotland, have succeeded in obtaining the solicited rise of a half-penny a hour.

Three hundred building society operatives of Leamington have struck against altering hours and reducing wages in winter.

Nearly 4000 men have been thrown out of employment by the lock-out of the tailors, which, now has become general in the principal towns of Scotland.

The cutters in the Leicester boot and shoe trade are agitating for an advance of 15 per cent., which is resisted by the manufacturers.

A strike has taken place amongst the Liverpool horsehoopers. They want an advance of 4s. The masters refuse to give them more than 2s.

The Dundee slaters' strike is practically at an end, the employers, with one exception, having conceded the demands of the men. The men resumed work.

The journeymen tailors at Leamington have obtained an advance of one halfpenny per hour. The former payment was 4½d. per hour, based on the old "log" of 1866. The pay is now 5d.

On Wednesday the iron chulkers employed at Palmer's shipbuilding establishment, Jarrow, struck work for increased wages. The chulkers wanted 3s. extra per week, and the masters offered 1s. 6d. The men held a meeting, and resolved to ask for 2s., and this, being conveyed to the employers, was refused, whereupon the men came out on strike.

"An Act to annul the criminal law relating to violence, threats, and molestations," had projected by the Trades Union Congress; and at a conference of members of Parliament and representatives of working men, Mr. Mundella express his willingness to introduce such a bill, Mr. Andrew Johnson and Mr. Eustace Smith at the same time promising to support it.

The master builders of Stokton having taken no notice of an application from the men, made some weeks ago, for an advance in their wages, the men have held a meeting and passed a resolution to strike until the advance is conceded. What they demand is 3s. per week on their present rate of wages, and some diminution in their hours of labor.

The award of the arbitrator appointed to settle the claims of the masters and men in the Birmingham building trades was read on Saturday afternoon. The men claimed an advance of wages from 7½d. to 8½d. per hour. The arbitrator awarded to the carpenters and bricklayers an advance of ½d., making their wages 7½d. per hour. The hours of working and other regulations stand as before. The award has given satisfaction.

At a meeting of house coal colliers, held at Pontypridd, the delegates reported that at twenty-two collieries out of forty-two in the Rhondda Valley, the masters had conceded the demand of 3d. per ton advance. It was also stated that the majority of the masters, who had not yet increased the rate of pay, were inclined to do so, and hopes were expressed that in a few days all the colliers would receive the same amount.

There are people in the world who esteem it so extremely vulgar to express emotion, that if an earthquake were reported to have happened in their neighborhood, they would consider it a proof of their good breeding not to have been moved by it.

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THE ENGLISH IRONMOLDERS' SOCIETY.

From the 63rd annual report of the English ironmolders' society just issued, we take the following extracts:—

"In bringing before your notice the annual report of our proceedings for the sixty-third year, it gives us great pleasure to be able to say that 1872 has been one of the best years that have been experienced in the history of our society. Our members have been better employed, as well as better enumerated, than at any other period in our existence. And it has been well it has been so; otherwise, what with the high rates charged for all the common necessities of life, our position as men with families would have been intolerable. That we have to some extent been enabled to obviate these difficulties is accounted for by the fact that we have a good, solid, strong, and compact society; and as we have looked around us, and seen large bodies of men without union having to put up with whatever wages their employers thought fit to pay them, we have felt grateful to the energy and perseverance of those pioneers of our trade who, amidst good and evil report, stood firm to the principles of union, and left behind them an organization unsurpassed for usefulness and benefit to its members by any other society of the sort in the world.

"Let us glance over the past year's income and expenditure. In the first place, let us take the amount paid for contribution during 1872, and we shall find it to be £26,439 2s. 4½d., as compared with last year £28,134 4s. 4½d., or less by £1,695 2s. 0d.; but it must be borne in mind that there was an extra levy made for 42 weeks at 6d. per week, and 2d. per week for 10 weeks, during 1871, while during 1872 the 2d. levy was only made during the month of January, and the remaining eleven months of the year the contribution was only the ordinary sum of 1s. per week, exclusive of the accident levy; but if we add together the amount received for contribution and accident during 1872, we shall find it to be £30,875 19s. 4½d., whilst in 1871 for both items it was £28,816 11s. 11½d., or an increase in 1872 of £2,059 7s. 5d. This, we think, speaks well for our growing unity and increasing power of usefulness. There has been paid for entrance money, during the past year, £2,284 6s. 10d., as compared with £1,586 8s. 7½d. last year, or an increase in that item of £697 18s. 2½d. Another important item in our income is our annual and monthly reports. It will be seen that we have received for these items £325 1s. 9½d., while their cost was £344 6s. 0d., thus showing a cost over income by expenditure of £19 4s. 2½d.; but although at first sight this may appear a loss, yet we consider, in another sense, it is a great gain, as we have been enabled by it to give a monthly of eight pages throughout the year, instead of four, thereby posting our members well up in the general working of the society.

"Bank interest is the next item we come to, which we shall find to be £331 14s. 2d., as against £39 11s. in 1871, which shows us plainly that it takes some time of good, steady trade before we are enabled to realize much from the item of bank interest.

"Let us now glance at the expenditure, which will bear comparison with any year in any period of our history. The first thing to draw our attention, and which is the main feature in our organization, is that of blank cards and donation, which is set down for the year as £2,887 5s. 8d., as compared with £5,447 0 5d. for 1871, a decrease of £2,559 15s. 1d., or an average cost of 1½d. per week per member for the whole of the year. Now, when we compare this with the cost for 1868, which was over 1s. 7d. per member per week; or 1869, which was 1s. 3½d., we can only say the change is wonderful. It is something glorious to be able to say that 1872 has cost us less for unemployed labor than any year since 1843, a period of 25. Take the next best year in that period, which was 1853,

and we shall find that, with an average of only 4,984 members, it cost us for donation £2,028 12s. 5½d.; while in 1872, with an average of 10,634, cost us, for the same benefit, only £2,887 5s. 8d. It has indeed been a good year, and we hope 1873 may be something like it.

"The next item is that of sickness, and here we have not exactly the same cause for rejoicing. The amount paid was £5,153 1s. 4d., or rather under 2½ per member per week, and £588 19s. 1d. more than the previous year. We must, of course, expect, as our numbers increase so also will our liabilities, so there is not much cause to complain. If we turn from the superannuation benefit, we shall also find there a slight increase. There has been paid in 1872, £2,236 11s. 10d., as compared with £1,792 9s. 7d. for 1871, or an increase of £444 2s. 3d., at a cost per member of rather under 1d. per week.

"For funerals we have paid, during the year, £1,345, as compared with £1,320 for the previous year, or slightly under ½d. per member per week.

"Our expenditure for accidents has been, during the year, £914 9s. 5d. This has been fully met, and the old debt paid off by the levies during the year, as will be fully shown in the account of the accident fund.

"The working expenses, for printing, stationery, officers' salaries, postage and parcels, rent of rooms, bank expenses, delegations, and various other incidentals, amount in the gross to about £2,198, or about 6½ per cent. on the net income of the year; but if we take the set-off, in the shape of cash returned for reports, cases, postage, bank interest, &c., we shall then reduce the working expenses to something like £1,440, or under ½d. per week per member; and we are bold enough to affirm that there is no institution of the same magnitude as our own worked for a less expenditure, or on more economical principles.

"The number of members as returned by the various branches, has been 1,734 during 1872, as compared with 1,523 during 1871. It will also be seen that the increase in number during the year has been 1,231, while the number excluded has been 378, as compared with 373 in 1871; these things speak very well as to the state and condition of the society. 115 members and 65 members' wives have died during the year: this is about the average of the past few years, or about three more in both sexes than last year.

Having referred to other subjects, the Report concludes thus:—"And now, brother members, having laid before you our report for 1872, as concise and correct as we possibly can, allow us to repeat a wish before expressed—that 1873, and all future years, may be as good as the past; but this is almost more than we can expect, more especially if our past experience is to be any guide for the future. The great advance which has taken place in the price of most materials used in our trade must have an evil influence before long; let us then venture a word of advice and caution: Make use of the golden moments as they fly; throw no chance away; keep steady in the harness; give no one the opportunity to reproach us for neglect or improvidence; be frugal, industrious, and persevering; and, above all, let us never allow our arrears to run us into suspension from benefit. Banded together in society as one man, and come weal or come woe, we shall be all the better provided for it. Unity will then indeed be strength; and when we have to throw off the shackles of mortality, we shall leave the good old Union better than we found it."

THE BOILERMAKERS AND IRON SHIP BUILDERS.

The annual report of this society for 1872 has just been issued, from which we take the following extracts:

The past year has been a very prosperous one, and we have much reason to be thankful for it. The progress made has been

very great in every particular. During no previous year has the society made such rapid strides, and been so thoroughly successful and useful in all its workings. This must be born in mind, and still further exertions made to improve our already good position, knowing not how soon a time may come when the good we have been, and now are doing, will bear fruit to our benefit and show us that our exertions have been wise and judicious.

The principles and operations of our society are becoming better known and wider spread year by year, and I am sure it will be very gratifying to you to know that, in lodges alone, the increase last year was seventeen, being four more than in the previous one. They now number one hundred and twenty-five.

The augmentation in the number of members is very gratifying indeed. Great as was the increase during the preceding year, that of last year is just 50 per cent. above it. The increase is 2,540, and the number of members at present 11,523. This is the right sort of thing. Our increase in accumulated capital gives us still further reason to rejoice—certainly no previous year comes anything near it—being over 79 per cent. more than that of 1871, which was an unparalleled one. The balance in hand on the last meeting night, in December, reached the splendid sum of £25,123 16s. 1½d., showing an increase of £11,154 14s. 7½d. During the year we have received in contributions £23,486 19s. 9d., showing an increase in this item of £5,236 9s. 2½d., which all will admit, I think, is a very substantial sum. The sums received for entrance amounted to £1,500 7s. 3d., being an increase on the previous year of £495 6s. 9d., or nearly 50 per cent. As interest on our capital the amount received shows an increase of £46 7s. 7d. on the preceding year, which is a good sign that attention is being paid to this important matter. For the year the total income amounts to £25,736 17s. 8d., which, with the balance of £13,974 1s. 5½d. from the preceding year, brings the grand total to £39,710 19s. 1¾d.

The sum of £4,184 11s. 3d. has been paid for sick benefit, which is a decrease of £28 1s. 5d. This is doubtless to the alteration in the rules as to payment of sick visitors, and the increased attentiveness on their part. The amount paid during the year for superannuated is £1,192 2s. 4d., being a decrease of £185 15s. 11d. on the previous year. Relative to this matter a review of the four years preceding the alteration of the rules in 1871 has shown me that the claims on this fund has increased from £506 17s. 10d.—or 1s. 4½d. per member per annum—to £1,145 18s. 3d.—or 3s. 4½d. per member per annum—within that time.

The amount which has been paid out for the principal benefits during the past year is £9,304 18s. 6d. In a table accompanying the report I have presented you with an account of the various benefits paid out during the past six years, and the average amount per member for that period; also the amount of each item paid, the amount per member, and the balance at the end of each of these years. The total paid for benevolent purposes during the six years is £65,764, or about £8 14s. 7d. per member. As a set-off to this you may notice the small amount paid on account of disputes during the same period, being £3,203, or 8s. 6d. per member. Certainly we all should hope that this will never increase, but that each succeeding year may find it growing perceptibly less.

As a matter of extreme importance to us, I would suggest that at the next election our members appoint deputations to wait upon all candidates, to know whether they will vote for the repealing, or alteration, of such laws as now affect us injuriously, such as the Master and Servants Act, the Criminal Law Amendment Act, and the law of conspiracy as applied to trade unions. We wish to be placed as trade unionists on an equal footing in the eyes of the law as all other classes, and do not wish to be granted any special favors. We wish to obtain jus-

titice, and this we must have. Our rules are registered according to the Parliament, and an annual return of income and expenditure, we have nothing to cloak or hide from public view. Let us, therefore, give our votes to such as will do for us all in their power in the direction in which we are aiming, and then we may confidently hope that in the end we shall obtain that which we seek.

R. KNIGHT, C. Sec.

THE PROPOSED DEMONSTRATION OF THE LONDON TRADES.

A meeting of the delegates representing the London Trades Societies was held on Wednesday at the Bell, Old Bailey, for the purpose of considering the propriety of adopting a resolution unanimously passed at a meeting of the London Trades Council, for holding a demonstration of the trades of London, in support of the total repeal of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, and to protest against all special legislation for all Trades Unionists, and the application of the law of conspiracy as laid down by Judge Brett in the recent trial of the gas stokers. Mr. Whetstone, President of the Amalgamated Engineers, occupied the chair.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said the question they had to meet to consider was one deserving of the serious attention not only of the members of the trades unions, but of the working classes generally. He believed the opinion to be general that the time had now arrived when, by a great demonstration, they must let the Government and the Parliament know what the feelings of the working classes were in relation to the special and penal legislation directed against them; and the main question for the consideration of the delegates was the form the demonstration should take, whether by a procession and great meeting in the open air, or a meeting in one of the large halls. His own opinion was in favor of the latter course.

Mr. Odger contended that a meeting in a hall, however largely attended, would fail in commanding that attention from either the Government or the Parliament which would be paid to an out-door demonstration well organized and judiciously conducted. An in-door meeting would be treated only as a sectional meeting, but what the delegates generally desired was to show the power, strength, and determination of the whole body of the London trades, and this could only be done in an out-door demonstration such as that held prior to the passing of the late Reform Bill. He moved—

That this meeting of delegates, representing most of the principal trades of the metropolis, cordially approve the resolutions adopted by the London Trades Council to hold a monster demonstration of the London trades, to which deputations from the provinces should be invited, in favor of the repeal of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, the amendment of the Masters and Servants Act, and an alteration in the Law of Conspiracy relating thereto.

Mr. Richardson (bookbinder), seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

Mr. Pratt (saddler) then moved—

That the demonstration be held on a week-day, in Hyde-park, or some other suitable place, on the earliest convenient date.

Mr. Latter (zinc worker) seconded the resolution.

In the short discussion which followed it was suggested that the trades should assemble on the day fixed on the Thames Embankment, and proceed in procession, either to Hyde-park or to the Agricultural Hall, if the latter could be obtained. It was agreed, however, that the fixing of the day should be left to the Trades Council, who will act as the executive committee for the demonstration.

The resolution was then adopted, and the delegates present then formed themselves into a general committee to carry out the demonstration.