Ontario Workman.

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

VOL. II.—No. 34. TORONTO, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1873. No. 86.

AMERICAN LABOR PORTRAITS.

The Workingman's Advocate, of Chicago, is publishing pen and ink sketches of men who have taken a prominent part in Labor Reform. The following sketch of Mr, John Fehrenbatch, President of the I. U. M. & B. will prove of interest to our readers :—

John Fehleubatch, the President of the International Union of Machinists and Blacksmiths, and the subject of this sketch was born at Rochester, Monroe county, New York, on the 29th day of June, 1844. Left motherless at the tender age of three years, and compelled, through the poverty of his father, to enter the workshop in his eighth year, he entered that school of hardship and toil which has given to the world its ablest orators, statesmen, and leaders.

He first commenced work in a woolen manufactory, which was owned by Messrs. Douglass & Hollowell, being necessitated to commence work at six o'clock A. M., and continue until seven o'clock in the evening. He obtained the rudiments of a common school education by walking from the shop, two miles, to the night school, which was then located on High street, near the old Erie canal; after school, walking home, a distance of two miles more, and doing this without his supper, and after working hard for twelve hours each day. On the 11th of April, 1857, his father bound him as an apprentice to a blacksmith, whose shop was located on the banks of the Genessee river, on Stats street, between Rochester and Charlotte streets, towards Lake Ontario. He served out his time on the 10th of April, 1860, when he left his home for the first time, starting out in the world with four dollars in his possession. He went to Peterboro, Ontario, paying three dollars and a half for his passage across Lake Ontario, and landed in Peterboro with ten cents in silver as his worldly possessions.

Not liking the blacksmith trade, and desiring to be a machinist, he went to a machine shop owned by Messrs. Mowry & Son, where, through the intercession of a kind friend, he was taken as an apprentice to the machinist trade. Shortly after his time was out, he went to Ohio, arriving in Cleveland August 14th, 1863, and found employment in the shop of Chas. Winchol, in Cincinnati. He left Cincinnati, and went to Evansville, Ind., in Febuary, 1864 accepting employment at the machine shop of Messrs. Cratz and Heilman. Two weeks thereafter he connected himself with an organization for the first time in his life. This organization was Machinists and Blacksmiths Union, No. 5, of Indiana, which Union still lives, and is in a flourishing condition.

In May of the same year he went to Indianapolis, Ind., where he remained until fall. In the meantime he was elected Vice-President of M. B. Union No. 4, of Indiana. On the 11th of November, 1864, he landed in Nashville, Tenn., where he was employed by the Government on the United States Military Railroad. He continued in the employ of the Government until April, 1865, when he returned to Indianapolis, and went through a course in the Parden College, (evenings,) working at his trade during the day.

In July 1865, he was elected Special Corresponding Secretary of M. B. Union No. 4, of Indiana, with instructions to open a correspondence with the various trades organizations throughout the State, with a view to obtain mutual action on the eight-hour question. Three months from the date of his appointment, and subsequent to the opening of this correspondence, a State Convention was called to organize the Grand Eight Hour League of Indiana, Secretary of which he was elected. The agitation of the eight-hour question continued until nearly every city in the United States was organized. At the fall elections, nearly every prominent politician was converted into an eight-hour man. When the election was over the workingmen thought their work done and abandoned the movement; and as soon as their organizations were abandoned, every office-holder who had pledged himself to use his influence in favor of the passage of an eight-hour law, repudiated his pledge. Here the eight-hour movement stopped in Indiana.

The next event of importance was his election as delegate to the Special Session of the National Labor Union, held in New York City, in July, 1868. In the fall of 1870, he returned to his old home, Rochester, N. Y., after an absence of ten years and a half. Here he remained six months, during which time he succeeded in building up M. & B. Union, No. 7, of New York, from a membership of 95 to a membership of 220. He returned to Indianapolis in April, 1871. In June he was elected as a delegate to represent M. & B. Union No. 4, of Indiana, in the Convention of the International Union, which convened in Cleveland, Ohio, in September of the same year. At the Convention he was elected President of the International body. When he accepted the office, the organization had scarcely a membership of 1,500 in good standing, 28 unions, an income for the International Union of about $1,200, and an expense of about $3,500 per annum. He started into the field, on an organizing tour, in April, 1872. The South was organized first, then a portion of the Middle States, then the Western States; and he closed the year with 68 new unions, which was a great success, considering the limited means placed at his disposal. His labors were continued until the meeting of the International Union, which took place in the capitol building, in Albany, N. Y., in September, 1872. Ninety-five delegates, while two years before only twenty-four attended; 132 Unions being represented against twenty-eight two years previous. Mr. Fehrenbatch was re-elected by a vote that showed that his labors were duly appreciated.

Shortly after the Convention, in connection with M. A. Foran, President of the Coopers International Union, Wm Saffin, President of the Iron Moulders International Union, and Henry Walls, Secretary of the Iron Moulders International Union, he commenced the agitation of the organization of an Industrial Labor Congress, and on the 14th day of July, 1873, at Cleveland, Ohio, his arduous endeavors were consummated by the organization of the Industrial Congress of the United States, of which organization he was elected its first President.

From the adjournment of the Congress up to the present time, he has labored assiduously for the advancement of not only the interests and welfare of the machinists and blacksmiths of America, but to ameliorate the condition of all who seek a livelihood by honest industry.

In personal appearance, Mr. Fehlenbatch is propossessing and dignified, and possesses features that readily indicate the depth and power which glows from the earnest eyes and make themselves manifest in the eloquent utterances of his lips. As an orator, he is fluent and ready, his ideas original and fresh, and his ability purely natural When we consider the many vicissitudes through which he has passed, and the fact that he is but 29 years of age, it is safe to predict for him a long carcer of success as a public agitator, and a defender and advocate of labor reform.

LORD SHAFTESBURY AND THE SCOTCH MINERS.

A special meeting of the miners of Scotland was held recently in Glasgow, to consider a letter from Lord Shaftesbury. The miners had asked his lordship to give them the name of the person who had made to him a statement which they considered had affected their interests and moral position.

The following is his lordship's reply :—

St. Giles House, Oct. 22, 1873.

GENTLEMEN,—I have this instant had the honor of receiving your letter dated 20th of this month. I am deeply gratified by the kind, though I fear undeserved language you use both towards myself, and in respect of the small services that I have been enabled to render; I should, indeed, to my last hour deplore the loss of your friendship and esteem. The zeal and determination with which you reject any statement that may seem to throw a stain on the character and conduct of the miners as industrious and trustworthy men, are most striking, consolatory, and suggestive of the best hopes for the future—you will, I am sure, observe that the remarks I made were of particular and not of general application. I said, what several others have said, and these excesses occurred "in too many instances." You would, yourselves, unhesitatingly admit the same, and be the first to condemn the destructive habits to which I alluded. I mentioned a special instance, it is true, though not by any means as one representative of the whole trade. You now require me to give up the name of my informant—I very respectfully, but very decidedly decline to do so; and, indeed, you at any rate have no need of it, for your own position is made perfectly clear; nor, as regards others who have not signed the letter, will my unsupported statement be taken for more than it is worth—and so it will fade away from the recollection of the public. Doubtless, there are circumstances in which the disclosure you demand would be both justifiable and necessary— but, in the circumstances of the present case (pray pardon me for saying it), such a procedure would, I think, be altogether the reverse. With many hopes and prayers that this correspondence may not lead to a breach of the friendly feeling that has so long subsisted between us, I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

SHAFTESBURY.

Messrs. David Moffat and others.

The Conference agreed to reply to the letter of the Earl of Shaftesbury, and the letter, which was signed by twenty-four delegates, is as follows :—

To the Right Hon. Earl Shaftesbury, K. G.

Allan's Temperance Hotel, Glasgow.

November 4, 1873.

My Lord,—We have just received the reply to our letter, addressed to you some time ago, and which we directed Alexander Macdonald, President of the Miners' National Association, to forward to you on our behalf. We are exceedingly sorry to find from the contents of yours of the 29th ult, that you refuse to give up the name of the party that so foully slandered a portion of the class to which we belong. We regret further to find that the one strong ground you take in not giving up the name of your informant is the special one that we claim it on. You say you mentioned a "special instance," and where is not given. We are stricken—we are all smitten by that, yet no spot or district is specified. In the circumstances, as you refuse to give up the name of the ignoble party, we feel we cannot by any means force it. One act if done by yourself, could not efface some of the services you have performed for us and ours, as also those that have passed away. One thing we feel constrained to say to you, that though the coal and iron master may shield himself under your powerful influence, under your honoured reputation, he does so branded as a false accuser of his fellow-men—men by whose exertions he has been, and is, deriving an existence,—no honoured position surely! We give the social and moral picture he gave to you a flat and unqualified contradiction in all its parts as applying to any body of men two or three thousand in number. A coward he evidently is, as he would run the risk of your sustaining damage to your reputation among the mining population rather than to disclose his name voluntarily, and acknowledge that he was wrong, or give the proof demanded by us in justice to the whole miners in Scotland. One thing more. Such a person may be fit to mingle among the upper classes and pass into their family circle, and may enjoy a name for hospitality or even philanthropy. Depraved as he would try to make the miners steeped in sensuality as he says they are—there is among them a rude sense of honour that would eject *him* from their society if he had slandered your class as much as he has done ours.

The Federal Council have accepted an official motion to Germany to participate in the Universal Exhibition at Philadelphia in 1876, and have decided to leave the appointment of Commissioners to represent Germany at the Exhibition in the hands of Prince Bismarck.

This year has been more than unusually prolific in marine disasters, and its close is marked by the loss of the Ville de Havre, by which two hundred and twenty persons have perished. The Ville de Havre, a large and magnificently fitted steamer, plied between New York and Brest. At two o'clock on the morning of the 23rd of November she came into collision with the British ship Lochearn from Glasgow, and sunk in ten minutes, there being only time to save eighty-seven persons.

Special despatches to the *Times* and *Standard*, give particulars of the bombardment of Cartagena, on Wednesday. The arsenal and barracks were the chief marks for the besieger's artillery, but the cathedral and hospital were also struck. On Friday the theatre and Protestant church, and two entire streets were destroyed; two hundred persons were killed and wounded within the city. The insurgents have raised the black flag on the fort. At the last accounts, the fire around the city was subsiding. The loss of the besiegers was exceedingly small. The officers of the foreign squadrons succeeded in obtaining an armistice of four hours on Friday night,

Labor Notes.

The Waumbeck Manufacturing Company at Milton Mills, N.H., has reduced the wages of its operatives 15 per cent.

A general reduction of 10 cents per ton has been accepted by the miners throughout the Mahoning valley.

The Calico department of Garnier & Co.'s print works at Wappinger Falls, N.Y., resumed work on Monday, giving 250 men employment.

The Labor Party at Pittsburg, on Saturday, effected permanent organization. There are some eighteen or twenty Labor Associations in Allegheny county, and the Labor Party is a strong one.

A State Convention of the miners of Ohio will be held at Alliance on the third Wednesday in December, to frame a State Constitution, and also to officially connect themselves with the National Association.

Work was partially resumed on Monday, after a suspension of several weeks, in the Newburgh Steam Mills, in Newbury, N.Y., owned by Garner & Co., of New York, and employing 400 hands.

It is stated that one-half of the population of Chicago are now supported by manufactures, so that we may now term it a "manufacturing city," as well at the great grain, cattle and lumber city.

There are in Paterson, N.J., 4,000 men and 2,000 women out of employment, and 4,500 persons working on three-quarter time. The city has appropriated $25,000 to furnish employment on the streets.

The Harmony Mills, at Cohoes, N.Y., employing nearly 5,000 persons, resumed work on Monday, on full time. Gilbert Bush & Co., car manufacturers on Green Island, employing 300 men, resumed work on three-quarter time.

On Saturday evening, November 8th, a large number of the members of the Oldham branch of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, and their friends, assembled in Rock Street Schoolroom, to celebrate the prosperity of the branch, when tea and collation were served.

The Trades' Unions of Cleveland embrace the following: Two lodges of Knights of St. Crispin, two Printers', two Moulders', four Machinists' and Blacksmiths', two Iron and Steel Heaters', three Coopers', one Cigarmakers', and two Forges of the Sons of Vulcan.

A mass meeting of unemployed working people, of New York, was called at Cooper Institute, on Monday evening for December the 11th, to devise measures for relieving the needy. All labor organizations in the country are requested to hold meetings at the same time, for the same purpose.

On Monday night, November 3rd, a mass meeting of tinplate workers, in Wolverhampton, resolved to seek an advance of 10 per cent. in their present wages scale. The Birmingham masters, it was announced, had consented to give the rise if the Wolverhampton masters would also consent. Six hundred operatives were present.

A mass meeting of workingmen and women in Philadelphia passed resolutions to the effect that, as the labouring people could not ward off the present panic, it is demanded of the City Council that employment be given to the unemployed, and supply depots be established. The resolutions praise the eight-hour system, and "hail with delight the organization of the Patrons of Husbandry."

Mr. Mundella's Factory Bill was discussed at a conference held at Dundee on Saturday, of representatives from the principal manufacturing towns of Scotland. It was resolved that the nine and a half hours daily should be wrought between six in the morning and six at night, and that no lad under 13 should work more than half time.

The printers troubles at Pittsburgh, Pa., have culminated in a general lock-out against the proprietors. The *Leader* and *Evening Journal* attempted the publication of their paper with non-Union men. A meeting was called by the Typographical Union No. 7. and a resolution unanimously passed by that body in full session that no work be permitted by their members until the "rats" were discharged.

At a meeting of the wide branch of framework-knitters was held in the Co-operative large room, Mansfield, on Monday night, Nov. 3rd, to consider the question of the advance of 10 per cent. asked for in the above branch, the following resolution was carried.

That a large meeting be called as soon as possible and show the manufactures that it was not only the delegates, but also the workmen who are agitating the question, and that they are determined to have the above advance and no less.

The Executive Committee of the National Agricultural Laborers Union of England, held their fortnightly meeting at Leamington on Monday. Mr. Russell in the chair. It was decided to carry out the rule that no delegate or officer of the society should institute legal proceedings in connection with union matters without previously submitting his case to the Executive. The question of the withdrawal of the unionist labourers of Gloucester district, in consequence of the charges made against their secretary, Mr. Yeates, by Mr. Henry Taylor the general secretary of the National Union, was again brought before the Executive who decided to offer to refer all matters in dispute to the decision of Mr. George Dixon, M.P., as arbitrator. The General Secretary announced that further facilities were offered to intending emigrants to New Zealand, the Agent-General for that colony requiring 20,000 families.—The committee directed their delegates to advocate still more strenuously the emigration principle.—Mr. Arch and Mr. Taylor were appointed delegates to the Trades Union Congres, to be held at Sheffield, in January next.

CURRENT EVENTS.

Mr. Cartwright was elected in Lennox by a majority of about eight hundred votes.

A despatch from Eureka, Nev., states that a volcano has broken out in the Pento Mountains, ten miles from that place. Dense columns of smoke are issuing from the crater.

A Convention of Granges, held at Atlanta, Ga., has adopted resolutions to establish direct shipment of cotton to Europe; to urge the refunding of the cotton tax to legitimate claimants, and the removal of all import duties except on luxuries. They also urged the construction of the Atlantic and Great Western Canal.

Despatches from Cape Coast report another engagement with the Ashantees near Dunquahin, in which forty Englishmen and native auxiliaries were killed and wounded. The Ashantees boldly attacked the British position, but were driven off after an hour's fight, with the loss of thirty men. The British were protected by field works and their loss was trifling.

One hundred men, who were discharged by a contractor on a railroad between Tenco and Taconia, Washington Territory, without being paid, have armed themselves and gone to the end of the track and notified the workmen that no more work shall be done until their claims are settled. Forty workmen were driven away, and it is reported that the men are doing considerable damage to the road by filling in cuts.

A review of the newspaper press of the United States, in reference to the question of war with Spain, shows a great predominance of ability on the side of peaceable settlement. Among the journals warmly advocating such a course are the Springfield *Republican*, the Chicago *Tribune*, the Cincinnati *Commercial*, the Cincinnati *Gazette*, the Louisville *Courier-Journal*, the Boston *Advertiser*, the Boston *Journal*, and the Providence *Journal*.

Alluding to the missing steamer Ismalia the New York *World* says :—The officers of the Anchor line have received no additional information of the whereabouts of the steamer Ismalia, which cleared at New York, September 29. On the 2nd ult. she was boarded by a boat from the barque Dorothea and found well. Since that time nothing has been heard of her.

After being taken to Blackwell's Island on Saturday, Tweed was asked the usual questions by the recording clerk, to which he answered that he was aged 50; occupation, a tradesman; no religion, but as his family are Protestants, he was entered as a Protestant. He weighed 263 lbs. He was taken to a bath thoroughly cleansed, then had his head shaved, and was arrayed in full striped uniform. He had two letters from New York city physicians, recommending that he be placed in the hospital, but after examinations by the penitentiary physicians he was remanded to a common cell like other felons. No. 34 jacket was given him to wear. It is known at the penitentiary as a larceny jacket. His son stayed by him till he was led away to his cell, when he and a few friends and reporters left the Island.