

# 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.

Two more branches of the Amalgamated Society of Tailors were formed last week in Manchester.

The Dundee operative coachmakers have resolved to memorialise their employers for a general rise of 10 per cent on present wages.

The men employed on the Canada Southern Railway have struck for \$1.50 per day. They have been offered \$1.37½, but still refuse to go to work.

The journeymen tailors at Vienna are now on strike, their employers having rejected their demand for an increase of wages.

The operative bakers in Wishaw have demanded an advance of 2s. per week. The masters have determined to resist, and a strike is likely to be the result.

Two of the principle firms of ironfounders in Paisley have conceded the demand of their employees, by reducing the weekly working hours from 54 to 51.

About 200 laborers engaged in the formation of the Greenock tramways have struck work for an increase of wages from 23s. per week, and stopping work at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

The masons and bricklayers of South Shields have struck for an advance of 3s. per week. The joiners of South Shields who are still on strike have refused a compromise of 2s. a week offered by the masters.

The tailors of Dumfries struck work on Monday, and, during the day, succeeded in obtaining the following terms from most of the masters, viz:—an addition of one halfpenny per hour, an adoption of the Glasgow time statement, together with a twelve months' engagement.

A. M. Foran, President of the Cooper's International Union, has been elected a delegate to the Ohio Constitutional Convention from the city of Cleveland. We congratulate the working men of that city on their choice, believing, as we do, that he will prove himself to be emphatically "the right man in the right place."

The home labor-market may this week be reported as in a fairly settled state. In many branches strikes still continue, but the chief industries are, for the most part, well and steadily employed. The Shropshire miners are asking for the 8-hours' day-work; and throughout the country generally a tendency towards a reduction of the working hours may be noticed.—*Labor News.*

The Machinists and Blacksmiths' Journal reports the organization of the following new Unions during the month of April:—No. 13 of Ind., Michigan City, by Dgp. Pres. Thos. Heffernan; No. 1 of Del., Wilmington, No. 2 of Conn., Hartford, No. 1 of Mass., Worcester, No. 2 of Mass., Fitchburg, No. 3 of Mass., Lowell, and No. 4 of Mass., Lawrence, by the President of the I. U.

The United States census of 1870 shows what American women can do. Besides women employed in ordinary agricultural labor, the census record 45 female stock herders, 6 female apprentices to barbers, 24 female dentists, 2 female ostlers, 2 female professional hunters and trappers, 5 she-lawyers, 525 she-physicians and surgeons, 7 female sextons, 10 female "canal-men," 196 women draymen, 1 female pilot, 6 female guano laborers, 4 she-gas-stokers, 33 female gunsmiths, 7 female gunpowder-makers, and 16 female ship-riggers.

The carpenters and joiners in Manchester have arrived at a settlement respecting their memorial for an advance of wages. They are to receive 8d. per hour, which will take effect from the 1st of May. The working week for the summer season to be 54½-hours. This decision was arrived at by arbitration, and the proceedings, on the whole, in connection with the memorial, have been conducted in such an amicable spirit that both employers and employed have expressed themselves highly satisfied with the result.

The whole of the engineers of Paisley, with the exception of those employed by the firm of Messrs J. & A. F. Craig, turned out on strike last week in consequence of the refusal of the other employers to concede the demand that the hours of labor should be reduced from 54 to 51 per week on and after 15th April. The masters have since, with one exception, agreed to accede to the demand, and fixed the date of commencing at 1st May. This was discussed at a meeting, and it was agreed to accept the masters' terms.

At a meeting of the National Agricultural Laborers' Union, held at Leamington lately, it was reported that over 200 laborers were locked out in the Swaffham district. Permission was given to several districts to enforce a rise of wages by strikes. Mr. Arch and several agents of the National Agricultural Laborers' Union, including Mr. Cox, a Derbyshire Magistrate, have been summoned to appear at Farington for obstructing the highway by holding a public meeting.

At a mass meeting of finished iron-workers, numbering from 1,500 to 2,000 men, held on Monday forenoon in the Mechanics' Institute, Dudley, the offer of the iron-masters to give their men the same terms as Mr. Kettle awarded to the northern iron workers was only accepted with five dissentients. The puddlers will now receive a rise, upon their former wages of 9d. per ton, and the other operatives an advance of 7½ per cent. The puddlers will now receive 13s. 3d. per ton, which is by far the highest scale upon which they have ever before been paid. The result was received by all the classes of manufacturers and business men throughout the Birmingham and North and South Staffordshire districts with the utmost gratification. Conciliation in South Staffordshire and arbitration under Mr. Kettle in the North of England have together prevented a frightful waste of time and property, obviated the breaking out of much ill-feeling between employer and employed, and kept thousands of families from starving.

**WORKINGMEN'S TRIUMPH.**—A convention is to be held in May, for the purpose of revising the constitution of the State of Ohio. The several Trades' Unions and workingmen of this city comprehend the importance and necessity of having their views and interests represented in the formation of a new constitution for their government, nominated, and succeeded in selecting M. A. Foran, President of the Coopers I. U. as the delegate to that convention. Mr. Foran was elected by a handsome majority in spite of a strong party opposition running over fifteen hundred votes ahead of his ticket, solely as the workingmen's candidate and independent of any party. Mr. Foran is eminently qualified to represent the workingmen and knowing him intimately, we can assert that he will do so with honor to himself and credit to his constituents.

**AN AMAZON TRADE UNION.**—On Friday a crowded meeting of female cardroom hands was held at the Britannia Inn, Blackburn, for the purpose of protesting against the decision of the masters' committee not to meet their secretary, Mr. King. Mr. King said he was anxious to meet both the masters' and the operatives' committee to defend himself. He should place his resignation in the hands of the committee. The secretary retired, and in an hour afterwards he was called in, when he was informed that the following resolutions had been passed:—"That the services of our secretary be retained, notwithstanding the objections of the masters' committee in his own expressed wish to resign; also that a note be sent by our secretary to the secretary of the masters' committee, intimating that in future our secretary must be one of our deputations to settle disputes. Unless this resolution is assented to, strikes will ensue."

On Tuesday a full meeting of trades delegates, forming the London Trades Council, was held at their rooms, Bell Inn, Old

Bailey, Mr. Harrington (gilder) in the chair, for the purpose of considering a resolution of which notice had been already given, for holding a great open-air demonstration of the trades societies on the question of legislation affecting trades union and the labor question generally. Mr. Warren (Amalgamated Bootmakers) moved the following resolutions:—"That the London Trades Council resolve to convene a great demonstration of the trades of London at the earliest possible date, to which deputations from trades throughout the provinces shall be invited, in furtherance of the movement for the repeal of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, the amendment of the Masters and Servants Act, and an alteration in the law of conspiracy in relation to those acts." The resolution was carried unanimously, and ordered to be reported to a meeting of delegates from the whole of the London trades, when a large committee will be appointed to carry out the details. A request from the British Federal Council of the International Working Men's Association, to be allowed to send a delegate to the trades council, was then considered and refused, on the ground that no delegate could sit upon the council, except credited from a bona fide trade society. A sub-committee was then appointed to make arrangements in relation to the conference of agricultural laborers at Leamington in May next.

The master iron-founders of Nantes have manifested their desire to effect a compromise with their men, and thus put an end to the strike we announced last week. In a letter addressed to the Strike Committee, the employers have declared that they are willing to reduce the day's work from twelve to eleven hours, adding, that the men, "will always be able to demand a farther reduction of one hour more in six months or a year, which at the epoch they will assuredly obtain." The workmen determined, however, not to accept these terms. They object to the prospect of one other strike in six months, and consider it more expedient and economical to settle the question at once. The employers themselves, by their reply, have admitted that the demand for ten hours, as the limit of a day's work, is just; and, as it has already been granted in all the other towns of France, there is no longer any reason for withholding it from the town of Nantes. This town is the eighth largest town of France, and if it is compelled to continue the struggle, it will not long remain alone. The workmen of France of almost all the trades look upon the ten hours' movement as a matter of universal importance, in which the working classes of every district are equally interested. Thus, co-operations quite foreign to the ironfounders' society will forward subscriptions towards the strike, as well as those who are more immediately concerned in that particular trade. Other strikes have occurred in France within the last few days. The wool-workers of Sedan have abandoned their benches, and five or six large firms are consequently closed. The unfortunate men complain that they cannot live while earning only twopenny halfpenny per hour; and they have therefore proffered the modest demand that this pay should be increased to threepence. We understand that the employers have united with a view of acceding to this request. At Viduban there is also a strike. In this instance it is the masons who have demanded an increase of fivepence on the daily wages of half-a-crown generally allotted to the workmen engaged in this trade. Several employers have granted the desired increase; and it is stated that, had the men been properly represented by a Syndical Chamber, which could have made their request known and have discussed the details, the strike might have been avoided, as the employers were well disposed. The bricklayers and tilers of Charleville have notified, by means of a letter addressed to the local papers, that they will refuse to work unless they are paid 4s. instead of 3s. 4d. a day.

## LABOR PORTRAITS.

"Men who, in advance of law and in opposition to prevailing opinion, have forced into national recognition the hitherto disregarded rights of labor."

Under the above caption the London *Bee-Hive* is publishing pen and ink sketches of the most prominent men in the great Labor Movement. Believing that their perusal will afford interest to our readers, we shall re-produce them from time to time.

No. 1.

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN.

William Allen—the subject of our present sketch—was born in the neighborhood of Carrickfergus, Ireland, of Scotch parents, in the year 1813. His father was connected with the cotton spinning, being manager in the concern with which he was connected. The removal of his parents, however, back again to Scotland somewhere about the time when the children of our artisans usually enter on such employment as is intended they shall live by, caused his first entry on the stage of labor to be made at a cotton factory at Gateside, about eight miles from Glasgow, which he entered at the age of twelve years, and afterwards became a piecer.

William Allan's education—as that term was understood among our industrial classes at the period spoken of—had not been neglected. Anything, however, that could be done in that direction indicated rather the desire of the parents to educate the child, than the opportunity of the child to acquire education in any useful sense of the term. In the "good old days," those who governed England did not ever run the risk of blundering on the Educational Question; they preferred letting it alone altogether; and that the working classes did not drop utterly into a savage heathenism is not so much due to the wealthy and powerful as to the resolute efforts of humble men and women to secure some degree of teaching that the humanizing efforts of knowledge might be felt by their offspring.

Through this desire on the part of his father and mother, William Allan had secured the advantage of the three R's before he was sent into the factory, so that we may expect that thus armed, his disposition to excel in his work, and by honest work to improve his position, found means of readier accomplishment than if he had not been so favored. At the expiration of three years he quitted the factory and was apprenticed to engineering, which was more in accordance with his natural disposition, and in this trade, finished his time as an apprentice with the Holdsworths, a large and flourishing firm at Anderston, one of the suburbs of Glasgow. Whilst here, he married at the age of nineteen the niece of Mr. Holdsworth, his master and employer, and from here he went forth in company with his wife, six months' elder than himself, to face, and if possible, overcome the difficulties which this important and premature change imposed upon him.

From this time to his acceptance of the General Secretaryship which he now holds, his life had in it the usual change of abode and circumstance men are subject to in the trade to which he belongs. In 1835 he went to Liverpool, and entered the employment of Mr. Bury and then the Grand Junction Railway Company, where he remained for some time, and when their engineering works were removed to Crewe, he removed with them, and whilst there joined the union of his trade, known then as the Manchester Society of Mechanics.

It is from this time we have to calculate the influence of William Allan upon his fellow-workmen. Usually workingmen lead very uneventful lives, with few chances of influencing their fellows, and it may be said scarcely any chance of conspicuously helping those large public movements which influence society in its thoughts, or aid in its progress in the direction of a higher civilization. A great work nevertheless in connection with the growing industry of the country required to be done, and to do this

William Allan set himself diligently to accomplish, but before the results of his labors are referred to, it may not be amiss to take a glance at the situation and circumstances out of which, by clear insight and unflinching industry, he was enabled to give solidity and force, though not without much help from intelligent and energetic fellow-laborers, to the great association of which he is now the chief laborer.

Those who are even moderately acquainted with the industrial progress of Great Britain know how dangerous it was under the operation of the old combination laws for workingmen to associate for the protection of their interests, and when those laws were repealed how difficult they found it to hold together by open voluntary association. But so obvious is the advantage of union to those who have nothing but the sale of their labor to depend on for a livelihood, that to remain out of union has always been found to be the greatest of all the difficulties an intellectual workman can be called on to face. To unite, requires honesty of purpose, good faith in all associative engagements, good-fellowship in the ordinary affairs of life with fellow-members, and occasional personal sacrifices which men have not always the good feeling or good sense to make, in each other's interests. It should also be remarked that it requires a skilful handling on the part of those who manage such association, so as to prevent jarring of interest or feeling, and to promote and increase the solid advantages of such an intercourse so as to leave as little doubt as possible of the many substantial advantages belonging to trades associations.

The first natural form of union is the local and the limited, each trade with a society in each town where it is carried on. Then those trades united in a district; and next, that network of branches which cover the whole field of any special industry, on a basis that leaves freedom of action to the branches for the promotion of local or special purposes; and finally, as in the case of the Amalgamated Engineers, a union of all cognate trades with branches spreading to every accessible point that can be reached by the society's operations. The advantage of such a mighty organization, as compared with those belonging to smaller and more limited bodies, are many and great. It insures a more perfect uniformity of wages, any attack at any given point calls out a stronger and more universal spirit of resistance; and it gives an almost resistless power of attack and defence. It is as a huge body, sensitive at every point to the assaults of its enemies, and therefore capable of bringing its whole force to bear for the purpose of self-preservation. It secures, at the same time, a wider field through which its members may seek employment, and prepares everywhere a welcome and necessary help, for those who, in moving from one seat of work to another, stand in need of such friendly support. More than this, it cheapens, and, at the same time, renders more secure the provident and trade advantages it promises to its members, as it is proved by all sound experience that the larger the area over which any kind of insurance operates the more economical and secure its operations.

The work of amalgamation was vigorously promoted by Mr. Allan, but the plans proposed were not accepted by the trades meant to be included in it till the 1st of January, 1851. It was at this date, after meetings held at Warrington and Birmingham, that the mechanics, engineers, steam engine makers, millwrights and smiths agreed to join together, and instead of five unions to have one grand union for the joint promotion of each other's interests; and when this resolution was come to, Wm. Allan was appointed its first general secretary. From this point up to the present moment his labors have been exclusively given to the consolidation of this great society, and to the development of an effective power in it for the promotion of the purposes it has in view.

The offices of the society were established

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