

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.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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All communications should be addressed to the Office, 124 Bay Street, or to Post Office Box 1025.

We wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of correspondents.

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.

WILLIAMS, SLEETH & MACMILLAN,
124 BAY STREET.

Meetings of Unions.

TORONTO.

Meetings are held in the Trades' Assembly Hall, King street west, in the following order:—

Machinists and Blacksmiths, 1st and 3rd Mondays.
Painters, 1st and 3rd Monday.
Amalgamated Carpenters, 2nd and 4th Monday.
Coachmakers, 2nd and 4th Monday.
Crispins, (159), every Tuesday.
Tinsmiths, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
Laborers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
Iron Moulders, every Thursday.
Trades' Assembly, 1st and 3rd Friday.
Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Friday.
Coopers, 2nd and 4th Friday.
Printers, 1st Saturday.
Bakers, every 2nd Saturday.

OTTAWA.

Meetings are held in the Mechanics' Hall, (Rowe's Block,) Rideau street, in the following order:—

Free-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Tuesday.
Lime-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Wednesday.
Masons and Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Thursday.
Trades' Council, 1st Friday.
Printers, 1st Saturday.
Tailors, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
Harnessmakers, 4th Monday.

ST. CATHARINES.

Meetings are held in the Temperance Hall, in the following order:—

K. O. S. C., 1st Monday.
Tailors, 2nd Monday.
Coopers, 4th Tuesday.

Messrs. LANCEFIELD BROTHERS, Newsdealers, No. 6 Market square, Hamilton, are agents for the WORKMAN in that vicinity, who will deliver papers to all parts of the city.

Mr. D. W. TERNANT, Niagara Street, St. Catharines, will receive subscriptions and give receipts for the WORKMAN. Parties calling on Mr. Ternant will please state if they wish the paper continued.

TO CITY SUBSCRIBERS.

City subscribers not receiving their papers regularly, will oblige the proprietors by giving notice of such irregularity at the Office, 124 Bay street.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, AUG. 28, 1873.

A PRINCELY TRADE UNION.

That those employers, who in their own wisdom,—and might we not say in their malice,—have engaged to disperse the Trades Combinations of Canada, have taken in hand with an exceedingly difficult and serious undertaking, they assuredly will, in due season, fully realize. It is more than ordinary strange, that men, apparently in possession of a fair amount of what we are accustomed to call intelligence and moderate business capacity, should follow to such an extent as they do the dictation of a blind selfishness that hurls them headlong into an ocean of trouble, and keeps society in an endless turmoil of needless conflict which, in this progressive age, can find no other or better reward than the complete discomfit of all who indulge in such hopeless efforts to deprive men of that full and perfect liberty of action so little known in less civilized times. We cannot help regarding it as indeed lamentable that men who

hold high and honorable positions in the land are fond of identifying themselves with any movement intended to scatter to the winds those associations of artisans, which comprise such a great bulk of society. We repeat, it is lamentable in our day, and in our country to find men of influence and position, sympathizing and aiding in such unhallowed tyranny; to find one portion of society placing itself in open hostility to another, and an infinitely greater portion, is something deeply to be regretted, and something that can only have its origin in inexcusable ignorance. Surely the time has come, and even now is, when we must feel it to be a duty imperative and urgent, to endeavor if possible to dispel the delusion and darkness that envelope the minds of men in their estimate of trade unionism. It is now necessary to instruct the people in the language of truth, and open the eyes of the public to the actual operations of those associations of artisans, which seem to strike terror into the hearts of some feeble minded men.

Will such men as the Ottawa master printers believe us, when we assure them, that the objects of trades unions are not to snatch from employers what employers have a just right to possess; or to accomplish the ruin of those whose enterprise leads them to invest their capital in the employment of labor. Nay, verily, but on every trades union banner is inscribed in letters of light and love "Free and equal rights to all!" "All men are brethren!" To show that justice and beneficence are the guiding motives of our trades societies we cannot do better then refer to that admirable organization known by the name of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers &c. the yearly report of which has lately been placed in our hands. The vast amount of good that has been accomplished by this combination in alleviating the distressed and sympathizing with the oppressed is truly remarkable.

This society, although established in the year 1851, is the result of combination in the form of Sectional Societies, several of which have existed in the trade for upwards of half a century. Some of these societies were purely local, and ceased to be useful to the members when they left the place where they were established; and this, to those who pursue an occupation which necessitates constant change, was a sensible disadvantage. In 1851, these unions of scattered and isolated societies gave place to the present Amalgamated Society which, continually increasing and receiving the accession of new members, has become the most powerful organization of the kind ever yet formed by workmen, and bids fair to attain a far greater height of prosperity. It has 351 branches of which 206 are in the principal towns of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, nine in Australia, five in Canada, twenty-six in the United States, one in California, one in Malta, one in Turkey, one in France, and one in Bombay. The promoters of Amalgamation have reason to be proud of the great success of their efforts inasmuch as from the small beginning of 7,417 members February, 1851, the Society now numbers, Dec., 1872, 41,075, and from its commencement up to the present, its growth has been steady and prosperous, no less than 5,294 having been admitted during the year 1872. Its laws from time to time have been adjusted at delegate meetings to the changing circumstances of society, and the utmost foresight and equity have been observed in the administration of its rules. Its financial liabilities have been met by its stated subscription with scrupulous exactness, and which have been able to meet the severest strain that can be applied to test the soundness of the principles upon which they were founded. This should at once convince everyone of the advantages which have naturally flowed from this fountain of associated effort to advance the interest of a trade, and if still further pursued must be attended with greater and more complete achievements, by raising the skilled mechanic to that social position which he has a right to claim in this and every other nation of the earth,

whose wealth may be produced by mechanical excellency and engineering skill.

The society claims a pre-eminence for the benefits which it offers and the advantages which it confers:—namely, the personal benefits which are those consisting of making provisions for the exigencies of sickness, superannuation accident, want of employment, and death; also those matters relating to the trade, which comprise resistance to unjust demands on the part of employers, and the furtherance of that manly and friendly intercourse which daily occurs in the workshop from member to member. Our limited space will not admit of a detailed account of the vast sums that have been expended in support of the various benefits during the twenty-two years of the society's existence.

During that period it has paid for the different benefits the enormous sum of four millions seven hundred and thirty-four thousand eight hundred and ninety-three dollars. And at the close of the present report the total accumulated funds in the treasury amounts to the handsome sum of seven hundred and fifty-nine thousand nine hundred and seven dollars.

"The year 1872," remarks the General Secretary, "has proved to be the most successful one we have had since the commencement of the society, both from a financial point of view and increase of membership. Of course, the year has not passed without our troubles, for we have had many difficulties to encounter in the settlement of disputes in respect to the hours of labor, rates of wages, an equitable arrangement for the payment of overtime, &c., all of which have tended more or less to cause an extra outlay on the part of the society. At the same time, when we consider the many advantages gained, we have reason to feel pleased with the result, for although we experienced these drawbacks, I am sure it must be highly gratifying for you to know that the total amount expended through disputes with the members and their employers, did not exceed £6,000; and this is one of the best proofs of the friendly feeling which exists between the employers and workmen throughout the various districts where the society is established, a feeling, which in the interest of both, I sincerely hope will long continue."

Employers, if true to the duties which belong to their position, will not regard such societies with disfavor and will understand that they are not intended nor adapted, to damage their interests but rather to advance them by elevating the character of their workmen, and proportionately lessening their own responsibilities. The man who is aware that when work fails, or sickness takes from him the power to labor, he will not be altogether deprived of the means of living—who is certain of some provision for the declining days of age—becomes a more contented, as well as a more independent being. With a greater freedom from anxiety, he is able to devote more care and attention to his work, and to perform it more skillfully.

We are glad to learn that the A. S. of E. are at present arranging their rules to meet the provisions of the Trades Union Bill with a view to have the society registered. We hope that other Unions in Canada will see to this also at an early day.

EXCLUSIVE LEGISLATION.

In looking over the proceedings of the Labor Congress of the United States we find in the report of the Committee on Trades Unions a preamble and resolution bearing upon the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, who have been progressive enough to plant the standard of their order upon American soil, in the following manner:—

"Being aware of the existence of a party of mechanics now in existence in the United States and Canada, known by the name of Amalgamated Machinists or Engineers, with their headquarters in England, which are detrimental to the Machinists and Blacksmiths' International Union; therefore, be it

"Resolved—That we request of said Amalgamated Machinists or Engineers, or any other Unions, except those on

the North American Continent, to discontinue their connection as an English branch of mechanics, and join an organization chartered by the government under whose jurisdiction they reside."

We feel that the spirit of exclusiveness embodied in the above preamble and resolution is extremely small, and only calculated to arouse the contempt of every liberal-minded American, and further embitter the feeling that already exists between members of a calling that should work in harmony. Who are we, Americans, that we should build an altar for all who may chance to come within our limits to bow down at? The most American of us have but a few generations to look back to see his ancestors strangers in a strange land, and it very ill becomes us to command those who come among us to rudely sever the ties that have held them in the bonds of Union in the time past, to forsake the banner under which for years, perhaps, they have struggled for labor reform, and were the victors for the right in many a hard fought fight, among them, and not the least, the fifty-one hour system of labor—a movement in which the so-called Engineers were pioneers and victors. Another society that has planted itself successfully on American soil is the Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners. Both of those have a well known record as the most progressive labor reformers, and both come equally under the ban of the U. S. Labor Congress. We suppose special mention is made of the Engineers, because the heads of the Machinists and Blacksmiths' Union wishes to be a rival rather than a compeer of the Amalgamated Society. The Amalgamated Carpenters have no rivals in Canada and nothing of importance in the United States, and if this English society succeeds in infusing a little life into the most inanimate of crafts in America, the Carpenters and Joiners, we hope the U. S. Labor Congress will not only forgive them for trespassing, but join with us in hailing their advent with joy.

To sum up, the fact of the matter is this, there is room enough for all, especially for all those who are engaged in a good work in this land of ours, without knocking against one another's shins. In this city we have both orders of Engineers, and there is room for another, which, if successful in gathering up the fragments that are straggling between both existing orders, would be the strongest of the three. We import some of the most evil systems in the economy of the old world, and the masses here must bear it, so let us not find fault at the importation of some of the good. So far as we are concerned, we are happy to welcome the advent of those two most progressive of the labor organizations of the earth—upon whose jurisdiction the sun never sets—to our shores. There is room enough and work enough in Canada for all in the cause of labor. We may take the opportunity of referring to this subject again.

CANADIAN LABOR CONGRESS.

We are happy to be able to inform our readers that everything in relation to the coming Labor Congress is progressing favorably. The Toronto Trades' Assembly, at a special meeting, last Friday evening, adopted the final call for the Congress. This movement we feel to be a step in the right direction, and will at least show that we are moving, with our fellow-workmen in the most progressive sections of the old world and in the neighboring republic, in bringing together the long scattered fragments of organized labor, for the purpose of intelligently considering what, in our social and political economy, is oppressive to them as a class, and devising reasonable means whereby the wrongs that bear heavily upon the productive energies of the nation may be redressed. We feel that it would be superfluous on our part to urge the necessity of being fully represented upon the labor Unions of Canada, feeling, as we do, that we address the most intelligent class of labor in the land—organized men—men who feel the necessity for union in their different callings, and know the power of co-

operate action for the accomplishment of an end. We can rely upon the labor unions of Canada to do their whole duty, and make the coming Labor Congress what the true friends of labor reform would wish it to be, a grand success.

CO-OPERATION.

The principle of co-operation is gradually gaining ground in the minds of the people. It is surprising to witness the rapid strides made by this principle, both in production and distribution. In England the growth in both distributive and productive co-operation is without precedent; in the United States it is gaining ground every year. Thousands of artisans are securing homesteads for themselves upon the principle of co-operation in that country. We have every confidence in the success and final adoption of some system of co-operation by the masses of mankind, as they become more intelligent, and we hail every advance made toward co-operation as a step in the right direction, and therefore was most happy to learn from our St. Catharines correspondent that they were about to have established in that town a co-operative building society. We wish the enterprise every success.

K. O. S. C. EXCURSION.

We would again remind our readers of the excursion of Lodges 159 and 315 K. O. S. C., of this city, to St. Catharines, on Saturday next, the 30th inst. The committee of management have done everything that it was possible to do for the pleasure and comfort of those who may accompany them. The excursionists will be received at St. Catharines by the members of the order of that town and Hamilton, and also deputations from the sister Lodges of the frontier cities of the United States. A procession will be formed, and march through the principal streets to the Montebello Gardens, where prizes are to be competed for in the various athletic sports, and other amusements indulged in. Those who wish to enjoy a pleasant day should accompany the Knights' of St. Crispin on their excursion next Saturday.

O. Y. B. EXCURSION.

The Toronto District of Orange Young Britons will hold their annual excursion to Oshawa, on Monday, the 1st of September, on board the steamer Calabria. Arrangements are being made in Oshawa which will ensure its success, and make it a pleasant affair for those who take advantage of it.

FROM TORONTO TO VIENNA.

[No. 2.]

COLOGNE, July 28, 1873.

The journey from Liverpool to London gave us glimpses of some beautiful pastoral scenery. After some years' residence in Canada, the main impression that I received during the hasty run was its prettiness and littleness, the land being cut up into very small farms. The crops looked very fine, and the farmers were in full tide gathering in the harvest. In regard to English railroads, of course the difference between the construction of English and American cars are well known; and while I am free to admit that the "compartment" system has its decided advantages, yet, all things taken into consideration, I think, of the two, the American system is much preferable. But in point of comfort in travelling here all comparison ends. Passengers receive more jolting and jumbling in a day's journey on our Canadian roads, than they would in a week's travel on the English lines.

Of my brief sojourn in "London the great," it would be a somewhat difficult matter for me to give a description. "Change" seemed written on the face of everything, and were it not for the recognition of an old land-mark here and there, one would almost feel as much a stranger on a return to his native city, after an absence of some sixteen years, as though he were in a foreign country altogether. It seems to me that the city is generally much quieter than it used to be in the days gone by—the practice of "street crying" having very considerably abated. Being, however, in London on a Saturday, in the evening I took an opportunity of visiting some portions of the "east end," and witnessing the work people at their shopping.