

NOTICE.

We shall be pleased to receive items of interest pertaining to Trade Societies from all parts of the Dominion or 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.
(INVARIABLELY IN ADVANCE.)

Per Annum \$2 00
Six Months 1 00
Single copies 50

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Single insertions, ten cents per line. Each subsequent insertion, five cents per line.

Contract Advertisements at the following rates:—
One column, for one year \$150 00
Half " " 85 00
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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.

Trades Assembly Hall.

Meetings are held in the following order:—
Machinists and Blacksmiths, every Monday.
Painters, 1st and 3rd Monday.
Coachmakers, 2nd and 4th Monday.
Crispins, (159), 1st and 3rd Tuesday.
K.O.S.C. Lodge 356, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
Tinmiths, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
Cigar Makers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
Iron Moulders, every Thursday.
Plasterers, 1st and 3rd Thursday.
Trades' Assembly, 1st and 3rd Friday.
Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Friday.
Coopers, 2nd and 4th Friday.
Printers, 1st Saturday.
Bakers, every 2nd Saturday.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, FEB. 20, 1873.

KIND WORDS.

It is certainly very encouraging to those who have taken up a specific duty, and who are following out a course that they believe will tend to the advancement and up-lifting of the sons of toil, to know that their efforts are appreciated, and their services acknowledged. The want had for long years past been felt, of a newspaper published exclusively in the interest of the working classes; and in yielding to the solicitations of many representative workmen, to endeavor to supply that want, we understood something of the importance of the undertaking. We placed before ourselves a high ideal; and though, perhaps, up to the present, we have far from succeeded in fully reaching it, yet, it is gratifying to find our efforts have to some extent, been successful. At the mass meeting last week a public expression of approval was unanimously accorded us, and perhaps we shall be pardoned if we reproduce the resolution, which was moved by Mr. O'Donoghue, of Ottawa, and seconded by Mr. A. McCormick, of Toronto:

Resolved, That this meeting views with approval the independent course pursued by the workmen's own organ in this country, the ONTARIO WORKMAN, and would recommend the true friends of labor in the Dominion to interest themselves in extending its circulation, so that it may become more fully the source by which the labor of this country from east to west may be kept informed of the progress of their cause; and this meeting pledges itself to patronize those business men who use its columns as an advertising medium.

We hope the recommendation will be practically carried out. To the extent that the WORKMAN is sustained by workmen in all parts of the Dominion, just in the same proportion shall we be enabled to bring it up to the highest possible standard of a labor reform journal. Up to the present, we have not had much cause for complaint; but have been sustained by our friends both by their subscriptions, and also by their assistance in acting upon the pledge contained in the last clause of the resolution—patronizing those who use our advertising columns—thereby rendering our journal a first-class means

of communication between business men and the mechanics of the city.

Coming directly upon the heels of this resolution, is another adopted by the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Knights of St. Crispin, which held its session in this city last week, as follows: Moved by Mr. D. Martin, seconded by Mr. C. B. King, and

Resolved, That the thanks of this Provincial Grand Lodge, K. O. S. C., be tendered to the proprietors of the ONTARIO WORKMAN for their able advocacy of the principles of labor reform, and the firm stand they have taken on the side of labor. We would take this opportunity of recording our entire confidence in the ONTARIO WORKMAN, and would strongly recommend the journal to the most earnest support of our sub-lodges. We would also thank them for their kindness and liberality in presenting copies of their paper to each member of the Grand Lodge—also Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing resolution be sent to the WORKMAN office for publication.

We return our sincere thanks for these cheering words of kindness, and can only promise that most strenuous efforts will be made in order to render the WORKMAN all that could be desired. We shall also rely upon the continued exertions of our friends in our behalf; and hope that the recommendation contained in both the resolutions will be practically acted upon. We believe it would be a very easy matter for each of our present subscribers to obtain another, and by this means the WORKMAN would very speedily become the "source by which the labor of this country, from east to west, may be kept informed of the progress of their cause."

THE MASS MEETING.

The opinions of the workmen have been given upon some of the questions now before the country. With a clearness and lucidness that does credit to their intelligence they have spoken upon the questions that more nearly affect them. Their objections to some of the measures have been clearly defined, and reasons advanced for those objections. If it be the desire of the promoters of those measures to do "equal justice to all," attention will be given, and regard paid by them to the sentiments of the workmen as uttered by themselves; unless it can conclusively be shown that the objections urged are based upon wrong premises. The workmen are open to conviction; but they will tenaciously hold to their opinions until they are convinced that those opinions are not correct. It remains to be seen whether or no attention will be paid to their public expression of opinion. It is a matter not lightly to be treated, when thousands of any class of society intelligently and unanimously record their opinions and wishes; and such an occasion was the magnificent gathering of workmen in the St. Lawrence Hall on the 11th inst.

Since the above was in type, the bill to establish a Mechanics' Lien Law has been brought forward for its third reading. Some discussions took place upon the objections that were urged at the Mass Meeting in reference to the \$50 clause, being too high to affect mechanics generally, and finally Mr. Crooks moved that the limit be entirely removed, in which shape the bill passed its third reading. This we are sure will be acceptable to the mechanics generally, as far as it goes, although there were one or two other points that might advantageously have been amended.

THE BALLOT BILL.

We have very much pleasure in publishing the communication from Mr. Clarke, M.P.P. We certainly did not wish to attach any unworthy motives to Mr. Clarke in his withdrawing the Ballot Bill. What we considered objectionable was, that when the principle of the measure was so unanimously approved, the time for its adoption was considered inconvenient. Workmen, believe in the saying "strike the iron while it's hot." They believe also in the ballot, and considered the time ripe for its adoption in Canada. However, if they delay for a session will result in a more comprehensive measure, they will be quite willing to wait; all that is desired is, that the measure should not be lost sight of altogether.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE, K. O. S. C.

On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of last week the fourth annual session of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Knights of St. Crispin was held in this city, in the Trades' Assembly Hall. Representatives were present from the following places:—Barrie, Brampton, Chatham, Galt, Guelph, Hamilton, London, Orillia, Stratford, and Lodges 159, 315, and 366 of this city. There were also present representatives from the Province of Quebec as follows:—Montreal, Quebec city, St. Hyacintho, and Three Rivers. Considerable business was transacted which will have an important bearing upon the future prosperity and efficiency of the Order. Applications were received from many other cities and towns in the Dominion for the purposes of organization, and there is no doubt that under the able executive the Provincial Grand Lodge will make rapid strides during the coming year towards more fully consolidating that branch of industry. The following gentlemen are the officers elect for the ensuing term:—

- P. G. S. K.—William Silvers.
- P. G. K.—Samuel Aitkens.
- P. G. S.—William Magness.
- P. G. T.—Thos. Haisley.
- 1st P. G. T.—John Calvert.
- 2nd " —John A. Brandon.
- 3rd " —Chas. B. King.

Before the session closed, the Grand Lodge passed a very flattering resolution in reference to this journal, for which we are grateful, and believe that the resolution will be practically acted upon.

THE CORDWOOD QUESTION.

On Friday of last week the St. Lawrence Hall was crammed to its utmost extent to agitate the cordwood question. Mr. E. K. Dodds, of the *Sun*, spoke at considerable length, and substantiated the assertions he had previously made. A number of persons living along the Nipissing Railroad were also present, and added their testimony to their inability to procure cars, whilst Mr. Summerville was allowed all he wanted. Mr. Gooderham was present, and denied any knowledge of the existence of a ring. The practical result of the meeting was the passing of a resolution requesting the directors to allow a committee of three citizens to inspect the freight books of the road. If this be done, evidence will be given whether or no the company have favored a few at the expense of the many in the matter of granting cars.

THE ANNUAL TRADES' CONGRESS AT LEEDS.

Our late English files contain full reports of the fifth annual Trades' Union Congress, held in Leeds. The session extended over a week. The attendance of delegates was large, the number being about 130, which is some thirty more than attended last year when the Conference met at Nottingham. The details are too lengthy for our publication beyond a mere synopsis, but we shall from time to time reproduce the papers that were read on subjects of interest to our readers. Mr. Lishmore, the President, in his inaugural address, took occasion to allude to the gas-stokers' strike, which he considered "as inopportune and badly managed, and calculated to injure trades unionism in the minds of the public. He had held that opinion with regard to other strikes, and if strikes were not conducted intelligently and dispassionately, they would injure trade unionism rather than benefit it. With all true trade unionists, he thought that strikes should be the last resort of trade disputes, and not the first. All means should be tried before proceeding to a strike, and especially with such an organized body as the gas stokers, who had only newly come into existence, and who as a body had peculiar arrangements with their employers."

We believe there are few indeed who would not fully endorse the sentiments expressed by Mr. Linsmore, in that strikes should be made the last resort of trade disputes; but while this was generally admitted, with one or two ex-

ceptions at the Congress, the action of Mr. Justice Brett was very deservedly denounced in no unmeasured terms.

ENGLISH AGRICULTURAL LABORERS.

The remarkable agitation which the last year witnessed amongst the English agricultural laborers, will undoubtedly be of great interest to Canadians, seeing that one of the outgrowths of the movement is a scheme for the emigration of large numbers of this class to the various colonial possessions. Canada should make very strong efforts towards securing such a class of emigrants. We notice our Commissioners, both Provincial and Dominion, are moving in the matter, but there is need for great activity. Mr. J. C. Whelless, who was in this city last year, and who was engaged in the agricultural agitation, has been lecturing among the agriculturalists of Buckinghamshire, and has been earnestly setting forth the advantages of Canada as a field for British emigration, and at the conclusion of meetings held at Uxbridge, Colnbrook, Harefield, Norwood Green, and other places, many laborers came forward and asked that their names might be added to the list of emigrants who will sail some time in March. Probably there is no place in the world that would be so advantageous to the surplus labor thus drained off from the Old Country as our fertile Canadian provinces; and it would, therefore, manifestly be greatly to the advantage of the Dominion to have measures adopted to secure a large percentage of these hardy sons of toil.

"READ AND YOU WILL KNOW."

With manifest gratification we sometimes escape from the stormy discussion of strikes, and their inseparably attendant evils, to the contemplation of other modes of improving the social position and the resources of earth's producers—the vast army of toilers who constitute the industrial motor of the world. Arbitration has been lately advanced as a possible substitute for strikes; but then, the recognition of this principle concedes the unquestionable right of combination, and the beneficial results—to workmen—claimed to have been secured by its introduction, are largely due if not directly attributable to the strength of the combination, laying like a reserve corps on its arms in rear of the arbitrators. The advancing moral influence of civilization seems disposed to classify strikes among trades, and wars among nations, in the same general order of human evils. In war, the stronger side always wins—it matters not whether this strength consists in superior numbers or superior discipline, superior modes of destruction or greater perfection of military science; the same is equally true of a strike, the stronger party wins. Should two nations, to settle some vexed, disputed question, resolve to resort to war, and after the respective armies of each had taken the field and stood confronting each other, it should be proposed to settle the matter by arbitration, does any one suppose the weaker nation would secure all her representatives asked, if the stronger party objected thereto? We venture to say the result would not be materially different, whether settled by arbitration or a resort to arms, except that the effusion of blood and loss of life would be spared by the former plan; but, the abstract result would be substantially the same—the stronger party would win in either case. The same principle of force holds good in the adjustment of a trade difference, either by a strike or by arbitration, and the workmen who expect to achieve any beneficial results, worthy the name, through the medium of arbitration, in the absence of combinational strength, will be egregiously and sadly disappointed; and will, by experience, learn that the unjust employer will consent to arbitrate only when he is convinced, by the unbroken front of impregnable combination, that his interest lies in that direction.

Jumping from the application of a direct physical force, to the application of a moral force, when the power of the

latter to produce a given result is contingent upon the power of the former to produce the same result, we find does not afford an exit of escape to a smoother, wiser plan of improvement in our social and economic condition—a plan that will dispense with both these forces. Such a mode of improvement we believe to be embodied in the principle of Co-operation. All the hostility arising between labor and capital has been, directly or indirectly fomented by the wages system—which is only worthy of approbation when contrasted with veritable slavery—exists, there will also exist strifes and contentions between workmen and their employers. There is no escape from this conclusion—it is inevitable. The first or original condition of systematic industry was slavery, pure and simple; wages-slavery which followed was a progressive gradation, the continuation or superseding of which will be co-operation, a form or condition of systematic industry which will, when rightly understood, afford more positive relief and genuine improvement, economic, social and mental, to workingmen, than any other mode of redress now claiming our attention. But just here we encounter a stupendous obstacle, we are not prepared for the change. There is no disguising the fact, we are not prepared to avail ourselves of the advantages that would follow the supplanting of the wages system by the equitable distribution system. Until the majority of workingmen become radically changed in habit and principle, until they become vastly different, intellectually and morally, from what they are at present; until they become much better and greatly wiser, their condition will be injured and not bettered, by an application of the principle of co-operation. Under present circumstances—the limited knowledge of this subject possessed by the great body of workingmen, their want of mercantile training, their want of confidence in themselves, and in each other, there can be no lasting good expected from co-operative enterprises. What we want is light, knowledge, education for the masses. How is it to be attained? By reading. It is folly to suppose that men can not become learned outside of schoolhouses, college or university walls. Books are the great teachers of modern times. "Books," said a learned Englishman of the eleventh century, "are masters who instruct us without rods and rules and wrath; if you go to consult them they are never asleep; if you ask them questions, they don't run off; if you make blunders, they don't scold; if you are ignorant, they don't taunt you." If workingmen wish to solve the social problems most affecting themselves, they must read; if they wish to become respected, as they never were before, they must read; if they wish to do away with strikes, arbitration, and all the evils growing out of wages slavery, they must read. If they wish to see co-operation successfully and generally introduced, they must read; if they wish to store their minds with pure, elevating thoughts, that will lift them above the groveling grossness of ignorance, and fit them for higher and nobler stations in life, they must read; if they wish to cut the ligatures of darkness, that have bound them to the will of others, they must read; if they wish to render politicians unnecessary, and free the world from the baneful influence of political contests, they must read; in a word, if workingmen expect to ever achieve all they propose through association and organization, they must read. All the great, distinguished minds of ancient and modern times, achieved greatness and arrived at distinction through the habit of ceaseless, constant reading, and without the formation of this habit, any degree of perfection is utterly unattainable, impossible. We know that in the absence of an eight-hour system it is extremely difficult for workingmen to form any well-defined habit of general, systematic reading, but we also know that they can easily read more than they do, and that the quality of what they do read might be much improved. It is a sad reflection, made sadder by being only too true, that workingmen read but little; but this is not the worst phase of the reflection.