

Ontario Workman.

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

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NO. 55

Labor Notes.

The strike of Crispins and gas men at Cincinnati, O., has substantially ended.

A National Association for the prevention of strikes has been established at Chippenham.

The strike of the Halifax Acadia Coal Company's, miners is at an end. The company have advanced the rate of wages.

"The Colliers Strike" has been played at the Royal Alfred Theatre, London, and the "South Wales Strike," at the Theatre, Hanley, Staffordshire.

The *Weekly Mail* of Cardiff, states that as a consequence of the recent strikes, tens of thousands of new members have joined both the Colliers and Iron-workers' Unions.

The plasterers' laborers of Leeds have struck work in consequence of the masters refusing to accede to their demand for an increase of pay from 5½d. to 6d. per hour.

Twenty-seven delegates from various Trades Unions in the United States, met in secret session in New York, on the 26th April, and after discussion, resolved to postpone any attempt to enforce the eight hour rule till 1874.

A sailors' strike commenced at Cleveland, on Friday afternoon, for an increase of wages from \$2 to \$2.50 per day. Many of the loaded vessels from which men had struck will be towed to their destinations by tugs. The captains of vessels express their determination to resist the strike, and are confident of success. Measures have been taken by the city authorities to prevent any disturbance.

About seventy laborers on Lady Lyon Stephens' estate, and fifty on the estates of others, are, we are informed, now "locked-out" simply because they are unionists. They are all members of the Lincoln Labor League, and Mr. Banks, secretary, Boston, is arranging for an extensive migration of the "locked-out" men. The farmers in Norfolk, are bitterly opposed to the union, and fears are entertained by the leaders of the men that they may be driven to commit acts of violence through the persecution they are undergoing.

The differences between the master painters of Liverpool and the operatives have been adjusted. The men claimed 7½d. per hour for 54 hours' work per week, which was rejected by the masters, who offered 7d. per hour for a week of 55 hours, being an advance of a halfpenny per hour on the existing wages. The men declined these terms, and after several meetings of joint representatives, it was decided to refer the matter to the arbitration of Mr. Clarke Aspinall, the borough coroner, and a local magistrate. Mr. Aspinall's award was on Saturday received by Mr. Shimmis, the Secretary to the Master Builders' Association. It is in favor of 7½d. per hour for a week of 55 hours. This finally settles the matter.

The colliery engine-men of Northumberland have just been granted higher wages and shorter hours of labor, notwithstanding the fact that the present fine weather is having a tendency to bring down the price of household coals through the district. Final arrangements have been made for the monster demonstration in favor of manhood suffrage, which was held on Newcastle Moor, on Easter Monday. The men from 95 collieries in Northumberland and Durham, as well as those belonging to 31 trade organisations, have signified their intention of joining the procession, and resolutions will be simultaneously moved from six platforms.

The 54 hours system is quietly working its way throughout the English coach trade. This month's report announces that the whole of the employers in Belfast have conceded the time, and they deserve the warmest thanks of all for the promptness and courtesy with which they have upon all occasions met the wishes of their men. Last year they raised each man's wages 2s. per week. Messrs. Hibbins and Painter (late Robertson,) Stamford, have also granted

the 54 hours, the reduction being six hours per week, and Mr. Stevens, Market Harborough, have reduced the working time from 60 to 56½ hours per week.

The members of the United Kingdom Society of Coachmakers have been furnished with their quarterly report. It includes the three dull months of November, December, and January, and, as a rule, the income in those months does not meet the expenditure, but the March report for 1873 has announced a saving on the quarter of £725 1s. 4d., which clearly shows the prosperity of the trade and with it the society. The progress made in the past twelve months will be seen by the following:—In the March report of 1872 the members numbered 6,070, with a capital of £5,424 5s. 1½d. The members now number 6,439, with a capital of £8,903 5s. 5d., showing an increase of 369 members and £3,479 0s. 3½d. in capital. There has also been some liberal changes made in the rules, which came into force in March.

A general lock-out in the tailor trade in nearly the whole of Scotland is threatened. The men have asked an advance of a half-penny per hour, and that the employers shall enter into an obligation that this rise shall extend over 12 months. The masters have offered a rise of a farthing, but declined to enter into the time obligation which the men consider the principal portion of their demand. An association has been formed by masters, with a central executive at Edinburgh. A strike has occurred in Dundee, and on account of this the masters' association have called upon all employers to give out no new work until a satisfactory adjustment is agreed to. In compliance with these instructions upwards of 100 men were locked out in Aberdeen lately, and another instalment of men are to be refused work in a couple of days. Edinburgh and Glasgow are expected to follow, and if the men do not comply with the terms offered by the masters, nearly every tailor in Scotland will be locked out.

During the past year we have opened 14 new branches, eight in England, one in Scotland, four in the United States, and one in Canada. From Lowestoft in the east, to San Francisco in the far west, the traveller will continually find branches of this Society. The rapid progress which the Society has made in America is very cheering; and the recent amendments which have been made in our rules, giving to our American branches a system of self-government, will tend to firmly establish the fraternal feelings which already exists, and to make our society a power on both sides of the Atlantic.

THE AMALGAMATED CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.

The 13th annual report of this association for 1872 has just been issued, and from it we take the following extracts:—

Our operations during the year 1872 have not, it is true, been attended with that steady, uninterrupted prosperity which many societies of a kindred character have experienced. During the past year we have been compelled to resist an opposition which imperilled the future of our organization; and when we find ourselves at its close, victorious in the law courts, victorious before a board of arbitration, and victorious in many a hard-fought fight in the cause of labor, I think we may fairly find cause if congratulation in the fact that our society is now more numerous, wealthy, and influential than it has been at any previous period in its history.

From table No. 1, it will be seen that our increase during the past year is 1,472 members, and £3,020 0s. 5d.; making our total number of members 11,236, with 226 branches, and an available fund of £19,849 8s. 6½d. This table does not, however, fairly represent the financial progress or real worth of the Society. During the past year we have expended large amounts in improving the machinery of the Society, and as we are now under the provisions of the Trades Union Act, we have power to acquire landed property, and to invest our accumulated capital in various remunerative investments from which we were formerly debarred. Consequently, the amount of funds in hand is no real criterion from which to judge of the true value of the property possessed by the Society, which at the end of last year amounted to £22,068 3s. 6½d.

The number of branches has been reduced during the year from 242 to 227. This, however, does not involve a loss, but a positive gain. No outpost has been abandoned which could be profitably retained, but in our large cities and towns a number

of small branches have been united, and thus greater efficiency has been attained, and a great reduction in our working expenses has been effected.

Table II. shows that we have expended in relieving our unemployed members the sum of benefit, £128; benevolent grants, £444; grants, £3,458; in tool benefit, £381; sick benefit, £5,566; funeral benefit, £1,102; accident benefit, £700; superannuation and loans to other trades, £80. Our largest item of expenditure, however, has been that of trade privileges, which has cost us £4,595. I am not aware that the demands of the building operatives have been more extravagant than those of other trades; they have certainly been more than justified by the extraordinary increase that has occurred in the cost of living. We have been anxious to secure an amicable settlement wherever it could be attained, but in many districts we have had to encounter a determined opposition on the part of our employers.

In those districts in which our trade is well organized, employers and employed have learnt the folly of resorting to strikes as a method of settling their differences, and by means of boards of arbitration and conciliation, satisfactory arrangements have been made, and the evil resulting from a dispute have been averted.

The number of new members admitted during the year has been 2,686, making our total numbers 11,236.

"The registration of the Society under the Trades' Union Act will, I am convinced, prove very advantageous to us. It gives to our funds the full protection of the law, enables us to institute summary proceedings against fraudulent officers and members, and empowers us to hold land and to purchase property whenever we deem such a course to be desirable.

"In conclusion, permit me to express the extreme satisfaction with which I review the Society's operations during the past year. Our object has been, not to accumulate vast sums of money, but to utilize the funds at our disposal in the best possible manner, so that our organization may be made the means of raising its members in the social scale, of improving their condition as skilled artisans, and of providing for their wants in the hour of sickness and distress. In this good work we have been earnestly engaged, and great success has attended our labors. That the prosperity with which we have been favored during the past year may long continue is the earnest hope of

JOHN D. PRIOR, Gen. Sec.

THE LONDON BUILDING TRADES.

The reply of the committee of the London Master Builders' Association, refusing to accede to the request of the masons to raise their wages from 8½ to 9 per hour, has occasioned considerable disappointment. The clause that suggests that if the men require more money they should be allowed to work during longer hours in the summer months, has been met with especial dissatisfaction, and an aggregate meeting of the trade will be held shortly to consider the course to be pursued under the circumstances. The memorial of the carpenters and joiners, asking for the same advance in wages and a clearly defined code of working rules was acknowledged by the secretary of the masters' committee on Saturday morning, but no hopes were held out that the results of their applica-

tion would be more favorable than that of the masons.

The memorial of the London laborers for an advance has been placed by the men's committee in charge of the Labor and Capital Committee of the Social Science Association, who are using their good offices with the masters' committee, on behalf of the laborers.

The bricklayers, plasterers, and painters are about sending in memorials to the masters also requesting an advance of ½ per hour.—*English Exchange.*

WAGES ARBITRATION IN THE IRON TRADE.

The question of wages which has agitated the iron trade in the north of England, was settled at Darlington on Wednesday, by the arbitration of Mr. Rupert Kettle, in connection with the board of arbitration.

After two days' deliberation, and hearing the arguments on both sides, Mr. Kettle decided that all the claims for extras and all allowances be included in the price to be awarded, and in connection with disputes at local works, and all claims to be withdrawn on both sides. Relating to the general wages question, the award was as follows:—

That the system of a sliding scale, either upon the former or any other basis, shall not again be adopted without the consent of both masters and operatives. That the rate of wages for puddlers be raised 9d. per ton from the 31st March till the 4th of October next, and that all other iron workers be paid an advance of 7½ per cent. upon present prices. As the Staffordshire ironworkers offered to be guided by the decision in the north of England, it is expected that the dispute there will be arranged on the same basis.

TRUE REFORM.

The evil inherent in the existing monetary arrangements of society may thus be briefly pointed out:—All the surplus profits acknowledged under the name of dividends, &c., over and above the costs of production or management go to sustain more or less in idleness classes or individuals who do not part of the work implied; these favored individuals again at their death leaving their claims in the hands of successors, and thus keeping up in perpetuity a mass of idleness (I am not using the term individually) which ever weighs like an ill-advised mortgage on the energies of the really industrious portion of the community.

Now such surplus profits over and over again always repay the original outlays of those who appropriate them, and yet these parties are allowed continually to exact them, despite all the wrong, all the evil, their so doing inflicts on the rest of society.

But look closer to the case. A. B. C., &c., suppose, represent successive generations of men lineally and legitimately descended the one from the other. A. was a man, let us admit, great in his generation—the source of a vast deal of good in the world while he lived in it. For this, of course, he deserved well of society, and society not without reason rewarded him amply for what he did, endowing him with not only enough for himself to eat on to the end of his days, but with enough for him to bequeath something also for B. C., &c., to live on a long while after he was gone. Now, had A. been paid for what he did, in potatoes, for instance, or in any other perishable commodity, or commodities, the good intentions of society would probably not have been of much avail as we descended lower in our alphabet of generations, some of the later letters not only benefiting nothing, but even remembering haply nothing of the huge pile of potatoes once publicly granted to the great head of the house still bearing the common name. But this is nature's way of dealing with the posterity of all the great public benefactors the world has ever seen. Artificially, however, we endeavour to show

ourselves wiser than nature. We compute the original natural potato to a potato that A. may bite at all his life through, and then be able to pass it, subject to a similar process to B., who, after filling his mouth with it again and again, at last remits it to C., who again, in common with all his long line of successors, sends it generation after generation, with like liabilities, yet further down in the hereditary alphabet—a veritable miracle constantly—since it continues not only the same original natural potato it was when first consigned to A., but frequently a great deal larger, and therefore presenting much more to bite at than it did when the gift was thus originally made. But when we have done this, have we been wise? have we not been paying a great deal too much for our whistle? What amount of good could A. have done to entitle him to this extraordinary amount of everlasting wealth, thus abundant through so many interminably successive generations. Would it not have been better if society, before committing its great folly, had said, "A. indeed has done us good, and we are grateful for it;" let us, therefore, give him enough for his own days, together with something also for the days of B. and C., whom he knows and loves, without thinking of D. E., &c., whom he does not know, nor will perhaps have an opportunity of loving, and who, therefore of necessity, will neither know nor love him, leaving it to the said B. and C., &c., to act as B. has done before them, and successively to extend the beneficial effects of their works farther and farther down our great alphabet of existence as they all in turn appear on the great stage of life.

Now many persons profess to believe indeed in the mistake that has been made, but have no other remedy to offer but a redistribution of the potatoes about which the mistake has been made, amongst a larger number, instead of a few only of the contemporaries of any given age. This, however, is simply believing that twenty hundred weights would be much easier to endure than a ton, or enacting over again the boy's creed that a pound of lead must be infinitely in excess in its weight above that of a feecy pound of feathers.

THE GENERAL UNION OF CARPENTERS.

The Bishop of Manchester lately attended a meeting in the Hulme Town Hall, of the General Union of Friendly Operative Carpenters and Joiners, over which Mr. Alderman Bennett presided. The object of the meeting was to present £100 each to two of the society's members who had been permanently disabled by accident from following their employment as joiners. After addresses had been delivered by the Chairman, Mr. R. Last, general secretary of the society; Mr. Clark, representative of the master builders; and others.

The Bishop made the presentation on behalf of the society, and said, that as long as trade unions kept within the fair limits of the law, and exercised their rights in such a spirit as not to interfere with the rights of other men, he conceived that they were exercising a right which belonged to them as English citizens, and which no Act of Parliament and no force of public opinion could fairly attempt to take away. He would have them remember, however, that a great many things that were lawful were not always expedient. No more fatal idea could take possession of the mind of any body of men than that they were to push the advantage of their own position to the utmost limit, and that they were, in order to secure their own interests, to be perfectly indifferent to the interests of others. If that idea ever took possession of any large class, the great commercial prosperity of the country would be doomed.

The presentation was suitably acknowledged, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the Bishop.

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