

(Continued from first page.)

...ing out a hard existence on a miserable assistance of \$400 a year, could pay the five or six dollars which would be levied under this clause. The speaker, in conclusion, exhorted them by their vote that night to show their unqualified disapproval of such a scheme. (Applause.)

Mr. Levesley seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously and with loud applause.

Mr. D. J. O'Donoghue, of Ottawa, then, in a few appropriate remarks moved the following resolution:

Resolved that this meeting views with approval the independent course pursued by the working-men'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 these business men who use its columns as an advertising medium.

Mr. McCormick of Toronto, seconded the resolution, which was unanimously carried.

It was then resolved that copies of the resolutions should be sent to the Ontario Government, and the proceedings terminated with votes of thanks being passed to the City Council for the use of the hall, and to the Chairman for the able manner in which he had conducted the business of the meeting.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a number of gentlemen joined in honoring the delegates from Ottawa and Hamilton, by a complimentary supper, provided by Mr. Raffignon. We regret we cannot give a lengthened report of the proceedings. For three or four hours, however, there was an uninterrupted flow of congeniality, toast, song, and speech following in rapid succession. The company separated after each having expressed the pleasure afforded them by the occasion.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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All communications should be addressed to the Editor, 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.
 - Carpenters, (159), 1st and 3rd Tuesday.
 - K.O.S.C. Lodge 356, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
 - Tinsmiths, 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.
 - Coppers, 2nd and 4th Friday.
 - Printers, 1st Saturday.
 - Bakers, every 2nd Saturday.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, FEB. 13, 1873.

PARTICIPATION IN PROFITS.

The Hon. Mr. Crooks has been singularly fortunate in introducing to the House, during the present session, measures with titles which were high-sounding and particularly attractive to the operative classes, but the practical intent of which, when stripped of their verbiage, instead of being, as might be expected, measures that would tend to operate to the advantage of the mechanic and laborer—are so far as they are concerned, nothing but a delusion and a snare. Of such a nature, as we have already pointed out, is the Mechanics' Lien Law, which is simply no mechanic's Lien law at all; of such a nature is the bill to facilitate the adjustment of

disputes between masters and workmen; and of such a nature, too, is the bill to provide for the participation of profits. The bill is of two clauses, and the first and leading clause is to this effect:

"It shall be lawful in any trade, calling, business, or employment, for an agreement to be entered into between the workman, servant, or other person employed, and the master or employer, by which agreement a defined share in the annual or other net profits or proceeds of the trade or business carried on by such master or employer, may be allotted and paid to such workman, servant, or person employed, in lieu of or in addition to his salary, wages, or other remuneration, and such agreement shall not create any relation in the nature of partnership, or any rights or liabilities of co-partners, any rule of law to the contrary notwithstanding; and any person in whose favor such agreement is made, shall have no right to examine into the accounts, or interfere in any way in the management or concerns of the trade, calling, or business in which he may be employed under the said agreement or otherwise, and any periodical or other statement or return by the employer, of the net profits or proceeds of the said trade, calling, business or employment, on which he declares and appropriates the share of profits payable under the said agreement, shall be final and conclusive between the parties thereto and all persons claiming under them respectively, and shall not be impeachable upon any ground whatever."

We believe the principle of a participation of profits is correct, and one that is in general favor among the intelligent operatives of all kinds, because under such a system the interest of the employee becomes more closely allied with that of the employer, than can possibly be done under the present wages system. In fact, such an agreement, by which the employee becomes to a certain limited extent the partner of the employer is a considerable step towards the principle of co-operation; and, all things being equal, would undoubtedly tend to introduce more fully not only the elements of skill and attention, but also the element of zeal, into the general routine of occupation. But this will never be accomplished by the provisions of the bill, because, on the face of it, it gives an undue advantage to the employer over the employee under an agreement of the kind mentioned. An agreement is to be entered into between an employer and his employee, whereby the latter is to receive a certain per-centage of the profits accruing from the business; but the mere word of the employer is to be taken as to what those profits might be; and that statement could not be deposited in a court of law, or anywhere else, and the employee could have no right to examine into the accounts or interfere in any way in the management or concerns of the trade. This is the most extraordinary piece of legislation we have heard of, and places the workman more fully at the mercy of the employer, because many a one, under the delusive promise of a participation in profits, might be induced to accept lower wages.

THE BALLOT.

Last week in the Assembly, the Ballot Bill was brought forward for its second reading. The debate that ensued was somewhat lengthy, a large number of the members taking part in the discussion. Some exceptions were, of course, taken to the principle of the system; but the general impression appeared to be strongly in its favor. Mr. McDonald's amendment for a six months' hoist was defeated by a division of the House with the following result:—

YEAS.—Messrs. Boulter, Boulbee, Cameron, Code, Deacon, Fitzsimmons, Hamilton, Macdonald, Meredith, Merrick, Monk, Monteith, Rykert, Tooley.—14.

NAYS.—Messrs. Ardagh, Barber, Bethune, Caldwell, Christie, Clarke (Norfolk), Clarke (Wellington), Clemens, Cook, Craig (Glen-garry), Craig (Russell), Crosby, Deroche, Farewell, Finlayson, Fraser, Gibbons, Gibson, Gow, Grange, Guest, Harey, Lauder, McKellar, McKim, McLeod, McManus, McRae, Mowat, Oliver, Pardee, Patterson, Paxton, Prince, Read, Robinson, Scott (Ottawa), Sexton, Sinclair, Smith, Snetsinger, Springer, Striker, Watterworth, Webb, Wells, Williams (Durham), Williams (Amherst), Wilson, Wood (Brant), Wood (Victoria).—50.

But those who have been in expectation of the passage of the bill this session will be doomed to disappointment; for after the motion for its second reading had been carried by the same vote, Mr. Clarke coolly informed the House that his object in introducing the bill had been attained, and it was not therefore his intention to proceed further with it this session. Thus after the

time of the House had been consumed in the discussion of the bill, and the principle of the measure so unmistakably approved, for some reason the time for its adoption was considered inconvenient, and so it has been withdrawn. This is legislation with a vengeance!

THE LIEN LAW.

"The enactment of such a bill, of which the above are the leading features, cannot but prove a great security and boon to the working classes, and will provide them with the means of protection from incapable or fraudulent contractors, a class from whom they have in the past been wholly unprotected, and who have recently entailed much loss and injustice upon their employees. As we have been the only advocate in the press for the passage of such a law, we feel pleased to see that the Government of Ontario have seen fit, without any unusual outside pressure, to afford to our mechanics and workmen, that protection to which they are justly entitled."

We clip the foregoing extract from an article in the Ottawa Free Press of the 6th instant, for the purpose of pointing out a few of the errors contained in it. In the first place, the general intention of Mr. Crooks' bill is not "most comprehensive, and does not provide "ample security for the payment of work done" by the mechanic, and the enactment will prove anything but a great security and boon to the working classes. In proof of this, our columns have given strong expressions of dissent from the working classes themselves on the subject. Their opinion is very much to the contrary, and perhaps the editor of the Free Press will kindly enlighten them in the matter. So far, also, as the Free Press being the only advocate in the press for the passage of such a law, the subject was fully ventilated through the columns of the WORKMAN long before the Free Press expressed its opinion in favor of a Mechanics' Lien Law.

TORONTO MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

Among the many institutions in Toronto worthy of more than a passing notice is the Mechanics' Institute. Established 43 years ago, it has, in that time, in a quiet unobtrusive way, been the means of doing much good, supplying reading matter and night school education to all who choose to avail themselves of its benefits at a really nominal cost. Our attention has been more particularly drawn to it at the present time from the fact that the Directors have availed the services of the most brilliant lecturers who have ever visited Toronto. To most of our Old Country readers the name of Professor Pepper is familiar as a household word, recalling as it does, the London Polytechnic, with its varied and instructive entertainments. The Professor has only been engaged for three nights; but we trust his success will be such as to warrant a further engagement later in the season. Succeeding Professor Pepper, we have Edmund Yates, the distinguished novelist, upon whom, it is stated by a leading English paper, the mantle of Dickens has fallen. The subjects of his two lectures are of special interest to lovers of literature, and those interested in British politicians. The last on the list is the world-renowned divine, Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, who is engaged for one night only. We need say nothing of him or the subject of his lecture to insure a crowded house; indeed, the difficulty, we apprehend, will be in obtaining a place sufficiently large to give all an opportunity of hearing him.

We trust all these talented gentlemen will meet with a hearty reception, not merely because of the reputation they bear, but that the Directors of the Institute may feel encouraged to enlarge their course another season.

We cordially recommend the Mechanics' Institute to the consideration of our readers. The benefits to be derived from its Reading-room, Library, etc., are well known; and when one remembers that these can be obtained for the paltry sum of 5c. per week, it is difficult to understand the apathy displayed by the working classes in enrolling themselves among its members. One feature in its Constitution is especially worthy of note, providing, as it does, that at least one half of the Directors should be mechanics, or those engaged

in a manufacturing art. By this wise provision a fair share of its management devolves upon the class it is more particularly intended to benefit. If they fail to take an interest in the Institution and avail themselves of this clause it is a matter for great regret.

COMPETITION.

"By what authority does any man, or body of men, undertake to dictate upon what terms I shall work for another?" This is a question often asked by workmen who desire to avoid the obligations and responsibilities adopted by Trades Unions. The same question might be asked by any dishonest man who desired to evade the legal restrictions and moral responsibilities of the community in which he lived, or of society at large. Who would be so insane as to question the right of the PEOPLE, or of any portion of this great Republic, to peaceably assemble, form themselves into associations, and make laws and regulations to improve their social, moral and intellectual condition. Let us ask who objects to men possessing nominal, not to say, real capital, organizing banking and insurance companies, and making laws, not to govern themselves only, but those also who deposit their moneys with the former, and buy policies from the latter. Under our present system of finance and civilization, which we have mainly borrowed from Europe, it is right and proper for such things to be done, and the legislation of our country grants them special privileges. But when the labor of the country, the working, or laboring population attempt to do the same thing, it is cried down as a species of agrarianism, and those who participate in the movement are denounced as demagogues; and that, too, not only by those in power, but by the very men whose interests are advanced by the means they denounce.

But to our question. We contend that, as society at large has a right to make laws for the preservation of the whole, so also, has every community that composes society, a right to make laws for the protection and preservation of its special interests, so long as those laws and regulations do not conflict with the interests of society in general. In all civilized nations the right of property is recognized, and laws are enacted for its protection. Now, labor is the property of the laborer, and it is the right of the laborer to dispose of that property as he pleases, so long as he does not dispose of it to the injury of others, or to the detriment of the community in which he lives. Well, if this be his privilege individually, what is to prohibit him from exercising the same collectively? If one hundred men have property in the shape of labor to dispose of, and they assemble together to agree to certain conditions upon which they will dispose of that property, who will deny them that right? We hold it to be an incontrovertible fact, that the laborer being the original proprietor of his labor, has a right to fix the price at which he will sell or exchange his labor, and according to the laws of nature, and a well regulated condition of society, The majority of laborers in any one of our industrial departments, have a right to proscribe upon what conditions others shall participate in the same department of labor.

"But," say our opponents, "labor is not bought and sold like other property, it is only hired." Just so, a certain portion of labor is exchanged for a stipulated price, because it cannot be sold. But is it because it is labor, that the possessors of it are to be deprived of the right to regulate and fix its marketable value?

It is claimed that supply and demand regulate the price of labor; so it should of merchandise, flour, coal, rents, &c., but it is very evident it does not. Do not our merchants' exchanges, our corn and flour exchanges, and our stock exchanges regulate and manipulate the price of things, regardless of the natural effect of supply and demand? We could point to hundreds of instances where we have known merchandise and produce to be withheld from the market for the purpose of affecting the price in the mar-

ket. And what keeps up our auction houses, if it is not the proceeds from sales made in violation of the so much talked of laws of "supply and demand."

If the laborer stood upon the same footing as the capitalists, in regard to his property there might not be so much clamor about the relations of labor to capital. Let us suppose a merchant purchases twenty cases of goods, and during the season he disposes of only fifteen out of the twenty—he makes a fair per-centage upon the investment. The remaining five cases he either reserves for the next season, or, if they are perishable, he sends them to the auction house and whatever they bring is net profit. But how is it with the laborer. His capital is his labor, and his labor his capital. Now the capital of the laborer is not a commodity like that of the merchant or manufacturer, and unlike their's cannot be invested or sold at auction. The labor of the laborer, or as we shall term it in the future, the "laborer's capital," when once expended is consumed forever; he can never regain it, for it is part of his nature a part of his physical power, which he gives out for a stipulated price—a price which a narrow-minded selfishness denies him the right to regulate. However this ignoring of the laborer's right, by a class, does not deprive him of that right—it is still assailed and violated as if it never had been denied. And it is this same class who deny the laborer full rights and privileges that prate so much about "supply and demand and competition; and would like to keep the latter doctrine alive among working people to impoverish them, as we shall show hereafter.

This doctrine of competition is one upon which certain economists have bestowed a vast amount of labor, and have produced volumes in its favor; but it is one in our humble opinion, which is more chimerical than real, in its application to wages labor. We can very well understand how, and why competition should exist in the commercial and manufacturing world, where men are speculating in millions of money, and bartering with millions worth of goods. Because they are then speculating on marginal profits, and can afford to rise and fall, according to the exigencies of the sale. But when it comes to the laborer's wages we fail to see either the necessity for or utility of it. In the labor world, the wages of the laborer are fixed, and rarely if ever afford him a decent living, much less a competence. The condition of the laboring masses has always been one of poverty, compared with that of those who live off the products of the laborer. In this position we are sustained by the writings, or convictions of eminent writers on political economy—one of whom—and one of the ablest among them says: "The haggardness of poverty is every where seen contrasted with the sleekness of wealth; the extorted labor of some compensating for the idleness of others wretched hovels by the side of stately colonades, the rags of indigence blended with the ensigns of opulence; in a word the most useless profusion, in the midst of the most urgent wants." When those scientists who first gave the world the true science of Political Economy bear such testimony as to the condition and fate of the wages population, can it be supposed for a moment that they ever intended the law of competition to apply to the wages laborer. The only effect competition can have among the wages population is, to reduce the price of that labor, thereby tending to pauperization, and its concomitant crime—a result that all time Economists, Statesmen and Philanthropists would deeply deplore.—Workingman's Advocate

MASS MEETING.

A mass meeting will be held on Friday night in the St. Lawrence Hall, when the Cordwood Question will be fully ventilated. We trust our readers will turn out en masse, because the question is one of the greatest importance to them. That a ring is in existence appears beyond contradiction, and no efforts must be spared to break it up.

The Provincial Lodge, Knights of St. Crispin are in session in this city during this week, being a secret organization. Its deliberations are carried on with closed doors.