

DISASTROUS FIRES.

NEW YORK METROPOLITAN HOTEL IS RUINS.

About eight o'clock on Monday morning a fire broke out in that portion of the Metropolitan Hotel occupied as Niblo's garden. A general alarm was sounded, but the fire gained great headway, and continued to burn furiously. As a natural consequence the greatest excitement prevailed, and as the flames continued to defy the utmost exertions of the firemen to subdue them, it could hardly be conjectured as to what extent the fire would rage. At about noon, however, the fire was under control and finally subdued.

Only one wall of Niblo's theatre is left standing. A contract was made to have it rebuilt by August. The scenery of Lalla Rookh, belonging to the Grand Opera theatre, which had been transferred to Niblo's, was burned, entailing a loss of \$25,000. The building is owned by Stewart, the dry goods man. The different actors and actresses at Niblo's lose from \$100 to \$1,000 worth of property each.

A meeting of the dramatic profession was held to adopt measures for the relief for sufferers. Various theatres in the city have already tendered benefits.

The loss to the Metropolitan Hotel entirely by water is about \$50,000. The adjoining building owned by H. Beadel is damaged to the extent of \$10,000.

Several Masonic and other lodges of secret orders lose heavily by the destruction of the hall over Niblo's.

THE TOWN OF INGERSOLL DESTROYED.

At about eleven o'clock on Tuesday night, a fire broke out in the Royal Exchange Hotel stables, corner of Oxford and Charles-streets, and spread north, south and east, until it reached Thames-street, the principle street of the town, taking the Niagara District Bank, CHRONICLE Office and intermediate stores, many of which were of substantial brick, three stories high. The fire caught the east side of the street, and burnt all the principal dry goods and grocery stores of the town. One man, named Paine, is supposed to have been lost in saving stock from Young's saddlery store. The London firemen hastened to the rescue and did good service in arresting the progress of the flames. Through the united exertions of the fire brigades the fire was got under control, and the saving of Hon. F. Smith's block saved a thickly settled part of King street.

The following is a list of the owners of the property destroyed:—John Walsh, Royal Exchange Hotel, and four or five other frame buildings; R. Vance, confectionery; Brownell & Barker's, hardware; Niagara District Bank; Geo. E. Perkins, 3 story brick; J. & H. Little, groceries; J. Gordon, tailor; G. W. Walloes, crockery; CHRONICLE office; Mrs. Coates, millinery; M. Miller, grocery; J. Morrey, cabinet show room; F. S. Lewis, photographer.

The additional buildings destroyed are J. Boles' tailor shop, Sharpnell's grocery, W. S. McFarlane, dry goods; estate of Alex. Reeds, dry goods; J. G. Shown & Co., hardware; F. A. Baker, photographer; Barraclough, boot and shoemaker; Holmes & Gillespie, dry goods; M. Tripp, druggist; J. MacNiven, dry goods; Jas. MacDonald, hats and caps; Pulford, fancy goods. Into this building the most of the type was taken from the "Chronicle," and afterwards burnt; A. McCaulay, dry goods; J. Gaylor & Co., druggists; D. White, dry goods; O. B. Caldwell, druggist; Allan McLean, stationery and fancy goods; Noe, fruiter; R. Gains, baker; many other houses were emptied of goods and furniture.

It is impossible to estimate the loss at this stage. Competent judges say the loss must be over half a million of dollars. Only eight stores of the business part of the town are saved.

PERTINENT QUERIES.

The *Leader* answers one or two pertinent questions as follows:

We observe that a large number of our contemporaries are demanding to know the reason why the Canadian statutes have not yet been issued. In reply, we may take this opportunity to inform our *confreeres* of the rural press that the Queen's printer is busily engaged in bringing out Charles Reade's latest sensational novel, and consequently is unable to devote any time to the Statutes. A change of Government has worked wonders in Ontario!

We have been asked for information respecting the delay in the publication of the "Herd Book,"—supposed to be in course of preparation in the office of a city contemporary. We beg to state in reply that as the office referred to has been declared a non-union office, the Herd Book is not likely to find its way to the country for a considerable length of time.

The *Reformer* says that a considerable party left Galt and neighborhood on Monday, 22nd of April, for Red River.

Communications.

AN EXTRA HOUR AT HOME.

To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.

SIR,—I must ask you in the first place to pardon my assurance in requesting room for my short epistle, and I will then proceed to state—or try to—my reason for troubling you.

You may be sure I have watched with great interest the struggle for the success of the Nine Hours Movement, since the commencement up to the present moment. Before the "strike" we—that is, my husband and self—were regular subscribers to the newspaper called the "Globe," and from the tone of that paper last summer and fall we certainly did not expect to see it take the mean and dishonorable course that it did on the question of shorter hours for the working man. But, Mr. Editor, I will not take up your space in stating what is patent to all, and will at once proceed to the point to which I wish to call attention.

The paper mentioned above, in one of its issues at the commencement of the strike, stated in an editorial that the workmen's wives did not want their husbands' company an hour earlier every evening; that, in fact, they would much rather be alone, or gossiping in each other's houses, than enjoying the company of their husbands, and spending the extra hour in mutual improvement. I was very indignant on reading the lies it then gave utterances to, but my "worse half" only laughed at them. I resolved to wait—my husband being a printer—till the strike was over, and let the falsehoods prove themselves to be such. Well, my partner for life has been working three weeks—the "Master" having succumbed to the "Man"—and what is the result? The extra hour is spent at home, 'tis true, but it is in the shape of gardening, fixing up things generally, or reading and writing, and—miserable fellow—playing with the children. Of course, Mr. Editor, I don't expect every woman has had my luck in life. For instance, if the "honorable" manager of the paper named is as arbitrary and overbearing at home as he has proved himself to be in relation to his workmen, I would not wonder at his wife wishing him away, not one hour extra each day, but as long as possible, or as would suit the pleasure of His High Mightiness. Perhaps by next election he will remember that us woman-folks have some influence, and he will find then how we will use it.

Workmen's wives, don't let your husbands "rat" it! I wouldn't live with such a creature for the world. When the trade at which your husband's work is compelled to strike—and I do hope there will be no necessity—don't let your men "go back" on the Union: take my word for it, the extra hour will do good to all concerned, and will not, as some have said, be spent in the tavern or in idleness.

I hope you will pardon me, Mr. Editor, for taking up so much of your valuable space, but you know women are proverbially long winded.

I remain yours truly,

A PRINTER'S WIFE.

Richmond street,
April 6th, 1872.

A NEW DODGE.

To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.

SIR,—Your columns being open to the workingman, allow me to make public an action which, for my part, I consider every working man should be made acquainted with, as it is in direct opposition to the Nine Hour Movement. A certain firm in this city, doing rather an extensive business, having taken several contracts which called for the assistance of their employees to carry out, deemed it prudent to respond to the call of the workmen in their establishment for short time, in the following manner:—"We will not grant the nine hours, but in place of the movement will advance the wages 25 cents per day, and work the usual time, and to secure such arrangement we will present a document to be signed—by those who wish to so agree—for the space of six, nine or twelve months, or longer if agreed upon."

This document being duly presented was signed by a few, and very few at that, and, as the business was progressing so slowly it was deemed prudent, by the foreman, to proceed to business at once, which was in the following manner: After the natural day's labor was performed, the honorable gentleman started upon his honorable (?) mission, viz., proceeding to workman No. One he gained his point, and having secured him he coaxed him into following him to No. Two; he also got him, and he fell in, making sergeant, corporal, and one private. Proceeding to No. Three the worthy gent was in bed, but by dint of persuasion he arose, and was presented with the document; he did not see the point, but upon partak-

ing freely of the narcotic drug, commonly called Belfast whisky, and he naturally being fond of that kind of medicine, he came to time. No. Four was in bed also, and the hour being too late, it was thought prudent to return to barracks, resting assured that the document would meet with great success upon the morrow; but, alas, they were all doomed to disappointment—the worthy gent was repulsed by those who had thought well over the obligation they had taken as Union men, and spurned this thing as they would an adder.

Now, sir, I hope that the time is coming when the employer will meet his men upon an even platform, and there present his claims, without resorting to his intermediate friends, the foremen. Not wishing to comment upon this matter, I now leave it in your hands, by thanking you for the privilege of communicating it.

Yours truly,

NINE HOUR.

Toronto, May 6th, 1872.

LABOR CONVENTION.

ORGANIZATION OF A NEW LEAGUE.

The convention of delegates from the various cities and towns throughout the Province, which was called for Friday last, assembled in the Temperance Hall, King street, Hamilton, at two o'clock, for the purpose of taking into consideration matters affecting the progress of the Nine Hour Movement.

The following were among the delegates present:

Hamilton—Messrs. Pryke, Ryan, Parker, Hedley, Hurley, Ingledew, Conklin, Presnell, Bland, Chambers, Spencer and Omand.

Toronto—Messrs. Williams, Hewitt and Doughty.

Brantford—Mr. D. Buchanan.

Montreal—Mr. William Moore.

Dundas—Mr. John Ballantine.

Letters and telegrams were read from Oshawa, London, St. Catharines, Ingersoll, Guelph, Sarnia, and other towns, pledging the support of the various leagues in those towns to the proposed Association.

The convention was held with closed doors until four o'clock, when a short recess took place. This session was occupied in discussing the best means of supporting the men whom it might be necessary to call out on the 15th May. The majority of the principal employers in the city having conceded the nine hour movement, or promised to do so at the time named, there are consequently only the employees of a few firms who intend striking to obtain the same.

The Convention re-assembled at half-past four o'clock, and were engaged some time in the transaction of private business, at the conclusion of which,

Mr. J. Hewitt moved, seconded by Mr. Buchanan, "That we dissolve this convention and form ourselves into 'The Canadian Labor Protective and Mutual Improvement Association.'"

Mr. Hewitt, in support of the motion, said that this had long been an object of his desires. Over twelve months ago, when the workmen of Toronto were agitating the formation of the Toronto Trades Assembly, he had certain objects in view which the foremost amongst them would wish to see accomplished. Among those objects was the formation of a brotherhood of crafts or trades and of laborers generally whose interests were identical upon a common platform, and their object was the bringing of these trades together in a common council. Further, the establishment of a paper under the control and managed by the working classes; and further, they looked beyond their local bounds to extending the same principles to the working men of the Dominion. These objects, to a very great extent, they had seen accomplished within the short space of one year, and he hoped they were now on the eve of the consummation of the grandest principle they had in view, viz., the extension of this principle of Cosmopolitan Brotherhood, without distinction, to the laborers of Canada. This union was necessary to create a mutual understanding among the working men throughout the country, so as to enable them to act promptly and decisively on all questions which affected them. Too long had the working men been the tools of capital; all the influences that had been brought to bear on their education had flown from sources under the control of capitalists, so that the masses were unable to trace effects to causes. Should he be deprived by sickness from continuing his daily productive energies, was it right that he should become a mendicant as was the case in many instances almost immediately, and in nearly all cases in a few months; in fact they were unable to cease work to better their condition without having to apply for help almost immediately. All grand reforms were begun in a small way, but they progressed rapidly, and he hoped

that in a few years the influence and power of the workingmen would excel their most sanguine expectations. Unity was necessary to insure success in all ameliorative measures. Reforms necessary to advance the condition of workingmen must come from workingmen. Union of action must characterize all movements of the working man to insure success. The tendency of the age was not levelling downwards but upwards; intelligence was fast spreading among them. Their power was fast being developed, and could not fail to elevate their class. There was, however, one gigantic fraud that was the father to many frauds; that was the power which gave the monetary system of the civilized world power to accumulate and centralize the wealth produced by the working classes. Another question that was of absolute necessity in the present age was the shortening of the hours of labor, for surely had not the mechanic of to-day, who by superior skill and the introduction of labor-saving machinery could represent the productive energies in ten hours which a man who lived 50 years ago could not do at the same business in 15 or 20 hours, a right to make a demand for a more equal distribution of labor among the human family, which had become a crying want. In conclusion, he urged them to support the measure before the chair, and inaugurate one of the grandest movements that the workingmen of the Dominion ever took in hand. (Applause.)

Mr. Moore, of Montreal, also spoke in support of the motion. He said it was satisfactory to think that the days of the Peterboro massacre were past, and that they could freely discuss questions affecting their safety and welfare. He thought that the upper classes should not be the sole legislators of the country, because they advocated class interests and neglected the interests of those who elected them. The working men deserved and desired to have workingmen as their representatives in the Legislature, not because they were working men simply, but in intelligence they were equal to others, and could upon all questions affecting labor speak with more power and force. Better education was necessary; the association which they proposed forming would bring the working class to their proper position. He concluded by expressing a hope that the promoters of the Association would receive the unanimous support of the working classes throughout the country. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Parker, of Hamilton, spoke of the want of instruction for the laboring classes and also more leisure time to enable them to receive such instruction. He referred to the Technological College recently established in Toronto and thought that a similar institution should be established in Hamilton in connection with the Central School. He thought that three years from the present time the most sanguine expectations of the working men would be exceeded. He said there was a sowing, a growing and a reaping time; it was their duty to watch, to tend and wait, and the harvest would surely eventually come of itself. If such a League as the one proposed were established he could visit other cities and towns in the Dominion and find brothers there. He concluded by reading a statement showing the working of, and benefits derived from the Sick and Funeral Yearly Society of the mechanical department of the Great Western Railway. The society had been twelve years in existence and had been found to work well. The number of members which had belonged to the society was 3,781. He proceeded to show how beneficial a society of this kind in connection with the league would prove to its members.

Messrs. Williams, Doughtie, Buchanan and others also spoke in support of the motion which was declared carried unanimously.

The Convention then formed itself into the League, and elected the following officers: President, John Pryke; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. Moore, Montreal; and Buchanan, Brantford; Corresponding Secretary, Mr. J. Hewitt, Toronto; Recording Secretary, Mr. James Ryan, Hamilton; and Treasurer, Mr. Ballantine, Dundas.

The President then took the chair.

A resolution to the effect that the ONTARIO WORKMAN and the NORTHERN JOURNAL become the organs of the Association was carried.

The objects of the league are mainly to elevate the present position of the working classes. In cities it is intended to form leagues in every ward, with a place of meeting containing a library and reading room, and having all the requirements suitable for the intellectual and social improvement of the working class after their hours of labor. In all towns and villages throughout the Dominion it was intended to establish similar leagues, having the same object in view. A yearly convention will be held in

a central location, at which delegates from all the leagues will be present.

A vote of thanks was unanimously passed to the proprietors of those journals who are supporting the working classes in the present struggle, especially the Toronto LEADER, ONTARIO WORKMAN, the Hamilton STANDARD, and the Montreal NORTHERN JOURNAL and STAR.

After further private business the league adjourned, subject to the call of the executive for the purpose of drawing up and adopting a constitution and by-laws.

Labor Notes.

The laborers of Ottawa have formed a Mutual Aid Society.

The painters strike was successful. Before the day ended most of the employers conceded the advance asked.

Messrs. D. Church & Co., iron and brass bedstead makers, have given all hands their employ the nine hours.

The Earl of Ducie has raised the w of his workmen upon the Trotworth estate. a-week, and allows them to leave an hour earlier on Saturdays.

The merchants of Fergus have decided to close their stores at 6 p.m. every evening except Saturday, and then at 9 p.m. We hope this move will be generally adopted.

The plasterers of Chicago city struck for \$5 per day; the employers have acceded to their demands. The bricklayers have struck against the non-union men; still out.

New York, May 6.—The workmen on the East River Bridge, Caisson, have struck for three dollars for four hours labor. They now get \$2.43 for four and a half-hours labor.

The statement that Sir Charles Mordaunt had withdrawn the notices given to his laborers to leave their cottages, and had also raised their wages, is contradicted by Mr. Cobb, Sir Charles's agent.

The entire body of laborers employed at the Dundalk distillery, the largest of the kind in Ireland, and said to produce £1,000 per working day to the excise revenue, have struck for an advance of wages.

A PROGRESSIVE LODGE.—Unity Lodge, No. 32, K. O. S. C. of Lynn, Mass., has 1500 members square on the books to Jan. 1, 1872, and 1100 members square on the books to July 1, 1872, and \$4,500 in the treasury.

At a meeting of the Internationalists of New York on Monday, it was announced that the painters of that city, 1,500 in number informed their employers on Saturday evening, that in future they would work but eight hours, at a salary of \$3.50 per day.

The brick and tile-makers employed in seven or eight yards in the town and neighborhood of Bridgewater, have demanded an increase of wages of from 16 to 25 per cent. On Monday night the men agreed to form a union, and 400 consented to join it.

It has been proposed to celebrate the Nine Hours' Movement in England by a Festival at the Crystal Palace during Whit-sun week, by the different branches of the Iron Trade, co-operating together; and a committee from each has been appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

The long strike in the nut and bolt trade in Birmingham, which has kept 1,200 or 1,500 out of employments for some months past, has been virtually ended by the resolution of the workmen at two of the principle works to go in on the masters' amended terms, including the masters' list of prices, with an addition of seven and a-half per cent, the withdrawal of the document or declaration, the abolition of the fine of 3d. per hour, and the re-opening of the doors from 6.25 to 6.30 a.m.

The workmen in the Hammersmith iron-works invited their employers, Messrs. John and Henry Gwynne, to meet them at a dinner on Thursday evening in one of the large shops. A number of congratulatory speeches were made with respect to the concession of the nine hours, and the utmost good-feeling prevailed.

The labor troubles in Berlin continue; the builders and master masons have joined the master carpenters in the lock-out movement. Thousands of workmen are thrown out of employment. Discharged journeymen of all trades have united in an appeal to the public for support. They discountenance the use of force or threats to prevent others from working.

Mr. William Zimmerman, Lake Shore, Plympton, while running Britton's saw mill, Camlachie Township, last Friday, complained to a neighbor "that he felt sore from lifting." About 9 o'clock, p.m., he complained of being unwell and lay down. A short time after his companions found him dead. An inquest was held on Saturday by Doctor Nash of Forest. Verdict: "Died by the visitation of God." He was not more than 30 years old, and leaves a wife and four children to lament his premature death.