

Ontario Workman.

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

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Labor Notes.

The New York bricklayers' strike has ended successfully for the men.

The carpet weaving mills at Brooklyn, were partially suspended. Three hundred men were thrown out of employment.

Six hundred men were discharged yesterday from the Brooklyn Navy Yard. It is reported that another discharge will take place on the 15th inst.

The Manchester, N.H., print works will do no more printing until the first of December. About five hundred people are thus thrown out of work.

The London carmen determined at their recent Council to agitate for an increase of wages to 5s. per day of 12 hours, and 6d. per hour overtime beyond that period.

A meeting of carpenters and joiners was held on the 25th ult., at Huddersfield, for the purpose of electing the workmen's section of the Board of Arbitration. They also resolved to give six months' notice (to expire on April 1, 1874) for an advance of 1½d. per hour, 50 hours to the week.

Two of the iron works in St. John's have stopped work, throwing about 200 men out of work. The Vulcan Iron Works have stopped two of their furnaces, and have closed the rail mill and discharged 400 men. Other works have either stopped their furnaces or discharged a part of their employees, and still have reduced wages 20 per cent.

At the Miners' Conference recently, at Bristol, the discharge note system was discussed at length. A resolution was passed urging resistance by every lawful means to the establishment of the system in districts where there are branches of miners' associations. The miners of Monmouthshire and South Wales were recommended to seek an interview with the employers to arrange the question.

All the shoe factories in Utica are closed, and there is no prospect of opening. The Utica Steam Engine and Boiler Works are running on half time and reduced wages, and the Western Railroad Company have discharged 250 men and reduced the wages. The Utica Steam Woolen Mills have stopped. The Franklin Iron Works, at Clinton, N. Y., are discharging men. It is understood that Babbett's Iron Works, at Whitesboro, N. Y., have shut down.

The Home Labor Market has undergone few important changes during the past week. In the Iron Trade, Mr. Rupert Kettle's decision, adverse to a proposed reduction of wages, has been accepted in North Staffordshire and elsewhere, as well as in the districts of which it more immediately applied. In Wales the iron works are in full employ. In Scotland work is also plentiful; on the Tyne, however, iron shipbuilding continues to get slower. In Sheffield trades are fairly but not fully employed; and in Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and the surrounding townships, there is still average employment.

A meeting of delegates from the various mining districts of Scotland, was held in Glasgow recently. Mr. Macdonald referred to the manner in which the country had repudiated the statement which that trade was being driven abroad by miners' combinations, and ridiculed the idea brought up by Mr. Brassey, at the Social Science Congress, that Switzerland would ever, even though her productive power was multiplied ten-fold, in any way affect the markets of the world. The speech of the Earl of Shaftesbury at Weymouth was brought before the meeting, and exception was taken to the statement therein that a body of Scotch miners, having got their wages raised to one guinea a day, refused to work more than three days a week and spent their spare time and money in drinking, gambling, dog-fighting, or sleeping. A letter was adopted, which will be forwarded to Lord Shaftesbury, challenging the accuracy of the assertion, and requesting the name of his informant.

Sir Stafford Northcote, presiding over an agricultural meeting near Torrington, on Monday, in the course of a speech upon matters of agricultural and general interest, referred to the condition of the laborer. He said the employers should do what they could to make the laborer's home more comfortable and attractive, to provide education for his children, to make the church more pleasant to him, and the village society more agreeable, all which would have the effect of inducing him to remain at home, rather than to go on a life of adventure. Again, a great deal might be done

by endeavoring to encourage the laborer to join well-conducted friendly societies, and to provide for his own old age of sickness without being dependent upon parish relief. That, of course, could only be done in connection with an advance of wages, which was a considerably more difficult and delicate matter. He thought the farmers should consult together—should co-operate with their laborers, and get the best advice they could, so as to benefit their laborers and effect their object.

LABOR PORTRAITS.

"Men who, in advance of law and in opposition to prevailing opinion, have forced into national recognition the hitherto disregarded rights of labor."

ROBERT KNIGHT.

Robert Knight, the subject of the present sketch, was born on the 5th of September, 1833, in the picturesque village of Lifton, in Devonshire, where his father carried on the business of an engineer and general smith. He received the rudiments of his education from his mother, a person of some education and intelligence, who was determined that the talents of her son should not be lost for want of an educational training. His quick apprehension and earnest desire to learn, soon, however, exhausted the literary attainments of his fond parent; and he was therefore transferred to the care of the village school-master, under whose tuition he remained till he reached the age of twelve-and-a-half years, when he left the school-desk for his father's anvil. After working for several years under the patriarchal roof, he, like many other young men, became actuated by a desire to "see the world," and to mingle in the busy stream of activity and life, which flows like a mighty torrent through our great commercial and manufacturing centres. He visited and worked in various parts of the United Kingdom, being subjected to his full share of the trials and vicissitudes of fortune which usually beset the young mechanic when travelling from home in search of employment, but everywhere gaining the good opinions of those with whom he was brought into contact, by his manly, yet affable bearing.

Amongst other important works upon which he has been engaged, he assisted, as an angle iron smith, to construct that magnificent triumph of mechanical art, the Royal Albert Bridge, designed by the celebrated engineer, J. K. Brunel, and which conveys the Cornwall Railway across the river Tamar. After the completion of this work he entered the Royal Steam Factory, at Keyham, Davenport, where he remained for fourteen years, leaving only, in fact, to enter upon the duties of his present office. His perseverance, exemplary conduct, and superior mechanical abilities, soon obtained for him the position of a leading hand, and there is no doubt but that, if fair play had been accorded to him, he would have succeeded in obtaining the foremost position in his particular department; but unfair influences being brought to bear against him, he failed to obtain the post for which his superior merit pre-eminently qualified him. The circumstances of the case were as follow:—A vacancy occurring in the management of the factory, Mr. Knight competed with five others for the situation, and although after two days' severe examination in mathematics, drawing, &c., he succeeded in obtaining a greater number of marks for superiority than any of his fellow competitors, yet, from some unknown cause, the post was conferred upon another.

While in the Government employ, he was one of two delegates appointed to attend before a select Committee of the House of Commons to advocate the claim of his fellow employes for superannuation of which task he acquitted himself in the most able and praiseworthy manner.

He was subsequently elected *sine die*, chairman of the "Wages Movement Committee," in connection with the Devonport dock-yard. Before assuming his present office of General Secretary to the "Boiler Makers and Iron Ship Builders' Society,"

his active business energy, and powers of organization, found scope for employment in a various official capacities in connection with the "Ancient Order of Foresters," from which body, he received upon his retirement from office, a most flattering testimonial expressive of their respect and esteem. He was, and is, ever ready to lend his powerful voice to advance the cause of working men, and of distressed humanity in general. And he also takes a warm and active interest in all measures calculated to promote the moral, social, and educational improvement of the masses.

Upon the office he now holds becoming vacant by the retirement of Mr. Allen, he was strongly solicited by his fellow-workmen of Devonport to become a candidate for the post. He, therefore, entered the field with seven opponents to contend for the honour; and the result of a most fair and satisfactory ballot, participated in by all paid-up members of the society, was to place Mr. Knight at the head of the poll by a majority of two to one over the most successful of his opponents.

Upon leaving Devonport after his election to proceed to Liverpool, the headquarters of his society, the members of the local branch presented him with twelve handsome volumes of books upon scientific subjects; which considering Mr. Knight's taste for literature, was perhaps the most acceptable gift they could have offered him, coupled as it was with the warmest expression of their satisfaction, goodwill, and esteem.

He took office on the 1st March, 1871, and immediately set about with his usual energy to reorganise and economise the rules and finances of the society. In conjunction with his colleagues of the executive council, he succeeded in abolishing many of the evils and abuses which had eaten into the very heart of the society, enfeebling its powers and paralyzing its actions. By a series of sound, judicious and polite reforms he has given to it reforms he has given to it renewed life, increased stability and a more varied general scope of action. By the registration of the society under the Trades Union Act, 1871, he has placed its funds under the direct protection of the law. And this, with a most elaborate system of supervision and analysis of lodge accounts, far too intricate to be detailed with any degree of accuracy in the limited space afforded us here, together with an ingenious method of registering every individual member, by means of which the annual amount paid and received by him, his position in the books, and his claim upon the funds, can be immediately ascertained, he has rendered the chances of successful fraud upon the society, if not absolutely impossible, at the least sufficiently hazardous to awe the unscrupulous by the certainty of detection.

The value to the society of the numerous internal reforms inaugurated by him, is simply incalculable. Amongst others may be cited many voluminous reports containing more copious information upon a variety of subjects than had hitherto been given; more explicit details in the monthly reports, of state of trade, number of men out of employment, members superannuated or sick, and cost of same per month, &c.; and a more efficient system of auditing and making lodge returns to the executive council.

But perhaps a reference to facts will give our readers a better idea of Mr. Knight's business aptitude and untiring assiduity than anything we can say. According to the annual report issued by his predecessor for 1871, there were then 98 lodges, with 7,500 members, and an accumulated capital of £9,371. By Mr. Knight's half-yearly report for the present year, there are now 133 lodges, 12,500 members, and a grand total of £33,500. Thus in the short space of two and a half years, the society has received 5,000 additional members, or an increase of two-thirds, while the capital has been augmented by the large sum of £21,930, or to more than three and a half times its original

amount. With so many substantial proofs before us of the success attending Mr. Knight's administration, we have the most sanguine expectations for the future of the society he directs, and most warmly congratulate its members on possessing so able, intelligent, and zealous a servant. Since his elevation to his present office, he has continued as hitherto to take an active part in all movements for the advancement of the cause of labor. He takes a principal part in all local trades gatherings. But his sympathies are of too broad and genuine a nature to be confined to the narrow limits of his own class; and, therefore, we find him actively assisting Mr. Plimsoll, as chairman of the Liverpool Working Men's Committee, in his humane efforts to ameliorate the condition of our noble sailors. At the Trades Council held in Nottingham, in 1872, he appeared as a delegate to represent his society; and at the Council held in Leeds, in the beginning of the present year, he was elected Vice-President. Enough has been said to show him to be a man worthy of imitation—a fitting representative of the British working man.

A LIFE MIRACLE.

Mrs. King had a surprise at Shanestown the other day. It was an accident that Mrs. King happened to be at Shanestown. She did not intend to go there, but the steamboat Jennie Howell, on which she was travelling, struck a snag, and sunk in the Ohio river. Several of the passengers were drowned, and among them some children. Mrs. King had a child on board whom she mourned as lost, and was taken to Shanestown without her babe.

The Jennie Howell sunk deep in the water, and the next morning men went to the vessel to recover the bodies of the lost. Soon after daylight a mattress was discovered floating in the cabin, which was filled with water nearly to the ceiling. Upon examination a child, a little boy, was discovered on the mattress sleeping as peacefully as if nothing unusual had happened. His bed was not very dry, for it had sunk a good deal from soaking but still sustained its living freight. In due time the child was sent to Shanestown, where the other passengers had been landed the evening before. Its coming made an excitement among the wrecked travellers for more than one mother had lost children by the disaster. It was a touching scene when Mrs. King recognized the child, as her boy whom she had mourned as lost for nearly twenty-four hours. The preservation of Moses in the bulrushes was not so miraculous as the safety of Mrs. King's boy. He had been tossing about on the waters in the cabin all night, and was brought to his mother alive in the hour of her deepest woe.

CURRENT EVENTS.

A domestic in New York stole the entire bridal outfit of her mistress, necessitating the postponement of the wedding.

Thirteen mechanics, chiefly stone-cutters, left Ottawa on Friday morning en route for Glasgow. They will nearly all return in the spring.

The Spanish steamship Murillo, which was seized at Dover for running into and sinking the emigrant ship Northfleet, has been condemned, and will be sold.

The various charitable associations of Brooklyn, N. Y., are actively preparing to meet the demands which will be made on their resources during the coming winter.

The German Minister of Finance has decided to sell 20,000,000 thalers of disused silver to the United States Government, which is the highest bidder.

A Rochester farmer went hunting the other day, for the first time in two years, and he was lucky enough to bring down an old farmer by a shot in the leg. The distance was sixty-six.

At the recent Fat Man's Clam Blake, at Gregory's Point, Conn., 143 members were there, whose average weight was over 230 pounds. The heaviest fat man weighed 355 pounds, and none weighed less than 200 pounds.

A London despatch says a private letter from Borneo dated August 12, says Dr. Livingston is a prisoner in Central Africa held by a

savage tribe and is unable to pay the ransom which has been demanded for his release.

Five of the men arrested at Antrim on the charge of being engaged in conspiracy to abduct the niece of President McMahon, and hold her as hostage, have been convicted and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

The College for Women at Cambridge, Eng. is now established, Girton College having been opened at Cambridge this week, and the tutorial staff, with their girl students, are now in residence, and have commenced the collegiate year.

Three Liverpool grocers have recently been heavily fined for selling tea adulterated with iron filings, and one of the journal of that city takes up the cudgels in their defence, asserting that they were as badly victimized as their customers, for the adulteration was the work of the "Heathen Chinee."

Reports from Gen. Sir Garnett Wolsley, Commander of the Ashantee Expedition, say he took out instructions to the first officer to give the Ashantees peace on condition that they lay down their arms, and withdraw from the territory under British protection.

The Royal Academy has decided to pay a marked tribute to the memory of the great artist Landseer. At the coming Winter Exhibition of old masters, space will be set apart for the works of the great animal painter, and those who possess examples of his art will be invited to contribute to the collection.

The exactness of Cuban news-gatherers is but a step short of the marvelous. After probing assiduously into all the details of the late Havana fire, the most accurate of the informants has learned that the loss of life was "from seven to twenty-five persons" and the destruction of property "from \$3,000,000 to \$3,000,000." Such precision is astonishing.

The Oshawa stove foundry, is now in full blast, and is turning out stoves every day. Their work is excellent, and their manufacture of stoves is fully equal to any made. They have introduced an improvement in their coal stoves in the shape of a flue for consuming gas.

At a recent meeting of the Home Government Association in Dublin, it was announced that 10,500 signatures had been attached to the requisition for a conference. The names included twenty-two members of Parliament, besides magistrates, clergymen, commissioners, deputy lieutenants, mayors, and members of corporations.

By order of the Czar, the right bank of the Amoo-Daria, together with the delta from the sea, as far as the extreme western arm of the river, has been incorporated with Russia. The eighth battalion of the line, the fourth rifle battalion, a Cossack regiment, a division of mountain riflemen, and a division of the second battery of the 1st Artillery Brigade, remain in the country for the protection of the annexed territory.

A MILAN paper contains the report that the relations between France and Italy are in a somewhat unsettled state. M. Fournier, the French Minister at the Italian Court, returns away from his post, it says, at the express desire of the Duc De Broglie, and his return will depend upon the course events may take.

A Paris despatch says, it is reported that an extensive plot in favor of the Count de Paris has been discovered in the city. It is said the authorities are in possession of documents by which a number of well-known politicians are compromised. It is also reported that a deputation of Monarchists is about to proceed to Salzburg to request Count de Chambord to abdicate his claims to the throne of France in favor of Count de Paris.

A French paper gives a detailed account of the manufacture of false eyes in Paris, from which a curious fact appears that the average sale of eyes per week intended for the human head amounts to four hundred. One of the leading dealers in this article carries on the business in a saloon of great magnificence. His servant has but one eye, and this peculiarity is turned to good account, for the effect of any of the eyes wanted by customers is conveniently tried in the unfortunate servant's head. The charge is stated to be about £2 per eye. For the poor there are second-hand visual organs, which have been worn for a time and exchanged for new ones. They are sold at reduced prices, and quantities are sent off to India and the Sandwich Islands. The manufacture has been successfully introduced into England, and forms one of the curiosities of Birmingham industry.