

# 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 Dunfermlin operative joiners and cabinet makers have accepted a rise of 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour, instead of 6d. as demanded. This prevents the threatened strike.

The carpenters, joiners, and bricklayers of Birmingham have agreed to settle their demands for an advance of wages and alterations in the time rules by arbitration.

The Bookbinders of Belfast, some weeks ago, made a demand for the 54 hours system, which being refused by the employers, a strike has resulted, and is now in progress.

The demand of the Warwickshire miners for a rise of 10 per cent. has been refused. Another great spring strike is therefore considered imminent. The Union offers to accept arbitration.

At a meeting of the joiners of Edinburgh held recently in St. Mary's Hall, it was agreed to accept of the offer of the employers—viz., 7d. per hour, being an advance of one half-penny per hour.

At a general meeting of the Edinburgh coach painters, held in Buchanan's Hotel on Saturday night, the 8th instant, it was made known that three of the shops have conceded the advance of wages requested by the men—viz., 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 7d. per hour.

At a late meeting of baker strikers in Elgin, Scotland, an enthusiast concluded his address with the following:—

"May the cock of Scotland never crow,  
May the rose of England never blow,  
May the harp of Ireland never play,  
Till we poor bakers get better pay."

The ironmoulders of Paisley, Renfrew, Johnstone, and Barrhead, have notified to their employers that they wish a reduction of their weekly working hours from fifty-four to fifty-one. At present they work fifty-four hours in the week, but are paid extra time after fifty-one.

Three new Unions have been added to our list since the issue of the last Journal: No. 1 of California, Sacramento, organized by Deputy President Thomas Strohm; and No. 27 of New York, Troy, organized by Bro. John Hart; No. 28 of N. Y., New York City, (Swiss Union), by Bro. Philip Miller.—*M. & B. Journal.*

At a late meeting of cab proprietors of Berlin, the reply of the Minister of Congress to the petition sent by them to the Emperor was read. The Minister therein promises a thorough investigation of their grievances, but expects, however, that in the private and commercial interests of the public the petitioners will immediately resume the traffic. The meeting thereupon authorized the chairman to declare that until such an investigation had been concluded they would resume running at the old rates. The chairman at once entered into communication with the Minister of Commerce and the President of the Police.

The shoemakers in the employment of Mr. Oowler, Commercial street, Dundee, to the number of sixty, have struck work in consequence, as they say, of that gentleman having broken the agreement entered into by the employers and employees in August last, regarding the price to be paid for first and second class work. The men assert that Mr. Oowler has introduced a new class of work, for which they say they ought to be paid first class price, but for which that gentleman will only pay as second class. The result of the dispute is, that the most of the men have now left the town rather than submit to what they consider a gross injustice.

**THE FLAX-DRESSERS' STRIKE.**—The strike among a portion of the flax-dressers still continues; but as it is confined to two shops, and the men are receiving encouragement and support from all quarters, it is not likely to last long. The number that struck work originally was forty-two, some of whom have left the town, and a few others have succeeded in getting work in other shops. Those who are still out of employment are receiving such good wages for going idle that it is not likely they will return upon the masters' terms. One good

feature in connection with the matter is that none of the other employers have sought to follow the example of the five who originated the dispute. Some of them are rather taking the part of the men, one of them having even gone the length of subscribing anonymously to the support of those who are out.

**NOTES FROM PARIS.**—Among the many meetings that have been held during the last week in Paris, we might mention the bookbinders, who have appointed a special committee to enquire into matters relating to strikes. The address of this society is No. 4, Rue Antoine, Buboia, Paris. The Syndical Chamber of gimp workers generally meets at the hall, held by M. Patras, 86, Boulevard de Belleville, Paris. The nail makers unite on Sunday to elect new committee men and to select a definitive meeting place. Workmen employed in the manufacture of mathematical instruments are contemplating an alliance with the turners of Paris, and a meeting for that purpose is to be held on Monday. The journeymen carpenters discussed on Sunday the question of candidates for the Council of Prud'hommes. The society of Mutual Credit instituted by the printers on tissues met last Sunday at the dwelling of M. Enneser, 4, Rue Levis, Batignolles, Paris, to organize the distribution of pensions to aged members. At No. 24, Rue Petrelle, the tailors' society la Solidarite, which we have already described, met to attend to the routine business of the association. The packers, the glove makers, the turners, and many other societies formed by different Paris trades also met.

## THE BALLOT.

On the second reading of Mr. Tremblay's Ballot Bill, on Thursday evening last, Mr. H. B. Witton, M. P., for Hamilton, delivered the following able speech in favor of the measure:—

Mr. Witton said, I do not wish to express approval of the Bill now under discussion, but I am anxious that the House may express its opinion of the desirability to substitute for our very defective mode of voting for parliamentary representatives, that of voting by ballot. I am desirous that this question should be fully discussed, and that an unequivocal expression of the opinion of the House should be obtained before the introduction by the Premier of his proposed amendments to our election law. I confess to considerable diffidence lest I should fail to place before the House in so clear a light as they might be, and as the importance of the subject demands, the reasons which, in my opinion, make our adoption of the ballot highly desirable. I shall confine my arguments to the specific, practical advantages which, in my opinion, the adoption of this mode of voting would be almost certain to confer, and avoid as far as possible the introduction of arguments which have merely a theoretical or general value. I do this, not because I underrate the worth of the discussion of political theories, but in deference to that rigorous censorship which justly frowns on the introduction here of any subject which does not directly concern the business of the country. There is also less need to go over the whole ground of the general arguments in favor of the ballot, as almost every member of this House, and also most of our people, are more or less familiar with the recent thorough debate on this subject in the British Parliament. And for an exhaustive treatment of the whole subject we have only to turn over the pages of Hansard to the annual speeches in the English Commons of Mr. Grote—speeches now become classic—where the advocacy of this measure will be found marked by a point and power which have never been equalled; and by a cogency of reasoning and breadth of illustration which the most capable of his opponents found themselves unable to meet.

I would not wish to be thought an enthusiast on this subject, or that I for a moment imagine that the immediate introduction of this measure would materially affect the composition of this Chamber, or

the character of our people. But what I do think, and what I feel with an earnestness I cannot hope to express, is that this mode of voting would, if introduced, be certain to remove from our elections the turbulence, expense and intimidation which are so discreditable to us as a people, and which every member to whom I speak, as a lover of his country would gladly do whatever is in his power to remove. There is not a country in the world with representative institutions similar to our own, but has had the same evils attendant on their elections as these which afflict ourselves, and in many countries I frankly admit these evils have been greater than our own. And I believe we are now the only people who boast to be in the van of civilization, who have not become convinced of the expediency of resorting to the ballot in the conduct of elections. No task could be more thankless than that of exposing the evils of our own system. But I think that with protests now before the House against the return of one-fourth of its members, the necessity to amend our system is realized more forcibly from the actual state of things than it could be from any force of words. Fortunately I have not to fall back on mere individual statement as to the value of voting by ballot, but would refer the House to some authorities of the highest and most unimpeachable character. In 1869 a committee of 23 members was appointed by the British House of Commons to examine and report on the value of the ballot in the conduct of elections. The committee comprised men of the highest ability from both parties, and included Gathorne Hardy and John Bright in its numbers, with the Marquis of Hartington as chairman. They sat 27 days, and examined from different countries nearly eighty witnesses, to whom they put no less than thirteen thousand questions, embracing everything for and against the ballot. Nothing but the indisputable value of the conclusions to which these gentlemen came would be regarded by me as a sufficient apology for the great length at which I venture to quote their conclusions as evinced by the resolutions they submitted to the House.

**Report on Elections.**—Resolutions to be proposed by the Chairman:

XXX., Clause 5. That a large majority of the witnesses who have been examined have advocated the ballot, on the ground that it would secure freedom, tranquility and purity at elections, and that it is proved to your Committee that a great number of voters of all political opinions desire its adoption.

Clause 6. That the adoption of the ballot appears to tend greatly to the tranquility of elections.

Resolution to be moved by Mr. Bright.

XIV., Clause 3. That there is much evidence to show that the discontinuance of open voting and the substitution of vote by ballot would be of great advantage. The great weight of evidence given before this Committee leads to the conclusion that this change in the mode of voting would not only promote the tranquility of elections, but would also secure the voters from undue influence and intimidation, and introduce into elections a freedom and a purity which it is difficult, if not impossible, to secure under the present system of open voting.

Draft of report of that committee prepared by the Chairman, says:—

XIX. We have endeavored to extend our inquiry beyond the theoretical arguments which are usually employed by the advocates and opponents of the ballot, and to ascertain how it has worked in the British colonies, and in foreign states, where it has been adopted.

With this view we have examined witnesses from Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania, and have also received evidence as to the systems in use in France, Italy, and Greece.

The effect of this evidence has been to prove that where the ballot has been in operation, elections have been entirely free from intimidation, riot, or disorder.

It has also been proved that bribery and treating have been reduced to a minimum—and that the expenses of elections have been diminished.

The witnesses have been carefully examined in order to discover any defects which may exist in any of the various systems of balloting, or any abuses or disadvantages which may be inherent in any system of secret voting. We have failed to discover any defects which cannot be easily remedied, or any abuses to which open voting is not equally obnoxious.

Another English document of high value to which I beg leave to refer, is the published return of the answers of the Governors of the Australian Colonies to the official inquiries made by the Colonial Secretary as to results of the adoption of the ballot in their respective Provinces.

**Earl of Belmore, Governor of Sydney,** refers Earl of Kimberley to the testimony of Mr. Cowper, late First Minister of the Crown, who says:—"With regard to the secret voting there can be no doubt whatever that it has effectually prevented bribery;" and further on, "I have never heard of a case of bribery since the introduction of the ballot, the secret voting alone prevents it."

**Viscount Centerbury, Governor of Victoria,** to same: "I do believe that the existing system (of which the ballot is a part), under which votes are given, and received here, has exercised a continuous and very valuable influence in maintaining order and tranquility during contested elections."

**Governor Sir James Ferguson, Adelaide, South Australia,** to the same, "I am bound to state that the ballot is generally and remarkably popular in the colony (and further on), those who regret the institution of universal suffrage, and ascribe to it many mischiefs, consider the ballot to have had a mitigating influence, to have enabled often the superior and independent candidate to be returned; the employer to vote untrammelled by his workmen; the civil service by the Ministry; the tradesmen by their respective classes."

**Returning Officer from said Province** says: "No practical difficulties concerning bribery have arisen. Electors have been enabled to record their votes without any fear of intimidation, and no disorderly scenes have taken place at elections since its introduction under the Act of 1855-56. I believe that the greatest fear of intimidation would be from numbers acting in concert and not from dread of employers, and that the ballot as carried out in South Australia is a direct specific for such evils."

**Governor Du Cane of Tasmania:** "So far as the maintenance of good order at elections is concerned, I must express my decided opinion that the Tasmanian system of taking votes at elections is a successful one." In a sub-report from Tasmania of J. M. Wilson as Government officer, it is said "since the passing of the Electoral Act, 1856, there has been four general elections for the House of Assembly, and about three single elections per annum since. But since the introduction of Parliamentary institutions and responsible government, a period of fourteen years, there has been no prosecution for any offence under the Electoral Act; no member has been unseated on petition, and the only petitions against returns have been grounded on alleged non-compliance with the law, or some information on the part of the Returning Officer."

The evidence elicited by this committee and from these governors had weight enough to carry the law at present in operation in England, a law which, in the few cases conducted under it, has fully met the anticipations of its promoters. There is every reason to believe that a system of conducting elections which has worked so well in countries with similar institutions to our own, would work equally well with ourselves if we adopt it.

Many objections will, I doubt not, be urged, and some of them, most likely, worthy of careful consideration. But these it is not my intention to anticipate, with but one exception, namely: that the ballot tends to

Americanise our institutions. And this objection I must submit is puerile in the extreme. Why should we, sir, reject so advantageous an arrangement for the prevention of hubbub, expense, and the grave malpractice from which scarcely a constituency in this country is free, because our neighbors, whose institutions are in some respects so different, though in most so similar, have had the sagacity to adopt it before us? This course would be discreditable alike to statesmanship, and ridiculous to common sense, a specimen of prejudice in ourselves as preposterous as any we complain of in our neighbors. I hope the hon. members will, with candor and fairness, bring their judgment to bear on this question, and I am in no way apprehensive of the result.

## A REVOLUTION IN STONE WORKING.

The Fifth Avenue Hotel is not generally the place selected for the display of machinery, but there is on exhibition there one of the most marvellous pieces of mechanism ever made—the Gear-stone working machine, the production of Col. A. S. Gear, the well-known inventor of Boston. The Gear variety moulding machine, now in general use throughout the country, has long been known as a wonderful invention for the manipulation of wood, on which it would, at a trifling cost, reproduce any pattern desired upon the edge of wood. The stone machine, which has just been perfected, will do on stone what the variety moulder will on wood, and, in addition, place mouldings into the face of material; and its invention is, doubtless, as important to mechanical arts as the sewing machine in the domestic world.

In its operation this machine is strikingly simple. That part in which the cutting tools is placed, works on the principle of the human arm, and is as easily adaptable to the manipulation of a surface. On a table under it, the stone to be cut or worked is secured by clamps, which by an ingenious contrivance admit of placing the stone at any angle or in any position whatever. The tools used are set with black diamonds, and placed in the end or hand of the iron arm, that is provided with adjustable handles which the workman grasps. The pattern having been clamped upon the stone, all that is necessary is to set the machine in operation and it will carve out the stone much more accurately than is possible by hand, and in less than one hundredth part of the time. It may be so adjusted as to cut deep or shallow, and make any pattern of moulding or cutting required. It will surface granite with incredible rapidity. In fact every kind of stone is the same to it, whether it is of soft, laminated formation like slate, which cannot be fastened by hand, or the hardest granite.

Col. Gear has taken the rooms lately occupied by the Republican General Committee, and there are exhibited samples of its work. A joint stock company with a capital of \$1,500,000 has been formed in Boston to supply the New England demand. The company's first large work will be the erection of a block of stone buildings in the burnt district of that city. One machine will do the work of a hundred men, and its adaptability to any kind of work from mantles to the fluting of columns fore-shadows in a revolution in the stone trade, and greater elegance in architectural designs without increased expense.—*N. Y. Sun.*

It is reported that a strange phenomenon occurred at Port Dalhousie on Saturday, just before the storm broke forth. It is said the water in the harbor receded from the shore to a considerable distance, then returned with tremendous force, flooding the beach and strewing it with dead fish.

We observe that Mr. James Young, M. P., who presented the memorial of the Canadian Press Association for the abolition on newspapers, asks for a return showing the total revenue derived from postage on newspapers, and distinguishing, if possible, the amount derived from newspapers sent from the office of publication and those otherwise sent through the mails.