

NOTICE.

We shall be pleased to receive items of interest pertaining to Trade Societies from all parts of the Dominion or publication. Officers of Trades Unions, Secretaries of Leagues, etc., are invited to send us news relating to their organizations, condition of trade, etc.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

(INVARIABLELY IN ADVANCE.)

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All communications should be addressed to the Office, 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.  
 Crispiens, (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.  
 Coopers, 2nd and 4th Friday.  
 Printers, 1st Saturday.  
 Bakers, every 2nd Saturday.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

We have sent accounts to those of our Subscribers who are in arrears, and hope that they will remit the amounts without delay. We know people are apt to think "Mine is only a very small matter, it won't make much difference," but when these small amounts, scattered over various parts of the province, are multiplied by tens and hundreds, it becomes a matter of importance to the publishers that each subscription should be paid promptly. The publication of a newspaper is attended with a very considerable outlay of money and energy, and we trust our readers to whom we have, and may yet, send accounts, will strengthen our hands by prompt remittances.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, JAN. 23, 1873.

THE NEW ASSESSMENT ACT.

It may be remembered by our city readers that something like a year ago a special committee was appointed by the City Council, to consider and suggest amendments to the Municipal and Assessment Acts. The committee reported recently, and then the people of Toronto were made acquainted with the changes it was proposed to make. Some of these proposed changes may be regarded as moves in a right direction; but others of the clauses are of such a startling and radical character, that they may be termed outrageous, and have justly aroused the opposition of an indignant people. The first clause, relative to the municipal law, proposes to "reduce the municipal franchise to \$400, in order that it may correspond with the franchise of parliamentary elections, and that an election franchise be provided for with a qualification of \$400 income, otherwise to be the same as freeholders and householders." We certainly regard this clause as an improvement upon the present law, because it will enfranchise a large and intelligent portion of the community, who have hitherto been excluded from voting because they did not happen to be freeholders or householders.

To the clause providing for the election of Mayor by ballot, under the direction of the City Council, we most earnestly dissent, but not upon the grounds upon which the *Leader* takes exception. The editor of that journal

evidently subscribes to the doctrine held by many, that "every man has his price." Speaking of this objectionable feature, our contemporary says:

"Men who might be sent to the council pledged to support a certain worthy man for the high office of Mayor, could if they felt so inclined, vote for the man who greased their hands most freely, and laugh at the electors by retreating behind the cloak of secrecy afforded by the ballot. The time has not yet arrived to adopt this system of electing Mayors."

It is not to the system of electing Mayors by ballot that we object, but to the principle of electing them by the Council. We are of opinion that the Mayor should be elected directly by the people, and we are, therefore, pleased to notice that a bill will be introduced during the present session of the Ontario Legislature, having that object in view. Under the present system the law tacitly acknowledges the intelligence of the rural to be superior to that of the urban population, because the former directly elect their chief magistrates, while, in the latter case, the election is left in the hands of the few individuals who may happen to form the City Councils. Of course we do not say that the law directly asserts the intelligence of the one class to be superior to the other, but such is the natural inference, from the fact of the power being granted in the one case and withheld in the other. We enter our "solemn protest" against the clause which provides for the foisting of a number of civic pensioners upon the rate-payers. It is proposed to provide for gratuities to officers after twenty-five years' continuous service in the corporation. We hear a good deal of sickly sentiment about providing for "worn out officials," etc., but we never hear of propositions for pensioning off "worn out workmen," many of whom, after years of hard toil, have become literally "worn out," body and mind, in the struggle of life for daily bread. Our officials, in the main, are well paid for their services, and have thus far greater opportunities of providing for old age than those of our fellows who, in the truest sense, have to "eat their bread in the sweat of their face," and it is most preposterous to think that these men should have to be still more heavily taxed to provide pensions for officials who have had twenty-five years of service,—and none the hardest at that—wherein to provide for old age.

Another most objectionable clause is that "to extend the term of aldermen for three years." If it had been the object of the framers of this clause to lay the foundation for the formation of "rings," whereby the citizens could be plundered on every hand, we doubt whether they could have concocted a more feasible scheme. We do not believe the people will entertain for a moment a proposition so fraught with danger. The present system of annual elections works very well. If an alderman faithfully serves the electors, and at the end of his term wishes to stand for re-election, the services he may have rendered, in the majority of cases, tend to secure that end.

The proposition to tax the whole of a person's income will undoubtedly receive strenuous opposition. Hitherto men have been allowed \$400, and any excess of income beyond that amount has been assessed. Even this tax has been found irksome enough by the operative classes who have been struggling to maintain themselves and families in respectability on an income that has required much ingenuity to make both ends meet; but the proposition to tax the whole of the income of the workingmen—many of whom have to support themselves and families on an income far below \$400 a year—is an "injustice" which, we trust, will not be perpetrated.

MEETING OF WORKINGMEN.

Under the auspices of the Trades' Assembly, a meeting of the members of all Trade organizations has been called in the Assembly Hall. We go to press before the meeting will be held, but in all probability it will but prove preliminary to a Mass Meeting which will be held to consider questions of interest to the working classes.

THE ENGLISH GAS STOKERS.

It is very often the boast of Englishmen that British law knows no difference between rich and poor. This, theoretically, may sound very fine; but, alas! for its practical working. Too often wealth and position exert their influence, and we not unfrequently find that at times the law presses with crushing severity upon the humbler classes. A most notable instance of this outrage upon justice is furnished by the sentence pronounced by Judge Brett upon the men who were charged with "conspiracy and combining to leave their employment." At the trial no overt act was proved, nor were any threats or bad language used. The jury, however, brought in a verdict of "guilty," with a strong recommendation to mercy, and that mercy the prisoners received in a sentence of twelve months' imprisonment with hard labor—the very longest term the judge had it in his power to inflict.

This uncalled for severity has been condemned by many of the English papers, and has aroused to action various Trade organizations of the country. Meetings have been held, and resolutions condemnatory of the sentence discussed. A deputation has been appointed to wait on Mr. Bruce, the Home Secretary, with a view to procuring a commutation.

LEGISLATION.

Last week Mr. Crooks gave notice of motion that he would introduce a measure for the enactment of a Mechanics' Lien Law; also, a bill to provide for the settlement of disputes between employers and employed by means of arbitration. Mr. McKellar gave notice of a bill to extend the franchise; and Mr. Clarke of a ballot bill. All these are questions fraught with interest to the operative classes, and we had hoped we should have been in a position to inform our readers of the provisions of these bills in our present issue. However, we have not yet received copies of them, and shall take the earliest opportunity of affording the information.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

MONTREAL TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION.

At the regular monthly meeting of Montreal Typographical Union No. 97, held on the 4th inst., the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Thomas Alty; Vice-President, John Wardley; Corresponding Secretary, W. J. Egan; Recording Secretary, John E. Walsh; Financial Secretary, Thos. Pettigrew; Treasurer, James Connolly; Board of Directors, John Walsh, Charles Curran, Robert Campbell, J. S. Smith and John Newton.

IRON MOULDERS' UNION, TORONTO.

At the regular meeting of Iron Moulders' Union No. 28, on Thursday evening, 16th inst., the election of officers for the ensuing term took place. We are pleased to know that the Union is in a strong and vigorous condition, and in first-rate working order. The following are the names of the officers elected:—President, John Nolan; Vice-President, B. Dolan; Recording Secretary, William Willard; Corresponding Secretary, Ed. Brown; Financial Secretary, William Gibson; Treasurer, John Doherty; 1st Warden, Joseph Dean; 2nd do., Robt. Colby.

The K. O. S. C. Journal for December is replete with interesting information. The Journal is entitled to a generous support.

We re-produce from the *Machinists and Blacksmiths' Journal*, a capital article on the subject of "Commissioner of Patents and the Labor Question." It is somewhat lengthy, but will amply repay a perusal.

The *Coopers' Journal* for January has been received. The present number fully sustains the high reputation it has achieved as a literary and trade journal. It is undoubtedly one of the best magazines published devoted to trade interests.

Our readers are invited by advertisement in another column to go to the "Big Sale to-day at Eaton's," corner of Yonge and Queen streets.

Every description of Plain and Ornamental Printing executed with Neatness and Dispatch, at the WORKMAN Office. All orders promptly attended to.

Communications.

OTTAWA.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—What are our fellow-workingmen—East and West—about that they are not up and doing something in regard to the proposed Mechanics' Lien Law. If they are not satisfied with the suggestions given by me some time ago, why do they not propose some other mode, and they will find here in Ottawa, Union men, loyal and true, who will only be too glad to give them all the aid in their power.

I must confess that I am somewhat disappointed in this matter, for I felt sure that in a matter of such vital importance to the working classes as the enactment of this Lien Law must be, that there would be a spontaneous expression of approval from one end of Canada to the other. There is time yet to do something, and I hope to see your paper, in its next issue, teeming with communications from all parts of Canada.

In your issue of the 9th, I find that a correspondent, writing from Hamilton, is under the impression that the Unions here have taken this matter into their own hands. Now, while we are not at all disposed to shirk the responsibility, we would much rather act in conjunction with other cities, so that we would have the benefit of their experience. While I must admit the necessity that exists for a very great reform in the law, as it now exists, in relation to the working classes, yet as we must all creep before we walk, I am of the opinion that it would be our better plan to proceed, step by step, and secure the passing of one law before we take up another. My reason for this is that until we have a more complete organization of Trades Unions, we cannot have the power sufficient to give proper effect to our demands.

The Dominion Board of Trade is sitting in Ottawa at present, discussing matters of great importance to the commercial interests of the country, and any representations made to the Government by this body, must have great weight with them. Now, I would like to know if the mechanics of this Dominion are not capable of forming a National Council to protect and further their interests, as well as capitalists.—I remain yours respectfully,

STONECUTTER.  
Ottawa, Jan. 18, 1873.

HAMILTON.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

DEAR SIR,—In your issue of the 16th inst., under the heading, "What Labor Reform Means," I find the following paragraph, which I propose to make the subject of a few remarks:

"Labor reformers may have made mistakes in their efforts to improve the condition of those who earn their bread by the sweat of their brows, and it is very natural that errors should creep into the acts of men who attempt to explore new and untried theories, though the foundation of those theories may be as true and firm as the 'rock of ages.'"

Now, sir, you will allow me to differ with your assumption that labor reformers may have made mistakes. I assert that the mistakes were made by the portion of the working class who did not support the leaders in labor reform. To prove this I will take the Wanzer Sewing Machine Factory as an example. Twelve months ago the nine-hour movement was brought before the public in Hamilton, for its consideration. A delegate, or one acting as a delegate, attended the first meeting of those who were about to form a Nine Hour League. For this, and this alone, the man was dismissed from the factory, and so determined was the manager to hound down this man, that he was forced to leave not only Hamilton, but Ontario, and to seek for a living in the United States. Well, what action did his shopmates take to see justice rendered to this "scape goat." None! Not a tool was dropped!! not a voice was raised in his behalf!!! So far from it, the factory was put to work till ten o'clock every night in order to have a stock of machines on hand when the anticipated struggle would come. Well, the struggle did come, and the labor reformers gave the needed assistance to the most needy of the men; supported them until they, failing in courage and endurance, gave in ignobly just as they had arrived at the point of success. They had been visited individually by both masters and manager, the very fairest promises held out to them provided that they would sign the document which swept away every right which they possessed, both as men and as British subjects; and what has been the result? These men who sold their manhood were no longer looked upon as men. They had become the tools in the hands of the masters of retarding for a time the progress of labor reform, and they now find themselves treated as all worn-out tools,

namely, cast aside. Not satisfied with having reduced the wages, the company have discharged a number of men, and the rest find themselves in the unenviable position of being not only degraded as men but treated with unmitigated contempt. They deserted an obligation which was designed not only to do justice to them, but justice to every class in society—an organization which the unthinking part of the public were hasty to condemn, but which had for its motto "equal rights to all." Now, sir, I beg leave to ask who made the mistake in this case, the reformers or the large hearted men who felt so much for the masters; the result has already decided between them, and now let a thinking public answer the following question:

Is it for the general good that a reduction of wages should take place in a leading manufactory? Will the tailor, the shoemaker, the grocer, the baker, the butcher, the milkman, and the landlord of the man who has his wages reduced be benefited thereby, or rather, will not all these men feel affected by the loss of purchasing power in the man thus reduced? and if this is true of a man reduced 33 or 50 per cent. in his wages, how much more true is it of him who is thrown out altogether through overproduction, the very thing which labor reform was designed to correct. I have already occupied my allotted space. My remarks, if they serve to draw from some one of your able correspondents a friendly criticism, will have accomplished all I can reasonably expect from them.—Yours, &c.,

Jan. 20, 1873.

IRON MOULDER'S BALL.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—Being present at the Moulders' ball, last night, I was somewhat surprised to find only one reporter of the city papers there during the whole evening. I am quite unable to account for their absence, as I am informed by the officers that all were invited by complimentary ticket. Was it that they considered the Moulders' ball unworthy of their attention or beneath their dignity to trouble about? If that was the reason for their absence, I can assure you they were greatly mistaken, for a more agreeable party I never attended. I claim that the moulders of Hamilton have great reason to feel proud of their efforts last night. There was one thing very clear to a stranger, and that was the good feeling that existed all around. In every place you would go you were treated with respect that denoted, or rather made it quite clear to my mind, that neither Walker nor Webster was required to be considered in regard to the word Union, for it was written on every man's face. Such should be the case in all trades and amongst all classes; but I am sorry to say that it is not always so. After supper (which reflected great credit upon the caterer, Dan. Black), the President, John R. Burt, made a few remarks on the history and advantages of Trades Unions amongst the working classes. A call was then made for Mr. Walters, who offered a few timely remarks, after which three cheers was given for Dan. Black and Union No. 26. The tables being cleared, dancing was resumed, and kept up until morning. There were over one hundred and forty couple present.

W. F. F. R.  
Hamilton, Jan. 17, 1873.

CHARADE.

A Correspondent sends us the following Charade, and requests a solution of the same. Those of our readers who are interested in puzzles can reply through the columns of the WORKMAN:—

My first is in joist, but not in tool;  
 My second in gouge, but not in rule;  
 My third in chisel, but not in floor;  
 My fourth in bench, but not in door;  
 My fifth in hammer, but not in ovals;  
 My last in brace, but not in saw;  
 My whole is a mechanic.

After the plodding routine required for material necessities has been gone through with for the day, and the tired body requires and enjoys rest, the minds of many women reach out hungering and thirsting for intellectual food. Not having that craving satisfied is what causes unhappiness for many, whose lives seem dark and barren.

Let them learn at once the potent power which will lift them like magic above the ills of life, and lighten up the whole universe under their eyes by reaching out and taking hold of the thousands of good cheerful books which may be had. Let them read or put into the hands of child, husband, or friend, some one of the many sprightly, high-toned newspapers to be had, with request to read aloud. A few good jokes or a few noble sentiments will soon dispel the morbid little blue devils so stealthy and insidious in their encroachments upon our health and happiness.