

Ontario Workman.

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

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THE "SCOTSMAN" AND TRADES UNIONISTS.

The expression of opinion in regard to the *Scotsman* which was so emphatically given at the Music Hall meeting on Tuesday night will have a powerful influence on the public mind, and should also, and doubtless will, have an influence on the conductors of it and other journals. The fact cannot be denied that all daily newspapers are in a great measure depending on the working classes as readers, and that many advertisers become so from the fact that the papers are read by the working classes. The inner life of newspaper employes has not—in Scotland, at least—received much public attention, and the great mass of people know comparatively little of the technicalities of the present dispute. That the Music Hall was crowded on Tuesday night by a highly respectable, intelligent and appreciative audience will be no matter for surprise to those who have known the policy of the *Scotsman* on all questions affecting the social and material welfare of the toiling masses. For years past all manner of abuse has been heaped on all movements attempted by the working classes for the amelioration of their condition, and while ridiculing these movements no opportunity was lost of bringing the leaders into bad repute, poisoning the public mind in regard to their objects, and thus trying to defeat them. As may naturally be expected in such cases, the day of retribution has come, and the antecedents of the *Scotsman* are not of a kind which will warrant the workmen in hushing up the matter, and accepting promises similar to pie crusts—made only to be broken. While the immediate cause of the dispute is with the compositors, it is rather significant that the officials of all trade societies are eager to denounce the paper and support the compositors in their strike. Serious complaints were made at the public meeting by different speakers of the injustice done by the *Scotsman* in regard to working class questions, and although these have since been denied or stated to be untrue, still, from the known veracity of many of the speakers who made the charge, and the means they had of obtaining information, we fear, however much we may deplore the prostitution of the press, that the complaints were well founded. It so happens that what the *Scotsman* maintains is merely a point of discipline in the management of their own office is made the occasion for an expression of opinion as hearty and encouraging to the men on strike as it must be disheartening to the proprietors. One fact the *Scotsman* with all his resources of assertion cannot shake off is, that the scale the men insisted upon was agreed to by the proprietors, and is equally as binding on honourable men as the law under which the proprietors have been prosecuting some of their late workmen. In our opinion, a fair bargain between employer and employed is more worthy to be maintained than the Master and Servants Act, which the *Scotsman* has found available for their purposes. That the agreement was repeatedly broken is evident, and that promises of better and more honourable management were made is also beyond dispute. Still, these promises, it seems, were as often broken as they were made, and when the last letter on the subject was sent in an immediate rupture was apprehended. Yet the question is very cleverly made to appear as if the strike occurred because the proprietors have exercised their legitimate right of paying off five men guilty of a breach of discipline, and it is very mildly insinuated that the crime was drunkenness. It is alleged that it is the rules of the trades union that are to be set aside, and that in future the office is to be managed by the proprietors instead of by the workmen's trades union. Now, the fact is, the rule that has been broken is an agreement solemnly entered into by the proprietors of the daily newspapers in Edinburgh on the one hand and the compositors in their employment on the other. The other papers have honourably fulfilled their engagements and given no cause of com-

plaint, while the *Scotsman*, with the usual shabbiness of the Old Whig party was continually picking out "fat" copy for the boys, so as to increase the profits of the proprietors and decrease the earnings of the workmen. In the effort to be freed from "trades union tyranny" it is reported (though we cannot vouch for its accuracy) that the proprietors have already been obliged to make provision for the enjoyment or indulgence of two luxuries much prized by the generality of English workmen, but especially by the class that come to Scotland during trade disputes. It need not be said that these are "beer and baccy." Perhaps the greatest victory that has been achieved in this dispute is that the *Scotsman* has been taught the propriety of reporting the meeting on Tuesday night. It no doubt was a bitter pill, but the desperate nature of the case left no alternative. Another lesson that many others besides the *Scotsman* will learn is, that workmen can get up and supply from their own ranks all the speakers for one of the best and largest public meetings ever held in Edinburgh; and we fearlessly assert that the speeches on the occasion will bear a favourable contrast with those where the speakers occupy a higher position in society. The men on strike have shown a moderation and firmness that secure the sympathy of all workmen; while the energetic means they have taken to lay their case before the public shows that they are in earnest, and not afraid to submit the matter in dispute to public opinion. This not only augurs well for their success, but is evidence that they are satisfied their cause is a good one, and with public opinion in their favor success is sooner or later certain. The arguments and facts are all in favor of the men on strike; the unsupported assertions made by the proprietors, taken along with the well-known character of the paper, cannot have much weight with a discriminating public when placed in the balance against the clear and candid statement of the men.—*Edinburgh Reformer.*

THE GENIUS OF LABOR.

When Coleridge was young he was offered a share in a London Journal of note, which would have yielded him two thousand pounds a year. But his answer was that he "would not give up the lazy reading of old folios for ten thousand times ten thousand pounds."

A life of ease and indolence was the one that this great genius marked out for himself. Personal gratification was the end of his existence. No wonder that it led him to become an opium-eater, and at last brought him to depend in his old age on the charity of friends.

No youth can afford to give himself over to a life of indolence. The majority of the human race must toil for their daily bread, and God has given them talents to win it. If he has conferred nine talents, the responsibility to improve them is increased so many fold. It is not for a genius to say: "I need not toil like other men; my talents should win me renown and fortune." They never will win even a crust unless they are put at interest. Some men seem to have the magic of turning everything they touch into gold, but it is the magic of hard, untiring industry that accomplishes it. Success often comes in the very humblest walks of life when it is joined with this diligence. The foundation of one of the wealthiest foreign fruit houses in Boston was formed thirty years ago by selling apples at a little corner stand. A head waiter in a Boston hotel is putting up a fine granite building. A porter in a bank on State Street owns eight houses. And an old apple woman pays taxes on a thirty thousand dollar house.

If you have industry and a wise economy, you may rise in the world, whatever your business.

A distinguished man has said, "There is no genius but that of patient labor." And those who cultivate best this gift prove ever the successful men in a community.

PRESENT ADVANTAGES.

One hundred years ago, what a man discovered in the arts he concealed. Workmen were put upon oath in the name of God, never to reveal the process used by their employers. Doors were kept closed, artisans going out were searched, visitors were rigorously excluded from admission, and false operations blinded the workmen themselves. The mysteries of every craft were hedged in by quickset fences of empirical pretensions and judicial affirmation. The royal manufactories of porcelain, for example, were long carried on in Europe with a spirit of jealous exclusiveness. His Majesty of Saxony was especially circumspect. Not content with the oath of secrecy imposed upon his work-people, he would not abate his kingly suspicion in favor of a brother monarch. Neither king nor king's delegate might enter the tabooed walls of Meissen. What is erroneously called the Dresden porcelain—that exquisite pottery of which the world has never seen the like—was produced for two hundred years by a process so secret that neither the bribery of princes nor the garrulity of the operatives ever revealed it. Other discoveries have been less successfully guarded, fortunately for the world. The manufacture of tin-ware in England originated in a stolen secret. Few readers need to be informed that tin-ware is simply thin iron plated with tin by being dipped into the molten metal. In theory it is an easy matter to clean the surface of iron, dip it into a bath of the boiling tin, and remove it, enveloped with the silvery metal, to a place for cooling. In practice, however, the process is one of the most difficult in the arts. It was discovered in Holland, and guarded from publicity with the utmost vigilance for nearly half a century. England tried in vain to discover the secret, until James Sherman, a Cornish miner, crossed the Channel, insinuated himself master of the secret, and brought it home. The secret of manufacturing cast-steel was also stealthily obtained, and it is now within the reach of all artisans. Another stolen secret is the method of inventing citric acid. The inventor of the process—who was a resident of London, England—for a long time enjoyed the monopoly of his invention. More favorably circumstanced than other secret manufacturers, his was a process that required no assistance. He employed no workmen. Experts came to sample and assort and bottle his products. They never entered his laboratory. The mystic operations by which he grew rich were confined to himself. One day, having locked the doors and blinded the windows, sure as usual of the safety of his secret, the chemist went home to dinner. A chimney-sweep, or a boy distinguished as such, wide awake in chemistry, was on the watch. Following the secret-keeper so far on his way toward Charing Cross as to be sure he would not return that day, the sooty philosopher hied rapidly back to Temple Bar, ascended the low building, dropped down the flue, saw all he wanted, and returned, carrying with him the mystery of making citric acid. The monopoly of the inventor was gone. A few months after, and the price of the article was reduced four-fifths. The poor man was heart-broken, and died shortly afterward, ignorant of the trick by which he had been victimized. He was to be pitied as an individual sufferer; but the wheel of progress is bound to crush all obstacles which threaten to impede its course, sacrificing the man to the needs of the multitude. Fortunately, inventors of the present day can work openly, and enrich themselves whilst they benefit others.—*Waverley Magazine.*

QUACK MEDICINES.

Concerning the origin of these "wonderful cure-alls," a curious story is told. Some thirty years ago, a certain young man, having exhausted his means and the patience of his friends by fast living, in London, found himself finally reduced to absolute poverty, rags and hunger. He had been

educated for the bar—brilliantly educated; graduated even with distinguished honors; but evil associates soon induced evil habits, and he became, as we have intimated, wretchedly low. In this plight, while he felt that he must beg, or starve, he wandered into a large apothecary's shop on the Strand, and asked the attendant if the proprietor was in. He was conducted to a back office, where the party sought was engaged with his books and business papers. First asking for food and a glass of beer, the visitor told the somewhat surprised apothecary that he would pay him by valuable information. He ate heartily, was refreshed, and felt grateful. Calling for a pen and paper, he wrote what proved to be the advertisement of a grand, newly-discovered panacea, which he called the "Matchless Sanitive," four drops of which, taken at a time, would gradually cure any known disease, while it was represented to be a universal preventative against every infectious disorder known to man. Indeed the virtues of the mixture were described in such extravagant and laudatory terms, that the apothecary laughed at the idea of anybody believing in them. However, the young stranger soon persuaded him to risk his money by advertising the medicine in the most liberal manner. Accordingly, the walls of London were covered with announcements of the "Matchless Sanitive," the papers were full of it, and circulars detailed its marvellous powers. At first the apothecary was startled at the expense, but in a fortnight he found that he must increase his clerks—in another that he could not get vials fast enough—and in a month that he must get larger quarters. The expense of manufacturing the article was simply that required to produce colored water! At the end of the month our adventurer called for a settlement, and actually received, as his share of the profits, three hundred pounds. With this sum he resolved to return to respectable life once more, and he did so. The "Matchless Sanitive" still sold for a while, but like all articles which are fictitious and worthless, it soon sank out of sight; still it had illustrated a principle which, if applied to a really genuine panacea, would have established a valuable and laudable business. There were observant men enough in London and elsewhere to adopt the idea, and, for a period of years, the patent medicine business, as it was called, was the source of individual fortunes, through the influence and power of advertising; and in many instances valuable specifics, which were prepared upon scientific principles, were dispensed to the public.

RECENT IMPROVEMENTS IN COTTON MACHINERY.

A Manchester paper describes recent improvements in cotton machinery by which an increased rate of production is secured. The process of cotton spinning is performed either by mules or throstles, and it has hitherto been considered impossible to produce the finer numbers or higher counts from the latter machine. The mule, however, with all its latest improvements, requires a large space in which to work, and needs the superintendence of full-waged attendants; while a throstle may be managed by younger and cheaper hands. Hence much attention has been directed of late to the improvement of the throstle.

In throstles the thread spun is twisted and wound on a bobbin at the same time and continuously, while in a mule the thread is twisted in lengths of about sixty-four inches, and then wound upon the spindle itself in what is termed a cop, this intermittent action being continued till the cops are fully formed. The throstle spindle carries a bobbin upon itself, on to which the yarn is wound while the spindle is revolving, the thread passing through a flyer fixed to the top of the spindle. In the usual way the bobbins themselves very soon become so worn as to vibrate upon the spindle and cause the thread to break, as a very little irregularity rapidly increases when the spindle is revolving at 5,000 or 6,000

turns per minute. In the usual way the spindle works through a brass bush or guide, termed a bolster, which is fixed in the top part of the frame. It is to this bolster and the arrangements for carrying the bobbin that the improvements apply.

The point of the invention lies in the influence exerted by the cloth washer as the medium through which the required drag is imparted to the bobbin that is necessary to cause the proper winding of the yarn upon it. The speed at which the cloth washer revolves is such that sufficient centrifugal action is generated to cause the washer to flatten or straighten itself, and so tend to raise partially its outer edge from contact with the turned-up edge of the collar, and thus carry the weight of an empty bobbin upon itself, and, as it were, in the air. But as the weight of the bobbin increases by the winding on of the yarn, this centrifugal action has less and less power to support the bobbin, and consequently the weight presses downward with a gradually increasing force upon the stationary edge of the bolster collar. This self-acting increase or decrease of frictional contact between the cloth washer and the bolster is to the throstle exactly what the "governor" is to a steam engine, and acts upon the same laws of gravitation and centrifugal force. By the placing of a thin small washer of paper or leather between the lower flange of the drag-shell and the cloth washer upon it (which may be easily done at any time), the governing power of the cloth washer may be regulated to the greatest possible nicety for any weight of thread to be spun, and the drag that is desired may be ensured with certainty. So beautifully delicate is the action that, by lifting the edge of the cloth washer with a knife blade while it is running, and so causing a variation of drag that ought not to be, one can instantly cause the yarn to snarl; but upon the withdrawal of the interruption, the drag at once re-asserts itself, and all goes right again.

The increased rate of production is stated by Messrs. Ashworth, of Todmorden, who are the inventors and patentees, to be from 25 to 30 per cent. Arrangements have been made with the firm of Evan Leigh, Sons & Co., for the sole manufacture of the new bolster and drag-shell, at a price of about 15d. to 18d. per spindle, inclusive of royalty.

THE BALLOT AT LAST.

The first trial of the Ballot took place on Thursday last, when Mr. Childers and Lord Rollington stood for Pontefract; and were proposed and seconded, according to the regulations of the new Act. The quietness of the proceedings is a promise of the success of the measure. There was no disturbance whatever in the town; and many persons were heard to say that it was not like election day at all. Mr. Childers was returned by a majority of only eighty, he having 658 votes, and Lord Pollington 578. Some curious incidents in Lord Pollington's political career were brought to light during the election, which did much to influence the opinion of the voters against him.

So the Ballot has had its first trial—an eminently successful and hopeful one. It is not in this case, however, that its real influence is fully shown. We shall see what the Ballot is worth, when its operation will affect a candidate of the working class!

If only 1,236 of the 1,946 registered electors of Pontefract took the trouble to record their votes (a fact which has furnished an argument to the opposers of the new Act), it must be borne in mind that between 150 and 200 electors are seafaring men, and in summer are at sea; that the local militia regiment, containing about fifty electors, left the town a fortnight ago; and that some fifty Conservative electors refused to vote, disapproving of Lord Pollington's nomination. But for these circumstances, Mr. Childers would have had a much larger majority.

We cannot but be glad to see the Ballot established under any circumstances; and we trust that the electors of the United Kingdom will do their utmost to support a system so manifestly just by participation in it.—*English Paper.*