

he should be immediately discharged. Any reduction of wages, just as any increase, should be the result of a conference of each employer with his own workmen. This principle will obtain in spite of all the "scales" that ever were created.

They also recommended the propriety of figuring for the payment of wages on the hour basis. This is a blow, it seems, at piecework—retrogression not progress. Piece work has many advantages both to employer and employee—it is the only thing which prevents a fixed scale from being an unbearable burden. It brings out the best men and gives them an incentive for their sluggish ambition.

Then on the second day there was the discussion on the nine hour day. Toronto has a fifty-four-hour week, and hence the matter is of little importance here. Most Canadian cities have a less than 60-hour week. In the country printing office of the towns and village the hours per week are from 60 to 80, according to the employer's ideas. Where they work more than 10 hours per day, the employees generally take the extra hour or two, they are forced to put in, out of the centre of the day by means of loitering and 'foxing.' Occasionally there is a real good workman, who is conscientious enough to put in eleven or twelve hours honest work—but he is killing himself for the sake of his conscience, and his employer is a species of murderer. In the convention, the motion to appoint a committee of five to consider the question of the hours of labor was defeated by a vote of 50 to 36. That the delegates were not even in favor of appointing a committee to look into the matter and gather facts on which to base an opinion as to future action shows that the employing printers of the United States are down on the nine-hour movement. It must also be concluded that they have looked into the matter themselves, and have all the knowledge of it they desire—or else it would be necessary to conclude that they did not desire to investigate the matter for fear the facts might not bring about the conclusion most hoped for. The former deduction is more in keeping with the well-known moderation of the members of the Typothetæ than the latter.

On the third day, the subject which most occupied the attention of the delegates was that of arbitration as a means of settling disputes between employers and employees. After a paper by Sam Lawson of St. Louis, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the United Typothetæ of America hereby places itself on record as favoring legislation by the several States providing for arbitration of all controversies between employer and employed, and enforcing the conclusions of the arbitrators.

It will now be in order for the Dominion Government to enact a law providing for compulsory arbitration. The convention were wise in upholding this new method, and Canadians should follow in the path which wisdom has chosen, and experience has illuminated.

Philadelphia was chosen as the next place of meeting.

The following is the list of officers for the year 1893-4: President, John R. McFetridge, Philadelphia; first vice-president, R. R. Donnelley, Chicago; second vice-president, George H. Ellis, Boston; third vice-president, E. Parke Coby, New York; fourth vice-president, J. H. Bruce, Nashville; fifth vice-president, P. H. Tiernan, Kansas City; sixth vice-president, James Murray, Toronto; secretary, Edward Waddey, Richmond, Va.; treasurer, Chas. Buss, Cincinnati, Ohio; executive committee, Joseph J.

Little, New York, chairman; W. A. Shepard, Toronto; George M. Courts, Galveston; C. H. Blakely, Chicago; Thomas Todd, Boston; W. L. Becker, St. Louis; Harry P. Pears, Pittsburg.

POSTAL COLLECTION AND CURRENCY.

EVERY publisher knows the difficulties of collecting subscriptions in small villages where there is no bank. Why could not the post office machinery be used to make these collections? It is done in other countries and why not in this?

The postmaster could present the publisher's bill to the person who called for the paper, collect the amount and charge from 1 to 5 per cent. for making the collection, according to the amount of the debt. Other accounts could be collected in this way also, so that all classes might share in the benefits which would result from such an institution.

Express companies collect accounts charging 25 cents on amounts less than \$6, and then increasing the charge as the amount increases. Banks collect charging from ten per cent. up. But there are hundreds of places where there is neither bank nor express company, and hence no machinery for making the collection.

Did the postoffice undertake the work the advantages would be numerous; e. g. (1) a cheaper collection, (2) a more extended system, (3) the profit resulting therefrom would accrue to a public institution instead of a private one, (4) it would be a general benefit to the great community of debtors and creditors.

Another postal reform would be to adopt the German system of sending parcels c.o.d. through the post.

Still another would be the adoption of postal currency for use in small amounts instead of postal orders. A bill is now before the United States Congress to accomplish this. Under this bill, on and after the first of January, 1894, the issue of postal notes may cease, and in their stead there is to be used a postal fractional currency in denominations of five, ten, twenty-five, fifty and seventy-five cents. The issue is to be a legal tender for sums of less than one dollar, and redeemable in lawful money at any post office to the amount of one dollar; at any money-order office of the fourth class to the amount of five dollars; and at any money-order office of the first, second or third class to the amount of ten dollars in any one payment to any individual on the same day. This currency is to be furnished the public on payment of the face value in lawful money without cost. An immense amount of business is done by mail, involving the sending of small amounts—that is to say, for less than a dollar, or for a dollar and a fraction. Unless resort be had to postage stamps, which many business houses object to receiving, and which are liable to suffer from dampness and other causes, we have, apart from bank checks, nothing available for ready inclosure in such cases, except coin, a decidedly unsafe medium. The objection to a postal note is not so much the matter of expense, though the fee frequently adds a heavy percentage to the amount involved, as the delay and vexation of procuring it when wanted, coupled with the fact that the missives are only valid for a limited term, and have no element of safety over a legal-tender shinplaster, which could be slipped into a letter anywhere, at any time, and would be of itself a legal tender and redeemable in other money whenever wanted. There is no doubt that certain lines of business would be greatly benefited by the issue of the currency, while the general public would be much inconvenienced.