

Ontario Workman.

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

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TORONTO, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1873.

No. 78.

OVATION TO JOSEPH ARCH.

LARGE AND ENTHUSIASTIC GATHERING—REPRESENTATIVES—SPEAKERS—REPLY, &c.

The visit of Mr. Joseph Arch, President of the Agricultural Laborers' Union of England, to Hamilton, was signalized by a splendid ovation, tendered him last Wednesday evening in the Tecumseh House by the Trades' Unions of that city. Mr. Arch was accompanied by Mr. Arthur Clayton, member of the consultative Committee of the same body. The attendance was large, the several trades being strongly represented to the number of one hundred and over. At eight o'clock Messrs. Arch and Clayton were escorted to the banquet hall by representatives of the Unions, consisting of Messrs. F. Walters, Chairman of Committee, Ralph Ingledew, Sec.; C. Donovan, on behalf of the Typographical Union; G. Midwinter, the Machinists and Blacksmiths; W. MacDougall, Amalgamated Engineers; F. Donahoe, Knights of St. Crispin; E. Gooch, Coopers; W. Myers, Plug-makers; Wm. Ibbetson, Tailors; Mr. Walters represented the Iron Molders, and Mr. Ingledew the Carpenters and Joiners.

The spread on the table was all that could be desired, and reflects great credit on the new management.

Dinner commenced at 9 o'clock. Mr. G. Walters occupied the chair, while on his right sat Mr. Arch, and on his left Mr. Clayton, the guests of the evening.

Full justice having been done the viands the table was cleared and preparations made for the most interesting portion of the proceedings. The Chairman then rose, and after some introductory remarks, explained to the assemblage the cause of the present gathering—the desire of the workmen of Hamilton to signify their appreciation of the labors of Mr. Arch, the great advocate of the English agricultural laborers, and to testify their earnest wishes of success in his undertaking. He went on to make some remarks on the object of Mr. Arch's visit to this country, and wound up with an eulogium on the merits of the distinguished guest. His speech was well received, and he sat down amid great applause.

The toast of "Our Dominion" was then proposed and drunk with zest.

The next toast was that of the "Trades Unions of Hamilton," and was replied to by Messrs. Donovan, (Typographical Union), Ray, (Iron Molders), MacDougall, (Amalgamated Engineers), Donahoe, (Knights of St. Crispin), Ingledew, (Carpenters and Joiners), Myers, (Plug-makers, Ibbetson, (Tailors), and Midwinter, (Machinists and Blacksmiths). Each gentleman making a brief but pointed speech.

Mr. MacDougall next recited the "Bundle of Sticks," illustrative of the benefits of unity which was ably delivered and well received.

The next on the programme was the toast of the evening, which was given by the chairman with a few laudatory remarks, accompanied by a handsomely engrossed address which was read by the secretary.

To Joseph Arch, Esq., President of the National Agricultural Laborers' Union, of England.

DEAR SIR,—We the undersigned representatives of the Trades Unions of the City of Hamilton, Province of Ontario, Canada, beg to offer to you our sincerest sympathies for the great and noble work you have undertaken. We believe that you have, in the hands of Providence, been called to a work great in its aims, marvellous in its power and influence, stupendous in its effects; you have been the means of elevating your fellows from that condition which, for ages, they have been kept down to. And we, as fellow-workers in the great work of labor's reform, have watched your movements with more than common interest; we have rejoiced in your successes, and mourned over the fact that some have sought to throw obstacles in your path.

We also desire to tender to you a hearty welcome to this new country of Canada, hoping that the Legislators of this Dominion will see that it is to our country's advantage to offer every facility to you and the energetic sons of old England you so nobly represent.

We honor your self-sacrifice and persistent efforts in the noble cause of labor's redemption, and we can fully assure you that there are warm hearts here who can readily understand your mission amongst us, and who would readily aid the noble cause of raising the agricultural laborer to the same footing with the mechanics and artisans of this Dominion, and to the same privileges which they enjoy. And in our vast forests, waiting to be hewn down and converted into articles of commerce, we hope that you and your people will find a home both comfortable and happy, where the sower may sow and the reaper may enjoy the fruits of his own labor; where, clear of those laws which now oppress him, he may be enabled to worship his Creator according to

the dictates of his own conscience, none daring to make him afraid. We know you have won the hearts of the people you so nobly represent, and you have a power for good amongst them.

Go on in your noble work. We admire your faith in spite of all your enemies: we hope that the right will conquer, and that in the end you will prevail.

May He who hath so far kept you, crown your efforts with abundant success is the prayer of

FREDERICK WALTERS, President of the Committee, and Cor. Secretary of the I. M. U.
W. MYERS, P. T. R. U.
W. McDougall, A. E.
C. DONOVAN, H. T. U.
F. DONAHOE, Sir Knight of K. O. S. C.
MR. IBBETSON, P. T. P. S.
E. GOOCH, P. I. U. C.
C. MIDWINTER, President of the M. & B. U.
RALPH INGLEDREW, Secretary to the Committee, and P. A. S. C. J.

The toast was then drunk with the greatest applause, after which Mr. Arch rose to respond amidst the greatest enthusiasm of his auditors.

Mr. Arch, in his reply, expressed himself as deeply grateful to the Trades' Unions of Hamilton for their cordial, hospitable and imposing demonstration in his favor. He had listened to the very clever address with interest, but objected to the term "Esquire" being appended to his name, for although he had familiar intercourse and dined with noblemen of the highest degree he was still plain Joseph Arch, the farm-laborer. (Loud applause.) Mr. Arch then went on to recount the origin and progress of the agricultural movement, which he did in a lucid and eloquent manner. On the 7th of February, 1872, he raised his voice to advocate the claims of the farm laborers—that over-worked and poorly-paid class of Englishmen—and he could assure his hearers that the odds he had to contend against were nearly overwhelming. The farm laborers, in their struggle for their rights, had to combat the moneyed power of the aristocracy and the moneyed power of the wealthy farmers, so that in the face of these contingencies success seemed almost hopeless for those suffering men who for many a year have been kept down. In this great enterprise he (Mr. Arch) had been dubbed a demagogue by the great men of the country, but his hearers well knew that to remedy the evils of a country was the work of a philanthropist, not of a demagogue, and his conduct plainly showed that he belonged not to the latter stamp. He cared not what they called him; he was determined by the help of God to elevate his class, and he would do so, even if he were to spend his life in the task. Scarce a month had passed before a combination to put us down was formed among the farmers. Two hundred and fifty men were turned from employment because they asked for a wage of 14 shillings a week. When these men were thrown out of employment he knew not but they might turn on him, as the people did on Moses of old, and revile him as the cause of their trouble, in bringing them to their present condition. But no, said he, as I mournfully witnessed this misfortune to so many of my countrymen, who were the first to dry my eyes with words of comfort, but two members of the Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners? We immediately set to work to devise schemes of relief, and in a short time had circulated throughout the length and breadth of England, circulars setting forth our wrongs and opening the eyes of the people to the same. The trades sprung as it were to the rescue, and offered every available assistance. It is true that in course of time, several prominent gentlemen took part in the work of relief, but I repeat, said Mr. Arch with animation, to the honor of trades' unions, that I will never forget the hour when they took me by the hand and said, "We will scour England through before you go down." (Continued applause.) On we went, the opposition of the farmers also increasing. League after league of farmers was formed—as many as ten leagues being at one time in existence to put down the laborers; but we continued firm and unshaken, and, as a consequence, they succumbed to the pressure, and finally came to total grief. Failing in this they tried to influence laborers by saying that I was working for my own personal interests, and that, as soon as I had accumulated a thousand pounds, I would abandon the cause and fly to America. But even this despicable trick availed them nothing, for those who were at my back knew, as I tell you now, that I cannot better myself a shilling by the movement. When I want to make a fortune out of the bones and sinews of my countrymen, I hope they will stamp

me as a vagabond. (Hear, hear.) As I before remarked, men of consequence, such as landowners, magistrates and others, attended our meetings, but though thankful for their countenance and assistance, I always told them that our committee must consist of laborers. Last summer a combination of farmers locked out two thousand laborers at one stroke, but although the oppressed thousands protested against this inhuman act, they not only did not receive the sympathy they deserved, but on the contrary, were frowned upon on all hands. What is particularly to be noticed was the action of the English clergy, who, instead of taking the part of the weak against the strong, reversed the time-honored principle and supported the strong in their battle with the weak. (Cries of shame.) Supposing the case was reversed, and it was in the power of the laborers to throw 2,000 farmers into as straightened a position as they were themselves, would they be received as listlessly and as unsympathizingly by the aristocracy as the former ones? We fought the battle advantageously, and, protracted and determined as it was, we came forth after its termination as fresh, as vigorous and as well, and better supplied with the sinews of war than at the beginning. Mr. Arch next referred to his coming to this country to seek out homes for his fellow laborers, where they would benefit themselves and the country of their adoption. He had traversed different parts of the country, and conversed with farmers and public men on various matters about the great object of his mission. In the rural districts he had listened to the sophistries of farmers in stating that there was a want of skill displayed by the English laborers; he (Mr. Arch) believed that they may have something to learn and also to unlearn: the English farmer might obtain some useful hints from Canadians, but if the latter went to England they could learn a little also. In the cities he had been shown men of opulence and position, who once owned scarcely a penny, but he ventured to say that others helped them to it, and on that account they should not forget the circumstances which led to their advancement—the ladder that assisted their ascent should not be kicked from under. Mr. Arch went on to give some wholesome advice in relation to Trades' Unions, and their dealings with employers,— united consultation, careful deliberation and arbitration. After this he dwelt on the condition of this country as compared with the old, and in a manner that showed keen perception and clear judgment, pointed out its merits and demerits. He next referred to the advantages the country would receive by the influx of so many able men, and intimated that if the country wanted them, they must be offered the inducements their abilities deserve. The advantage of their settlement in this country must, however, be considered mutual between the employer and employed, for he (Mr. Arch) would not hold up his countrymen for sale, or offer their services on unequal terms. He referred to his interview with the officials at Quebec and his intention to interview the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario at Toronto. He continued his remarks for some little time longer, giving much useful information in regard to agricultural matters and in giving praise to the principles of Trades Unions, and at the same time renewing his wise and salutary evidence in regard to their future workings. He then, in a few well chosen remarks, thanked them for the enthusiastic ovation to himself and friend, and sat down amidst thunders of applause.

The Consulting Committee was then toasted in connection with the name of Mr. Clayton, who replied in a neat and pithy speech, referring to the condition of the agricultural movement in England and dilating on its success, and, at the same time, enlarging on the abilities of Mr. Arch, whom he designated, among other titles, as a true and perfect gentleman. His speech was received with favor, particularly his eulogistic remarks on the beneficial results of Trades Unions. The speaker concluded by thanking the audience for the favor shown him and his friend Mr. Arch.

At the conclusion of Mr. Clayton's remarks the song of "Stand by the Union," was sung by Mr. Walters, the assembly joining in the chorus.

A vote of thanks to the chairman was proposed by Mr. Arch, seconded by Mr. Clayton and carried unanimously.

The business of the evening then closed by singing in chorus "God save the Queen," when the meeting dispersed in an orderly and satisfied manner.

MR. LLOYD JONES ON COMBINATIONS OF WORKMEN.

The Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Miners' Association held their first annual procession and mass meeting on Monday, 15th ult. The day was remarkably fine, and the various lodges, to the number of 22, assembled in Ripley Market-place, and drew together a vast concourse of people, variously estimated at from 8,000 to 12,000.

After the report had been read and moved for adoption, Mr. Lloyd Jones, who on rising to support the resolution, commenced his remarks by congratulating the meeting on its number, its order, and respectability of appearance, said, Mr. Chairman—Great as this gathering is, and much as it may mean as an organized power for enforcing the claims of the miners of the district to what they may regard as fair treatment in work and wages, it has yet a larger and more important meaning when looked at in connection with the other great mining organizations of the country, composed exclusively of men who earn their living in connection with our mining operations. This gathering is not an accident, it is not an isolated fact, it has a connection with two great bodies of miners, one the National Association, with a hundred and twenty-five thousand members, and the other the Amalgamated Association consisting of about one hundred thousand. This local association may for practical purposes be regarded as belonging to these. And let me say that organized bodies of men of considerably above two hundred thousand, resting their unions on common principles, and aiming at common objects have their own fate in their own hands, and can to a certainty, if they conduct their own business with wisdom and prudence, attain any legitimate object they may seek for. Let me add, however, that the possession of this power is no justification for its unwise or oppressive use; you are bound to secure for yourselves good wages, good conditions under which to work in the mines, and good treatment from those placed over you in authority. But you must not forget that your duties are correlative with your rights, you are bound to render honest and effective service, willing and true obedience, and in everything to remember that the owner of capital has his rights which you are bound to respect, and which must be respected if the joint operations of labor and capital are to be carried to the profit and satisfaction of those jointly engaged in them. There are persons who object very strongly to trades unions such as this, who insist that they are crippling the industry of the country; and who prophesy in the most melancholy way the near destruction of England's manufacturing and commercial pre-eminence. Ever since the first demand for shorter hours in connection with the factory labor was made these wretched people have been stuning us in this way, and the echo of the last cry, made the other day by Professor Fawcett, in the House of Commons, is still ringing in our ears. I for one have no respect for such foolish fears, nor for the selfishness by which they are prompted in a large number of those who utter them. These cries were first heard by myself and others still alive, in 1827, and were continually uttered up to the time the bill for shortening the hours of labor in our factories was passed. If we took one hour off the work of our poor women and children we were told the foreigner would step in and inevitably take our trade. Well, as regarding these croakings of evil, several hours per week, nay, per day, were taken off, and, our foreign trade, which at that time was under forty millions sterling per annum, has risen to above £223 millions sterling. The foreigner has not taken our trade. We are better off now than ever we were—doing more business, and making more profit, and we are doing this notwithstanding the many blessings conferred on our working people by shorter hours of work and higher wages. And, gentlemen, there is one other consideration important to add—we have not diminished the profits of employers. Mr. Gladstone said the other day at Liverpool that England had added almost incredibly to her wealth during the last fifty years. In the early part of last century our country had not the means of adding much yearly to its capitalized wealth, each year nearly all that was earned was spent. But by inventions and discoveries made by clever men, and worked by the industry of the masses of our people, we are now adding year by year something enormous to the accumulated wealth of the country. You, miners, descend into the pits with your picks and shovels, and coal and ironstone are

sent to the surface. These are taken in hand by other industrious workers, and are transformed into machinery of the most delicate and complicated kind which is placed in our factories and workshops, and to these we bring cotton, woollen, silk, and other fibres, which are transformed by our skilled workers into articles of the highest value in use, and of the most consummate in design. These are taken by merchants to all the ends of the earth, and exchanged for the produce of the fields of Russia, the plantations of America, and the spice groves of the East. Whatever can minister to the comfort or luxury is ours by the ingenuity and industry of our people, and it is right, I say, they should ask, it is inevitable they should demand, why, being active agents in the production of this abundance, its blessings should not visit their homes and cheer and elevate their lives? In saying this no attack is meant on the property of those who have accumulated vast wealth out of the past industrial operations of the country. We say to them keep what you have got, and enjoy it in peace and security. Our love of law and order, our respect for property, are your best assurances that night and day you are safe amongst us. We give you a security in the open and free enjoyment of what is yours, which the rich and noble in the centuries that are past, could not, with armed men on watch and ward, obtain for themselves. We cry quits for the past, but we most solemnly declare that if we can make it so it shall be different in the future. So far we say to those above us you have got nearly all the advantages of the nation's growth in prosperity. Our third and even fourth-rate coal-owners, merchants, and manufacturers have incomes such as the old Barons of England would have blessed themselves for. There are more abundant luxuries and higher comforts, in the houses even of our moderate gentry than our Norman or Plantagenet kings possessed or enjoyed—the working men only have lagged behind. They have been needlessly neglected whilst such wonderful changes have been going on. We have now however got the women and little children out of the pits. We have got a sense of shame into the heart of the nation, in regard to the educational neglects. We have got shorter hours, larger pay, and above all we have a power in the ranks of the people and a hope into their hearts, and with these we have before us a future in which their industry and ingenuity may turn the most worthless things into wealth, and by their exchange may stimulate the industry and increase the wealth of other nations and races, carrying to the ends of the earth a higher civilization and nobler aspirations, as a crowning glory to commerce, which has hitherto confined its attention too exclusively to selfish strivings after material profit. We say therefore to all who suspect the intentions and objects of trades unionists and their leaders, do not be afraid; trust to the good intention of the men upon whose efforts your suspicions and censures can have no effect. They openly proclaim their aims to be honorable in themselves and useful to the country. So far they had by improved wages given themselves a larger command over the necessities and comforts of life without injury to any one. They provided by their funds for sickness and death, and by arranged allowance in many districts they protect and succour the widows and fatherless. They encouraged in this way habits of providence and forethought, and they take upon themselves expenses which in most cases would fall upon the public, in rates, for the support of the poor. The only one point upon which the opponent of trades unionism can condemn them is the countenance and support they give to strikes. But so long as there is no other acknowledged method of settling disputes between employers and employed but by strikes, the men must hold the right of appealing to force whenever it may seem to them necessary. Let it not be forgotten however that the resolution I am now supporting asks that strikes and lock-outs shall never be resorted to until every peaceable and reasonable mode of settling such disputes as may arise shall be first tried. Working men know they have nothing to fear through trusting their cause to the arbitration of reason, in the hands of impartial third parties. And they believe that if the award be given against them when they so refer such cases, that in nine cases out of ten it will be because they are in the wrong, and therefore because it ought to be given against them. Here then

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