

Ontario Workman.

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

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A NEW PARTY.

An agitation is on the tapis among the Labor Reformers of the United States for the reorganization of the industrial classes, and the formation of a great politico-social party, having higher aims and ends than any that has gone before it,—“a party that is to ignore all past issues, politics and actions—a party that leaves the old and leads forward to the new.” A writer in the *Chicago Workingman's Advocate* submits the following as a platform:—

1st, Control of federal and State governments.

2nd, The passage of general laws for the organization of co-operative associations or corporations throughout the entire nation, where industries will admit of it, composed of the present employers and employes, skilled and unskilled, for the production and exchange of all the commodities which our climate and other conditions may enable us to create.

3rd, Reorganization of our financial system, by the calling in of all national and greenback currency, and substituting for it a people's currency, of sufficient volume to carry on all the internal business of the nation; such currency to be manufactured by the federal government of the people, and loaned exclusively to these co-operative corporations.

4th, The combination of the present wages system, applied to every member of these co-operative associations; such wages to be regulated by value of services, but the lowest amount paid to unskilled labor to be sufficient for a comfortable subsistence; and a uniform rate of wages everywhere for the same grade of labor or service.

5th, The abolition of all restrictions on trade, such as custom houses, duties, internal revenue collectors, &c., and the collection of all federal as well as state taxes from real and personal property, as is now the case in States.

This is but an outline of the more important changes indispensable for the future elevation of labor. Out of this politico-economical movement of labor will necessarily grow reforms in every direction. It does away with the necessity for a monied class, unites capital and labor in one homogeneous body, with but one common interest, elevates labor, removes poverty, and the ordinary causes of crime. At the same time it is free from the imputation of injustice and robbery, takes mankind just as they are, places them in familiar channels of labor, leaves them at liberty to choose any occupation they are fitted for, does not interfere with the arrangements of private life. It is simply the substitution of partnerships in place of individual operations, on a system that positively secures every man from loss, while guaranteeing constant work and ready payments for all.

It is time for the industrial classes to discuss and prepare themselves for social changes. A partial co-operative system has been initiated in England by the capitalists themselves, but it is too slow and inefficient to furnish an adequate remedy.

The Committee appointed by the Town Council of Edinburgh have recommended to the Governors of Heriot's Hospital a scheme for a complete system of theoretical and technical education, which consists of a school for boys between twelve and fifteen, and an evening technical college for adults and apprentices.

A great number of strikes are now distressing trade in Germany. We have already alluded to the strike in Leipsic among the printers, and now it appears that this trade is also menaced by the compositors at Breslau. The weavers of Cologne in the employ of M. Meyer have struck work as they were refused an increase on their meagre earnings of 12s 6d per week. Their fellow workers of the same town, have followed this example.

STRAY NOTES FROM THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

(From our own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, March 25.

As some of the readers of *THE WORKMAN* who may have had no occasion to visit Ottawa, may yet care to learn something about the public buildings in which the Parliament of the Dominion is now assembled, and in which the ordinary work of the various governmental departments is carried on, I send you a few notes concerning them which I hope may not be devoid of interest.

And first as to their site. This is on a point of ground which juts out into the river Ottawa very nearly in the middle of the city, and which was formerly called Barrack Hill. The level of this ground is considerably higher than in the neighborhood, being nearly one hundred and sixty feet above the summer level of the river, an elevation which contributes in no inconsiderable degree to the imposing appearance, which so strikingly impresses almost every observer who sees these buildings for the first time. The area of the grounds belonging to the Government takes in altogether nearly thirty acres, and is detached from adjacent property by well-defined lines. On the north is the precipitous escarpment of the river; on the east a deep ravine, at the bottom of which is the Rideau Canal, with its famous combined locks; on the south is Wellington street, destined, so say the shrewd ones, to be the finest street of the city; and on the west the slope of the hill is so sudden that the line of division from contiguous lots is sufficiently clear. Up the river, about a mile, are the Chaudiere Falls, which may be seen from many parts of the grounds, and two miles down stream is the point of confluence between the Gatineau and the Ottawa. Such a site supplies all the requisites for a favorable *coup d'œil*. The materials used for construction is a compact, durable sandstone from Napan, near by; a stone of a very delicate warm grey tint, and which is further relieved by the still warmer Potsdam sandstone round the arches, and by the more sober drab of the Ohio stone used in the coins, mullions and dressings.

There are three buildings in the pile, or rather three blocks of buildings,—the Parliament House proper, built near the brink of the river, which includes the Chambers for the Commons, and the Senate, and the Library, and which has a southern face looking towards Wellington street, and other two buildings, one on either side of the main structure, detached from it by a considerable intervening space, used for departmental purposes, and known respectively in local parlance, as the eastern and western blocks. The ground the main edifice stands on, comprises about two acres; and the departmental buildings occupy about the same space. The stone wall now in process of construction, parallel with Wellington street, will form the fourth side of the quadrangle, of which the buildings themselves form the other three sides. The departmental blocks have two main facades looking towards the quadrangle and to the south. The library is still incomplete, and will require at least two seasons for its work to be carried to a point of finish sufficient to show much more than its magnificent proportions. When complete it will be a circular room ninety feet in diameter, with a dome-shaped roof, and free from any pillars or other contrivances to dwarf its apparent size. The roof was originally designed to be stone, but at the suggestion of the Engineer of the Public Works Department (Mr. Page) it has been decided to use iron instead of stone, and already the rafters are in their intended positions. The outer wall of this building is very thick and low, a polygon of sixteen sides in shape, from each angle of which is thrown up a flying buttress to

support the immense thrust thrown on the interior and higher wall by the dome.

The architecture of these buildings is Gothic, chiefly in the early English style, which, for large structures, appears to be very generally gaining favor. It is interesting to notice how the aversion from classic literature was accompanied by a corresponding departure from classic architecture, till we now find that substantially what Wren called a system of “jetties, points, narrow window and crinkle crinkle,” Pugin, Barry and others, as the Victorian Gothic, have made the favorite style of the times. Our church architects—returning to the spirit of their predecessors—have for many years ceased to adorn Christian churches with Grecian porticoes and facades; practically embodying Coleridge's aesthetic canon, that the Gothic is the “petrification of the Christian religion.” And our realistic age has found out that this system not only gives for large buildings great facilities in the way of ventilating and lighting; but, that it is also cheaper in point of cost. Robert Dale Owen, who, when the Smithsonian Institution at Washington was to be built examined this question fully, found that a Gothic structure could be built at a price per cubic foot not more than half the cost of a classic building of the same degree of comeliness. So that cost alone may be, in part at least, an explanation of its use in late years for secular as well as ecclesiastical structures of the larger and more expensive kinds.

The central structure is four hundred and seventy-two feet long, is three stories in height, and is cut up by belt courses from the windows and doors, into five horizontal bands. The central tower is thirty feet square at the base, about one hundred and sixty feet high, and is divided unequally into five vertical spaces, that containing the belfry windows being the most handsome of the five. The wings at each end of this face are brought out from the central part even with the central tower, which stands its full thickness from the walls. The angles thus formed have each a tower. The roof is very steep in its pitch, and cut off at the top, or technical-truncated; it is covered with parti-colored slates, and is surrounded with a wrought iron cresting painted dark blue and tipped with gold. Several small, peaked, corner windows stand out from the roof, and contribute to give with the gables, turrets and handsome chimneys a broken sky line of great beauty, which is considered one of the charms peculiar to this style of architecture. The same features of style are carried out in the side buildings, of which that on the east is by far the most elegant in appearance. Nowhere is there any very costly elaboration of details, effect having been obtained by an harmonious arrangement of parts and gradation of the colors of the stone, which reflect the highest credit on the taste of the architects.

The designs were, for the main building, those of Messrs. Fuller & Jones, of Toronto, and were chosen from those of fourteen competitors. The departmental buildings were from Messrs. Stent & Laver, of this city, who obtained the premium over six competitors. The entire cost has been about three million of dollars.

OBSEVER.

FEDERATION OF LABOR UNIONS.

A meeting of trades union representatives was held at Cooper Luncheon Rooms, Eldon street, Finsbury, on Wednesday evening. Mr. C. Shriver was unanimously elected to preside, Mr. Morgan, of the Labor League, to the vice-chair; the Amalgamated Society of Watermen and Lightermen being represented by Messrs. Collier, Sissor, Field, Hobbs, S. Peters, and G. Elliot; the Labor Protection League, by Mr. C. Keen, General Secretary, and Messrs. Hurley, Morgan, Fowler, Lynch and Mahoney; the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, by Mr. Bull and Mr. Pearce; the Amalgamated Carman and Conveyance Association, by Messrs. Joy, Beasley, Chaff, Nevile, Stroud,

and Mr. C. Shriver, the General Secretary. The credentials of the delegates having been verified, the chairman opened the proceedings by detailing what had been done since their last meeting. Lucidly showing the advantages to be derived from the federation of labor unions. The moral power it would have would be immense, but the defensive power would be enormous. And he considered that a proper exercise of their political power, combined with the power the Federation would give, would enable them to achieve that position in the State of which they were the very muscle, and from them the capitalists spring their fortunes; therefore, it was their bounden duty to make every effort to see that labor received its due reward. (Loud cheers.) He had taken some trouble with the resolutions. They had formerly been agreed to, and he could see various amendments were required, and had, accordingly, inserted various amendments which he would read through for their consideration. Mr. Keen, Mr. Bull, and Mr. Elliot having expressed the views of their respective associations, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted—That it be altered to the title of Federation of Labor Unions.

1st.—This meeting of delegates, from the four societies, consider it essential for their future welfare that a working agreement uniting the whole in one federation for defensive purposes should be drawn out and established, and governed for this purpose by a body known as the upper executive. The present government, and names of each society, to be retained in exactly the same position as at present constituted for the working of their own association or society.

2.—Each association or society shall be known for this purpose as a section of the upper executive, and such federation shall be governed by a council which shall be known and named the upper executive, and be constituted from the various executive councils of each society in the federation, or those hereafter admitted.

3.—The upper executive shall consist of six members from each society in the federation, and be elected in the month of January in each year, each society to elect its representatives as it thinks fit.

4.—All unimportant questions shall be submitted to the upper executive for its decision by the various societies' executive councils, such as a cessation of work, Parliamentary actions, &c., and such questions being passed by a majority of not less than four-fifths of those present at a summoned meeting, shall be binding upon every member of the various societies in the federation, two-thirds of the upper executive to form a quorum.

5.—The upper executive shall meet on the second Wednesday in each month, or oftener if required, at 7.30 p.m., at the most convenient place. They shall have power to summon all connected with any case submitted for their decision; also the secretary of any society to produce all documents relating to the same.

6.—In case of cessation from work by any society in the federation, no member of the other societies shall accept employment, or knowingly execute any portion of the duty or labor that would or should be executed by the societies' men who are locked out or standing out by order of the upper executive.

7.—No strike shall be sanctioned, nor cessation from work by any society in the federation entertained until every effort has been made to effect a peaceable settlement, and as a final attempt to do so, an offer shall be made by the upper executive to refer the dispute to arbitration, one arbitrator to be named by the upper executive, and another by the societies' executive councils. If the employer, or company in question, refuse to submit the disputed matter to arbitration, or concede the demands of the society in question, then due notice for the members of that particular society to leave their employment shall be given by the upper executive in the name of the federation. Any society in the federation acting otherwise than in conformity with this clause; shall not be supported by the federation, and such society shall at once be suspended during the discretion of the upper executive, or dealt with as circumstances may determine.

8.—After the preceding clause has been strictly complied with without success, and it shall be thought to be necessary, by the upper executive, and a vote being passed in accordance with the fourth clause to that effect, the society in question shall cease work—as per clause 7 only. Then the said society shall be supported by every society in the federation by a levy or otherwise, and any levy ordered to be made on account of the oppressed society shall be binding on every member in the federation.

9.—In order to support the society's men who are thus forced out, each society in the federation shall send the sum of threepence per week from its funds for every member on its books, for four consecutive weeks, if required; or, should the upper executive consider it necessary, sixpence per member shall be sent the first week, and threepence each week the two following weeks. Should any more money be required, it shall be raised by a levy of sixpence per member on every member in the federation, the money in all cases to be sent to the upper executive, who shall forward the amount required to pay the societies' men ordered out in strict accordance with the 7th and 8th clauses, not later than Wednesday in each week to the society's executive council, wherein such dispute exists, who shall furnish a balance sheet for the same for the upper executive, and each executive council at their respective meetings, the men in all cases to be paid daily, and receipts taken for the amount paid to them.

10.—That an invitation is hereby given to all labor societies in the United Kingdom to join the federation.

11.—Copies of this agreement to be submitted to every society in the federation, before it is signed, for their approval. Should it not be returned on or before March the 12th, four stamped copies shall be signed, and one sent by the upper executive to each society's executive council, and a signature obtained for the same, which shall make it binding on every member of the federation.

The meeting was then adjourned until Wednesday, the 19th, at 10 a.m., to discuss and settle the minor matters and form of procedure.

A hearty vote of thanks being given to the chairman and vice-chairman for so ably conducting the proceedings, brought the meeting to a close.

Labor Notes.

The colliers employed in the various pits in the Somerset coalfield district have received an advance on their wages of 10 per cent., unasked for.

Notwithstanding the example of the United States and of Switzerland, the French parliament has refused to vote a subsidy to enable French workmen to visit the exhibition at Vienna. It was thought that such a measure proposed for the sole purpose of affording the artisans of France an opportunity of improving their technical knowledge of trade would result, it is not clearly explained how, in the propaganda of socialists doctrines. On the other hand the town of Marseilles, more liberal, has voted 5000 francs to enable some of its workmen to visit the Vienna exhibition.

A conference of the committee of the Brussels Carpets Manufacturers' Association and delegates from the Weavers' Association has just been held in the Chess-room, Kidderminster, when the Chairman announced that the manufacturers had decided on giving the weavers an advance of 3d. per yard, which will be equivalent to about 2s. 4d. in the pound. This rise is to commence next month, as soon as the present contracts are worked out. It was stated, further, that for the future all works were to close at one o'clock on Saturdays. The weavers have not gained all they asked, but are nevertheless, pleased with this liberal concession of the manufacturers.

A meeting of the London District Committee appointed by the Executive Council of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, representing about 10,000 members, was held on Sunday evening, at the district committee rooms, Eldon street, City, to consider the question of an increase of wages, and a reduction of the hours of labor. Many of the companies not having taken any notice of the numerous memorials their servants have sent them respecting the same, it was decided to have a series of meetings in various parts of London, preparatory to a large meeting in Exeter Hall at the latter end of March. A petition to be sent to every company in London, asking for a general increase of 2s. per week—six days not exceeding ten hours to constitute a week's work—Sunday duty to be paid for; or a day off during the ensuing week.