

NOTICE.

Workmen are invited to receive items of interest, pertaining to Trade Societies, from all parts of the Dominion, for publication. Officers of Trade Unions, Secretaries of Leagues, &c., are invited to send us news relating to their organizations, conditions of trade, &c.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

(INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.)

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

Each insertion, ten cents per line.

Contract Advertisements at the following rates:—

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All communications should be addressed to the Office, 124 Bay Street.

Our columns are open for the discussion of all questions affecting the working classes.

All communications should be accompanied by the names of the writers, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

We wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of correspondents.

WILLIAMS, SLEETH & MACMILLAN,
124 BAY STREET.

Meetings of Unions.

TORONTO.

Meetings are held in the Trades' Assembly Hall, King street west, in the following order:—

Machinists and Blacksmiths, 1st and 3rd Mondays.
Painters, 1st and 3rd Monday.
Tailors, 2nd and 4th Monday.
Crispins, (159), every Tuesday.
Amalgamated Carpenters, alternate Wednesdays.
Cigarmakers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
Iron Moulders, every Thursday.
Millers, 2nd Thursday.
Trades' Assembly, 1st and 3rd Friday.
Bricklayers and Masons, 1st and 3rd Friday.
Stone Cutters, 2nd and 4th Friday.
Coopers, 2nd and 4th Friday.
Printers, 1st Saturday.
Bakers, every 2nd Saturday.

The Amalgamated Society of Engineers, &c., meets in Foy's Hall, corner of York and Richmond sts., on the 2nd and 4th Friday.
The Hackmen's Union meets in the Temperance Hall, on the 1st Monday.

The Friendly Society of Carpenters and Joiners meets in the Temperance Hall, Temperance street, on the 1st Friday.

K. O. S. C., No. 315, meets in the Temperance Hall every alternate Tuesday.

OTTAWA.

Meetings are held in the Mechanics' Hall, (Rowe's Block,) Rideau street, in the following order:—

Free-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Tuesday
Same-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Wednesday.
Masons and Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Thursday.
Trades' Council, 1st Friday.
Printers, 1st Saturday.
Tailors, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
Harnessmakers, 4th Monday.

ST. CATHARINES.

Meetings are held in the Temperance Hall, in the following order:—

K. O. S. C., 1st Monday.
Tailors, 2nd Monday.
Typographical Union, No. 147, 2nd Tuesday.
Coopers, 3rd Tuesday.

Messrs. LANSEFIELD BROTHERS, Newdealers, No. 6 Market square, Hamilton, are agents for the WORKMAN in that vicinity.

Mr. D. W. CHERNENT, Niagara Street, St. Catharines, will receive subscriptions and give receipts for the WORKMAN. Parties calling on Mr. Tormant will please state if they wish the paper continued.

Mr. J. A. BRANDON, of Guelph, has kindly consented to solicit subscriptions for the WORKMAN in that town, and is hereby authorized to act as our agent.

TO CITY SUBSCRIBERS.

City subscribers not receiving their papers regularly, will oblige the proprietors by giving notice of such irregularity at the Office, 124 Bay street.

PAINTER'S MEETING.

We would remind those interested, of the mass meeting of Painters to be held in the Trades' Assembly Hall, King St. West, on Monday evening next. It is expected that all the painters of the city will be present on the occasion.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, FEB. 26, 1874.

LABOR AND LEISURE.

The reduction of the hours of labor has always had a prominent place in the struggle between the employer and the workingman. When slavery was rampant in the Southern States, the question was seriously discussed amongst slave owners, whether it was more profitable to make slaves work to their utmost physical capabilities, and replace them as fast as they were consumed, or economize their labor, and, by prolonging their lives, diminish the consumption; and a majority decided in favor of the first doctrine. Get the most work out of your present stock; kill them as fast as you can, and replace them with new material. It pays better. That is the principle that too often governs the employer of labor all the world over. Free men, however, resist that principle, because however necessary to the economy and wealth of the community human labor may be, a law quite as imperative as that of political economy inspires the laborer with a just desire for rest and physical and mental enjoyment. Hence, while workingmen combine to secure a just share of the wealth they create, they are not less exacting in their demands to limit the hours of labor. Political economists of the capitalist school may urge their usual fallacies in behalf of long hours; but natural laws are higher than selfish theories. An insolent and hired defender of those theories called the men lazy who agitated for a reduction in the hours of labor, and it was urged against their demands that employers and professional men often work from twelve to sixteen hours a day. "Often," however, is a term which in this instance must be defined. It means occasionally, and it means for only a few years of their lives. The employer or professional man, who works for fifteen or sixteen hours a day, "often" accumulates wealth and honor, and secures complete rest from labor for many years of his life. Besides which, the occupations of these classes of men have an element of pleasure—variety in them, which is an immense set-off against the drudgery of every-day toil. They can command the luxuries of life, and all those refined and soothing pleasures which a position of respectable rank and money can always secure. They can have their summer excursions to other scenes, not for a day but often a month; and even the "hard working" business man has frequently his business trips into the country and every day out-of-door occupation, which take off that dullness of monotony which wears out life as much as over-labor. Now, the toil of the workingman is constant and unvarying. It is toil without hope, honor, or relief. It commences with early youth; it never ceases but with death or physical incapacity, and that incapacity or any interruption to the regularity of work means poverty and suffering to the laborer. It is wonderful, then, how far ignorance or insolence can go, when employers and the hirelings of the press compare the everlasting and ill-requited drudgery of the workingman, with the varied and hopeful life of successful business or professional men. There is one resource still left to relieve the drudgery of mechanical toil. It is the last and most terrible resource, and that to which the workingman just as he is weakened and prostrated is most likely to fly—the relief of strong drink. That brings instant excitement, and it is one of the assured consequences of over-labor and long hours, that they increase drunkenness amongst workingmen.

Trades Unions understand too well how necessary it is to war with the long hour system. Their members are the victims of the system. It is especially the ground on which capital is opposed to labor. It is the interest of the employer to keep a certain number of men out of work that he may hold those in work under fear. Let every man in a trade be employed, and the labor mar-

ket is in its most advantageous condition to command good wages. "Employers," says Professor Boesly, "aim at keeping a certain number of men unemployed that the rest may be at their mercy. Hence they prefer having a few men to work overtime more than a larger number to work at reduced time. They will even sacrifice their immediate interests for this object. When there is a press of work they will, if possible, make the tired men work overtime, even at an advance of sixty per cent in their wages, rather than utilize that unemployed margin which they hold in terror over the employed."

This was written in 1861; but it is equally true now. The "economists" stop in, however, to the aid of capital, and say, "If you demand reduced hours and the same wages, employers cannot compete with foreign capitalists." Probably no doctrine shows more strongly the necessity for a world's confederation of labor. One law and one system adopted and carried out by the workingmen of every civilized nation would remove forever this most selfish objection. But, in the meantime, it is necessary to show the fallacy of the argument. If our capitalists cannot compete with foreign employers it is because they want to sustain high profits. They must reduce their profits. We have already shown in a previous article on the "Wages Fund," that there is always a wide margin of profits which can, without detriment to the interests of the country, and which must, in behalf of the interests of labor, be reduced when a great public good is involved. Fewer fortunes will doubtless be made by cunning speculators, out of the skill of labor. We shall have less middlemen—"caterpillars," as Sir John Macdonald once aptly called them,—fewer fortune hunters and more productive laborers; fewer capitalists gambling on the profits of wealth, but less real capital. Reduce the hours of labor and more laborers will be demanded to meet the demands of consumption. Wages will necessarily rise, though the interest of capital may not increase; and as the wages of skilled mechanics rise their position will improve, and young men who now think it degrading to be mechanics, producing all the fabrics and manufactures and structures, which constitute the wealth of nations, and genteel to be measuring ribbons and silks to ladies, will then aspire to the manliness which marks and ought to bring honor to manual skill.

This must be the issue of the struggle for shorter hours of labor. It will have other and higher moral issues. The possession of wealth and leisure allows a rich man, when his heart is of the right kind, to dispense the blessings of liberal gifts and good works around him. But we do not believe in a monopoly of this divine privilege. While by the power of combination workingmen could give grants of money to many a good purpose—as co-operative societies already do—a greater amount of leisure would offer inducements and occasions for works of public usefulness and practical benevolence. There is no reason why all the luxury of doing good should be exclusively enjoyed by the rich. Workingmen, who come oftenest into contact with suffering, could take their share better in the world's work of progress than those who, too high above the masses, cannot sympathize with them. It is the shameful libel of insolent pride and selfishness that has dared to say they would abuse their leisure. They are MEN, with the instincts of duty and charity in their hearts, just as capable of fruition as the best of their libellers; and the progress of intelligence, of public education, as well as of popular power, is fitting the workingmen of every country for every work of public usefulness; and one of the issues of that progress will inevitably be to lessen the hours of labor and increase the hours of useful leisure.

THE ASSESSMENT ACT.

On Thursday last, Mr. Crooks' bill to amend the Assessment Law was up for discussion. Mr. McCall stated he

was in favor, and he believed the general sentiment of the country was so also, of having no exemptions at all, and he moved in amendment. That the bill be referred back to a committee of the whole, with instructions to amend the third section of the bill by inserting words to the effect that shares in building and loan societies, chartered banks, &c., should be liable to assessment.

General discussion, pro and con, ensued, Messrs. Rykert, Robinson, Meredith, Wood, Sexton, Grange and Springer, speaking in favor of the amendment, generally on the ground that it was the middle and poorer classes who paid the bulk of taxation at the present time, and that if the proposed law was passed the exemptions would result in pressing the more heavily upon them, which would be palpably a gross injustice to that class. Messrs. Currie, Ardagh, Hardy, Crair, Boulbee, and Crosby spoke in favor of the exemption. On a division the amendment was lost.

Mr. Rykert then moved that the clause which exempted bank stock should be struck out; and the House divided with the following result:—Yeas, 14; Nays, 35.

THE BALLOT.

Mr. Clarke, the member for Centre Wellington, has introduced his bill in the Local House, providing for taking votes by ballot at municipal elections. The bill declares that hereafter the ballot shall be used at all elections for Mayor, Aldermen, Reeves, Deputy-Reeves, and Councillors; and that ballot papers shall be prepared by the clerks of the respective municipalities, with the names of the candidates and the offices for which they are nominated. These ballot papers, when prepared, are to be handed over to the returning officers of subdivisions—one for every voter on the list; and the returning officers are held responsible for properly accounting to the clerk for the whole of such ballot papers, with the poll book and list of voters, at the close of the election.

Each polling division is to be provided with two compartments, so constructed that each voter can mark his vote on the ballot paper furnished to him, screened from observation, and without interference or interruption.

When an elector presents himself to vote, the clerk examines the list of voters to ascertain whether he is entitled to vote; and if so, his name is then entered in the poll book. When the name has thus been entered, the returning officer is to mark the back of a ballot paper with his own initials, and with a running number, which shall represent the total number of ballot papers then issued, and which number shall also be placed opposite the name of the voter in the poll book; such marked ballot paper is then handed to the voter, who immediately proceeds to one of the compartments, and there marks the paper as he wishes to vote, which, when folded so as to conceal the names of the candidates, is returned to the returning officer, who deposits it in the ballot box in the presence of the voter and the candidates or their friends.

Provision is made for the returning officer marking the ballot paper of any voter who, by reason of blindness or inability, is incapable of doing so himself. There are proper precautionary clauses against the use of fraudulent ballot papers, and for the proper counting of the ballots at the close of the poll.

Every ballot paper containing a greater number of ballot marks than the voter is entitled to make, or which is so marked as to render it uncertain for which candidates the voter intended to vote, shall be rejected at the examination of the ballot papers. The Act also provides how long the ballot papers shall be preserved after an election, and how destroyed.

The provisions of the bill appear to be complete, and we have a belief that the proper working out of the ballot system of voting must necessarily have

a tendency to break down the corrupt practices that prevail under the open system; and we sincerely hope that the Dominion Parliament, at its next session, will pass a similar law affecting general elections.

TORONTO EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY.

We have had laid before us the sixth annual report of the above-named infirmary, and from a perusal of its pages, we learn of the vast amount of good that is being accomplished in connection with that institution. Since the last report, 544 cases have been under treatment. Of this large number, it is gratifying to find that 167 are recorded as absolutely cured; 381 improved or relieved, while of the balance (with the exception of 30 still remaining under treatment), the results of treatment are imperfect, from the fact that they have ceased attendance without being properly discharged. While we are thus made acquainted with the amount of good resulting from the infirmary to the patients themselves, in looking beyond such persons who have been immediately the subjects of successful treatment, we can realize the greater boon that has been conferred, when it is considered that very many of those so treated are the heads of families having others dependent on them, but who, by reason of their affliction had themselves become dependent,—and thus a more adequate estimate may be formed of the wider range of benefit the charity confers. The institution is partly sustained by a grant from the Ontario Legislature and the Toronto Corporation, and partly by subscriptions and donations.

K. O. S. C. SOCIAL.

The members of the K. O. S. C. Quadrille Class intend holding their third annual social in the St. Lawrence Hall, on the evening of the 17th of March. Every arrangement is being made for a pleasant and social gathering.

UNION OF MUSICIANS.

We are pleased to learn that the musicians of this city are forming in the line of organization,—having on Friday of last week formed an association which, we doubt not, will soon become vigorous and widespread. We had the pleasure of being present at the inaugural meeting, and feel satisfied that there was then present the nucleus of a staunch union.

OBITUARY.

We have this week to record the death of a veteran Trades Unionist, in the person of Richard Canavan, who died at Ottawa, on Saturday, the 21st inst. Deceased was a native of Cheshire, England. He was born in 1811, served an apprenticeship as a stone-mason, and worked as a journeyman in the city of Liverpool. In 1833 he was the twelfth man to put his name on the roll of the first Mason's Society in England, organized in Liverpool. He came to this country in 1860, and wherever he was, he was found to be staunch and loyal as a Trades Unionist.

He became connected with the Free Stone Cutter's Association of Ottawa some 4 years ago, and having attained the age of sixty years he was superannuated, being the only stone-cutter who lived long enough to entitle him to that benefit, in this city. He was a man that commanded the respect and esteem of his fellow workmen wherever he worked, and the society to which he belonged, as well as other trades in that city, turned out in good numbers to pay the last mark of respect to the departed. He leaves a wife to mourn his loss.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

Pleased and delighted audiences nightly visit this popular place of amusement. The "Minstrel Scene" is always good. Mr. John H. Clarke appears nightly in new sketches and songs. The character songs of Mr. Rob. V. Ferguson are new, and ir-