

## NOTICE.

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

## TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

(INVARIABLELY IN ADVANCE.)

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## ADVERTISEMENTS.

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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.  
Crispans, (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, &amp;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  
Lime-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. LANCEFIELD BROTHERS, Newsdealers, No. 6 Market square, Hamilton, are agents for the WORKMAN in that vicinity.

Mr. D. W. TERNETT, Niagara Street, St. Catharines, will receive subscriptions and give receipts for the WORKMAN. Parties calling on Mr. Tennett 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.

## TRADES' ASSEMBLY.

We have been requested to remind the delegates to the Trades' Assembly of the meeting on Friday (to-morrow) evening. A full attendance is requested, as questions of interest will be discussed.

A plebiscite is proposed in Spain to settle the vexed question of the form of Government.

## The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, FEB. 19, 1874.

## TRADES' UNIONISTS AND POLITICS.

Not unfrequently the question is asked, should Trades' Unionists be political? The question has as frequently been dismissed by a mere affirmative or negative answer, as the individual opinion may suggest. But though these answers may have satisfied those who gave them, yet, it is evident, from the question cropping up again and again, that such answers do not meet the wants of the case, and therefore a discussion of the subject may be of service. We are aware that in all well-regulated organizations of workingmen, the constitution prohibits the introduction or discussion of party political questions—and very rightly so. It is said that the reforms sought to be accomplished through the instrumentality of trade unions and similar organizations should be considered as more properly belonging to social ethics; and though this may be true to a very great extent, yet it is undoubtedly equally as true that these "social reforms" may be advanced and accelerated by judicious political action; and therefore, while it is well that the discussion of mere party politics should be "tabooed" at union meetings, we cannot see that this prohibition should extend to the examination and discussion of such laws as may be considered contraventions of the rights of workingmen, or that may in any way affect their interests; nor should such prohibition be allowed to interfere with the discussion or adoption of any course of action which would tend to increase their political power. It must be patent to all that there is not anything more apparent in connection with the political life of any country than the fact that a class or an interest is prosperous in proportion to its possession of such power. That those who possess this power are fully aware of this fact, is made evident not only by the determination with which they resist every attempt to diminish such power, but also to prevent the growth of any new power in Parliament from which they apprehend antagonism of any kind.

As an illustration of this we have only to take a retrospective glance at English politics, and we see that, for the reason advanced, every atom of political power obtained by the operatives has had to be purchased at the expense of prolonged and severe struggles; and we would ask, whether this power, when obtained and used, has not paid the people back with magnificent interest,—not, perhaps, so much as yet in material gain, as in the additional growth of power it secures, and in the glowing promise of the future good it will bring, when popular intelligence has had time to grow with it? The gradual growth of this power has culminated in the return, in two or three instances, of representative workingmen to the English House of Commons; but it will not stop there—it will go on expanding and increasing in strength, until, not two or three, but scores of such representatives will be found on the floor of Parliament, and it is not difficult to perceive that such unjust enactments as the Criminal Law Amendment Act, the present Master and Servants Act, and other laws of a similar character, will not be suffered much longer to disgrace the statutes of that country.

Would the same results have followed had the trade unions of England contented themselves with mere discussion, and waited till the growing intelligence of the country, perceiving the unfairness of the operations of those laws, had championed the oppressed, and redressed the grievances under which they suffered? We think none can answer in the affirmative. Active and strenuous efforts were necessary; and the putting forth of such efforts have placed the unionists of England in a position to work out for themselves such reforms as, did they depend upon the exertions

of others, they might have had to wait for till the millenium had dawned upon them.

These considerations plainly point to the conclusion that, leaving out mere party political differences, there are political questions which come not only within the province of trade societies to discuss, but which it is their duty to do, in order to advance the interests of labor reform. We may be told that the instances we have referred to, and the condition of affairs in this country afford no parallel. Happily at the present seat, they do not, probably, to any very great extent; but we do not think we are far wrong when we say, it will depend very much upon the action of workingmen themselves, as to whether they shall or shall not do so in the distant future. As it is, many questions will arise as the just claims of labor are forced into recognition. With such questions trade societies will have to deal,—and in doing so, they must, to a certain extent, be political.

## THE ASSESSMENT BILL.

The bill introduced by the Hon. Mr. Crooks before the Local Legislature, entitled "An Act to amend the Assessment Law," we consider a most palpable piece of "class legislation." One of the sections of the proposed Act, and the one to which exception is taken, exempts "the shares held by any person in the capital stock of any incorporated or chartered bank doing business in this Province from assessment for municipal or other local rates or taxes, but any interest, dividend or increase derived from any such shares held by any person resident in this Province, shall be deemed to come within and to be liable to assessment under the thirty-fifth section of the Assessment Act of 1869."

The injustice of this exemption is apparent at the first glance. For instance, a workingman may desire to purchase a lot upon which to build a house. The investment altogether might involve a responsibility of say fifteen hundred dollars,—a sum, which it would require the savings of half a life time of the "toiler" to accumulate. The property has to be mortgaged say to a building society, while this mortgage remains, the freeholder is not actually the owner, nevertheless he has to pay the full amount of taxes, in proportion to the assessed value because he is the ostensible owner. But an individual who may have stock in the building society, to any extent, is exempt from any proportion of taxation, except upon the dividends declared,—and as a necessary consequence, the taxation is all the greater upon the freeholder.

Again, a man may invest a certain amount of capital in any business, and whether that investment is a financial success or otherwise, he has to pay taxes upon the full amount of capital as invested; but an individual who may invest in bank stock, according to Mr. Crook's amendment, can only be liable to be assessed on the annual dividends that may be declared by such bank. As has been well said, the tendency of the proposed bill is to make bank stock "a sort of preserve for capitalists and wealthy persons who may prefer speculating in money, instead of owning or speculating in real estate." In the best interests of the community, generally, it is to be hoped that Mr. Crook's "amendment" will speedily receive its quietus.

## THE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION.

The most absorbing topic with the city papers appears to be the discussion in connection with the charges that have been brought against the Chief Superintendent of Education, Rev. Dr. Ryerson. "Semi-occasionally" these charges have been preferred; but in all previous contests the Doctor has vanquished his assailants, and vindicated himself. In reply to the present charges advanced by Mr. G. M. Adam, publisher of the *Canadian Monthly*, the letters from Dr. Ryerson, published in

the daily journals, give evidence that he is no less vigorous in the use of the pen than in former years, and in conclusion the Rev. Dr. requests "the appointment and exhaustive investigation of a committee of the Legislature, or of a commission," before which he is prepared to prove the futility of the charges preferred against him.

## THE VICTORIA RAILWAY.

The Victoria Railway Company have petitioned the Legislature for a subsidy in part cash and part land, and have very forcibly pointed their petition with facts relative to the importance and advantage of the proposed line of railway. One clause of that petition we desire to draw particular attention to, as follows:—

"To secure the rapid construction of the proposed Railway, your petitioners are willing to co-operate with the Government of the Province in assisting from 2,000 to 3,000 emigrants or others to go to work upon the line of Railway and make settlements upon the land in its vicinity during and after its construction. The Company will be willing to pay four dollars per head in aid of such emigrants as may be specially selected for this work by the Government Agents in Great Britain, Denmark, Sweden or Norway, emigrants from the latter countries having been found by experience to be exceedingly industrious and easily located. The Company propose to pay to the laborers upon their line of Railway a fixed scale of cash wages, and also to those who may desire to obtain land upon the line of Railway, a certain amount of cash per diem and the balance in land, so that in the event of the laborer working for a certain length of time upon the Railway he would have earned for himself a free deed to a given amount of land. The land being converted into payment for labor and the laborer into a freeholder, a producer of food for himself, traffic for the Railways and ships, and revenue to the Government."

The plan of building a 4 foot 8 1/2 inch gauge railway from a point above Uxbridge on the Nipissing via Lindsay and Fenelon Falls, right through the new country to the Upper Ottawa is fraught with immense consequences, not only to this city, but to the whole of the western peninsula, as well as to the country along the line of the proposed railway. The idea of building the railway right through the bush and settling the country by means of the railway, and also the plan of making the territory through which the railway is to pass bear a large proportion of the cost of construction command at once the approval of practical minds.

Many a mechanic and workman would gladly take a hundred acres of bush land beside a railway, if it could be paid for as proposed, by work on the railway.

No better plan has ever been proposed to secure the attention of mechanics to the actual business of acquiring homesteads in the country.

We invite the attention of our readers to this important subject, and shall be glad to have practical suggestions in reference to the petition now before Parliament.

We know that mechanics will not go to the remote settlements in the free grants, while to settle on the line of a railway and earn 100 acres of land by working for it in building the railway will induce thousands of workmen to acquire homesteads.

We shall return to this subject in future issues of the WORKMAN.

## ANNUAL CONVENTION K. O. S. C.

The fifth annual convention of the K. O. S. C. of this Province was opened, according to appointment, at two o'clock p.m. on Wednesday, the 11th inst., in the Trades' Assembly Hall, in this city, the following G. L. officers being present:—Wm. Silver, G.S.K.; Samuel Atkins, G.K.; Wm. Magness, G. S. and Treas.; John Calvert, John A. Brandon, Charles B. King, G. Trustees. The delegates present were, J. Johnson, David Strachan, Wm. Brown, No. 159, Toronto; J. Brandon, No. 202, Guelph; Michael May, Wm. Corner, No. 212, Hamilton; Sidney Mills, No. 234, Stratford; Jas. Harris, Jas. Clark, No. 242, London; Thos. Lane, No. 315, Toronto; Joseph Ryan, No. 326, Chatham; P. J. McGuire, No. 340, St. Catharines; Hamilton Sutton, No. 353, Barrie; H. Meredith, No. 366, Toronto; ——— No. 371, Galt; G.

McFedries, No. 372, Orillia; J. G. Irwin, Peterboro'; Wm. Singer, Brantford, with several other delegates and visitors from a distance.

The reports of the Executive Committee of the business done since the last annual convention gave entire satisfaction, and their action in sending a delegate to the Canadian Labor Union was endorsed.

There were only two grievances brought to the notice of the Executive Committee during the year—one in Orillia, where an employer, finding he could not regulate wages to suit his own ideas, caused the arrest of some members of the Order for combination and intimidation; but the case, on being brought to Court, was decided against him. The other in Guelph, where an employer sought to introduce unskilled labor into his shop against the recognized rules of the Order, and although his hands tried to settle the difficulty he persistently refused settlement, until brought to it after a strike of two weeks duration.

As the Sessions are conducted in secret, most of the business done is not allowed to be made public.

The title of the Ontario G. L. has been changed to the Canadian G. L., to allow sub-Lodges outside of this Province to come under its jurisdiction. All subordinate Lodges of the Canadian G. L., will receive their Charters and Numbers from the Canadian G. L., in place of the I. G. L., as before, and those already in existence will receive numbers according to seniority. They have also changed the time of annual meeting to the third Wednesday in July, as being more suitable. The financial affairs of the C. G. L. are in a satisfactory condition.

During the convention, the G. L. visited this office *en masse*, and on invitation the establishments of Sessions, Cooper & Smith, and Walker, Evans & Co., where they were shown the greatest courtesy by the proprietors, with whom, we hope, they will always remain on the same friendly terms. The following officers were duly elected for the current term:—Charles B. King, G. S. K.; David Strachan, G. K.; Wm. Magness, (re-elected) G. S.; Wm. Silver, G. Treas.; John Calvert, Gilbert McFedries and John A. Brandon, G. Trustees. After a session of three days, the C. G. L. was closed. The next regular meeting will be held in this city on the third Wednesday in July, 1875.

We also received a copy of the following resolution from the G. Scribo. Moved by Bro. Silver, past G. S. K., seconded by Bro. Magness, G. S., and

*Resolved*.—That the thanks of the Canadian Grand Lodge of the K. O. S. C. be tendered to the proprietors of the ONTARIO WORKMAN, for their able advocacy of the principles of Labor Reform, and the firm stand they have taken on the side of Labor. We would again take this opportunity of recording our entire confidence in the ONTARIO WORKMAN, and would recommend the journal to the most earnest support of our sub-Lodges. We would also thank them for their kindness and liberality in presenting copies of their paper to each member of this Grand Lodge.

*Resolved*.—That a copy of the foregoing resolution be sent to the WORKMAN Office for publication.

## PAINTERS' MEETING.

The Painters of this city intend holding a mass meeting in the Trades' Assembly Hall, on Monday evening, March 2nd, to take into consideration "matters and things" affecting their interests. A general attendance of painters is earnestly called for, and we doubt not there will be a general response.

The Licensed Victuallers of this city have formed an association, and are rapidly progressing with the work of thorough organization.

A special meeting of the St. Catharines, St. Patrick's Temperance Society took place on Thursday night, and twenty-four new members joined. The idea of building a new hall was discussed, and two propositions were made to secure a room over the school in contemplation of erection, 40 feet by 80 feet. The other proposition was to form a joint stock company to build a hall in a central location. The latter proposal was not adopted, but it has many warm advocates.