

comprehension; that capital was beyond their reach and influence, and that their schemes were Utopian and impracticable. And yet superficial as these objections are, how comparatively few among those most deeply interested, have been able to reply to, or refute them. Now if this has been the case in the past, when the labor movement was in its infancy, how much greater difficulty, how much more imperative the necessity to prepare themselves for the time, when the talent which God gave, but which the devil has utilized, will be turned against them. They must not ignore the fact that they will be placed at a serious disadvantage. In fact, the staple argument used to their disadvantage has been:—"If these men know what they want; if they do their own thinking, why do they endorse, by their acquiescence in, the very measures which they affect to condemn? Why don't they refute our arguments; why do they allow half a dozen men to act and think for them? Their conduct proves one of two things: either that they don't feel an interest in the proposed reforms, or that they are too ignorant to understand them." While we admit the style of reasoning does not possess even the charm of novelty, its specious plausibility has, in a great measure, moulded and prejudiced public sentiment, and placed their friends at a serious disadvantage.

These are truths they must ponder over and profit by. They must read—read carefully—think—think carefully—and think for themselves.—*Workingman's Advocate.*

CHINESE LABOR.

We have frequently in our columns copied the remarks of the American Labor Press on the subject of coolie labor and its detrimental influence upon the labor cause especially on the Pacific slope; but we little imagined that the question would so soon likely to become a "bone of contention" with the operatives of this Dominion. But it would appear from the remarks of the Hon. Edward Blake, at a meeting held in Stratford, recently, that, in one respect, it will come nearer home than California or even Massachusetts. The report of the meeting referred to, state that Mr. Blake, in alluding to the Pacific Railway, declared it to be the intention of Mr. MacKenzie "to build it in pieces, and the western section by Chinese labor." Our readers are pretty well informed as to what has been the result of the introduction of "pig tail" where the experiment has been tried; so we do not consider it necessary to say much upon the subject at present. It is possible, that between this time and the day of election more light may be thrown upon the subject; but should there not be, then the duty of every workingman is too apparent to render it necessary for us to say what his course of action should be. We subjoin however the following extract from the *Mail*, every word of which we are sure will be heartily endorsed by the workmen of Canada:—

It was one of the great arguments in favor of the early construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway that, as it progressed westward the navies whom the certainty of work and good pay would induce to come to Canada from England and other parts of the Old World would settle along the route of the railway, take up lands and hasten their development, and, as a consequence, add to the wealth and population of the Dominion. This has been the experience all along of the Central and Union Pacific Railways, and the several lines in Kansas and the surrounding States and Territories which have grown so amazingly within the past three years. The Dominion Government, which ought to be the encourager of emigration, tell not the Canadian public alone, but the people of all Europe, whence we draw our labor supply, that the door is to be closed against them, that they will build the railway after their own fashion with Chinese labor. The experience of "Chinese cheap labor" in California and Massachusetts has not been of a kind which should induce its use in Canada, particularly when among our own laborers and artisans there is a growing scarcity of employment. It is a poor comfort to the old countrymen now in our midst, who find it difficult to get enough to do to keep bread in their mouths and coats upon their backs, that they are to be thrust aside in the construction of the Pacific railway, such as it is going to be, that the heathen subjects of his Majesty of Japan may find employment upon it. We repeat that if this scheme is carried out, not only will great injustice be done to the white population of the country, but a check of the most serious kind will be given to the colonization of our great prairie country. The railway will not serve half its purpose if settlement do not go hand in hand with its extension. We want to see farms out of the vast fertile wastes of the Northwest, to see villages and towns spring up after the fashion of those which obtain such rapid growth during the building of the Pacific Railway in the Western and South-western States. For such results we need not look unless the road is constructed by white labor. The Government's determination to import Chinese labor is an insult to the workmen of Canada,

and a direct slap in the face to every intending European emigrant.

SHORT SERMONS.

NO. VII.

BY A LAY PREACHER.

My Father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke.—1st Kings, xiii, 11.

MY FRIENDS,—We find in this sentence the avowal of a plan which is often to be found in practice, in our day, and which—wicked, cruel in its earliest workings—has not grown beneficent in the least degree with age.

King Solomon, in exercise of the Divine gift of extraordinary wisdom, had built up the Jewish nation till it towered high above all powers of the earth, and the kingdom which had once exacted an oppressive "tale of brick" from the Israelite slave, was now glad to have a treaty of amity with the Israelite princess. But in an evil day he forsook the blessed policy which had made the City of Peace first among the chief places of the world, when "all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom which God had put into his heart." He had thrown open his court to the greatest extravagance, and rich revenue from manufacture and commerce melted away as fast as gathered; the just judgment which had been once administered and which always—by the very fact of its justice—favors the producer as much as the consumer, had given way to corrupt counsel and harsh enforcement. And, with the kingdom in this condition, "Solomon slept with his fathers, and his son Rehoboam reigned in his stead."

After Solomon's death—Jeroboam came back to Bethel. He had once been a captain of great valor in the Jewish armies, also was ruler in Bethel—belonging to the house of Joseph—and was from his youth a very industrious man. He had been exiled for "political reasons," we would say now, perhaps; really, because during Solomon's reign, prophecy said he should become king. On his return he states the case, the condition of the country, to Rehoboam; for to do this had the people recalled him from Egypt—knowing his clear judgment and unflinching bravery. He delivers his message, and asks whether the people may look for relief at the hands of the new Administration.

Rehoboam's answer is unmistakable. "My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke." The tribe of Joseph at once set up a standard of separation, to which nine tribes came promptly, and "the glory is departed from Israel."

My Friends—All this happens over and over again in our time; all but right action on receipt of the answer. We find sometimes Conservative, sometimes Liberal, Tory, Whig, Radical, or—well "their name is Legion"—rulers inviting us to their installation in office, and as we call upon them for relief from various disagreeable or heavy burdens, or the consideration of demands which, as our ministers, they are in duty bound to render, they carefully say with Rehoboam: "Depart yet for three days," and then with him again, "We will add to your yoke." Now, clearly, it is economy, it is wisdom, to call to our ruling, "industrious young men," and men who will not fear to raise up a standard against oppression in the collection of tribute or corruption in its expenditure—men wise and good in all the work of the law. So may it be.

TAILORS' OPERATIVE UNION.

At the last regular meeting of the above union, the following officers were elected for the ensuing term:—President, A. F. Jury; Vice-President, J. H. G. Widendor; Secretary, W. Mair; Treas., J. Bonidier; Committee, J. Ridout, C. Simons, J. Kelly, —Whitman, and —Riley. Trustees, J. Bonidier, P. McCarthy, and —Parks Delegates to Trades' Assembly, A. F. Jury, J. Kelly, and —Gregory.

STONECUTTERS' STRIKE.

By reference to our advertising columns, it will be seen that all stonecutters are requested to give Toronto a wide berth for the present, as there is a strike in the trade.

Two miles of the tunnel of the Great Western Railway, between Merchyr and Aberdare, caved in on the 8th inst.

No actual distress is yet reported at Calcutta, from the districts threatened with famine; and the rainfall has in parts been beneficial to the winter crops.

At a secret meeting of the Chicago Workingman's Association on Jan. 16, it was resolved to sever all connection with the internationalists, and that hereafter the two organizations shall have nothing in common.

Correspondence.

THE WORKINGMAN'S REPRESENTATIVE.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—It is a significant fact amongst the most zealous supporters of O'Donohue, J. J. Withrow stands prominent. Withrow is a Protestant and a carpenter; O'Donohue is a Roman Catholic and a lawyer. I have nothing to say against the creed of the candidate; but as a lawyer he can have no feeling in common with working men, and we have to remember that when the carpenters of this city agitated for nine hours, J. J. Withrow was the first and most prominent to resist their demands. No doubt, like most successful men who rise from the ranks, he is very anxious to throw off all connection with the class from which he has sprung, and to claim fellowship with a class which he considers more respectable. Let him use them, and they no doubt will use him. But let every working man be true to his own class and support the man who has not combined to injure that class. The working men who vote for O'Donohue are friends of Withrow. If O'Donohue gets into Parliament he will represent the Withrow class—employers and capitalists who will legislate to perpetuate capitalist and tyranny, and resist every demand of working men made on behalf of their order; and therefore every vote given for O'Donohue will be a vote against the interests of working men. Emerson Cattsworth has never combined against the rights of working men, and as School Trustee, Alderman, and City Commissioner he has displayed integrity, high principle, devotedness to duty, and independence, both of party spirit and selfish motive. Let working men then be faithful to their interests. If they vote for Cattsworth, they vote for a man of their own order, and who has neither dishonored that order nor is ashamed of it. If they vote for O'Donohue, they vote for Withrow and the selfish interests of greedy capitalists and unprincipled employers.

Yours, &c.,

CARPENTER.

Toronto, Jan. 20, 1874.

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S REPORT FOR 1873.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—So recently as 1869, the Provincial Legislature recognised the importance of registering the births, marriages and deaths which annually occur in the Province. They passed an Act in that year by which they constituted each county, and each city or town withdrawn from the jurisdiction of such county, registration districts. The Clerks of the Peace were at the same time appointed Registrars. These districts were sub-divided into townships, incorporated villages, towns, and wards of cities. The Clerks of these municipalities were to act as Divisional Registrars, and when a "competent person" could be discovered, he was to be appointed. "Ministers or other persons authorized by law to celebrate marriages," are henceforth required to report them, and medical practitioners are bound to report births and deaths. Justices of the Peace are empowered to visit neglect of this law with fine and imprisonment, and yet notwithstanding all this machinery, and much more, it requires but a cursory glance at the present report to perceive that it is sadly inefficient in its workings.

The key to this inefficiency will probably be found in the concluding section of an amendment to the preceding Act, passed in the following session, which relates to the remuneration of the Registrars. If the people themselves are too penurious to carry out the law of registration, their representatives will be but playing at statistics when dealing, at all times, with incorrect figures—calculations based upon them will be at once costly and fallacious. The opening figures of the present report preclude the possibility of attaching importance to it. "611 registrations" of all kinds for forty townships, in excess of those of the previous year! The births of 1872 are reported to be 23,367 against 24,830 for 1871, thus showing a decrease of 1,463—had war, pestilence, and famine overrun the land during the period referred to, one might possibly have given credence to the figures, but inasmuch as we enjoyed a happy immunity from such scourges at the time, the figures merely represent a waste of labor and expenditure. The assumed total of marriages is probably more trustworthy, as they would be reported by a different class of men; the number is stated to have been 10,450, being 511 more than in the previous year. That the "happy couples" should be registered as "of the same religious denomination" or otherwise, one would suppose to be a matter of supreme unimportance to the present as to future generations. With regard to

the deaths, the figures, 982, are supposed to represent the number which occurred in the county of York, while the Toronto cemeteries record the interment of 1,840 persons. To whatever extent these cemeteries may be used by the districts adjoining, that consideration is confessed to be wholly inadequate to account for so great a discrepancy.

When a lady is stated to have died at the mature age of 123, moreover, it is a statement decidedly suggestive of dotage on the part of somebody concerned. Apart from the question of wholesale omission, or mis-statement, however, there still remains matter for the gravest reflection, in relation to the fearful mortality among children—nearly 29 per cent. of the recorded deaths during the year are those of children under three years of age. Such a fact would appear to suggest gross ignorance or neglect on the part of mothers, nurses, or doctors. The diseases of children are attracting much attention in England through the establishment of hospitals for their reception, and such a state of things as that just disclosed, would appear to render the erection of a children's hospital in Toronto highly desirable.

One regards "classified causes of death" with misgiving if one happens to have any apprehension of medical ignorance, and reflects on the inducements they have, who sign the certificate of dissolution, to spare the feelings of weeping relatives. Were human physiology to be generally and judiciously taught in schools, much would be done to diminish the bills of mortality. The Registrar General's comments on the performances of his subordinates exhibit such a charming state of unsophistication that one must needs extract one or two of them for the benefit of the public. "This table would be of incalculable benefit to the public were the registrations at all approximate to the estimated number." And again "the value that correct registrations would be to the public is manifest from the number of applications made to this Department during the last twelve months for certificates of the particulars of births, marriages and deaths."

It is due to the Officials of the Registration Department to state that they have made efforts of various kinds to stir up the sluggish provincials and those nearer home, to the discharge of their duty in the matter of registration. The simple plan (proposed by the late minister of Agriculture at Ottawa) of having the registration of the Dominion conducted from a central office appears to afford the only prospect of this national work being effectually accomplished. That a document issued in Her Majesty's name, and bearing the Royal Arms, should exhibit many mutilated specimens of the Queen's English is lamentable enough. All of which (as the phrase goes) is respectfully submitted."

OBSERVER.

Toronto, Jan. 20, 1874.

THE QUEEN'S LABORERS AT OSBORNE.

The National Laborers' Union have just held a meeting at Newport, Isle of Wight, at which Mr. W. Herbert, who was announced as late a worker on her Majesty's estate at Osborne, seconded a petition to the House of Commons for the assimilation of the borough and county franchise. In doing this, he said he had worked on her Majesty's estate seven-and-twenty years, and was discharged, with six others, by the steward, Mr. MacPherson, for asking for an increase of wages. The chairman, Mr. George Mitchell, put several questions to Mr. Herbert, of which the following, with their answers, are specimens:—"It has been reported that the Queen's laborers at Osborne have half an acre of land each. Is that so?—A. It is no such thing. There's not a quarter of an acre to some cottages. Others have not more than 12 or 14 rods, heavy bad soil, which we have improved and made what it is by working early and late. What were your wages?—14s. a week, but 2s. a week was deducted for house rent, so that we had only 12s. a week to keep wife and family. Had you any extras?—We had 3d. an hour for working overtime at harvest and haying, but that didn't come altogether to more than 10s. or 12s. for the whole time. Had you any perquisites—clothes, or a pair of boots occasionally?—Oh, no; nothing of the kind. If you were taken ill, what became of you?—We might have an allowance for a week or two, but then it was dropped. When you asked for this rise, how were you treated?—The steward gave seven of us a week's notice to leave, and to give up our cottages in five weeks. Were the cottages wanted for others?—I don't know about that; I know the one I was turned out of is empty now. What became of your poor old father?—Oh, he had to be turned out too, and was driven into the town, though he is over eighty years old,

and had worked something like thirty years on the estate. And all because we asked for 2s. a week more wages! We wish to state the case fairly. I believe your father has an allowance from the Queen. Yes; but after we asked for the rise, the pherson said my father had no right to pension, and he tried to get it stopped; but Sir Thomas Biddulph wouldn't listen to it. I don't believe the matter has been laid properly before the Queen, and laborers on the estate have nothing to do against her. It's the steward who has done it. He was offended because we went straight to our mistress instead of going to him. That's the secret."

The late Marquis d'Oudire left 20,000 francs to the Academy of Medicine, Paris, to be awarded to the discoverer of a simple and easy process by which any illiterate person might satisfy himself that death had really taken place, and a prize of 5,000 francs to be given to an inventor of a scientific method for obtaining the required certainty. T & 5,000 franc prize was divided among four competitors, but the 20,000 one was not awarded.

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NOTICE.

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As they are at present on strike here.

R. A. REEVE, B. A., M. D.,
OCULIST AND AURIST,
22 Shuter Street, Corner of Victoria,
TORONTO.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Confederation Life Association will apply to the Parliament of Canada, at its next session, for an Act to amend the Act incorporating the Association, by changing the time of holding the Annual Meeting and other amendments.
W. P. HOWLAND, President.
Toronto, Jan. 20th, 1874.

TO THE ELECTORS
OF THE
ELECTORAL DIVISION
WEST YORK

GENTLEMEN,—
The Government, as an act of purification, has wisely, as I believe, dissolved the late Parliament, and caused writs to be issued for a new election. I therefore again appeal to you for your support, so generously extended to me at the last general election.
As my political views are well known to you all, and I will have an opportunity of discussing the questions of the day in the event of a contest, I do not deem it necessary to address you at greater length on the present occasion.
I have the honor to be your obedient servant,
D. BLAIN.

J. SAUNDERS, PRACTICAL TAILOR,
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New Patent Clasp, the Best and Cheapest ever offered in the City,
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