

# Ontario Workman.

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

VOL. I.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 1872.

NO. 20

## Labor Notes.

Three hundred tailors are out on strike at Bolton.

Two Liverpool quay porters were on Tuesday sentenced to a month's imprisonment for intimidation.

An increase of pay to the London city police, amounting to upwards of £5,000 a year, has been agreed upon by the Common Council.

The agitation among the laborers in the various iron-works of Birkenhead has resulted in the principal firms giving an increase ranging from 1s to 3s a week to the laborers in their employ.

The butchers of Huddersfield and district held a meeting on Tuesday afternoon, and resolved, in consequence of the high price of meat and the public dissatisfaction, to close their shops for a fortnight, beginning next Saturday. There was but one dissident.

The subject of Chinese labor still engages the attention of the Southern planters in the United States. It appears that a company has been formed with a capital of \$200,000, for the purpose of carrying out this project. The immigrants are to be engaged at wages of \$8 per month and found.

The operative ironfounders and moulders of Rotherham have resolved to join the Ironfounders' Association, with a view to obtaining an advance of 10 per cent. on their wages. A notification has been given to several firms that if the advance is not conceded they will strike and be supported by other workmen.

**THE LONDON BAKERS.**—The strike threatened by a section of the West-End bakers of London for twelve hours' work, from four to four, and other advantages, will not take place, as the masters have acceded to the demand. Thus encouraged, other districts of London will be attacked in like manner in detail.

It is said that the shipyards of the coast of Maine are reviving. The *Kennebec Journal* declares that at no time in the last ten years has there been so much energy displayed in building wooden vessels as this season, and there is hope that an old and important branch of business for the Pine-tree State is to have a resurrection.

The State Labor Executive Committee of California are about to follow the example of Pennsylvania and other States by calling for a convention of delegates from every labor organization, for the purpose of nominating Congressmen who are willing to stand by the principles of the labor platform of Columbus.

At a large meeting of workingmen held in Pittsburg last night, measures were adopted to prevent the introduction of Chinese coolie labor into the manufactories of that city. The workingmen agree to support no candidate for office who is not in sympathy with their movement.

Mr. Joseph Arch, from Warwickshire, has been for some time in Dorset, and during the last few days he has spoken at Blandford, Whitechurch, and other towns. At the latter place he thus concluded a speech—"Never while Joseph Archer lives will he hold his peace while the people are slaves. The farmers said they would get Irishmen to do their work, but they have not arrived as yet. If they get Irishmen they had better do it at once, as I intend to cross the Channel next spring and spread Unionism in Ireland."

The sitting of the British section of the International Working Men's Congress was concluded at Nottingham on Monday. Citizen Clarke, Liverpool, presided. It was avowed that there was no disunion in the Society. Resolutions bearing upon the political action of the International were adopted, declaring for political equality based on adult suffrage, with proportional representation; the legibility of any person to fill any office in the State; the abolition of all hereditary privileges; the nationalization of the land; the perfect establish-

ment of religious equality. Respecting the labor question the meeting would institute co-operation pure and simple.

At the meeting of the Workingmen's Union of New York city, last evening, E. Herbert Graeme, of the Stair-builders, offered a resolution to the effect that this Union take into consideration the political issues of the day, for the purpose of elevating to legislative and municipal office representative workingmen who will advocate their interests at all hazards; that they have heretofore been sufficiently duped by politicians who were supposed to be working in their interests, and that for this purpose a meeting be held at the Germania Assembly Rooms, on Friday evening next, the 23rd instant; that all men of whatever political sentiments are requested to be present on that occasion, providing they advocate the interests of the workingmen. The resolution was subsequently carried with but one dissenting voice.

## AMERICAN.

A Kentucky schoolmaster was chased out of his district the other day for marrying one of his pupils who was only twelve years old.

A man worth a quarter of a million of dollars, and employing 150 workmen, was fined fifty dollars in Chicago the other day for stealing a case of "bitters" from a store while he was drunk.

Opium eating is becoming frightfully common in New York. It is reckoned that at least five thousand of the inhabitants of that city are hopelessly given over to the habit.

A man in Pennsylvania while milking recently, tied the cow's tail to a small boy to prevent "switching." The cow got frightened and ran away. The boy followed of course, but was dead when taken up.

A bald eagle at Wabash, Ind., had captured about sixty pigs in four weeks, when he was finally ushered out of the pork business by burying his talons in too big a lift for him and being held until taken prisoner.

A parallel to the apple-shooting case of the celebrated William Tell was witnessed a few days ago in Newport, Ky., one young man shooting with a pistol, at a distance of fifteen feet, a circular card, two or three inches in diameter, from the head of another young man. It was the result of a bet.

A beer-drinking Briton has been telling in Parliament about how he found the prohibitory liquor law working in Portland. He was told that they sold no alcoholic beverage except "sacramental wine," but of that sacred fluid they had fourteen varieties, one of which was "the very best of corn whisky."

The City Marshal of Lincoln recently killed sixteen dogs, and had them buried in one common grave. A German woman heard of the burial, and about the same time missed her dog. With a beautiful devotion so characteristic of the sex, she took a spade and dug up the whole sixteen of them, carefully turned over each terrier, mastiff and cur, but was immensely relieved by not finding her own pet.

Every person arrested, convicted, and sent to a Penitentiary, in the United States, costs on an average, \$1,200. Add to the sum of such expenses, the amount of capital taken from directly productive employment and consumed in building prisons and feeding and guarding the prisoners, and we begin to have an idea of the real cost of crime. Every boy educated at the expense of the State costs about \$400. The preventive is not only a thousand times better than the cure, but it is, in the end, a thousand times cheaper.

**GEN. TOM TRUMB A CRACK SHOT.**—Gen. Tom Thumb, by invitation of Capt. L. Dinger, recently went on a trip to Thimble Islands, and while there astonished the captain, as to "what he knew about target shooting." The Gen. took with him his breech-loading rifle, presented to him some years ago by Isaac Brown, of Cincinnati,

the weight of which is 4 lbs. 7 oz.; length, 3 ft. 7½ in.; length of barrel, 1 ft. 9 in. The General at a distance of eight hundred yards fired at a target on a buoy, hitting it every time. We would suggest that Gus. Traeger challenge him.

A singular accident befell Capt. Grant of Wyoming, a few days since. Stepping into his garden he saw some chickens picking at a rare plant, and catching up a stick he made for them. While at full speed he encountered a clothes line, which hit him in the mouth. His momentum carried the line back to its fullest tension, and the rebound threw him eight or ten feet. As the line left his mouth it took out three teeth and all that part of the jaw bone in which they were imbedded, so that they now remain solid together in the part as it came out.

Workmen are laying a pavement on the walks of Union Park, New York, which has never before been used in America. It is formed of rock simply ground to powder and heated to a temperature not less than 300°. While hot, this powder is spread evenly with a rake over a bed of cement and is then compressed by rollers into a pavement, with neither joints nor seams, and impervious to water. Its surface is perfectly smooth, and there is no dust, mud, or exhalations. It can be easily swept, is not more slippery than granite, and is not acted upon by the heat. The rock of which it is made is imported from Val de Travers, Neuchatel, Switzerland.

## END OF THE STRIKE.

The differences between some of our shoe manufacturers and the Crispins, which kept this city in a state of agitation for three or four weeks, came to a sudden termination on Saturday night last, the Crispins, in mass meeting assembled, voting to repeal the bill of prices. This action virtually removed all restrictions upon contracts between the manufacturers and the shoemakers, and the Crispin organization now stands in the same relation that it did previous to the establishment of the bill of prices, a little more than two years ago. On Monday morning a portion of the men who had previously refused to go to work upon the manufacturers' terms, resumed labor, some with their former employers and others in places new to them, while quite a number have as yet, found no employment. Several of the more intelligent and most capable Crispins have abandoned shoemaking, and are turning their attention to other trades and occupations, feeling that the repeal of the bill of prices was a virtual surrender to the manufacturers. In view of the fact that the bill of prices was established by request of the manufacturers, and that the business was successful and the relations between the Crispins and their employers were harmonious for two years, the public were at loss to account for the action of the manufacturers who manifested such a sudden and bitter antipathy against the Crispin organization. That after the strike began, there was double dealing on both sides no one can deny; and employers whose standing in society would seem to insure honorable dealing, have pursued a course which has knocked the pillars from under their reputed integrity, and cast a dark shadow over their former reputations. We do not propose to find fault with the Crispins for their action on Saturday night last, for they had an undoubted right to vote as they pleased, but it seems to us as though the action was too late to do them any permanent good. We have much pity and no censure to offer them, for the worst is not yet. We have no desire to stir up strife, and sincerely hope that evil may not grow out of the so-called surrender of the K. O. S. C. The welfare of Lynn now depends upon a willingness on the part of manufacturers to pay prices for labor corresponding with house rents and the cost of the necessaries of life. Should wages be forced down below the requirements of the working-people, the growth and prosperity of this city will receive a serious check, and the industrial classes will be compelled to seek other places in which to obtain a livelihood.—*Little Giant.*

## FEATURES OF THE MINERS' BILL.

The following are the features of the Miners' Bill, which has become a law in Great Britain:

1st. That the act for inspection should be applied to all mines. 2nd. That all children be prohibited from entering mines until they were twelve years of age. 3rd. That after twelve, and to sixteen years, they should be educated ten hours per week. 4th. That the working hours per week be not more than fifty. 5th. That in every case the time should not be more than ten in any one day, and that the time should all count from bank to bank. 6th. That the young persons employed about mines should be put under the Workshops act. 7th. That the miners' mineral should be weighed, and weighed truly. 8th. That the miners should have the power to place a man on the pit bank to see justice done to them. 9th. That the person so placed should be under their control alone and not the employers. 10th. That the weights used in weighing the miners' work should be under the supervision of the inspector of the district. 11th. That the responsibility of mine owners be increased by the passing of many more general rules for guidance of miners. 12th. That there be trained managers of mines. 13th. That these managers all have certificates granted, and that they forfeit them if, on inquiry, they were found not to do their duty. 14th. That the mine owner be caused to register the name of the manager of the mine. 15th. That there be a barometer and thermometer placed at the entrance to each mine. 16th. That powder be not used in firing shots in mines. 17th. The fencing of all old shafts. 18th. That mine owners be caused to make a daily register of the state of the mine as regards ventilation. 19th. A return of the state of the mine be made to the inspector of the district every month. 20th. That there be an increase of inspectors. 21st. That in case of either owner, agent, or workman doing anything by their personal act that might lead to serious injury or loss of life, they be sent to prison without the option of a fine. 22nd. That the workmen should have a voice in the framing of the special rules of the colliery or mine they work in when these rules are made. 23rd. The removal of the words, "under ordinary circumstances," from the general rules.

## DISPUTE IN "SCOTSMAN" OFFICE, EDINBURGH.

The following is the last of a long series of representations addressed by the *Scotsman* Chapel to the responsible Manager of that paper, and is adduced as evidence of the fact that the present quarrel is upon matters of trade principle, and not, as is being unscrupulously represented by the Agents of the Proprietors throughout the country, upon a mere question of Office discipline.

20TH JULY, 1872.

SIR,—For some time, as you are aware, the workmen under your charge have had frequent occasion to direct your attention to the extremely unsatisfactory way in which the establishment is wrought, and they regret to say, that in place of their representations leading to just treatment on your part, and consequently to that harmonious working of the office which is absolutely necessary in an establishment such as the *Scotsman*, your assurances of improvement have merely ended in promises.

We do not deem it desirable to refer to the evil effects of this altogether unnecessary state of matters, but would respectfully direct your attention to the fact that a continuance of the course you have pursued can only be a source of weakness to yourself, consequently detrimental to the prosperity of the office, and entails very great hardship and discomfort on us, the ultimate results of which will neither be good for you, for our employers, nor for ourselves.

Notwithstanding that our past efforts at redress by approaching you have so signally

failed, the Chapel, unwilling, from a sense of the respect due to your position, to approach the Proprietors of the office on the various grievances, have again determined to address you; and it has also been unanimously determined that if this remonstrance be equally void of effect, we shall, upon any infringement of the Scale, take the most extreme measures in our power of enforcing our fair and legal rights. After the recent interviews of our officials with you, it is not necessary to enter into detail, but simply to inform you that all we desire, and that we are determined to insist on, is that you should act up to, in its entirety, the Scale agreed to by our Employers.

One of the principal infringements under which we suffer, is the system of keeping the Apprentices as fully employed as it is possible to do upon the best "copy" that appears in the paper—a system as unfair to the Apprentices themselves as to the Journeymen. You cannot have forgotten that some time ago the Chapel, for the purpose of avoiding disturbance, entered into a compromise of this question with you, the chief concession granted on the part of the Chapel being that you should be at liberty to select "copy" for a number of the younger boys. This agreement has not been held to by you, even to the most limited extent, proving the folly of entering into any compromise of the question. We are therefore determined that, unless the agreement be observed to the letter, we shall insist on every line of "copy" being "boxed," Apprentice and Journeyman to lift alike. We have agreed that no one should take copy over the desk previous to commencing work or afterwards, and we trust that you will see it to be your duty to put it into the box. The grievances about which we have already approached you, such as short copies (which, you should be aware, not only retards the work, but are a cause of great annoyance and loss of time to the compositor), and several other matters, we expect to see immediately remedied.

It is with the deepest regret that we address you thus strongly, but we feel warranted in doing so by the extremity of the case. We are resolved to waste no more time nor temper on these matters, being of opinion that, if our situations are not made less harassing and uncomfortable, the only course left open to us will be the sacrificing of them altogether.

J. CRAWFORD,  
Father.

The above was handed in on the 20th ult., and on the 24th the Chapel Clerk, along with several other prominent individuals—who had been attending a Chapel Meeting, and were a little behind time in commencing work the previous evening—were discharged. There could be but one opinion as to the significance of this act, and accordingly the entire staff—about sixty men—instantly and heartily identified themselves with the sacrificed men by tendering their notices to leave. So far from there being any truth in the charge of irregularity now brought against the Compositors, the Proprietors know well that a more exemplary and well-behaved staff could not be brought together.

JOHN S. COMMON,  
Secretary Edinburgh Typographical Society,  
50 South Bridge, Edinburgh,  
1st August, 1872.

From a perusal of the above letter received through our Edinburgh correspondent, our fellow-craftsmen will perceive at once that there appears to exist in the old city of Edinburgh the exact prototype of the *Globe* of this city. Whether the *Scotsman* is a chip of the *Globe*, or vice versa, we cannot say; but it is evident there is at the head of the *Reform Journal* of Edinburgh an exact counterpart of the great Liberal of Canada. There appears, however, to be a rod in pickle for the journal that has so persistently vilified the working classes, that will be used with no stinted hand; and a lesson will be taught these would-be autocrats that the time for retributive justice has come.