

what would be our condition at this moment. If those who so loudly deprecate strikes and the violence which sometimes attend them, would endeavor to render strikes unnecessary by helping to inaugurate a system that would more justly equalize the distribution of production and wealth, they would become real friends of capital as well as labor, for should the present system of distribution continue much longer, it will end in general revolution, and in that event capitalists have everything to lose and nothing to gain. Revolution makes men mad, and madmen stop not to think, reflect, or reason.—*Coopers' Journal.*

ONTARIO EMIGRATION AGENTS.

The Secretary of the department of Agriculture and Emigration, Mr. W. Edwards, who some short time since proceeded to England charged with the duty of enquiring into, and removing varied difficulties existing, respecting certain Emigration Agents and Agencies, has arrived at the scene of his operations, and assumed the Chief Commissionership for England and Wales. Under his regime the services of the celebrated "Horrocks" and his "assistant" have been dispensed with. While the appointments of such men never should have been made, yet the Ontario Government are deserving of credit for their promptness in dealing with this matter, when the true characters of the men were ascertained. We may now undoubtedly look for better regulations in the future.

K. O. S. C. INTERNATIONAL UNION.

We are indebted to Mr. Mowatt for a copy of the proceedings of the 6th Annual Convention of the International Grand Lodge, K. O. S. C., held in Cleveland, in April last. The action of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ontario, in withdrawing from the International Grand Lodge, was discussed at its sessions, and a resolution passed looking towards an adjustment of the difficulties that caused the division, and the Executive of the International Grand Lodge, are empowered to use all means at their command to secure a reunion on a basis that will be mutually beneficial.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION PIC-NIC.

On Saturday next, the members of the Toronto Typographical Union will hold their Third Annual Excursion Pic-nic and Games in the Paradise Grove, Niagara. The steamer *City of Toronto* will start at 7 a.m., and leave Niagara about 6 p.m. A very large number of handsome and valuable prizes have been donated and purchased, and the most careful preparations have been made by the committee of arrangements, so that nothing may be left undone that would add to pleasure and amusement of the excursionist. If the clerk of the weather only favors us with a fine day, the typos and their friends may expect a rare day's enjoyment, which we heartily wish them.

Communications.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

Sir,—You inserted in your last issue a few, and some may think, disconnected, observations on the "Origin of Trade Unions," and also some remarks on Emigration. Opinions have been expressed as to their legitimacy; on the whole, however, they have been favorably received. I am thus induced to trouble you again with a few additional observations.

The two subjects combined open up a wide field for contemplation and criticism. It will no doubt lead to arguments, *pro* and *con*. This is what I wish to see. There are latent ideas in many a mind among the "working classes," which require to be developed. From sheer modesty, however, they are immured, so to speak, until they are brought into daylight or public observation. If my former remarks should tend to this happy result, it will prove a source of great gratification to the writer. I want our workmen to give through your appreciated columns a thorough vent to their opinions, though not, it may be, grammatically expressed. I have heard both in the Old Country and also in Canada many a bright idea flow from beneath a wide-awake. Please give them space in your popular journal for their home-spun thoughts, and then we shall be prepared for any blunders, and make due allowance. It seems to me, that one of the primary objects of a workman's journal should be to encourage an exchange of thought on any and every subject. Competing minds will soon obviate any difficulty that may possibly occur, and the *ultimatum* will be a general and lasting benefit. After the

arduous, not to say anxious, labors of the Editor is over, he will thus have the exquisite pleasure of retiring from his very responsible post with the honest conviction that he has done his duty to the community at large. Some minds, nevertheless, may entertain a prejudiced view; but in the main, general approbation will be awarded.

I never saw a man yet who could please everybody, whether in politics, business, or even matters of religion. A straightforward, outspoken, and upright course must in the end command respect and commendation. Common sense is a rare commodity; but is there none among the workingmen? Rich men are not always wise; sometimes the plebeians surpass them.

Toronto, June, 1873.

D

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

Sir,—I was not aware until recently of the existence of your Journal. You may be surprised at this. The fact is, I have again and again communicated in other directions, and among quarters, doubtless, well-known to you. The Journals to which I refer, were either too conservative, or else too radical; hence I have sought out a medium, this which to express my candid opinions without fee or reward, regarding the general interests of our race as being of far more importance than that of any particular class. Partisanship, if you will tolerate the word, is liable to become obnoxious and injurious.

It requires a wholesome and respectful check, and this tends to benefit all men, no matter what their vocation may be. Anything or measure that has an adverse bearing, should be looked upon with a thoughtful, judicious and far seeing eye. Some men are too impetuous and sometimes become dictatorial. They forget that other men of a calmer and more deliberate turn of mind, can judge and decide on different subjects, just as well as themselves and very frequently better.

In meetings where matters of momentous things are discussed, as it relates to the advantage of the workmen, one solitary and strangely immoderate man may greatly, if not fatally, injure the cause for which they injudiciously, yet heartily contend. I appeal to those gentlemen who have been in the habit of attending public meetings and ask them whether they have not had too frequent reason to adopt the old adage and exclaim, "Heaven save me from my friends."

There are some working men who have sublime ideas in their heads and thorough good feeling in their hearts, but by an ignorant and injudicious policy, really aid to defeat their, in a sense, laudable and praiseworthy object.

Am I right, or am I wrong in my plain and homely assertions?

Let general and practical experience give an emphatic answer.

The more ignorant a man is, the more presumption he displays, and very often exposes himself to the pity, if not condemnation of his most intimate, but more sagacious and deep-thinking friends. In public meetings, and also in those that are private, permit me most respectfully to say, as one of old said, "Look, before you leap." For thus you benefit your cause.

Toronto, June, 1873.

D. H.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

Sir,—Several have been making enquiries as to when the Register, detailing the rate of wages and cost of living, etc., in the various centres of labor in Canada will be ready. Something of the kind is needed; but perhaps "leading citizens" throughout the country will be displeased at the idea; so that before anything is done in the matter, it might be as well to ascertain whether it would be agreeable to them or not, as otherwise the "leading citizens" might consider the publication of the Labor Register as an unwarrantable interference with their business. And yet, when we consider that other papers give reports of the markets, &c., "leading citizens" could not in fairness object to the WORKMAN (that terrible bugbear) giving the price of labor &c. But unfortunately fairness is not a characteristic of "leading citizens." Apparently they have a perpetual lease of life in this world, and appear to consider that any interference, by any one, with their schemes to make money, is a crime deserving a severe punishment; hence they treat the working classes to black lettering; but then the working classes have to die, they being an inferior race, so that "leading citizens" are justified in treating them as they choose.

That such appears to be the opinion of the apologists of "leading citizens," seems apparent from their talk, as no matter what the working classes do, they are invariably wrong. According to the apologists, it is wrong to ask shorter hours of

labor; it is wrong to ask an increase of wages; it is wrong to object to a surplus of labor; it is wrong to protest against wages being cut down; it is wrong to write to the WORKMAN regarding the above; and finally, the working classes are expected to be paragons of meekness, submitting to oppression and injustice, and on no account make known anything through the press which might be detrimental to the interests of "leading citizens."

I saw recently a letter in a paper from a clergyman advocating the Saturday half-holiday for the working classes. I am glad for his sake that he was not in Canada, as he would most likely have been black-lettered; but for our sakes I am sorry that we have not a few of his kind here.

Would it not be worth while to endeavor to get the Saturday half-holiday in Canada? But I forgot, this is a "young country and cannot afford to shorten the hours of labor." It is singular that Australia, which is "younger" than Canada, can afford to shorten the hours of labor to eight per day; but then it is in another hemisphere.

Yours, etc.,

HEATHER JOCK.

Oshawa, June 9, 1873.

THE INTERNATIONAL TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

Last week Montreal was the scene of an event which has never before been the good fortune of Canadians to witness—the annual convention of one of the most important corporate bodies on this continent—the International Typographical Union. This body, embracing in its jurisdiction the united printers of the United States and Canada, held its 21st annual session in Montreal, on Monday, 2nd June, and succeeding days, bringing its labors to a close on Friday, 6th inst., having been in session five days, legislating upon questions affecting the interests of the craft all over the continent. The business of the session, which was of a miscellaneous character, I am sure the printers of America will be more than satisfied; of the delegates, the highest opinion has been formed by the citizens of Montreal. Many, who were unacquainted with the object of their visit, would not believe that the crowds of well-dressed, intelligent looking men who strolled through the corridors of the St. Lawrence Hall, (the chief hotel of the city) could be representatives of that honorable and intelligent, but much abused class—printers—and sought to evade the fact by assuring themselves that they must be editors, or reporters, here on a pleasure trip; members of other trades opened their eyes in astonishment at the choice language used by the delegates in their convention and discussions, and wondered if they were really workmen; the newspaper proprietors, for the time being, became gracious and adulatory, expressing the opinion that their employees, as a class, were in advance of all other trades, and that they had reason to be proud of their organization, even going so far as to publish in *extenso* the proceedings of each day's session. But, apart from opinions of disinterested or self-seeking individuals, the International Typographical Union is truly an organization of which every true Union man, no matter what his trade may be, has just cause to be proud.

Truly it was a grand sight to see those men assembled. The warm fraternal grasp of the hand, the cheerful voice, and the bright glow of the eye, assured the stranger that this was a gathering of no ordinary kind. From Maine to California, from Quebec to Sarnia, every city and town in Canada and the United States had representatives present. The lover of monarchical institutions joined hands with his republican brother, and pledged anew the vows they had once taken; the democrat forgot his antipathy to republicans, and swore fealty to the cause of Unionism; the delegate from the sunny South sat side by side with his brother from the chilly North; the Confederate captain and the Federal private exchanged fraternal greetings; they may have met on the same bloody field, and may still cherish the same principles as they did then; but all is forgotten here. They are now brothers; brothers in heart and hand, and no political differences, no party prejudices, can make them forget their duty as Union men. To see those men of all shades of political opinion, of all creeds, and I may say of all climes, assembled to discuss the great question of Labor, seemed to me as if at last had been realized the angels' song of "Peace on earth; good-will among men." But alas! such is not the case; many struggles and many heart-burnings must happen ere that is attained; this is merely preparing for the struggle which is sure to come; but by the help of the God

who defends the right we shall win; "for the right can never die."

Now, while the Labor Reform movement is as yet in its infancy here, the holding of this Convention in Canada will have a marked effect on its results in the future. It has proved that Union men are not what they are represented to be—an ignorant, illiberal lot. The most inveterate opponents of labor reform in this city have been compelled to admit that there are men of talent in its ranks; they have been compelled to admit that the visit of these gentlemen has proved that workmen, as a rule, under favorable auspices, are capable of as high social and intellectual cultivation as any other class. Their urbane manner and gentlemanly deportment during their stay here have won the hearts of all who came in contact with them; and numerous were the regrets expressed that men of their abilities and culture should be compelled, by the slavish laws of society, to occupy positions little better than menials—as far as social comfort is concerned. When we remember that this body has within its ranks men who have been admitted capable of grasping the legislative halls of any country, should it not make workmen feel proud, and at the same time inspire them with the determination to unite, and be no longer at the mercy of unscrupulous capitalists.

Our only salvation lies in unity of heart, unity of purpose, and a quiet cool determination to conquer. This international convention proves what can be done by workmen; and God grant that in a few years we may see not only the international conventions of printers, but international conventions of every trade in America. So note it be.

The style in which the delegates were entertained, while here, reflects much credit on the Unions in this city. Nos. 97 and 145. From their arrival to their departure, the reception committee was indefatigable in its efforts to minister to their comfort and entertainment, and nobly did they succeed. No untoward event occurred to mar the pleasure of their guests, and one and all expressed themselves agreeably surprised at the trouble to make their stay here as pleasant as possible. Many were the mutual regrets when the time for parting came, and on all sides it was admitted, that, in point of excellence and usefulness, the 21st annual convention of International Typographical Union surpassed any of its predecessors.

Montreal, June 9, 1873.

J. B.

LORD DERBY ON THRIFT.

The annual meeting of the Provident Knowledge Society was held recently at Willis's Rooms, the Earl of Derby in the chair. Amongst those present were the Bishop of Exeter, Archbishop Manning, Mr. T. Hughes, M.P., Mr. Baillie Cochrane, M.P., Sir C. Trevelyan, &c. The chairman said it might be asked what was the use of another society being established when there were so many already in the field. He was glad to see on the platform so many celebrated persons who took personal interest in any society that could institute a certain amount of private thrift, and who could speak with more practical authority on the subject than he could. He thought this society was greatly needed. No one was likely to dispute this proposition, that one of our weakest points, taking this nation as a whole, was the singular want of thrift and frugality in private affairs. "Plenty and pains seldom go together," said the old proverb; and probably because we make money faster than most other nations we spend it faster also than any, except perhaps America. This was no new characteristic of the English character, for it was pointed out strongly by Defoe, and the same tendencies now existing amongst our people which were deeply lamented by all their true friends existed 200 years ago in full force. He (Lord Derby) was a firm believer in the permanence of types of a national character; and although they might be softened and corrected, they could not be radically altered, and, indeed, he saw no reason to wish that there should be any radical alteration in our case. (Cheers.) He did not confine these remarks to the working classes—he strongly condemned "lecturing" the working classes—rich and poor in this country were all tarred with the same brush; but what he did say was that habits of prudence and forethought were not very common in this country, and to encourage them was one of the wisest forms of benevolence. If buying upon credit were to cease, and only ready money purchases made there would be no necessity for county courts; and the prevalence of adulteration of articles of consumption might be mainly attributed to the fact that people being in debt to the shopkeepers were obliged to take whatever article was offered them.

The real secret of the success of the co-operative societies was that they dealt only for ready money, and thus made no bad debts. The slavery of being in debt was akin to the slavery of drunkenness; and the fact of a man being in debt was a great incentive to reckless and intemperate habits. A very large part of the suffering existing amongst the people was owing to the want of economy and forethought; and if thrifty, provident habits were to be encouraged, it was necessary to offer facilities which did not yet exist. It was not sufficient to establish banks and provident institutions; it must be made as easy for a man to invest his savings in these institutions as it was for him to spend them at the public-house. It was the objects of that society to establish penny banks in all places where many men were employed, and in every elementary school, depositing their receipts with the Post Office, and thus giving an almost absolute security, the collector to be appointed by the men themselves, and if recognised, as no doubt he would be, by the Post Office authorities, he would also act as agent for insurances and deferred annuities. An experiment of this kind had been tried with great success. In conclusion the noble earl urged upon all who had social influence the necessity of inducing the people to become provident and thrifty. Archbishop Manning, Mr. T. Hughes, M.P., and other gentlemen addressed the meeting, and resolutions in support of the society were passed.

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OUR PROGRAMME.

There's Hindle the Great, there is none to excel
In her beautiful style of the elegant swell;
Then Quilter and Geldrich, those fair 'vites of old;
Whose dancing is better by one hundredfold
Than any who ever appeared on this stage;
Your attention with pleasure they're sure to engage;
O'Donohue, too, with his blackthorn stick
He hammers his head; tho' he never gets sick,
While his voice is as sweet as the nightingale's song;
And he sings of Old Erin in notes sweet and strong;
Next we have Harry and Miss Fanny Wood,
Commenting is useless—you know they are good;
And next is the fun, and your eyes brightly shine
To see young Saville in that great Pantomime;
And the last, tho' not least, for methinks they are best,
Is the daring trapeze men, young Worley and West.
All combined. No use talking—you must come around;
The ACADEMY is now the attraction of town;
There's peace and good order, and no vulgar show,
As this is the place where all ladies may go.

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