

NOTICE.

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

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

(INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.)

Per Annum \$2 00
Six Months 1 00
Single copies 5c

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Single insertions, ten cents per line. Each subsequent insertion, five cents per line.

Contract Advertisements at the following rates:—

One column, for one year \$150 00
Half " " 85 00
Quarter " " 55 00
One column, for 6 months 80 00
Half " " 45 00
Quarter " " 25 00
One column, for 3 months 50 00
Half " " 30 00
Quarter " " 15 00

All communications should be addressed to the Editor, 124 Bay Street, or to Post Office Box 1025.

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

Our columns are open for the discussion of all questions affecting the working classes. All communications must be accompanied by the names of the writers, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

WILLIAMS, SLEETH & MACMILLAN.

Trades Assembly Hall.

Meetings are held in the following order:—
Machinists and Blacksmiths, every Monday.
Painters, 1st and 3rd Monday.
Coachmakers, 2nd and 4th Monday.
Crispings, (159), 1st and 3rd Tuesday.
K.O.S.C. Lodge 356, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
Tinmiths, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
Cigar Makers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
Varnishers and Polishers, 1st and 3rd Wednesday.
Iron Moulders, every Thursday.
Plasterers, 1st and 3rd Thursday.
Trades' Assembly, 1st and 3rd Friday.
Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Friday.
Coopers, 2nd and 4th Friday.
Printers, 1st Saturday.
Bakers, every 2nd Saturday.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, JAN. 2, 1873.

TO OUR READERS.

Ere this issue of the WORKMAN will reach the majority of our readers, 1872 will have become a thing of the past. In many respects the year that has just closed has been crowded with events of importance to the operative classes. It has witnessed an agitation among the working classes for an amelioration of their condition, that in extent and influence has not been equaled in Canada; and while the movement temporarily, has to some extent proved premature; yet a calm review will show that good has resulted, and that to-day the working classes occupy a better and higher position than they did a year ago. A spirit of organization and co-operation has been awakened that will continue to spread and extend, and the years to come will feel their mighty influence.

From the commencement of the ONTARIO WORKMAN we have used our best endeavors to assist in the progress and elevation of our class, and cannot but feel grateful for the kind words that have greeted us from many parts of the Dominion, and the measure of support that we have received at the hands of our fellow workers. We can only say that, through the year upon which we are now entering it will be our one aim to merit the kindly well-wishes and confidence of our readers; and would request a continuance of the support that we have already received. Nay, more, we would ask our friends to help us in gaining a still wider field of usefulness. All must acknowledge the potency of the press in forming and directing public opinion, and there is all the more need that an organ devoted to the interests of the working classes should be thoroughly sustained, and therefore we hope to make the WORKMAN a welcome guest in the home of every mechanic.

And now for the present taking leave of our readers, we wish them every health and prosperity in the twelve months to come. Indeed, to every one into whose hands these sheets may pass we cordially repeat the time-honored salutation—"A Happy New Year."

THE LABOR MOVEMENT.

In the present number we have made selections from a lecture recently delivered by Prof. Goldwin Smith, wherein he gives the Canadian public his views on the Labor question. With very much of the lecture we heartily agree; but there is also much in which we differ from the learned Professor. The lecture is largely taken up with an historical resume of the upheavals of the working classes to break the fetters that bound them in serfdom from the time of Spartacus to the present day, which shows conclusively that with all the alarm and excitement that is awakened at the mention of strike, how fully the present movement "has been marked by a comparative absence of violence and a respect for law."

In discussing the effects of Unions, the Professor is inclined to doubt whether Unionism has had much effect in producing a general rise of wages. That wages have risen, the Professor admits, but attributes it to "natural causes, the accumulation of capital, the extension of commercial enterprise, and the opening up of new countries, which have increased the competition for labor." That these things have had their influence we doubt not, but those who are better acquainted than the Professor with the practical working of Unionism, can tell how much greater effect the latter has had in this very respect than those forces mentioned; for it is a notable fact that in the large majority of cases, employers, both in past days and in the present, did not raise the wages until the demand was made by the men collectively.

One of the chief objects of Unionism is to diffuse intelligence; and this intelligence tends to equalize the price of labor. Value, of course, will determine price; but what was it but the formation of Unions among the agricultural laborers of England, for instance, that taught them the value of their labor, or gave them power to secure that value? "Unionism has rendered the working-man independent instead of dependent, has placed him on an equal footing with his employer, and enabled him to make the best terms for himself in every respect;" and yet it is doubtful whether Unionism has had much effect in producing a rise of wages!

In the general object of the short time movement the Professor very heartily sympathizes; but "does not believe it possible to regulate the hours of work by law with any approach to justice." The arguments used are merely a reiteration of the *Globe's* views, as the movement affects Canada. It is quite correct for the law to fix ten hours as an ordinary day's work—that is just the thing; but let the words nine hours be mentioned, and then, "time is not a common measure." That's about the extent of the arguments.

In one other point the Professor has taken his cue from the *Globe*. "An American agitator comes over the lines, makes an eloquent and highly moral appeal to the worst passions of human nature, gets up a quarrel and a strike, denounces all attempts at mediation, takes scores of Canadian workmen from good employment and high pay, packs them off with railway passes into the States, smashes a Canadian industry, and goes back highly satisfied no doubt with his work, both as a philanthropist and an American." If within the compass of a single paragraph such another tissue of untruths and misrepresentations can be found in print, we should like to see it. Those who had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Trevellick—for he, we presume, is the "agitator" to whom reference is made—will know how false, utterly false, is every word of the sentence above quoted; and Mr. Goldwin Smith, in giving expression to an opinion upon a subject of which he had not the slightest knowledge—or, having such knowledge, has wilfully perverted the facts of the case—rightly earned for himself the marked disapprobation of his audience at Montreal.

The Toronto Butchers' Association held their first annual dinner at Shanahan's restaurant, on Monday evening.

THE DIRECT REPRESENTATION OF LABOR.

Canada has moved none too soon in being able to claim for herself the title of being the first to have direct representation of labor in her halls of legislation. The British workmen are now moving earnestly in that direction, and at all the Party caucuses the leaders of the workingmen occupy seats. Elsewhere we publish the proceedings of a conference of delegates from trade and other industrial associations, held recently at the Town Hall, Birmingham, as giving evidence of the determined effort that is being made by the workingmen to secure their object. We have also, in previous issues, noted the fact that the various organizations throughout England had been engaged in arranging a platform on which they could elect their representatives. With that platform before them, the workingmen have already selected a number of nominees. Mr. R. M. Latham, president of the Labor Representation League, is to contest the borough of Wigan. Mr. Odger will stand for Southwark; and Mr. Joseph Leicester, a working glass-blower, will probably be returned for Leeds. Mr. George Howell, one of the leaders of the London Trades Unions, will oppose Mr. Disraeli in his own constituency, while Mr. Potter, editor of the *Beehive*, is to be a candidate for the representation of Greenock. Mr. Applegarth, of the Engineers' Union, will run for Sheffield; Mr. Alex. McDonald, of the Miners' Union, for Dundee; Mr. Thomas Burt, a collier, for Newcastle; Mr. John Kaine, of the North of England Ironworkers' Association, for Wednesbury; Mr. Thomas Halliday, a miner, for Merthyr Tydvil; Mr. A. Walton, shoemaker, for Stoke-upon-Trent; Mr. J. F. Airey, a blacksmith, for Worcester; and Mr. Cremer, a carpenter, for Warwick. It is proposed to levy a small tax upon the Trades' Unions for the purpose of defraying the election and parliamentary expenses of the candidates; and one of the measures advocated by the representatives of labor will be the payment of members of Parliament according to their attendance in the House.

The effect of this movement will be watched with the utmost interest by workingmen the world over, and by none more closely than the operative classes of this Dominion.

TRADES' COUNCIL, OTTAWA.

From the letter of "A Workingman," it will be seen that the operatives of the Capital mean business in the matter they have undertaken. We trust that in all other parts of the Dominion the same energy will be displayed. Let a general expression of opinion be given on the important subject of a Mechanics' Lien Law by the toilers of Canada.

TORONTO TRADES' ASSEMBLY.

The regular meeting of this Association will be held on Friday next, at their hall, King street. The election and installation of officers for the ensuing term, and other business of importance will be transacted; and it is therefore requested that a full representation of the various trades represented in the Assembly should be present.

THE COMING BALL.

The officers and members of St. John's Encampment, Knights of Malta, intend holding their first annual Ball, in the Music Hall, on Friday evening, January 6th. From the indefatigable efforts being made by the large and efficient committee appointed, there is no doubt that the first annual Ball of this Encampment will be one of the most imposing and brilliant gatherings of the season.

We have received the second number of the K. O. S. C. Monthly Journal, a neatly printed and ably conducted magazine of 32 pages. Devoted to the interests of the Knights of St. Crispin all the world over, it is entitled to, and should receive the warmest support of that organization. We are glad to welcome it amongst our exchanges, and we trust the journal will enjoy a long and useful career.

Communications.

OTTAWA.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—In accordance with the tenor of a letter from this city, in your issue of December 12th, signed "Stonecutter," a meeting was called of delegates from the various Trades' Unions; and on the evening of the 19th they met at the St. Lawrence Hotel, in this city, and immediately resolved themselves into a Trades' Council, electing officers to serve for three months. The following gentlemen are the office-bearers for the term:—Wm. McEvella, mason and bricklayer, President; Peter Foisy, limestone-cutter, Vice-President; Donald Robertson, sandstone-cutter, Secretary; Dan J. O'Donoghue, printer, Assistant-Secretary; J. Bennett, plasterer, Treasurer. By this action, you will observe that the trades non of the capital mean business, as regards the steps necessary to be taken towards the making of a *lien* law a fact in this Dominion. They are sanguine that, the attention of their fellow-craftsmen in the West being aroused, as it must of necessity be, a measure to that effect may be introduced and made law during the next session of Parliament. A *lien* law, while protecting the honest rights of labor, would be no infringement on, or bar to capital. Its advantages must be apparent to the most superficial observer. Of this, however, more anon. The *Workman* of the 19th December, may contain the views of some of our Western men on the subject, but it has not yet reached us. Pending their views, however, it would be, perhaps, advisable to amend the *modus operandi* proposed by "Stonecutter," by authorizing you to determine—having sent the requisitions to the various Unions in the Dominion, of which you have a knowledge, and having them returned to you signed by the members of said Unions, and naming the delegate elected by them—at what time, and where, they should meet, for the purpose of framing such a law. The delegates thus assembled would be authorized to defray all expenses.

In conclusion, I may say that, the mechanics of this city, having taken the initiative in the matter, will leave no stone unturned to secure the passage of such a law. The intelligence and wealth of the Dominion will hardly refuse this simple act of justice to its bone and sinew—the workingmen—united.

Hoping the importance of this matter to a large number of your readers, may excuse its length,

I remain, etc.,

A WORKINGMAN.

Ottawa, Dec. 23rd, 1872.

DIRECT REPRESENTATION OF LABOR.

A conference of delegates from trade and other industrial associations was held at the Town Hall, Birmingham, on Monday. Mr. R. M. Latham presided.

The following letter was read from Mr. Bright:—

"ROCHDALE, Dec. 3.

"DEAR SIR,—It will not be in my power to attend your proposed conference to be held on the 9th inst. I thank you for your letter of invitation, and for your kind wish for the restoration of my health.

"I am, very truly yours,

"JOHN BRIGHT.

"Mr. George Bill."

The chairman said the great object of their meeting was to consider and determine how they could secure the representation of labor in the House of Commons. They wanted men in Parliament whose special occupations had supplied them with special experience, whose lives had been spent amongst workingmen, and who were full of serious earnestness, and were determined to bring to the front, and keep them there till they were settled, all questions upon which the permanent well-being of England depended. There were several honorable men in the House of Commons willing to do what they could in the interests of labor; but, not having had the painful experience of workingmen's lives, they could not give the same earnestness and distinctness to the thoughts of workingmen as the workingman himself. The representation of labor in the House of Commons would be for the best interests of the nation. It would prevent war, and secure peace. He contended that there would have been no danger of war with America on the question of the Alabama claims if workingmen had been duly represented in Parliament. Workingmen at present did not use political power which they possessed, and it was to consider how best they could secure the due use of their power that they had met together.

Mr. Reddalls, of Birmingham, read a paper on "Electoral Organization," in which he advocated a fund for returning artisan candidates to the House of Commons.

Mr. George Howell, of London, read a paper on "Electoral Reform," in the course of which he said that the country was on the eve of another Reform Bill, and it was for the people to say how far that Bill should lay down principles that would be

their guide in the future, and how far they would go. Let them be certain that they were going in the right direction. That which they all desired was an equal representation, and the equal distribution of political power. They wanted, first, an equal franchise for counties and boroughs; 2nd, an equal apportionment of members to population; 3rd, the widest possible choice in the selection of candidates.

Mr. G. H. Reddalls, of Birmingham, moved:—"That it is the opinion of the Conference that the present increasing disorganization of political parties, and the fast approaching dissolution of the House of Commons, presents a favorable opportunity for the laboring classes inaugurating a determined effort to secure their direct representation in the next Parliament, and in order to ensure such aims it recommends workingmen to imitate other classes in using various associations in effecting their object."

Mr. John Osborne seconded the resolution, and said that until workingmen took the matter into their own hands their claims would be ignored.

Mr. Jeremiah Thomas, Birmingham, could not endorse all the remarks made by some of the speakers. There had been an attempt made by some of the speakers to get workingmen to split up the Liberal party and to support the Tories. He did not believe in men going about the country advocating a republic, and saying that all Englishmen were slaves, and that he gloried to break the laws of the country. (Hear, hear.) The speaker advocated reform in a constitutional manner. (Hear, hear.) The working classes had power to send members of their own body at the next election, and they could do so. But the working classes must be united, and not split up by the efforts of wild fanatics.

Mr. George Potter, of London, said that there were 800,000 trades unionists in the country, and if the half of that number would subscribe one shilling each, and invest it as a fund for labor representation, then something could be done at once.

Mr. Mottershead, of London, would never vote for a Tory, but would in future support only a working class candidate.

The resolution was then put and carried *nem. dis.*

Mr. Kane, of Darlington, moved:—"That this conference enter its protest against the conduct of the House of Commons in refusing to relieve candidates from the vexatious official expenses at elections, and recommends the formation of a national fund, to be raised by subscription, and to be placed in the hands of trustees, for the purpose of defraying such iniquitous costs for working class candidates at the next general election."

Mr. H. Broadhurst seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. George Bill, of Birmingham, moved:—"This conference, believing that the time has arrived for the completion of electoral reform, strongly urges upon the Government the absolute necessity for so re-arranging the constituencies that a fair system of proportional representation shall be the basis of any new electoral law; and it pledges itself to support only such measures of political reform as will ensure a perfect system of equal franchise for county and borough; equal voting power for every elector; and a wider choice in the selection of candidates as the only sound basis for securing the direct representation of labor in Parliament at the next general election."

Mr. G. Howell, of London, seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

It was resolved that a conference on the same question should be held next year at Manchester.

AGRICULTURAL LABORERS' MOVEMENT.

On Tuesday evening a demonstration took place in Exeter hall on this subject. In the absence of the Lord Mayor, who was to have presided, Mr. Samuel Morley, M. P., took the chair. In opening the proceedings the Chairman said he was gratified at having an opportunity of expressing not only his sympathy, but his admiration of those men who, he considered, had so well and manfully submitted their case to the public (cheers). In fact, he did not know which most to admire—the justice of their cause, or the admirable manner in which they had up to the present time conducted it. At the same time he did not shut his eyes to the fact that the small farmer had difficulties to contend with, and that he was entitled to relief; and while he advocated the case of the laborer his anxiety would be to heal rather than to widen the breach between the two. How could men live and bring up a family upon 8s. or 9s. a week, and which at the most, with all the perquisites, did not exceed 10s.? He had been also told that in some districts these men had to work 56 weeks for a year, and that for 10 or 12 hours a-day. Their condition was such as to call forth the greatest